

## Calendar of Events

December 13th

December 16th

December 17th

December 21st

December 23rd

December 24th

December 28th

WOC Bake Sale

Staff Meeting, Knitting group 10:00 & Seniors' Christmas Party

Bells 6:30 and Choir at 7:15

Sunday School in Hunter Hall,

Worship—Lessons and Carols

Staff Meeting 10:00

Christmas Eve Service 4:00 (Music begins at 3:30)

No Sunday School or Evening Activities

**Bingo Night** is next Tuesday-12/16 at **Memorial Home**. Call if you can help sing Christmas songs & be a second set of eyes on those bingo cards.

### **Ladies of our Church:**

Our Bake Sale is fast approaching us. Saturday, December 13th from 9:00-noon. We need you to support this, if possible. It's our only fundraiser. Look through your cookbooks and kitchen cabinets to see what you can come up with to sell!!! The church will be open Thursday and Friday morning for you to drop off your items! Thank you, Susan Todd

### ***USHERS***

December 14, 2025

John

Rick Thompson\*

Wayne Neal

Lloyd Hammond

Tommy Smith

December 21, 2025

Acts

Byron Parker\*

Gail Parker

Erskine Thomason

Tony Bailey

December 28, 2025

Romans

Byron Parker\*

Gail Parker

Jimmy Todd

Susan Todd

January 4, 2026

Corinthians

John Swofford\*

Diane Milam

Charles Milam

Sloan Mahon

Safety Team Leader— Rick Thompson

### **Church Flowers**

**December 14th, 21st & 28th**

**The flowers are provided by**

Please remember to send your checks or money to John Swofford for the Poinsettias. There is no set price.



Greetings First Pres members:

I wanted to provide a report on several important initiatives underway at the church. As a church, we are gaining momentum – our strategic planning process is progressing, we've constituted the Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC), we're progressing with a plan for our website, and we see church attendance as robust as I can recall in my eight years here in Laurens. I also think our annual giving campaign results are outstanding. We still need to continue to make progress, but we are roughly 30% ahead of where we were this time last year. As I said, we have momentum.

From a strategic planning standpoint, subcommittees have been meeting and drafts have been circulated to the Session for approval. However, please know that we will have ample opportunity to discuss the conclusions as a church and pivot/modify as appropriate. This planning process does not produce a document carved in stone, but rather small and large ideas, as well as broad directions that we want to pursue. To that end, I plan to make a fulsome presentation at the church supper on February 1st. Well in advance of that presentation, you'll receive via email a summary of the surveys, the strategic planning process and the results. And I would encourage you to reach out directly to me via phone or email to discuss any thoughts or ask any questions (both before and after that presentation).

The PNC has met several times and completed a fairly detailed Mission Study and Ministry Discernment Profile, both of which have been approved by the Session. We've submitted those to the Presbytery and are awaiting their approval, which we expect to receive shortly. The Plan would be to commence the search in earnest beginning in January. This will be one of the most important decisions we make in the history of our Church.

Again, I hope that you find all of this as exciting as I do. In the meantime, if you have any questions or thoughts, please reach out to me via phone (864-420-0638) or email ([wc@pmesc.om](mailto:wc@pmesc.om)). I'm more than happy to talk. Yours in Christ.

William P. Crawford