

WORSHIP

Sunday, December 19

10:30am

Sanctuary and via FBG Website,
Facebook and Radio

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Proclaimer: Jim Dant

Sermon: Peter, Paul and Mary

Scripture: Luke 1:39-55

Service Choirs: Sanctuary Choir and
Vocare

Advent Devotional Booklets are
available at the Reception Desk.

WATCH

Access FBG Website here:
<https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/>

Access Facebook here:
[https://www.facebook.com/
fbcgreenvillesc/](https://www.facebook.com/fbcgreenvillesc/)

Access Radio here:
89.3-HD4, 89.7 FM, 91.9 FM

If you are having trouble viewing this
stream or have had trouble in the
past, please email

live@firstbaptistgreenville.com.

Include your name, email and
description of your problem. Thank
you for your continued support.

—Will D.



Rustlings

BY JIM DANT

Years ago, I found myself speaking to a group of third graders about the winter holidays. Before my unifying, peace-promoting, educational moment was over, a Jewish boy and Christian boy got into a verbal tussle about whose faith was right and whose was wrong. Their arguments highlighted the impossibilities of burning oils and virgin births. I shared with them the simple truth, while my beliefs may seem silly compared to your beliefs, they are what give me a sense of hope.

Last week, I listened to a choir sing these lyrics penned by Ernie Lijoi. I wish I could have sung them to a room of third graders. I'll at least share the words with you...

Now Christmas and Hanukkah are vying for attention.

There's Kwanza, Winter Solstice, and many more I could mention.

All these different customs and all these different gods.

If faith is the path to love and kindness, why are we all at odds?

*I'm not sure what you believe,
whatever faith you're clinging to,
Life is hard enough, and this past
year I know was rough,
So Merry Everything to you.
Though we often disagree about
the things that we hold true,
Really, it's okay, I choose to love
you either way.
Merry Everything to you.
Let's put our differences aside, for
a moment,
And let our different worlds collide,
for a moment,
Put away the fear, spread a little
cheer,
And if we hold the moment fast,
it might just last throughout the
year.
We all need a little joy. The time for
peace is overdue.
In the grander scheme, we're not
as different as we seem,
So why not take a broader view
and be a part of something new.
Let's celebrate these days with an
all-inclusive phrase,
Merry Everything to you.*

Hold fast to your beliefs. Love your
neighbor. Enjoy the peace of these
holy days.

—Jim

AYMC Hours

AYMC Walking Track and Fitness
Room

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday,
8:00am-8:00pm

Wednesday and Friday, 8:00am-
2:00pm

Instructions for In-Person Worship Services

First Baptist Greenville has returned to in-person worship on Sundays at 10:30am. Services take place in the Sanctuary, masked and socially distanced. Please enter free of COVID-19 symptoms.

Senior Moment: Life Reflections

The priceless gift of living long enough to be called a “senior” is a blessing to be cherished. The biggest shock is how quickly this senior title arrives in our lives. My neighbor had a mantle clock with two Latin words inscribed on the face of the clock: “Tempus Fugit” (Time Flies). At that time, I was a 21-year-old junior in college, and he was about seventy. He leaned forward in his rocking chair cogitating and said, “The ideal person could be a person with a 21-year-old body with a 71-year-old head.” He also told me to set goals, which I didn’t think of again until I had a professor who said to set goals, as well. My professor said, “Too many people aim at nothing and hit it magnificently.”

My life has been graciously blessed with caring senior family members and friends. Their powerful supportive influence formed many of my beliefs. My grandfather referred to his contemporaries as “old men” and “old women,” refusing to own the fact that he was much older than they. (On some occasions, I find myself doing the same.) He seemed so old with snow white hair, overalls, brogans and bruised hands and arms. He showed me his arms and hands and said to me, “This comes with old age.” It seemed so far-fetched. Now I am looking at my bruised arms and hands wearing two Band-aids and reflecting on his words.

Life for me has been generously accompanied by fellow pilgrims encouraging and supporting me. Every stage in life should be embraced with dreams and always valued. I served in the pastoral ministry for over thirty years. In 1999, at age 55, my life took a serendipitous turn—I was selected to be the Staff Chaplain of the Children’s Hospital at GHS which is now Prisma. My heroes and mentors had before consisted of seniors. The patients who were children then became my heroes and mentors until my retirement. They taught me bravery, courage, patience, optimism, hope and most of all, unconditional love.

Mark Twain proclaimed, “Age is an issue of mind over matter! If you don’t mind, it doesn’t matter.”

—Neil Cochran

And a Little Child Shall Lead Them...

Our annual Children’s Choir Christmas program is finally back! At 6:15pm on Wednesday, December 15, the children of our congregation will present *For Unto Us A Child Is Born*.

Our children have been practicing for weeks and can’t wait to tell the Christmas Story in their own special way through music and scripture. The Preschool and Elementary choirs are so very excited to share new arrangements of traditional hymns and carols including “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus” and “Away in a Manger,” along with a special arrangement of the spiritual, “Mary Had a Baby” that includes Orff Instruments. The 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders will serve as narrators.

We hope you will join us this Wednesday night, as our Sanctuary is once again filled with the beautiful sounds of our youngest singers.

—Amy





LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE
TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 21
6:30PM

Darkness and Light

The Advent and Christmas Seasons are not always a time of peace and joy for everyone. We recognize that holidays can be difficult for those who are hurting, grieving, or simply need an extra measure of calm during the holy days. Held on the longest night of the year—the winter solstice—our annual Longest Night Service is a reflective worship service of prayer, Scripture, music and communion. As the shadows lengthen, we hold holiday grief and joy in tension, and allow the gentleness of the service to minister to those gathered. All are invited to attend our Longest Night Service on Tuesday, December 21, at 6:30pm in the Carpenter Chapel. For more information, please email Kendra Plating (kendra.plating@firstbaptistgreenville.com) or me (camille.loomis@firstbaptistgreenville.com).

visit FirstBaptistGreenville.com to watch live

—Camille

A Sunday of Gifts

Our schedule for the morning of Sunday, December 26 will look a little different this year. There will be a complimentary continental breakfast in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 9:30am. There will be no Sunday School that morning, but there will be a nursery available for ages 3 and younger.

Worship will also be held in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30am. Our service will be casual, and kids of all ages are invited to bring a favorite Christmas gift to show and (possibly) tell!

Please make plans to join us for an easy-going morning of fellowship and worship!

—Jenna



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26
CHRISTMASTIDE SERVICE
 FELLOWSHIP HALL

Proclaimer: Jim Dant
 "The Gifts We Receive"
 Luke 2:21-24

visit FirstBaptistGreenville.com to watch live

Upcoming Events

WATCH indicates worship experiences broadcast via Vimeo and Facebook Live.

- 12/15** *Wednesdays at First Activities*
WATCH 6:15-7:00pm MidWeek Fellowship: Children's Music and Missions Christmas Program (Sanctuary)
- 12/17** 6:00-8:00pm College Christmas Party (Home of the McDonalds) *College students are invited for a White Elephant Gift Exchange.*
- 12/18** 2:00-5:00pm LGBTQ & Friends Community Group Holiday Party (Brian Cromer/Scott Harvey's Home) *All are welcome. Optional White Elephant Gift Exchange.*
- 12/19** **WATCH** 9:15am Advent Sunday School Series: Christmas through the Generations: Young and Middle Adult Panel (Fellowship Hall) *Churchwide option throughout Advent.*
- WATCH** 10:30am Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Jim Dant and Vocare and Sanctuary Choir
- WATCH** 6:30pm Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols (Sanctuary)

LIVING GENEROUSLY

Financial Needs as of 12/11
\$2,638,454

Receipts as of 12/8
\$2,419,641

Lula Whilden Offering
Goal: \$100,000
Receipts as of 12/8
\$50,001

Pastoral Care On Call Nights and Weekends

December 13-19
Matt Rollins
864-346-0971 (m)

December 20-26
Jim Dant
478-737-7298 (m)

If you are unable to reach this minister at the above number, please call the Church Office, 864-233-2527, and leave a message by pressing the number "199" for "Pastoral Care Emergencies."

Wednesdays at First Schedule

Exceptions and details noted in calendar

- 3:00-6:00pm Youth Hang Time (AYMC Terrace Level)
- 4:45-6:00pm Supper Serving Lines Open (Fellowship Hall)
- 5:30-7:00pm Preschool and Children's Music and Missions (C300 and B400 halls)
- 6:00-7:00pm Youth Bible Study (AYMC Terrace Level)
- 6:15-7:00pm MidWeek Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:00-8:30pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- 12/21** 6:30pm Longest Night Service (Carpenter Chapel) *Held on a long winter night to companion those who struggle during the holiday season.*
- 12/24** **WATCH** 5:00pm Christmas Eve Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Jim Dant *Includes communion, children's sermon and music.*
- 12/26** 9:30am Church Family Breakfast (Fellowship Hall) *A complimentary continental breakfast before worship.*
- WATCH** 10:30am First Sunday of Christmas Worship Service (Fellowship Hall)

Care List

Care List as of Morning, 12/13

Hospital

Bob Mace, Robert Bernier

Rehab

Barbara Alexander, Brenda Ballard, Claudia Caldwell, Maude Maddox

Discharged

Bill Albert, Janice Hyche

Sympathy

...to the family of Sara Heath, including her sister, Millie S. Wilson.

...to Frank Smith and family in the death of his aunt.

...Bob Morris and family in the death of his mother.

Congratulations

...to Isaiah and Hannah Quigley on the birth of a daughter, Rosemary Esther Quigley, on November 17, 2021. Rosemary's older brother is Walter, and his great-grandparents in our church are Bill and Janet Albert.


**First Baptist
Greenville**
 847 Cleveland Street,
 Greenville, South Carolina 29601-4495
 (864) 233-2527 www.firstbaptistgreenville.com

THE BRANCH (USPS No. 597060) is published weekly January thru December (except one week in July and December). Periodicals postage paid at Greenville, SC 29602. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE BRANCH, 847 Cleveland Street Greenville, SC 29601. (Phone 864-233-2527). Kimberly Coates, Editor.

Vol. LXII December 13, 2021 No. 49

Wednesday Night Supper

Meal reservations required by noon on the Monday prior by visiting the church website or calling the church office. Permanent reservations for 2021-22 available. Serving lines open 4:45-6:00pm.

December 15

Adult: Salad, Chicken Divan, Rice, Roll and Dessert

Child: Chicken Tenders, French Fries, Fruit and Cookie

<https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/wednesdays-at-first/>

