

Susan Matthews is tonight's vocal soloist. Catherine Crowe is the violinist.

Music selections include: "Breath of Heaven" by Amy Grant and Chris Eaton, © 1992, 1997 SGO Music Publishers, Ltd. (BMI), Clouseau Music, Age to Age Music, Inc. (ASCAP) and Riverstone Music (ASCAP).



This Sanctuary is equipped with Hearing Loop. If you have a hearing aid equipped with a T-coil and switch to it, you will hear audio directly from our sound system.

## Looking Ahead

Friday, December 23-Tuesday, December 27

AYMC and Church Offices Closed in Observance of Christmas

Saturday, December 24

5:00pm Christmas Eve Service of Communion (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Tony Hopkins

Sunday, December 25

10:30am Christmas Day Worship Service (Fellowship Hall) with Proclaimer Tony Hopkins – No Sunday School or Childcare

Saturday, December 31-Monday, January 2

AYMC Closed

Sunday, January 1

10:30am New Year's Day Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Tony Hopkins – No Sunday School or Childcare

Monday, January 2

Church Offices Closed

Wednesday, January 4

10:00am-2:00pm Pasta and Fellowship for College Students (AYMC)

*Wednesdays at First Activities*

*Wednesdays at First offers a meal, fellowship and spiritual formation opportunities for all ages. See block for more information.*

6:15pm MidWeek Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) with Matt Rollins

Sunday, January 8

9:30am Forum@First: Intro to Christian Theology: Theological Controversies through the Centuries with Camille Loomis Rehnborg and Carrie Nettles (Fellowship Hall)



Financial Needs as of 12/17

\$2,788,450

Receipts as of 12/13

\$2,351,749

Lula Whilden World Missions

Offering 2022 Goal \$100,000

Receipts as of 12/13

\$66,734

December 21, 2022

Longest Night

Six Fifteen in the Evening

Mary Carol Anderson  
Youth and College

Caleb Avery  
AYMC Director

Julie Fayssoux  
First Baptist Day School

Vivian Hamilton  
Music and Worship

Tony Hopkins  
Interim Senior Minister

Amy Joye  
Music Associate

Bridget Kokolis  
Children

Camille Loomis Rehnborg  
Spiritual Formation and Outreach

Shelton Ridge Love  
Organist

J. Franklin Lowe  
Associate Youth and College

Jenna Manning  
Church Operations

Kyle Matthews  
Pastoral Care

Kendra Plating  
Pastoral Care and Counseling

Matt Rollins  
Community Engagement

Frank A. Smith  
Neighborhood Partnership and Christian Fellowship

### Wednesdays at First Schedule

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 & 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)

**A Community of Believers. Each Member A Minister.**



First Baptist Church  
847 Cleveland Street  
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(864) 233-2527 [www.firstbaptistgreenville.com](http://www.firstbaptistgreenville.com)



Sunday morning worship service broadcasts:

89.3-HD, 91.9 FM and 92.9 FM

[www.firstbaptistgreenville.com/watchlisten-live/](http://www.firstbaptistgreenville.com/watchlisten-live/)

Links to view or listen to previous services are also available.

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Prelude Music for Meditation

“O Holy Night” *Adolphe Adam*

Call to Worship *Kyle Matthews*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**The Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth, and we have seen his glory.**

In him was life, and that life was the light of the world.

**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.**

Welcome

\*Hymn 57 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” *VENI EMMANUEL*  
Stanzas 1, 4 and 5 Only

The First Reading *Isaiah 9:2-6* *Franklin Lowe*

Musical Offering “In the Bleak Midwinter” *Gustav Holst*

Litany of Remembrance *Camille Loomis Rehnborg*

We light this first candle to remember those whom we have loved and lost. We pause to remember clearly their faces, their voices, their bodies. We embrace and give thanks for the memories that bind them to us in this season of expectation, when all Creation waits for the Light.

**We remember them with love. May God’s eternal love surround them.**

(Silent Reflection)

We light this second candle to remember the pain of loss: loss of relationships, loss of trust, loss of jobs, loss of health, loss of faith, the loss of joy. We acknowledge and embrace the pain of the past, O God, and we offer it to You, asking that into our wounded hearts and open hands You will place the gift of peace.

**We remember that through You all things are possible. Refresh, restore, renew us, O God, and lead us into Your future**

(Silent Reflection)

We light this third candle to remember ourselves this Christmas time. We pause and remember the past weeks, months and, for some of us, years that have been heavy with our burdens. We accept and lay before you the ways we feel we have fallen short and the times we have spent blaming ourselves and you for all that we have suffered. We accept and lay before you the time we have walked alone in darkness and in knowledge of our own mortality.

**We remember that though we have journeyed far and that while lost we may have turned away from the light, the light itself has not failed. We remember that though winter be upon us and though the night be dark, the dawn will come, and dawn defeats the darkness.**

(Silent Reflection)

We light this fourth candle to remember faith. We remember the gifts of light and hope that God offers to us in the stories of Christmas which began in abandonment, insecurity and humbleness in a time of war and in a poor stable. We remember the loving God who came to share this life with us and promises us comfort and peace.

**We remember the One who shares our burdens, who shows us the way to the Light, and who journeys with us into all our tomorrows.**

Congregational Candle Lighting

“Still, Still, Still” *Austrian Melody*

The Second Reading *Psalm 80* *Kendra Plating*

Homily *The Face of God*

Communion *Kyle Matthews*

“Breath of Heaven” *Amy Grant/Chris Eaton*

Benediction

“Blessing for the Longest Night”

*All throughout these months,  
as the shadows  
have lengthened,  
this blessing has been  
gathering itself,  
making ready,  
preparing for  
this night.*

*It has practiced  
walking in the dark,  
traveling with  
its eyes closed,  
feeling its way  
by memory,  
by touch,  
by the pull of the moon  
even as it wanes.*

*So believe me  
when I tell you  
this blessing will  
reach you,  
even if you  
have not light enough  
to read it;  
it will find you,  
even though you cannot  
see it coming.*

*You will know  
the moment of its  
arriving  
by your release  
of the breath  
you have held  
so long;*

*a loosening  
of the clenching  
in your hands,  
of the clutch  
around your heart;  
a thinning  
of the darkness  
that had drawn itself  
around you.*

*This blessing  
does not mean  
to take the night away,  
but it knows  
its hidden roads,  
knows the resting spots  
along the path,  
knows what it means  
to travel  
in the company  
of a friend.*

*So when  
this blessing comes,  
take its hand.  
Get up.  
Set out on the road  
you cannot see.*

*This is the night  
when you can trust  
that any direction  
you go,  
you will be walking  
toward the dawn.*

– Jan Richardson

Closing Carol

“Silent Night”

STILLE NACHT

*Silent night, holy night,  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child,  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.*