

WELCOME, GUESTS! We are honored to worship God with you today. If you would like to become a member of Fernwood Baptist Church, you are invited to speak with the minister following the worship service or by emailing matt@fernwoodchurch.org. If you need pastoral care, please call 864-582-7467.

SO GLAD YOU ARE HERE! Text “hello” to (864) 501-0585, for more information and to let us contact you.

Guest Information

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone # _____

Cell # _____

Best Time to Call: Morning Afternoon Night

Email Address _____

Your Age Group:

___ 13-18 ___ 19-29 ___ 30-39 ___ 40-49
 ___ 50-59 ___ 60-69 ___ 70 & Older

Children:

Name _____ Age _____

Name _____ Age _____

Name _____ Age _____

Please check the applicable:

First time guest Returning guest
 Would like information about the church
 New to the area Would like a visit
 Would like to know more about becoming a Christian

I am a guest of _____

Prayer Request _____

Our Vision

*is to be Christ to each other and our community –
 doing justice, loving mercy and walking humbly with our God.*

Choose How You Give

Give easily and securely...

1. Offering envelopes during the service or by mail.
2. Set up *bill pay* straight from your bank.
3. On our website www.fernwoodchurch.org
4. Directly through our online giving <http://onrealm.org/FernwoodBaptist/give/now>
5. Text from your phone: 73256 then keyword “fernwood” and dollar amount and follow the instructions.

CHILDREN’S EXTENDED SESSION WORKERS

Dec. 31 – Diane Blackburn Jan. 7 – Peggy Beard Jan. 14 – Amy Said
 Jan. 21 – Mike Hensley Jan. 28 – Justin Hicks

We are delighted to have Warren Kay as a guest preacher this morning. He is an emeritus professor of theology at Merrimack College in Massachusetts. Warren moved to Spartanburg in July of this year from Lawrence, Massachusetts where he taught at Merrimack College for 34 years before his retirement. Warren holds a B.D. degree from the Baptist Theological Seminary (Switzerland) and a Dr. Theol. from the University of Zurich (Switzerland). He is ordained in the American Baptist Church and has preached at many churches in the United States as well as in Europe. He lives in Spartanburg with his wife Nancy.

The First Noel © 1976 Lorenz Publishing Co.
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing; Words 1739 Charles Wesley; Music 1840 Felix Mendelssohn, harm. 1855 William H. Cummings
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice; Words 14th cent. Latin carol, tr. 1853 John Mason Neale; Music 14th cent. traditional German carol
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly; Words, Polish carol, para. 1925 Edith M. G. Reed; Music, Polish carol, harm. 1958 Wilbur Lee, © 1958 Broadman Press (Lifeway Worship)
What Child Is This; Words 1865 William C. Dix; Music, 16th cent. Traditional English melody, harm. John Stainer
Go, Tell It on the Mountain; Words 1907 John W. Work, Jr. Music, African-American spiritual, harm. 1940 John W. Work III
Sweet Little Jesus Boy © 1934 Carl Fischer, Inc.
The Solid Rock; Words 1834 Edward Mote; Music 1863 William B. Bradbury
Old 100th 1551 Genevan Psalter
Fantasia on Adeste Fidelis © 1978 Lorenz Publishing Co.
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Masks are not required while in the building. For those who wish to continue wearing a mask while in the sanctuary, there is a designated place on the side nearest the baptistery. There are signs on the pews.

All Members of Fernwood Baptist Church, Ministers

Mrs. Lee Anne BailieDirector of Family and Communication Ministries
 Mrs. Marcia HarrisAssistant Music Associate
 Rev. Matthew K. JohnsonSenior Pastor
 Rev. Dean Newkirk.....Office Administrator
 Mrs. Rebecca Turner.....Music Associate
 Dr. Stafford Turner.....Director of Music Ministries
 Mrs. Mary Helen Wessinger.....Financial Administrator
 Mr. Don Williams.....Custodian
 Rev. Dr. P. Randall Wright.....Pastor Emeritus



Sunday, December 31, 2023
First Sunday of Christmas

Sunday

9:45am - Sunday School (in-person and online)
11:00am - Worship (in-person and online)

Wednesday

5:30pm - Wednesday Night Supper
6:15pm - Bible Study for Adults (in-person and online)
6:15pm - Children’s Missions, Music & More
7:15pm - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

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Website: fernwoodchurch.org
 Email: office@fernwoodchurch.org
 Facebook: [@fernwoodbaptistchurchspartanburg](https://www.facebook.com/fernwoodbaptistchurchspartanburg)
 Instagram: [@fernwoodbaptist](https://www.instagram.com/fernwoodbaptist)

The Lord's Day December 31, 2023

The Welcome & Announcements Lee Anne Bailie

The Passing of the Peace Lee Anne Bailie
One: May the peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you.

The Processional Traditional English Carol
arr. James Moffatt
The First Noel
Marcia Harris, organ

†The Hymn of Praise, No. 127 MENDELSSOHN
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

2. Christ, by highest Heav'n adored; Christ the everlasting Lord;
late in time, behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die;
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

The Psalm Reading Rev. Dr. Warren Kay
Psalm 31:14-19 NRSV
(Pew Bible, pages 439-440)
One: The Word of God for the people of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

The Christmastide Hymn Medley

No. 122 IN DULCI JUBILO
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today.
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now:
Christ is born today, Christ is born today!

No. 139 W ZLOBIE LEZY
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

1. Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging, angels singing, noels ringing, tiding bringing:
Christ the Babe is Lord of all, Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

No. 148 GREENSLEEVES

What Child Is This

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

No. 143 GO TELL IT
Go, Tell It on the Mountain

1. Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!
While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

The Pastoral Prayer Warren Kay

The Special Music Robert MacGimsey
Sweet Little Jesus Boy
George Small, bass

Sweet little Jesus Boy, they made you be born in a manger.
Sweet little Holy Child, didn't know who you was.
Didn't know you'd come to save us, Lord; to take our sins away.
Our eyes was blind, we couldn't see. We didn't know who you was.

Long time ago you was born,
born in a manger low, sweet little Jesus Boy.
The world treat you mean, Lord, treat me mean, too.
But that's how things is down here: We don't know who you is.

You done told us how, we is a tryin'.
Master, you done showed us how, even when you was dyin'.
Just seems like we can't do right, look how we treated you.
But please sir, forgive us, Lord. We didn't know it was you.

Sweet little Jesus Boy, born long time ago,
sweet little Holy Child, and we didn't know who you was.

The Epistle Reading Warren Kay
Galatians 4:1-7 NRSV
(Pew Bible, page 947)

One: The Word of God for the people of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

The Sermon Warren Kay
The Message of Advent for the New Year

†The Hymn of Response, No. 590 SOLID ROCK
The Solid Rock

1. My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.

2. When darkness seems to hide his face, I rest on his unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.

3. His oath, his covenant, his blood support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.

4. When he shall come with trumpet sound,
oh, may I then in him be found,
dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving Tim Smith

†The Doxology OLD 100th

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him, above ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Pastoral Benediction Warren Kay

The Recessional John F. Wade
arr. Lani Smith
Fantasia on *Adeste Fidelis*
Marcia Harris, organ

†Please stand, as you are able.

CBF GLOBAL MISSIONS - When you give to the offering for Global Missions, you are helping to equip the church to do God's will in a broken world, a world in need of The Great Shepherd, Jesus Christ.
Offering Deadline is TODAY - December 31st, 2023.

KEY INFORMATION & YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS
You may include your final 2023 contributions in today's Sunday morning offering during the **11AM Worship Service - December 31st**. Contributions received after that time will be posted in the new year for 2024. The **Church Office** will be **closed** on **Monday, January 1st, 2024**. It will reopen on **Tuesday, January 2nd**. *Thank you so much for your contributions and support of Fernwood Baptist Church!*

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES are here and may be picked up from the information table in the lobby. *Please be sure you look closely at the name when picking up your envelopes and only pick up yours.*

BIBLE STUDY & WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER RESUMES
Wednesday night activities will resume this **Wednesday, Jan. 3rd**. **Reservation deadline for that meal is Tuesday, Jan. 2nd at Noon**. You can call 864-582-7467, email the office@fernwoodchurch.org or fill out the registration form on the information table in the concourse and place it in the basket today.

1/3 - *The Gifts of the Gentiles*
1/10 - *Beginnings (NEW series starting - "Being The Presence of Christ: A Vision of Transformation" by Daniel Vestal)*
1/17 - *The Basics*