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

**OPTIONS TO GIVE EASILY AND SECURELY**

1) Offering envelopes during 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.

**WELCOME!**

We are honored to worship God with you today! If you would like to become a member of Fernwood Baptist Church or if you need pastoral care, we invite you to speak with the pastor following the Worship service, email office@fernwoodchurch.org or call the office at 864-582-7467.

**IF YOU'RE A GUEST**

We invite you to visit our Welcome Center for a free gift. You may also **scan the QR code** with your mobile device or text **"hello"to 864-501-0585** for more information.

**NURSERY ATTENDANT**

**November 15** – Karen Parker
**November 22** – Jennifer Bogan

**FAMILY NIGHT DINNERS**

**Wednesday, 11/11/26**

Join us around the table for **Family Wednesday Night Dinner at Fernwood!** Come enjoy a delicious meal, good conversation, and time together with your church family before Wednesday night activities. Children under 12: Free - Adult plate: $11.00

**BOOK CLUB**

**Tuesday, November 10 at 10 am**

Our selection is *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride. Long-buried secrets of Chicken Hill, where Jewish immigrants and African Americans shared struggles and formed bonds of community.

| Weekly Schedule | |
|---|---|
| **Sunday** | **Wednesday** |
| **9:00am – Fernwood Ringers** | **5:30pm – Wednesday Night Dinner** |
| **9:45am – Sunday School** *(in-person and online)* | **6:15pm – Prayer & Bible Study for Adults** |
| **10:55am – Worship** *(in-person and online)* | **7:00pm – 8pm – Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal** |

*200 Fernwood Drive, Spartanburg, SC 29307*
*Mailing Address: P. O. Box 7058, Spartanburg, SC 29304*
*Office: 864-582-7467*
*Website: fernwoodchurch.org / Email: office@fernwoodchurch.org*
*Facebook: @fernwoodbaptistchurchspartanburg / Instagram: @fernwoodbaptist*

**Ministers and Staff of Fernwood Baptist Church**

Ms. Bobbie Jean Arrington ----------Nursery Attendant
Mrs. Lee Anne Bailie - communications@fernwoodchurch.org ---------- Director of Communication Ministries
Ms. Sunny Hall - office@fernwoodchurch.org ---------- Administrative Assistant
Mrs. Marcia Harris ----------Assistant Music Associate
Rev. Dr. Kelli Kirksey - pastor@fernwoodchurch.org ---------- Pastor
Mr. Bennie Harris ---------- Custodian
Mrs. Rebecca Turner ---------- Music Associate
Dr. Stafford Turner ---------- Director of Music Ministries
Mrs. Mary Helen Wessinger - maryhelen@fernwoodchurch.org ---------- Financial Administrator
Ms. Brenda Walker ---------- Nursery Attendant
Rev. Dr. P. Randall Wright ---------- Pastor Emeritus



# *The Lord's Day | Sunday, November 8, 2026*
# *Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost*

The Welcome & Announcements — Lee Anne Bailie

The Passing of the Peace — Lee Anne Bailie
May the peace of Christ be with you.
**And also with you.**

The Preparation for Worship — Lowell Mason
arr. Beth Humber and David Carnes

*My Faith Looks Up to Thee*
Marcia Harris, organ; Rebecca Turner, piano

†The Hymn of Praise, No. 278 — BEACH SPRING

*We Are Travelers on a Journey*

1. We are travelers on a journey, fellow pilgrims on the road;
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.
I will hold the Christ-light for you in the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

2. Sister, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.
Brother, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

3. I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh, I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow, till we've seen this journey through.
When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

The Children's Sermon — Rev. Dr. Jean Pruett

A Greeting and Recognition from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship SC — Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Nance-Coker
Rev. Dr. Josh Hunt

The Special Music — Shirley Erena Murray
Brian Mann

*For Everyone Born*
Layla Kirksey, soprano; Rebecca Turner, piano

For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead.

And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace.

For young and for old, a place at the table, a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled, for young and for old, the right to be fair.

For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the right to be free.

The Sermon Rev. Dr. Chris George

*The Sacred Call*

The Covenant Rev. Dr. Randy Wright

Beloved of the Lord, we come today to commission Rev. Dr. Kelli George Kirksey as Pastor of Fernwood Baptist Church and to affirm our desires to support and pray and serve alongside her in this joyous calling. Through the ages women and men have answered God's call to serve, and so we join to affirm Kelli's desire and willingness to share her gifts and her calling here in her ministry. By the Holy Spirit, some are called to be pastors, to witness Jesus as Savior and Lord, and to love and serve those with whom they will live and work. As pastor, Kelli is called to build up Christ's church, to proclaim God's Word, to declare forgiveness through Jesus Christ, to celebrate Christ's holy sacraments, to baptize and to preside at our times of Holy Eucharist. As pastor, Kelli is called to build up and equip those with whom she will work, to show the gospel of God's grace in word and deed, to share people's joys and sorrows, to encourage the faithful, to reclaim those who fall away, to aid the sick and the dying, and to serve with the whole church in its ministry to the community, our nation and our world.

**We the members of Fernwood Baptist Church, desiring to affirm the call of Kelli Kirksey to the service of God and to affirm her call to be pastor of this church,**

(Pastor) And I, Kelli Kirksey, believing that I am called by God to serve this community and congregation as pastor,

**Do covenant together to bless and nourish each other in the faith, hope, love and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Kelli, do you accept the call to be pastor of Fernwood Baptist Church, committing yourself to this new trust and responsibility in the confidence that it comes from God through the call of the church?

*With reliance upon God, I do.*

Will you be diligent in your study, teaching and preaching of the Holy Scriptures? Will you love, serve, and pray for God's people, nourish them with the word and the sacraments, and lead them by your own example in faithful service and holy living?

*With reliance upon God, I will.*

Will you accept this call with a commitment to minister regularly and dependably to the needs of this congregation while at the same time working to maintain a life for your family and for yourself?

*With reliance upon God, I will.*

Will you give faithful witness in the world, that God's love may be known in all that you do?

*With reliance upon God, I will.*

Will you strive to fulfill faithfully, diligently and cheerfully the duties required of you in the work to which you are being commissioned, following our Lord's example of humble service?

*With reliance upon God, I will.*

To you, the members and friends of Fernwood Baptist Church, do you commission Kelli Kirksey to be your pastor with the conviction that her calling is from God? And do you commit to respect and honor the office our pastor serves, to trust her as a person of integrity and ability, and to love and accept her as your sister in Christ?

**With joyful hearts, we do.**

Will you give our pastor the freedom in the pulpit to express honest, thoughtful convictions in interpretation of God's Word, mindful that our unity does not require uniformity?

**With reliance upon the grace of God, we will.**

Will you commit to undergird Kelli with daily prayer, positive attitudes, personal support, and hope for our future so that she may serve among you with joy and love?

**With reliance upon the grace of God, we will.**

Will you commit to shelter Kelli's family with affectionate care and freedom for personal growth and expressions of their own unique personalities and gifts?

**With reliance upon the grace of God, we will.**

Will you commit to support the mission of the church through regular attendance, proportionate giving, the utilization of your gifts, and through faithful service to our community?

**With reliance upon the grace of God, we will.**

The Blessing — Rev. Dr. Paul Moore

*(Leaders of Fernwood Baptist Church who are able will lay hands on Kelli as the blessing is offered. All members of the church are asked to join together in holding hands as we connect to Kelli during this blessing.)*

Almighty and ever loving God, give us the grace to do the work to which you have called us in Jesus Christ. Fill this community of faith by your Spirit, that it may work together as one people to be the body of Christ in his reconciling ministry. Blend together the variety of gifts manifested within this community to strengthen its fellowship for service to the world. Further, O God, we pray deeply and sincerely for Kelli Kirksey as she answers your call to serve this congregation of faith. Give her your grace, strengthen her in service, preserve her in unity and harmony, use her to extend your reign of justice and peace, comfort her in times of hardship, and inspire her to dream dreams and to see your vision for our future together. Amen.

Words of Gratitude — Rev. Dr. Kelli Kirksey

†The Hymn of Commitment, No. 482 — HERE I AM, LORD

*Here I Am, Lord*
(vs. 1, 3)

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

*Refrain: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.*
*I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.*

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? *Refrain*

A Presentation by the Worship Ministry Team — Barbara Jean Callaway

The Prayer of Thanksgiving — Suzanne Brown

†The Hymn of Offering, No. 289 — GILLARD

*The Servant Song*
(vs. 1-4)

1. Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I might have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

2. We are pilgrims on a journey, here together on the road;
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

3. I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

4. I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.

†The Doxology — Old 100th

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

Words of Support

Rev. Sarah Hanks
*Minister of Family Life, Inman First Baptist Church*

Rev. Dr. Meredith Sone
*Executive Director, Baptist Women in Ministry*

The Anthem — Jonathan Cook, Craig Courtney

*Footsteps*
Sanctuary Choir; Rebecca Turner, piano

I see His footsteps in the way, and follow them through darkest night.
Unafraid, I stumble not, in the glow of perfect light,
I see.

I walk in footsteps of His love, and find His light leads on before.
Then He gently turns to me, softly whispers, "Trust Me more."
I walk.

Then as I follow in His way, my path ahead will brightly shine,
for in His path of guiding light, I find His footsteps first,
then mine.

The Scripture Reading — Rev. Dr. Chris George

Luke 4:16-22a NRSV
(Pew Bible, page 835)

The Word of God for the people of God.
**Thanks be to God.**



The Pastoral Benediction — Kelli Kirksey

The Musical Reflection — William Croft, arr. Roger C. Wilson

*Ye Servants of God*
*Marcia Harris, organ; Rebecca Turner, piano*

†Please stand, as you are able.

Please join us in the Dining Hall for a luncheon immediately following the service. All are welcome at the table as we share a meal, enjoy fellowship, and celebrate this special day in the life of Fernwood Baptist Church.

## Service Participants

**Rev. Dr. Chris George**
Pastor, Smoke Rise Baptist Church

**Rev. Sarah Hanks**
Minister of Family Life, Inman First Baptist Church

**Rev. Dr. Josh Hunt**
Associate Coordinator, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina

**Rev. Dr. Paul Moore**
Retired Pastor, Inman First Baptist Church

**Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Nance-Coker**
Coordinator, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina

**Rev. Dr. Meredith Stone**
Executive Director, Baptist Women in Ministry

**Rev. Dr. Randy Wright**
Pastor Emeritus, Fernwood Baptist Church

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*For Everyone Born;* Words, Shirley Erena Murray © 1998 Hope Publishing Company; Music, Brian Mann © 2000 Brian Mann
*The Servant Song;* Words and Music 1977 Richard Gillard, © 1977 Scripture in Song (Maranatha Music); arr. 2008 Andrew Daniels
*Old 100th* 1551 Genevan Psalter
*Footsteps* © 2018 Beckenhorst Press
*Here I Am, Lord*; Words and Music 1981 Daniel L. Schutte © 1981 New Dawn Music (OCP Publications), arr. 2008 Mark Edwards © 2008 Daniel L. Schutte and New Dawn Music
*Ye Servants of God* © 1974 Lorenz Publishing Co.
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This is the time of year where you can help celebrate the Advent season by purchasing poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary in honor or memory of loved ones. Poinsettia Orders can be placed until Sunday, November 15, 2026. The cost will be $16.50 each. There are forms in the concourse to complete with payment either in cash or checks – you can leave in an offering plate or office door.