

The Scroll

December 2025 Vol. 187 No. 12



Bishopville Presbyterian Church

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Look for us on Facebook

Email us to receive enews: bishopvillepc@gmail.com
Printed materials available, upon request, through office

Please contact office to make any corrections/changes
to your and/or your family's records

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.

Coffee Time- 10:30 a.m.

Worship Service – 11:00 a.m.

Business Office Hours

9:00 am – 5:00 pm (Monday - Wednesday)
unless otherwise noted

Adult Choir Practice

Thursday's @ 5:00 pm

Key Officers and Staff

Clerk: Reese Atkinson / Asst. Matt Bramlett

Treasurer: Gregg McCutchen / Asst. Billy Clyburn

Office Manager: Gwen Hayden Steinmeyer

Choir Director: Bo Dickinson / Asst. Lian Latimer

Pastor: Rev. Christopher Parnell



2025

From the Pastor... When the Wise Men had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt. (Matthew 2:13-14)

Out of all the things that get included in church Christmas plays & pageants, all the moments with angels and shepherds, with kings and wise men, with stars and camels (and sheep and cows), this one moment from Jesus' birth never gets mentioned. Sure, we sometimes remember that he was dedicated at 8 days old, that Simeon & Anna blessed him. Sure, we sometimes talk about how many months passed between Jesus' birth and the wise men's visit. But how often do we talk about the darkest moment in the story of Jesus' birth - that Herod the King, the Roman ally & puppet, friend of Augustus Caesar himself, orchestrated the mass murder of children in Bethlehem, a city supposedly under his own protection...

And that, of all places on earth our infant Lord would find shelter, it would be Egypt.

What could all this possibly mean? Is this all just to fulfill obscure prophecies from Jeremiah, Lamentations, & Hosea? Is this only a connection to the political ambitions of evil kings & governments? What could this possibly mean - especially in light of the Christmas narrative?

This is one moment you really hope you never see in a kids' Christmas pageant. And yet... Here's a father, aware of the significance of God-given visions & dreams. Here's a mother, ready to go at the drop of a hat, ready to pull up stakes and go when that vision lands.

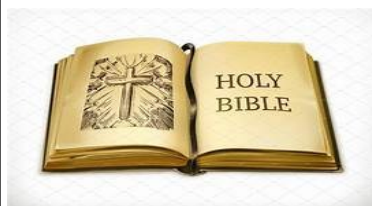
Here's parents who, when the angel comes, will do whatever it takes to make sure their child is as safe as they can be - even if it means pulling him (and themselves) out of bed in the middle of the night and walking some 90 miles in order to get out of Herod's territory - from one province into another. (By the way, when people make a big deal about Jesus immigrating to/from Egypt, they miss the point that moving from Judea to Egypt would be akin to moving to Georgia from South Carolina - it's all still the Roman Empire).

What God is doing with this moment is (1) pointing out the faithfulness of Joseph & Mary. They take God seriously and God's messages seriously - and they show this by GOING. They don't meditate, they don't procrastinate, they motivate, and they obey God's warnings.

(2) This moment indeed points out how God not only had a plan in motion, but that even the wickedness of politicians & governments couldn't stop or hinder that plan. And (3) This moment shows how something that once seemed so safe (in this case Bethlehem) could become so dangerous while someplace that once seemed so dangerous (Egypt) could be used by God to give his people - his very own Son - shelter when he was at his most vulnerable.

So what are WE doing with this strange, tragic, & powerful Christmas moment? How does it inform & transform our understanding of Jesus' Advent?

Hopefully we see it's about more than gifts, more than cards and carols, more than pageants and even presents. It's about our willingness to be like Joseph, to be like Mary, to listen, to hear, and to act on what God reveals. Even if it takes us out of comfort and into Egypt. But especially as long as it keeps us safely connected to Jesus.. Merry Christmas! - Chris



December Sermons

12/07	2nd Advent	Isaiah 11:1-10
12/14	Children's Christmas Program	
12/21	4th Advent	Isaiah 7:10-16
12/24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	
12/28		Titus 3:4-8

NEWS FROM THE SESSION ...

The Session met on November 9th. Congratulations to our new Elders: Beth Grant, Gregg McCutchen III, and Tim McIlhenny. Farewell to the 2025 Elders rolling off at the end of December - Ryan McCutchen, Wendy Welch, and Cindy Welsh. Thanks for doing such a great job the past 3-6 years.

The Property committee is working on several projects to maintain the grounds & buildings.

If the Session can do anything for you, please contact the Church Office or send an email.

Love in Christ, Reese Atkinson, Clerk of Session

Next Session Meeting: Dec. 21st @ 8:30 a.m.

DECEMBER ELDERS-ON-CALL:

***Matt Bramlett & Reese Atkinson**

*denotes Session devotional responsibilities

November 2025 Statistics (4th Qtr)

Attendance Average's

Worship: 62 Sunday School: 32

Budgeted Income & Expenses (operating)

MTD Income received: \$19,981.22

YTD Income received: \$190,057.83

Budgeted YTD Income Needed: \$200,959.00

MTD Expenses disbursed: \$13,806.81

YTD Expenses disbursed: \$206,733.52

Budgeted YTD Expenses: \$199,079.00

**Non-budgeted Income & Expenses (designated)
(Cemetery, Building & Playground Funds)**

MTD Income received: \$660.00

YTD Income received: \$12,635.00

MTD Expenses disbursed: \$1,315.00

YTD Expenses disbursed: \$29,125.40

Congratulations to Elders c/o 2028

Beth Grant

Gregg McCutchen III

Tim McIlhenny

Thank you to Elders rolling off this year

Ryan McCutchen

Wendy Welch

Cindy Welsh

You may use your smart phone or smart device for online giving by scanning this QR code

Please leave your name and where funds are to be designated

**SANCTUARY FLOWER CALENDAR****DECEMBER 2025**

7th: 2nd Advent - Poinsettia Array
14th: 3rd Advent - Poinsettia Array
21st: 4th Advent - Poinsettia Array
28th: Steven & Kerry Frazier

JANUARY 2026

4th: Michael Blades
11th: Kerry & Steven Frazier
18th: Reneé Bell
25th: Carol Latimer Finethy

FEBRUARY 2026

1st: Jim Ed & MaBeth McCutchen
8th: Iris Thomas Family
15th: Ann & English Cooper
22nd: Reneé Bell

MARCH 2026

1st: Jimmy & Marsha McCutchen
8th: Jim & Barbara Latimer
15th: Louise McCutchen
22nd: Kerry & Steven Frazier
29th: Jim & Barbara Latimer

**APRIL 2026**

5th: Debbie Tindal & Lena McCutchen
12th: Reneé Bell
19th: Retta & Hugh Tindal
26th: Sarah McCutchen Family

MAY 2026

3rd: Kathryn Welch
10th: Lila Mae Welsh Family
17th: John & Karen Gentry
24th: Jimmy & Marsha McCutchen
31st: Don & Beth Grant

JUNE 2026

7th: William Welsh Family
14th: Dot & Buddy Wilson Family
21st: Reneé Bell
28th: Gregg McCutchen III

JULY 2026

5th: Virginia & Charlie Ipock
12th: Harriett & Henry Watson Family
19th: William & Pat Monroe Fields
26th: Reese & Melinda Atkinson

Please contact the Church Business Office (preferably by email) to change a date or to be added/removed from the running Flower Calendar



Michael Jeffords	5
Sara Catherine Corbett	6
Gordon Eckley	8
Becky Crichton	9
Mike Monroe	13
Dawn Levers	14
Maggie Corbett	15
Tom Kerr	18
Jennifer McCutchen	18
Billy Simon	20
Jane Clyburn	22
Retta Tindal	24
Brooke Welch	24
Wyatt Frazier	28
Rena Smith	29



Robert McCutchen III	2
Rhetta Simon Cloyd	3
Chip Smith	3
Bill Tindal	3
Kody Mills McCutchen	4
Lila Dow Frazier	9
Will McElveen	9
Keith Hyman	11
John Crues Bell IV	12
Bill Conway	13
Steven Welsh	13
T-Bo Ellen	16
Reid McCutchen	17
Ruby Nell Bailey	20
Tim McIlhenny	21
Georgia Y. Broughton	24
Aidan Hilditch	25
William Clyburn Ipock	26
Mills Lloyd	28
Brooke Harrington	30
Amber Harrington	30
Josh Kirven	30
John Latimer	30
Katie McCutchen	30

Circle's & Men of Church will not meet in December. They will resume in January

FROM CHURCH BUSINESS OFFICE

Email & Postal mail, is checked and acted on, daily as applicable. Please mail donations to:

**Bishopville PC @ POB 66
Bishopville, SC 29010**

NOTE: Post Office returns all street mail



Business Office Hours

Monday - Wednesday

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Unless otherwise noted

2025 Business Office vacation/holiday closings:

Dec. 8th; 24th - 29th & 31st

Please contact office to update records (via email)



**Coffee Time: Sunday's @ 10:30 am
between Sunday School & Church.
Anyone who wishes to host, please
sign up on the calendar(s) in kitchen.
Everyone is welcome to join us**



**Doris Bell @ Skilled Care Manor, Florence
Karen Gentry @ Memory Care Manor, Florence
BJ Kerr @ McCoy
Beth McCutchen @ McCoy
Hugh Tindal @ his home
Dotty G. Williamson @ Morrell's, Hartsville**

**We are cleaning stones in our cemetery.
Anyone with any objections or interest, please
contact the Church office via email or contact
Wendy Welch**

Jewish Voice Coin Collection

Thanks to your support, Jewish Voice was able to help meet people's basic need for dental services in war-torn Ukraine. Your generosity shares the hope of Yeshua (Jesus) while providing tangible help to meet real needs – sometimes in desperate situations, like Ukraine. Coin banks are in the Bell Tower room and you can pick up and drop off any time of the year, in the office. **We collected \$165 in Nov.!**

Thanks to all who participate!

Next Coin Collection Date: May 17, 2026



Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebbox Ministry

Thank you to everyone who helps pack or donates funds for the OCC shoeboxes.

**Thank you to everyone that helped and donated items
We mailed 88 boxes this year**



“Blessing Box” Ministry

These boxes are stocked/maintained with food, necessities, Devotionals & Bibles. Our children are stocking, maintaining, and updating the Church on the progress.

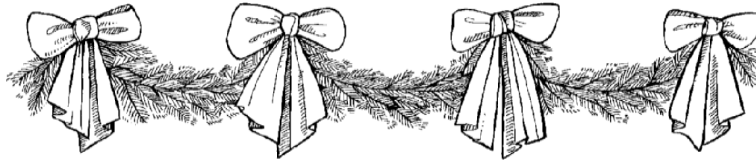
Collection dates: 1st Sunday of each month.

All 5th Sunday undesignated gifts are placed into the Kids for Christ Mission Fund.

Please note “Kids4Christ” on gifts outside this timeframe. Make checks payable to BPC. If it is for a specific need or project, please indicate that on your check or correspondence.

Next collection date: March 29, 2026

Christmas Events



Children's Christmas Program
Sunday, December 14th @ 11 am
Christmas lunch to follow

www.wreathsacrossamerica.org



WREATHSACROSSAMERICA.ORG
Learn about Wreaths Across America's
Mission to Remember, Honor and Teach

Christmas Eve Service
Wednesday, December 24th
BPC Sanctuary @ 5:30 p.m.



Wreaths Across America Ceremony
Saturday, December 13th
At 11:30 a.m. in the
Bishopville PC Cemetery
We'll honor 70 veterans, this year
All are invited to attend



Candle Lighters

Dec. 7th (2nd) Melinda & Reese Atkinson
Dec. 14th (3rd) Wendy & Benny Welch
Dec. 21st (4th) Annie & Tim McIlhenny
Dec. 24th (Christmas Eve) Jennifer & Perry McCutchen

Angel Trees are in both
Tower rooms. Please
take a tag and return a
gift by December 11th,



We will celebrate Communion on
Sunday, January 4, 2026.

Communion is gladly served in
the homes of those who can't at-
tend services.

Please contact the Pastor or an
Elder for extended services.

January Communion Elders:
Matt Bramlett & Steven Frazier