



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

THE PARISH PAPER

THAT CHRIST'S LIGHT BE SEEN IN US.

MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER

▶ FROM THE RECTOR

Dearly beloved,

Eleven (11). That is how many times we say *alleluia* in the service of Morning Prayer during the Great Fifty Days of Easter before we even sit down to recite the psalm(s) for the day. Our weekday Morning Prayer service at The Advent begins at 8:15 am. By 8:20 am, we have said *alleluia* eleven times! It almost feels like a mistake... but it is not. As a matter of fact, it is deeply intentional.

The best English translation we have for the Hebrew word *Alleluia* is "Praise the Lord." During the season of Lent (Purple time), we suppress (and even bury) the *alleluia* not because we no longer feel compelled to praise God, but rather because when Easter comes, the *Alleluias* are all the more joy-filled, authentic, and meaningful.

For me, the regular discipline of praying Morning Prayer (p. 37, BCP) has become the bedrock of my spiritual life. It invites me to confess my sins (and receive absolution) not only on Sundays, but every day. It invites me to read and reflect on scripture not only on Sundays or at a Bible study, but every day. And it invites me to say aloud *alleluia*—Praise the Lord!—eleven times (!) over the course of about five minutes before my morning coffee has even had a chance to kick in. When left to my own devices, I would never have the spiritual discipline to do all of

this on my own. I need the structure of the Anglican Prayer Book tradition and the accountability of my fellow sojourners-in-prayer to convict me to get up and say my eleven *alleluias* by 8:20.

After our barrage of *alleluias*, and after reciting the psalms and listening to the day's assigned scripture lessons, and after reciting the Apostles' Creed together, we kneel down and pray. We join with the worldwide Anglican Communion in common prayer for the world, our nation, and our community. And then we read aloud our parish prayer list. If you or someone you love is on our prayer list, know that you are being prayed for aloud during our weekday Morning Prayer service. And we also pray for the members of our staff and vestry, as well as the staff and steering committee of the Advent Children's Center. We are committed to praying for those who work behind the scenes to help our parish and preschool carry out the work we have been called to do.

It is a privilege and a joy to join together in proclaiming *alleluia!* with the faithful folks at our weekday Morning Prayer services at The Advent. I invite you to join us one morning—give it a try! It's a lot like the gym—difficult to go to for the first time, but easier once it becomes a habit.

Your fellow sojourner in the faith,



← link to our
CALENDAR

<https://churchofadvent.org/calendar/>





You're invited!

Celebration of New Ministry
honoring Fr. Richard
Wednesday, May 20, 6 PM



Due to a scheduling change from the Bishop's office, the Celebration of New Ministry service has been rescheduled to **Wednesday, May 20 at 6:00 PM.**

This promises to be a truly meaningful occasion in the life of our parish—a moment to gather in worship, give thanks, and celebrate this new chapter of ministry together.

Afterward, the celebration will continue across the street in the Parish & Community Life Center at a reception which will be a wonderful opportunity for fellowship, connection, and shared joy as we welcome Fr. Richard as our Rector, along with his family.

We hope you will make every effort to join us for this special evening. Your presence will help make the celebration all the more rich and memorable. We hope to see you there!



Parish Picnic - Sunday, May 17 after the 10:15 AM service!

Bring your family, a blanket, or some chairs and come enjoy good food and great fellowship.

Gail will be cooking up a delicious meal for everyone to share! Donations toward the meal are appreciated.



In observance of Memorial Day, the church office and campus will be closed **Monday, May 25** as we honor and remember those who gave their lives in service to our country.

We hope you have a safe and meaningful holiday.



Monday, May 11 at 10 AM

Serendipity Circle is one of our ECW (Episcopal Church Women) groups, and all ladies are welcome to join. Come enjoy fellowship if you're available!



Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:58

▶ OUTREACH



**THE ADVENT IS HOSTING *A WAY HOME* FAMILIES
JUNE 21-28.**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

We need your help! A sign up link will be coming soon.

- What is **A Way Home**?

A Way Home is an emergency shelter program in Spartanburg County, serving families experiencing homelessness. It operates as a partnership between A Place to Call Home (APTCH) and The Faith Initiative to End Child Poverty. The program offers short-term housing, daily support, and intensive case management, through a rotating schedule of area churches hosting.

If you have questions, please contact Elisabeth Hayes, Director of Membership, Parish Life & Outreach

ehayes@churchofadvent.org



WEDNESDAY night dinners



Information and RSVP here

<https://churchofadvent.org/wednesday-night-dinners-reservations-2/>

Surprised by Hope” by N.T. Wright

Adult Wednesday Night Program through May 13

Schedule for the evenings:

- 5:15 PM: Vessels of Grace (Holy Eucharist) in the Church Nave
- 6:00 PM: Dinner in the PCLC Dining Rooms
- 6:30–7:15 PM: Programs for all ages

These are the sessions in May:

- The Hope of Jesus’ Second Coming–May 6
- The Hope of Salvation–May 13 (final)

As the adults remain in the Dining Rooms for their program, children and youth will be dismissed to participate in their own age-appropriate programs.

Surprised by Hope by N. T. Wright is a thoughtful and engaging study that explores the Christian hope of resurrection and what it means for both life after death and life right now. Rather than focusing only on “going to heaven,” Wright invites readers to rediscover the Bible’s bigger picture of God’s promise to renew all creation.

Each week, the adult group watches a short 15-20 minute video from the DVD series, followed by about 20 minutes of discussion. It’s a relaxed and welcoming time to learn together, ask questions, and explore how this hope shapes the way we live each day.

Reservations for the Wednesday Night Dinner must be made by 12:00 PM on the preceding Monday each week.

MARCH “BY THE NUMBERS”

March Average Attendance

Sunday	273 Total <i>(58 at 8 AM, 214 at 10:15 AM)</i>	19% increase over March 2025
Wednesday	46	630% increase over

March Giving Report

	March	YTD Total
Pledge Payments	\$164,519	\$847,574
Budgeted Monthly	\$102,254	\$782,374

2026 Pledge Update

- Thus far, 268 of 450 Advent households have pledged, totaling 60%.
- If you have not already done so, please consider pledging for 2026 by filling out a pledge card in the narthex, by visiting <https://churchofadvent.org/pledge-form/> or by scanning this QR code.
- Thank you to all who have pledged!



Our yearly budget is based on anticipated pledges and offerings, aiming for financial equilibrium with neither profit nor loss. Your generosity makes this possible.

Faith and Music: A Lifelong Calling

by Lee Cobb

Music presents challenges. Learning a musical instrument is one of life’s greatest challenges, but it can also be a great accomplishment. Playing with other musicians, sharing musical tones with one another, can bring people together. The rewards are immense; finding one’s place in a musical ensemble brings us fully into music’s creative power.



As I learned music, I found that it is important to go out and listen to good performers. This gave me a better understanding of what is possible. Hearing a performer who was more advanced helped me to hear what the instrument is capable of, and what a musician is capable of. This gave me something to strive for—a goal.

There is always something new to learn with music, and one’s musical pursuit lasts a lifetime.

In much the same way, Jesus asks us to spend our lives following in his footsteps. We know this to be a great challenge, but like music, it comes with great reward—the greatest! Like music, Jesus calls us to be among other followers so we can learn from one another. He calls us into an ensemble of performers so we can be strong in doing God’s will.

But mostly, music invites me to experience fully the creative power of God’s earth. Music’s true purpose is to give God glory. Amen.

THE ADVENT FOUNDATION 

A Meaningful Gift for Any Occasion

With Mother’s Day approaching (and retailers likely unboxing Christmas décor), there are gift-giving opportunities around every corner. For many, the idea of selecting the perfect present for a loved one or friend is daunting.

A tribute contribution to the Advent Foundation can be a meaningful and uplifting remembrance for anyone, at any time. While saluting the honoree, such a gift sustains the Church of the Advent’s mission and ministries—spreading Christ’s light and love within our parish, community, nation, and world. All donations are tax-deductible and can be made conveniently online via the [Advent website](#).

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” *2 Corinthians 9:7*



WE NEED YOU!

VOLUNTEER

FOR VBS THIS SUMMER
JUNE 15 - 18

VBS Volunteer link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0F4CAEAD28A57-62901344-2026#/>

SUNDAY MORNINGS

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS CHAPEL HELPERS & MUSICIANS

[Nursery Volunteer Link](#)
[Chapel Helpers & Musicians Sign Up Link](#)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMS

May 6 Herb Garden Planting **in May**
May 13 Gym Games

LAST DAY FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

MAY 17

TIME TO REGISTER

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 15 - 18
(Monday - Thursday)
9 AM - 12 PM
For all rising 3k - 6th Grade

VBS Registration link: DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS MAY 15

<https://churchofadvent.shelbynextchms.com/external/form/d778c553-2b23-40d2-8f22-e7fbf4574637>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mark Thompson
Thomas Clelland
Georgia Kendall
Camille Kendall

Caroline Schoonover
Chip Whitehill
Rin Clayton
Addie Adair

Mattie Moore



Our graduating class of 2026:

- Brendan Patrick Delaney
- Virginia Anne Delaney
- William McGinnis Frazier
- Sarah Marie Halstead
- Robert Alfred Hammett III
- Bradley DuPre Johnson
- Elizabeth Ann Johnson
- Mary Mabel Brice Krydyski
- Richard Brady Lowry III
- Evans Cordell Taylor
- Marie Wood Taylor



[Link to the Baccalaureate Bulletin](#)

KEY DATES

AS THE 2025-2026 PROGRAM YEAR CONCLUDES

Last Week of Prayer Breakfasts: May 11-14

Last Youth Sunday School: May 17

Formation Nights: May 3, 10 & 17—last one

PRAYER BREAKFASTS

Mondays, 7am
 High School Girls
 at Broadway Bagels

Tuesdays, 7am
 High School Boys
 at Chick-fil-A at Hillcrest

Thursdays, 7am
 Middle School (all)
 at PCLC Dining Room A

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays, 9:10am

The Upper Room -
 All 6th-12th Graders in PCLC Upstairs
 Room 202

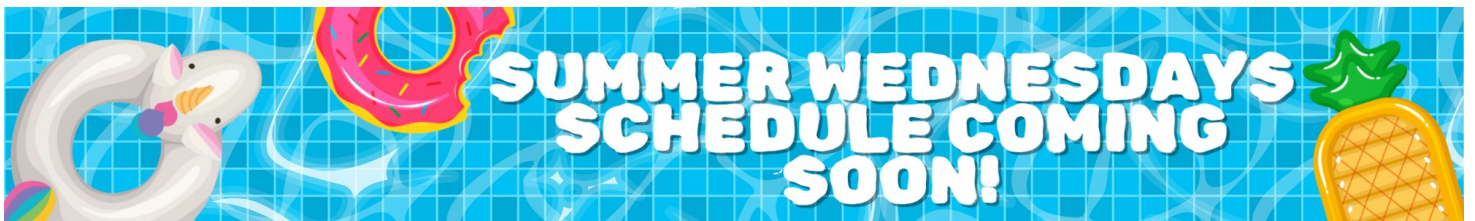
Confirmation Class -
 Meets May 3 (Chapter 5)
 and May 17

FORMATION NIGHTS

Sundays

5:00 - 7:00 PM

All Middle & High School Students
 Meet in the PCLC Lobby



HEATH BOYD

SIMS LORING

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

BRADY LOWRY

▶ ADULT FORMATION

The Gleaners Class gathers at **9 AM** in the Library Conference Room in Satterlee Hall. Led by members of the group, each session centers on discussion of the scripture readings appointed for that day's services. These readings are available in the weekly bulletin or online at www.lectionarypage.net. All are welcome, and participation through questions and conversation is encouraged. If you'd like to learn more, feel free to join us for a visit. While the other adult Sunday school classes are not meeting during the summer, you are warmly invited to drop in to the Gleaners Class at any time—whether for a single visit or throughout the summer weeks.

The three classes below will break for the summer after their final meetings in May and will resume on Sunday, August 16.

The Seekers Class meets in Dining Rooms A & B in the PCLC. Refreshments start at 8:50 AM, class is from 9:10-10 AM. All adults are invited to attend! Their schedule for May:

- May 3 and 10—Spiritual Gifts, presented by Mtr. Debbie Apoldo

The Sowers Class meets in Dining Room C in the PCLC at 9:10 AM. They are studying the Gospel of John using the book, *John for Everyone* by N. T. Wright. In this study, they are looking at all of the details John includes in his Gospel that reveal the reality of who Jesus is, the new creation he inaugurates and the difference that all makes.

- May 3 - John 7:53-8:29 The Light of the World, John 8:30-59 The Truth will make you Free
- May 10 - John 8:30-59, John 9: The Man Born Blind
- May 17 - John 10 The Good Shepherd

The Village Class meets for mutual support and fellowship at 9:10 AM in the coffee area of the PCLC. Their schedule for May

- May 3: Managing Leadership Anxiety, Chapter 10: A Wider Scope & Deeper Capacity
- May 10: Capable life video and chat; Reactivity: Bigger & Smaller
- May 17: Capable life video and chat, Brave Practice, & Tan Elephant: A White Elephant gift exchange to kick off the summer season



Sunday School



Midweek Classes



Book and Brown Bag meets in the Satterlee Hall, Library Conference Room Tuesdays 12:15 - 1:15 PM. They are continuing with their study of the Gospel of John through until mid-June then taking a summer break and commencing with a new book after Labor Day. Anyone is welcome to join in at any time. John study sessions are stand alone so come when you can.

Lectionary Lunch & Learn meets on Wednesdays from 12-1 PM in the Library Conference Room in Satterlee Hall. Fr. Richard leads this engaging time of reflection and discussion, offering a deeper look into the scriptures and prayers appointed for each Sunday. Participants are invited to bring their own bag lunch and enjoy this midweek opportunity for learning and fellowship.

The **Men's Bible Study** group gathers on Thursdays, serving breakfast at 6:45 AM, followed by Bible study at 7:00 AM. They meet in Dining Room C of the PCLC. For more information, contact Chip McLeod at chip_mcleod@ml.com.

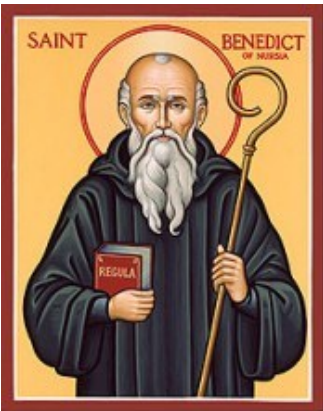
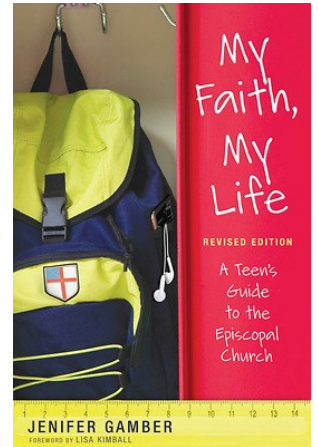
The **Women's Bible Study** group meets on Thursdays at 10:00 AM in Satterlee Hall, Conference Room 2, and is led by Mary Peters. The group is continuing its study of the Gospel of John using *John for Everyone* by N. T. Wright.

Cabe Loring and I have had the privilege and honor of teaching the most recent confirmation class. We have had a great first 4 months with the confirmands. I have to admit, when Mtr. Christie Walton asked me to teach the class, I had a flashback to a disinterested 7th grader sitting in the priest's office trying to stay awake while 3 of us heard about Episcopal canons... needless to say, not a tremendous amount stuck with me. So I knew I needed a bit of a refresher, which has led to a lot of great conversation and learning.

There are a few things that many of you may know and remember from your days in confirmation class, but some of those, like me, may enjoy a few reminders. I have learned so much from Jenifer Gamber's "My Faith, My Life" book that is directed toward teens. I also have the adult version, but the teen version seems to resonate better... maybe your 40s are the new teenage years? I want to share a few:

I tend to think Episcopalians do not read the Bible much, but I am reminded that we have 4 readings each Sunday (2 lessons, the psalm, and the Gospel). I learned about the Old Testament being the Jewish Scriptures and the New Testament being the Christian Scriptures (and the similarities in the two faiths' teachings).

I enjoyed being able to teach and create discussion about the Holy Trinity. I think most all of us are familiar with God the Father and Jesus Christ, the Son of God, but it has been nice to focus on the Holy Spirit. Stop for a second and ask yourself, "What is the Holy Spirit?" Is this an invisible aura (I like to use that word with teenagers nowadays) that washes over all Christians? Is the Holy Spirit a person or group of people who are teaching Christian lessons? Is it an angel that overlooks the Church of the Advent? Or is it our Church community? Is it the joy we have in seeing friends on Sunday? Is it the camaraderie that we have at the Oyster Roast, Wednesday night suppers, Advent basketball games, and other events? My answer to all of this is "YES!"



I have learned even more about the importance of the prayer book (which I initially wrote about in my first Vestry Newsletter). We have this wonderful resource (that also contains about 12% of the Bible) to guide us through our daily prayers, life, death, and most any special circumstance. For example, we have asked the confirmands to look for a saint (starting on page 19 of the BCP) and let us know what they have learned. I picked July 11th and learned about Benedict of Nursia (founder of the Benedictine Order), who emphasized *Ora et Labora* (prayer and work). Please ask a confirmand if they have picked their saint!

In this semiquincentennial for our country, it is fascinating to see the similarities in the growth of our Church (we may not have thrown tea into Boston Harbor, but we do not love foreign governance). Speaking of Boston, there was a "ritualistic controversy" in the early 1800s when a bishop would not visit a Boston church because of having candles and a crucifix on the altar, and the rector wore vestments. Back then, that would have been too... bougie!?! (I'm still trying to connect to the teenagers).

There is so much more to learn, and I am excited about the next half of the year with the confirmands. They are the future of our Church, and I love the support they have received and appreciate that everyone at the Advent has taught them to treat Cabe and me with grace as we teach about our wonderful Episcopal Church.

Jeff Cashman

The Collect for Benedict of Nursia, July 11

Gracious God, whose service is perfect freedom and in whose commandments there is nothing harsh nor burdensome: Grant that we, with your servant Benedict, may listen with attentive minds, pray with fervent hearts, and serve you with willing hands, so that we might live at peace with one another and in obedience to your Word, Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026

The flowers that adorn the altar are given to the glory of God and

- in loving memory of Patricia Reamy Curry by her family
- in loving memory of Thomas Flowers Johnston, Reid Madison Spencer, and Elizabeth McGeorge Spencer by their family
- in memory of W. Gordon Rodgers, Jr., M.D. by his family

SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2026

The flowers that adorn the altar are given to the glory of God and

- in loving memory of Robert Zimmerman Cates, Mary Love Fraleigh Cates, MacFarlane Lafferty Cates, Mary DuPre Cates, Elisabeth Cates Wall, Mary Love Cates Hayes, Mary Love "Zoo" Cates Hayes, Clifford Barron Hayes III, Robert Cates Hayes and MacFarlane Lafferty Cates, Jr. by their families

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026

The flowers that adorn the altar are given to the glory of God and

- in thanksgiving for Bradley, Caroline and Iris by Maxcy and Chris Lynn

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2026

The flowers that adorn the altar are given to the glory of God and

- in loving memory of Dr. William F. Price by his family

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2026

The flowers that adorn the altar are given to the glory of God and

- in loving memory of Florence Elisabeth Allen Smith
- in loving memory of John H. Bachman, Jr. by his family

Each Sunday, flowers or seasonal greenery adorn our altar to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for our parish community, given in honor, celebration, or memory of loved ones. If you would like to sponsor altar flowers, please contact **Martha Blackman** at marthablackman@aol.com for availability and details.



Our **80th ECW Bazaar** is coming up this year! As always, it will be held on the Thursday before Thanksgiving, so please mark your calendars for **November 19, 2026**.

If you would like to be involved—especially with cooking for The Country Store or helping with prepared food—please reach out to **Julie Schwartz** (504-8776) or **Elisabeth Hayes** (ehayes@churchofadvent.org).

Doing some spring cleaning? As you sort through your items, consider donating to the **Serendipity booth!** We welcome contributions of holiday décor (all holidays), along with jewelry and accessories. You can drop off your donations in Satterlee Hall at the bottom of the stairs near the reception desk—just look for the boxes labeled "Serendipity." We truly appreciate your generosity!



The Parish Prayer List

as of April 16, 2026

We are asked to remember:

Our parishioners in need of prayer:

Barbara Adams, Kathy Allen, Beverly Barrs, Katherine Bauer, David Bowdish, Meredith Boyce, Cecil Brown, Margi Cates, Jeanne Clark, Marianne Clark, Shelby Clark, Terry Clark, Ted Conwell, John Dargan, Carole Davis, Jane Davis, John Davis, Lillian Delaney, Phillip Edge, Roy Ellis, Randy Foster, Susan Foster, Andre Frederic, Dotty Frick, Gary Frost, Elizabeth Graham, T. Griffin, Cathy Hall, Ed Hall, Carolyn Hare, Mary Hayes, Linda Hays, Don Hinton, Nancy Hinton, Al Hipp, Margot Langford, Jesse Martin, Jim McCullough, Linda McGee, Phil McGee, Carlton Morrow, Dinny Moses, Herb Neely, Julie Oates, Mary Peters, Birdie Reutter, Ernie Stringer, Cathy Terrell, Charlie Tulloh, Malinda Tulloh, Robin Walker, Reecie Wilkes, Logan Williams, Grantham Wood, Bobbi Wright

Others who have asked for our prayers:

Wayne Anderson, Claudio Autenzio, Hani Baramki, Troy Beavers, Amanda Bevis, John Blanton, Hugh Brantley, Johnsie Canny, Joann Carlisle, Nancy Carlisle, Michael Cato and family, Lynn Cazallis, Leslie Coe, Elijah Cole, Steve Crane, Michael Curry, Tilly Davis, Inge Eubanks, Ashley F., Beth Foster, Jeanie Frick, Gigi and Diamond, Jewell, Jonathon, Emmy & Treasure, Peggy Graham, Mary Haddad, Anita Hammerbeck, Justine Hawkins, Carole Hicks, Wayne High, Nylah Hill, Tony Hollifield, Gary Horvath, Jeff Humphries, Kathleen Jennings, Fletcher Kendall, Roxanne King, Erick Kumar, Donghee Lee, Zaylen Lyles, Edna McAbee, Jane McKinze, Steve Mitchell, Patti Moran, Bob Perrin, Susan Perrin, Mary Ellen Porter, Emory Price, Libby Leland Puckette, Susie Shier, Kacie Sims, Chloe Smith, Nancy Smith, Mackenzie Steck, Olivia Steck, Andrew Stine, Shelby Taylor, Sterling Taylor, Barbara Manning Bear Wallace, Winnie Walsh, Gina Williams, Martha Pacolette Whitener, Justin Daniel Wyatt

Those serving in the Armed Forces:

Patrick Abrams (Army), Michael Brooks Bock (Army), James Boyd, (USMCR), Anna-Kate Campbell (Navy), Halcott R. Carter (Navy), Christian Dunn (Army), Christian J. Eitel (Navy), Jack Gaskins (Army), Will Gaskins (Navy), Austin Groce (Army), Cameron Hall (USMC), Alex Holland (Army), Jason Kopp (Navy), Charles Lewis (Air Force), Landon Dudley McMahill (Army), Morgan Milanowicz (Army), Travis Moore (Army National Guard), Maddox Peek (Army), Matthew Smith (Army), Bascombe Traywick (USMC), John Watters (Navy)

Those expecting the arrival of a child:

Cosley and Christopher Graham; Emma and Adam Whitehill; Everett and Nora Haugh, Lesesne and Natalie Phillips; Caleb and Daniella Jennings

For updates or additions to the Advent Prayer List, please contact the Rev'd Paula Griffin at pgriffin@churchofadvent.org or 864-542-6650 | 864-504-3696.



Holy Matrimony

Thomas Alex Evins III & Lisa Otto

April 11, 2026



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE
ADVENT

141 Advent St | Spartanburg, SC | 29302

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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SPARTANBURG, SC

PERMIT NO. 45

The Day of Pentecost *Whitsunday* **May 24**

Easy Ways to Give

01

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03

**The Advent
Foundation**



04

Mail a Check

141 Advent St
Spartanburg, SC 29302

2026 Vestry Members

Senior Warden	Lori Thomas
Junior Warden	Craig Williams
Junior Warden-elect	Reagan Holland
Youth Representative	Merrill Loring

Class of 2027

Jeff Cashman
Rick Dent
Laura Fritz
Rogers Settle

Class of 2028

Ziggy Clayton
Ginger Davis
Judy McCravy
Megan Rudolph

Class of 2029

Jim Hunt
John Langford
Liza Lounsberry
Anne Rodrick



The Episcopal Church of the Advent

Visit www.churchofadvent.org/gifts-and-pledges and click on the Online Giving Link.

Contact Joanne Wood, Parish Administrator if you have any questions: 504-3691

