

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 15, 2024

Third Sunday of Advent "Joy"

Reverend Delton H. Farmer, Pastor

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"Helping Others See Jesus' Grace In Me"

Order of Worship

2nd Sunday of Advent

**Congregation Stands/rise in spirit*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Elder Debra & Elder Jaron Givens

*INTROIT #106 (AA)

"In The Beauty Of Holiness"

GOD OUR FATHER

HIS ADORATION AND PRAISE

106 IN THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS

*...be holy yourselves in all your conduct; for it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."
1 Peter 1:15-16*

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It consists of five systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (Soprano/Alto/Tenor/Bass) and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "Come let us wor-ship the Lord in the beau - ty of ho - li-ness. Come let us wor-ship the Lord in the beau-ty of ho - li-ness. Give Him the hon- or. Give Him the praise. Come let us wor-ship the Lord; Let's give Him the praise." The score includes various musical notations such as treble and bass clefs, time signatures, notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

Wor - ship Him. Wor - ship Him. Give my God the glo -
ry. Give my God the praise.
Wor - ship Him. Wor - ship Him.
Come let us wor-ship the Lord; Let's give Him the praise.

Text: Nettie L. Sawyer Lester, © 1992, Joy Publishing Co. (SESAC)

Tune: Nettie L. Sawyer Lester, © 1992, Joy Publishing Co. (SESAC); arr. by Stephen Key, © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.

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*CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say Rejoice!

ALL: Our joy is in the Lord who blesses us.

LEADER: Shout for joy, for the Lord is near!

ALL: Our praises ascend to God for the mighty things God has done.

LEADER: Lift your voices in praise in honor of our God!

ALL: Surely God blesses and saves us. Hallelujah! Praise be to God. AMEN.



Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return
and enter Zion singing,
crowned with everlasting joy;
they will meet with joy and gladness,
sorrow and mourning will flee

Isaiah 35:10

Joy

**1 Hark the herald angels sing.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Glory to the new-born King.
Jesus, the light of the world.**

Refrain:

**We'll walk in the light, beautiful light.
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.
Oh, shine all around us by day and by night.
Jesus, the light of the world.**

**2 Joyful, all ye nations, rise.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Join the triumph of the skies.
Jesus, the light of the world. [Refrain]**

**3 Christ, by highest heav'n adored.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Jesus, the light of the world. [Refrain]**

**4 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Hail, the Sun of righteousness!
Jesus, the light of the world. [Refrain]**

*** PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION** (*Unison*)

Lord, we have come to this place from a world of demands and schedules. We have sought hope and peace and have found them here. Now we seek the inner joy that only your presence can bring to our lives. Open our hearts and our spirits to your love. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: In Jesus Christ, God seeks to smooth those places made rough by sin. With humility and hope, let us make our confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

Great God, as we prepare to behold the birth of Jesus again, we acknowledge our failure to receive the fullness of Your gift. Distracted by insignificant matters, we overlook Your good news of great joy. Remind us that the Savior is born, that we are forgiven, and that our lives can be abundant in faith, hope, and love because of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader The angel proclaimed that Jesus would save the people from their sins. From His birth to His resurrection, Jesus embodies salvation. This is good news! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

***GLORIA PATRI**

SPECIAL SELECTION

FUPCC Men’s Ensemble – "Go Tell It On The Mountain "
by John Wesley Work Jr.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION **Reverend Delton H. Farmer**

Merciful God, shine Your light on these words through Your Holy Spirit, so that we may hear Your message and become who You call us to be, all in the name of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS **Reverend Delton H. Farmer**

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 12:2-6
NEW TESTAMENT: Luke 3:7-18

SERMON **"Finding Joy In The Waiting"** **Reverend Delton H. Farmer**



COMMITMENT AND CONSECRATION

LIFE IN CHRIST

I SURRENDER ALL 396

...there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers... who will not get back very much more in this age.
 Luke 18:29-30

Text: Judson W. Van De Venter, 1855-1939

FUPC License number: 11348664

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Apostles' Creed)**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Leader: With gratitude for God's faithfulness and with thanksgiving for all that we have received, let us bring our gifts to God." (You may give online @fupcc.org; mail your gifts to the church office, 406 N. College Street, 28202; or leave with the Officers as you exit.) Remember, the Lord Loves a cheerful giver. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY SELECTION

FUPCC Men's Ensemble - "Just A Little Talk With Jesus "
by Cleavant Derricks

***DOXOLOGY**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Leader: Generous God, we thank you for all our blessings, and offer these gifts back to your service, that this church might continue to shine your light into the world. Amen.

***CLOSING**

"Agnus Dei" by Donnie McClurkin

**Hallelujah, hallelujah, for the Lord God almighty reigns
Hallelujah, hallelujah, for the Lord God almighty reigns
Hallelujah**

**Holy, holy
Are you Lord God almighty**

**Worthy is the Lamb
Worthy is the Lamb**

**You are holy, holy
Are You Lord God almighty**

**Worthy is the Lamb
Worthy is the Lamb**

Amen

*** CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Rev. Farmer**

Go out in the peace that comes from God, who has begun a good work in you. Go out with a peace to change the world. And as you go, may the love of God who made you, the strength of Christ who saved you, and the wisdom of the Spirit that gives you life, go with you now and forevermore. Amen

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS



TEN CENTS A MEAL - We Can Make a Huge Difference when ALL participate. Using the same passage Two and Five Cents-a-Meal has been used since 1982. Please consider a gift to Ten Cents-a-Meal every 1st Sunday.

PW BIBLE STUDY– Please Zoom in if you are unable to attend.

LET JUSTICE ROLL DOWN/God’s Call to Care for Neighbors & All Creation: **Lesson 4** –Water Justice
Meeting ID: 819 3012 7450 • **Passcode:** 129126 • **Call in:** 1 309 205 3325 US



FIRST UNITED PW WINTER GATHERING

DATE: Saturday, December 21, 2024

TIME: 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

LOCATION: The Education Building

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN - PW Women will be collecting personal hygiene items for Sister to Sister for women (*deodorant, soap toothpaste, toothbrush, feminine products, lotion*), The collection of toiletries will continue throughout the year (December).

BIBLE STUDY – (Hybrid) - Bible Study every Wednesday night at 6:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting **Meeting ID:** 874 8560 5940 **Passcode:** 413228

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87485605940?pwd=1W9aATJXSS4OqG90shNj5hr8jYK7cB.1>

One tap mobile, + 1-301- 715-8592, follow the prompts: then give meeting

FUPCC INTERCESSORY PRAYER - The last Saturday of each month @ 8:30 am in The Library

FIRST UNITED’S TRIUMPHANT TEENS – Bible Study 2nd & 4th Sunday’s of each Month
Sunday Mornings @ 9:45 am Classroom #201 Ages: 13-18 (snacks provided)

NOURISH UP 5TH Fridays @ First Presbyterian, the next date will be January 31, 2025

CLEANSING WATERS SHOWER MINISTRY - 1st & 3rd Sundays from 9:00 am - 10:30 am

BT EXPRESS (Alcohol/Narcotics Program) - Mondays & Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

SESSION ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL & CORPORATION MEETING

The Session has scheduled our Annual Congregational and Corporation meeting for Sunday, **January 12, 2025, immediately following worship.** The purpose of this meeting is to receive annual reports from organizations and ministries, and to conduct any other business pertinent to the work of the church. The presence of all members brings encouragement and strength to the Body of Christ at First United. Please plan to attend.
-Clerk of Session

HABITAT BUILD 2024/2025



Had a great crew of 15 from 3 partner churches brave the cold this morning. Pastor Tom from Sedgfield UMC shared some scripture and thoughts with us about how we are building houses of God. We all figured that but it was so good to have it confirmed! Sedgfield also brought a hot lunch of pasta, salad, bread and dessert, sure warmed us up!

Wil kept us busy all day with punch stuff on our house and taping and lots of paint on house next door. He says inspection due Monday, then insulation then another inspection then drywall. Should be ready for paint on our last 2 work day, January 3 and 4. Merry Christmas to my

favorite people. Y'all are just the best..

-Marwen

ROOF ABOVE

Working together to end homelessness

We are appealing to the congregation and different ministry teams in the church to assist us with this effort. To help make Roof Above at our church a success, we need Volunteers!!!

WE NEED YOUR HELP – PLEASE HELP !!!

See The Deacon Board

ROOF ABOVE DATES

1. ~~December 6, 2024~~—completed
2. 2. January 3, 2025
3. February 7, 2025
4. 4. March 7, 2025

Lessons and Carols Service

Please join us on the fourth Sunday in Advent, December 22nd at 11:00 am, for a special worship service telling the story of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, in scripture and song. Rev. Farmer will deliver a homily during the service.

It promises to be a joyful time of worship!



Join Us For
A Service of
Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 22, 2024

at 11:00 AM

Liturgical Dance Workshop

DATE: February 15, 2025

TIME: 10:00 am

LOCATION: The Education Building

DANCE MINISTRY

**With a dance ministry during service on
Sunday, February 16, 2025.**

**This ministry is OPEN to any adult, youth and gender
regardless of age. If interested, please contact:
Ellen Smith at 704-516-4748.**

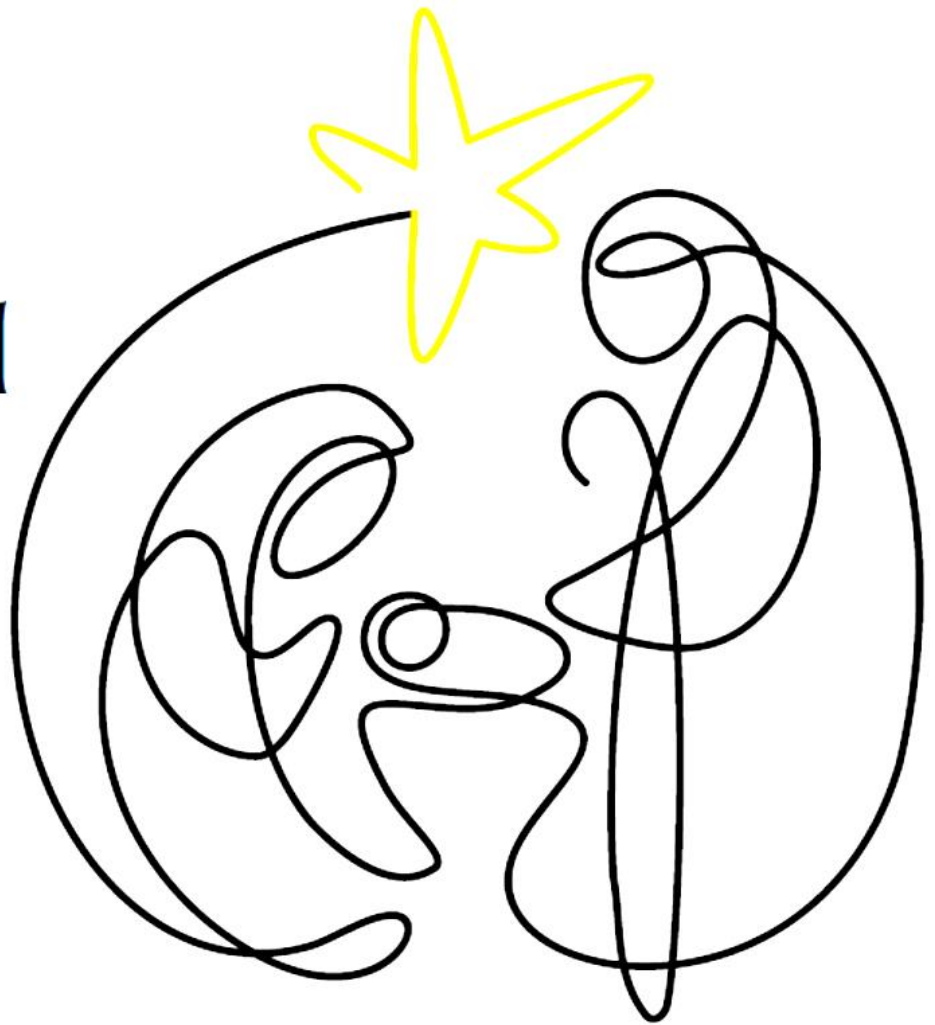


“Let them praise His name with
dancing and make music to Him with
tremble and harp”

Psalm 149:3



Advent Devotional 2024



We hope you'll follow along daily, be deepened in your faith, and prepare your heart to celebrate the birth of Christ. This year's devotional is written by Pittsburgh Theological Seminary alumnae/i.

In addition to this printed format, you may also access the devotionals in these ways:

- » **Read and listen online.** Visit www.pts.edu/devotional.
- » **Receive daily e-mails.** Go to www.pts.edu/email, click "Signup for Seminary News," and "Devotionals (Advent and Lent)."

You may download additional Advent resources by visiting www.pts.edu/devotional.





CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



WAYS TO GIVE



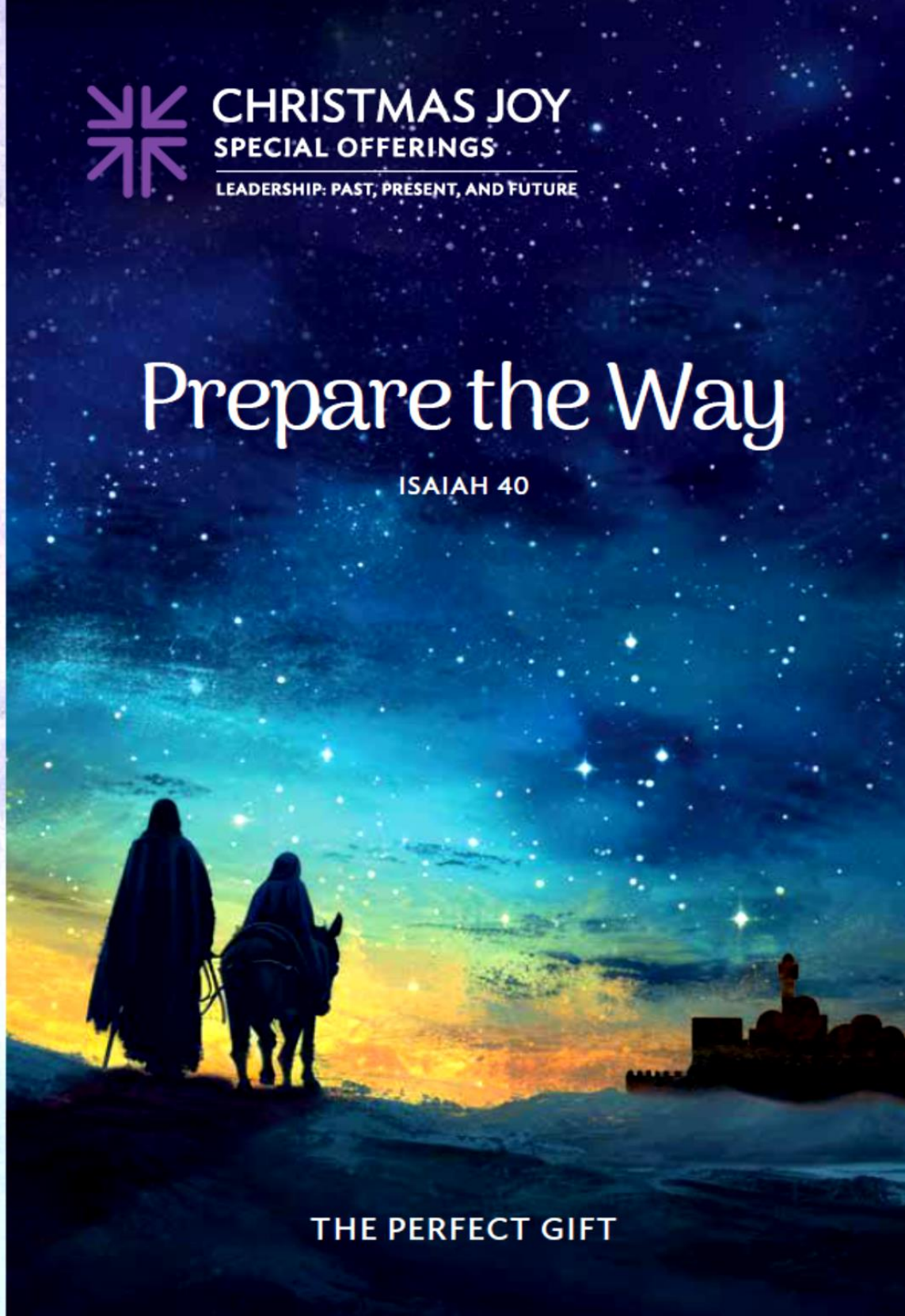
Through your
congregation



Donate by
credit card online at
pcusa.org/christmasjoy



Text
CHRISTMASJOY
to 91999
to give or visit
pcusa.org/christmasjoy



Prepare the Way

ISAIAH 40

THE PERFECT GIFT

First United will observe the Christmas Joy Offering on December 22, 2024

7 Marks of Congregational Vitality

1. A commitment to forming disciples over every member's lifetime. This leads first to personal transformation, as people put on the heart of Christ, and then to social transformation, as people joyfully go forth into the community and tackle the issues facing today's culture.
2. Embracing the call to evangelism. We show forth the love of Christ by our actions and our lives even more than by our words. Our relationships are genuine and caring. People know we are Christians by our love.
3. An outward focus. Our church is not a place to escape from the world, but rather our gateway to our community where we may be the hands, feet, heart and mouth of Jesus Christ for people who are suffering or marginalized.
4. Empowering every member to discover their individual calling and the gifts God has given them so they can go forth and serve.
5. Spirit-inspired worship that challenges, teaches, transforms, convicts and energizes us so when we are sent out, we have experienced the wonder of God and are changed for the better from when we arrived.
6. Caring relationships modeled on God's love. We open our doors and hearts to all people, and we build relationships modeled on God's love, which leads to genuine reconciliation and peace.
7. Congregations with healthy systems. Our mission focuses are clear. There is fiscal responsibility and accountability. We have thoughtful decision-making structures. Our leaders and staff enjoy a sustainable balance of work/rest time.



History of our Partnership

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN + SUN COUNSELING AND WELLNESS

The Opening Doors campaign identified mental health as an outreach priority after Charlotte's Opportunity Task Force included access to mental healthcare as a major factor in socioeconomic mobility and flourishing. First Presbyterian Church recognized barriers to quality, accessible mental health counseling within the uptown community (cost, location) and set out to partner with excellent therapists to provide care in uptown.

COVID-19 underscored the widespread need, not only for direct services for people of all income levels, but also for more opportunities to destigmatize education about mental health and wellness.

After receiving proposals from many potential partners, Sun Counseling was identified as the church's clinical partner for this project. First Presbyterian values Sun Counseling's proven excellence in clinical practice, as well as their commitment to compassionate, engaging education about mental health concerns that are familiar to many of us.

The Opening Doors Capital Campaign will fund income-based scholarships for clients seeing the therapists at the First Presbyterian location. FPC will also provide two offices in the Fresco Lobby during business hours.

Sun Counseling will provide educational opportunities throughout the year for the congregation and community of First Presbyterian Church.



First Presbyterian
Church of Charlotte

Sun Counseling and Wellness

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

About Sun Counseling and Wellness

Sun Counseling and Wellness is made up of a consortium of providers that have many years of experience working with individuals, couples, families, and groups. We are passionate about helping clients achieve a balanced and fulfilling life and treating the WHOLE person. We use modern and evidence-based therapeutic techniques and are individualized and creative in our work with clients. Some of our specialty areas include trauma, grief, eating disorders, anxiety, depression, self-esteem, body image, life transitions, integrative wellness, yoga, acupuncture, and more.



VALUES

Authenticity, Creativity, Compassion, Education, Service, Showing up. This spells ACCESS. By definition, access is "a means of approaching or entering a place and the ability, right, or permission to approach, enter, speak with, or use." Our hope is for every person to find permission to tend to their wellness and to have the opportunity to do so.

These are approachable, safe, inclusive, nonjudgmental counseling relationships to fit your needs. It is our privilege to work with clients and we are on a mission to destigmatize, elevate the conversation, and normalize dialogue around mental health. We want people to feel proud to say "Yes, I go to therapy!"

Scheduling an Appointment

Sun Counseling and Wellness will handle all scheduling for appointments in the First Presbyterian counseling center. The new client form can be accessed on their website: suncounselingandwellness.com/new-clients

You do not need a referral from a First Presbyterian minister to make an appointment.

About the Scholarships

The cost of therapy can be a barrier to many. Sun Counseling therapists will work directly with individual clients to identify the appropriate rate for services rendered, using the income-based charts provided below.

If you think you qualify for a reduced rate, please fill out the form at fpc.tinyurl.com/scholarship or speak directly with your therapist during or prior to your first session.

For adult clients or guardians with FEWER than four dependents:

YOUR INCOME	SESSION COST
Up to \$15,000	\$10 / \$15
\$15,001-30,000	\$25 / \$35
\$30,001-40,000	\$50 / \$75
\$40,001-50,000	\$75 / \$100
\$50,001-55,000	\$100 / \$150
\$55,001-60,000	\$125 / \$165
\$60,001+	\$150* / \$200*

For adult clients or guardians with MORE than four dependents:

YOUR INCOME	SESSION COST
Up to \$20,000	\$10 / \$15
\$20,001-\$40,000	\$25 / \$35
\$40,001-50,000	\$50 / \$75
\$50,001-60,000	\$75 / \$100
\$60,001-65,000	\$100 / \$135
\$65,001-70,000	\$125 / \$165
\$70,001+	\$150* / \$200*

● fee for session with a provisionally licensed therapist

* Full-rate fees: \$175 for a 60-minute intake / \$150 for subsequent 50-minute sessions

● fee for session with a fully licensed therapist

* Full-rate fees: \$250 for a 60-minute intake session / \$200 for subsequent 50-minute sessions

Meet the Therapists

Sun Counseling and Wellness provides two full-time therapists who are available for appointments on the First Presbyterian campus.



Dr. Sheba Surratt, DBH, LCMHC

I have 15 years of experience providing counseling, professional development, and consultative services. I work with children, teens and adolescents, and adults. I provide services to individuals with emotional, psychological, lifestyle changes, and various other problem-situations. I work to reduce behavioral and/or mental health

symptoms that impair quality of life in order improve overall self-care management and wellness. *Specialty areas: Anxiety, depression, grief and loss, developmental concerns, adjustment and life transitions, self-esteem and self-concept, interpersonal conflict and relationship issues, substance use.*

Andrea Juarez, LCSWA

I am a Latinx, Bilingual (English/Spanish), Licensed Clinical Social Worker Associate. I am passionate about breaking the stigma surrounding mental health and helping individuals find healing in their life. My aim is to work collaboratively with you to empower and support through life's ups and downs. It is my



priority to create a safe and inclusive space for you to process and explore your feelings. *Specialty areas: complex trauma, intergenerational trauma, anxiety, depression, relationship dynamics, First Gen experience, LatinX experience, change/life transitions, navigating family of origin experiences.*

