



The Weekly Bulletin
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Albemarle, North Carolina

Church Offices: (704) 982-2722

Website: www.fpcalbemarle.org

December 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

PEALING OF THE CHIMES

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Emily Andrew

Please sign and pass the Register of Friendship during this time.

PRELUDE

Quelle est cette odeur agréable?

Evelyn R. Larter

(Light one candle.)

Seth Richards

(17th century French carol)

Shepherds to Bethlehem, go hasten!

And in a manger see Him lay.

Adore your God and your Redeemer;

Savior of all to win the day.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

We light the fourth candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. As the Lord has promised, in days to come, The Lord will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child.

She shall bear a son, and name him Emmanuel: *God is with us.*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Out of little Bethlehem, comes one who is to rule in Israel.

He shall be great to the ends of the earth.

Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.

God's mercy extends from generation to generation. Holy is God's name!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, O God, and come to set us free by the righteousness of your birth in our midst, by the light of your face shining upon us, and by becoming our brother, our friend, our salvation. We pray this in the name of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, mother of us all. Amen.

*HYMN 140

Once in Royal David's City

Irby

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Silence

God our Savior, we ask for your mercy. Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you. We pass by those considered lowly in this world. We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for the justice you intend. Make us messengers of the peace you bring. As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*RESPONSE TO ASSURANCE

hymnal 132, stanza 3

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

In dulci jubilo

(The response will be sung by choir and congregation.)

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!*

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The congregation is encouraged to participate in the prayer with the children.

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Lillie Hancock

Children will be invited to come forward. At the conclusion of the Faith Sharing with Children, parents may take preschool children to the nursery. Children in grades K-2 may go to the chapel for Children's Church.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, our hope and strength, prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious sings of your promise fulfilled. Amen.

The Chancel Choir, The Piedmont String Quartet, and Percussionist

I. The Coming of God

[Isaiah 9:2,6](#)

See, Amid the Winter's Snow

Dan Forrest

II. Mary

[Luke 1:26-33](#)

Magnificat from 'Christiana Canticles'

John Rutter

III. Joseph

[Matthew 1:18-21](#)

The Hands that First Held Mary's Child

Dan Forrest

IV. The Son of God, Born in a Stable

[Luke 2:1-7](#)

Away in a Manger

Mack Wilberg

V. Angels

[Luke 2:8-12](#)

A Child Is Born in Bethlehem

Philip W. J. Stopford

VI. Shepherds

[Luke 2:15-16](#)

How Great Our Joy

Craig Courtney

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The 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.

Anthem Texts

See Amid the Winter's Snow

Edward Caswall (1858)

See, amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,
See, the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.

Refrain: Hail, thou ever blessed morn, hail, redemption's happy dawn,
Sing throughout Jerusalem: "Christ is born in Bethlehem". Alleluia!

Lo, within a manger lies He who built the lofty skies.
He, who, throned in light sublime, sits amid the cherubim. (*Refrain*)

Sacred infant, all divine, what a tender love was Thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss, down to such a world as this. (*Refrain*)

Magnificat from *Christiana Canticles*

Luke 1:46-55

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.

He hath showed strength with his arm; He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel,
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed forever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Hands that First Held Mary's Child

Thomas Troeger (1986)

The hands that first held Mary's child were hard from working wood.
From boards they sawed and planed and filed and splinters they withstood.
This day they gripped no tool of steel, they drove no iron nail,
But cradled from the head to heel our Lord, newborn and frail.

When Joseph marveled at the size of that small breathing frame
And gazed upon those bright new eyes and spoke the infant's name,
The angel's words he once had dreamed poured down from heaven's height
And like the host of stars that beamed blessed earth with welcome light.

"This child shall be Emmanuel, not God upon the throne,
But God with us, Emmanuel, as close as blood and bone."
The tiny form in Joseph's palms confirmed what he had heard,
And from his heart rose hymns and psalms for heaven's human word.

The tools that Joseph laid aside a mob would later lift
And use with anger, fear, and pride to crucify God's gift.
Let us, O Lord, not only hold the child who's born today,
But charged with faith may we be bold to follow in His way.

Away in a Manger

attributed to Martin Luther

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus: I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

A Child Is Born in Bethlehem

14th Century Latin Hymn

A child is born in Bethlehem, Alleluia, Alleluia, And joy is in Jerusalem, Alleluia, Alleluia.
Rejoice, rejoice, sing high, sing low, Alleluia, Alleluia. Benedicamus Domino, Alleluia, Alleluia.
To thee O Lord be glory paid, Alleluia, Thou Son of Mary, Mother maid, Alleluia.
To Holy Trinity give praise, Alleluia. With Deo gracias always, Alleluia.

How Great Our Joy

Traditional German Carol

While by the sheep we watched at night, Glad tidings brought an angel bright. How great our joy!

There shall be born, so did he say, in Bethlehem a Child today. How great our joy!

There shall a Child lie in a stall, This Child who shall redeem us all. How great our joy!

This gift of God we'll cherish well, that ever joy our hearts shall fill. Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!

PERMISSIONS: *Whence is that Goodly Fragrance Flowing?*, Traditional French carol: *Quelle est cette odeur agréable?*: Setting for strings and organ by Evelyn R. Larter (b. 1953), © 2015, *St. James Music Press*. Used with permission ID 1291. *Once in Royal David's City*, Text: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), 1848. Hymn tune: *Irby*, Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876), 1849. Public domain. *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*, Text: 14th century Medieval Latin hymn, trans. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), 1853. Public domain. Hymn tune: *In dulci jubilo* 14th century German folk melody, harm. David Hugh Jones, (1900-1983), 1953. © 1955, ren. 1983, John Ribble (admin. Westminster John Knox Press), All rights reserved. Used with permission. *See Amid the Winter's Snow*, Text: Edward Caswall (1814-1878), 1858, Music: Dan Forrest (b. 1978), © 2016, *Beckenhorst Press Inc.* Used with permission under One License A-709512. *Magnificat from "Christiana Canticles"*, Text: Luke 46-55. Music: John Rutter (b. 1945). © 2012, *Oxford University Press*. Used with permission under One License A-709512. *The Hands that First Held Mary's Child*, Text: Thomas H. Troeger (b. 1945), © 1986, 2010, *Oxford University Press*. Music: Dan Forrest (b. 1978) © 2011, *Beckenhorst Press Inc.* Used with permission under One License A-709512. *Away in a Manger*, Text: *attributed to Martin Luther (1483-1546)*, Hymn tune: *Cradle Song*, William J. Kirkpatrick (1838-1921) arr. by Mack Wilberg (b. 1955) © 1987, *Hinshaw Music, Inc.* Used with permission under One License A-709512. *A Child Is Born in Bethlehem*, Text: Fourteenth Century Latin Hymn. Music: Philip W. J. Stopford (b. 1977) © 2001, *Ecclesium*, published by *Hal Leonard Publishing Corp.* Used with permission under One License A-709512. *How Great Our Joy*, Text: Traditional German carol, trans. Theodore Baker. Hymn tune: *Jüngst*, Hugo Jüngst (1853-1923), c. 1890. Public domain. Choral setting by Craig Courtney (b. 1948), © 2012, *Beckenhorst Press, Inc.* Used with permission under One License A-709512. *Christmas Concerto, Opus 6, No. 8 - Pastorale*, Arcangelo Corelli (1653-1713). Public domain. *What Child Is This*, Text: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898), 1871. Hymn tune: *Greensleeves*. 16th Century English ballad. Public domain. *O Come, All Ye Faithful*, Text: John Francis Wade (1711-1786), c. 1743, trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841. Hymn tune: *Adeste fideles*. John Francis Wade, c. 1743, harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906. Public domain. *A Christmas Blessing*, Text: Church of Ireland, Book of Common Prayer, adapted by the composer. Music: Philip W. J. Stopford (b. 1977) © 2008, *Ecclesium*, published by Hal Leonard Publishing Corp. Used with permission under One License A-709512. *Alleluia* from Cantata No. 142, "*Unto Us a Child Is Born*", Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750). Public domain.

We ask that you keep these people in your prayers: Terry Morgan, Lindsey Clark (wife of Mark Clark, friend of Debbie Hahn; metastatic breast cancer), Robin Howell, Don Abernathy (multiple myeloma), Jean Rabe, Anita Gower, Gloria Bryson, Nancy Jolly (Trinity Place), Claude Harwood, Jane Scheer, Don Joines, Jane Pickler. See newsletter for complete list.

*Christmas Choral Presentation featuring the
Chancel Choir of First Presbyterian Church
and Piedmont Triad String Quartet
Today at 11:00 a.m.*



!!! Pfeiffer Pfriends Are Needed !!!

The Health Sciences Program of Pfeiffer University continues its presence in downtown Albemarle. Students from across the United States and the world are working on a degree in the Physician's Assistant or Occupational Therapy Programs.

There will be approximately 45 additional students beginning the Physician's

Assistant program in January 2022. Your willingness to be a Pfeiffer Pfriend would be a blessing. For more information on Pfeiffer Pfriends, please email Martha Sue at hallmsh@hotmail.com or call her at 704-985-5821. Currently, we have volunteers from First Baptist, First Lutheran, Central UMC, The Gathering, and some community volunteers. The Pfeiffer Pfriends Committee is reaching out to other churches in the community.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS & HOLIDAY GREENERY

IN MEMORY OF:	GIVEN BY:
Mildred and Alice.....	Natalie & Calvin
Johnny Andrew.....	Al, Becky, Emily, & Jay Andrew
Richard and Betty Long	Al, Becky, Emily, & Jay Andrew
Bill and Daisy Cotton	Andy & Ruth Cotton; James Cotton
Ed and Betty Stanhope	Andy & Ruth Cotton; James Cotton
Jerry and Betsy Earnhardt	John & Angie Earnhardt
Olin and Ruth Huneycutt.....	John & Angie Earnhardt
Preston Averette	John & Angie Earnhardt
Bede Karr	Russell Karr
Rodney Mabry Morgan	Rita Morris Morgan & Family
Bob Palmer	Frankie Palmer
Our Parents – Juanita and Harry Murrell	Jane & Bill Pickler
Our Parents – Frances and Spencer Pickler	Jane & Bill Pickler
Tom Yost.....	Carole Yost

IN HONOR OF:	GIVEN BY:
Her Family.....	Mildred Andrew
Mildred Andrew	Al, Becky, Emily, & Jay Andrew
Gran and Granddaddy Earnhardt.....	Ella & Maddie Averette; Will & Lanie Lentz
Ann Duckwall.....	Debby & Bob Johnston
Terry and Pam Morgan.....	The Kinleys and The Carters
Marshall Rogers	Courtney, Eric, Natalie, & Ellie Niederer
Anna, Dave, Mason, and Addie Feezor	Holly & Tom Norwood



Artist Reception

John Williams, Jack Williams, & Eli Williams

Sunday, December 19 following worship

Please plan to stay after worship on Sunday, December 19 to meet and greet the featured artists in the fall Art Gallery Exhibit. John, Jack, and Eli Williams have tremendous artistic talent and each a unique style. We are delighted to welcome them to First Presbyterian Church and pay tribute to them for sharing their works of art with our congregation this fall. Light refreshments will be served.

Community Advent Worship at Christ Episcopal Church

(428 Pee Dee Avenue)

Wednesday, December 22 at Noon

Rev. Cathy George will be preaching.

**The service will be streamed on the YouTube channel
for Christ Episcopal Church.**



DRIVE-THRU COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH (230 SOUTH 2ND ST, ALBEMARLE)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25 FROM 11:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M. OR UNTIL PLATES RUN OUT

The Annual Community Christmas Dinner is still ON for this year. It will again be a DRIVE-THRU on Christmas Day (Saturday, December 25). The food will be prepared and packaged by Tiffany's. All of the desserts are being provided by the Albemarle Sweet Shop, and all of the volunteers will be from First Lutheran. The only things we are being asked to provide are 100 Christmas Cards (Youth Club is coloring the cards!) and the monetary donation to help cover the cost of the meals (\$700.00) from First Presbyterian Church. Please help us meet this goal by:

1. Giving Generously to the Community Christmas Dinner (in the memo of your check designate "Community Christmas Dinner").
2. Gina Martin, our Interim Director of Christian Education, will have the children color the Christmas cards this year.

**CONTACT MARTHA SUE HALL FOR MORE INFORMATION
(704-985-5821 OR HALLMSH@HOTMAIL.COM)**



**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24
AT 5:30 P.M. AND 11:00 P.M.**

Carols and candlelight will mark the evening as we celebrate the birth of Christ.

Christmas Candlelighting Service

The musical prelude begins at 5:15 p.m. Highlights will include organ, vocal, and instrumental music. *The traditional candlelight service begins at 5:30 p.m.* Worship includes a story for the children, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, music by the adult choir, and sharing the light of Christ.

Worship at 11:00 p.m.

This service includes leadership by the youth with traditional carol singing, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and sharing the light of Christ. This service is full of expectation as we move toward midnight and the birth of Christ. Dress is informal. Following worship, youth and their families are invited to enjoy a light breakfast and fellowship.

YEAR-END FINANCIAL INFORMATION

2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for 2022 are available for pick up in the common area right outside the church office. If your child would like envelopes, please let Kyle know. **NOTE:** Envelope numbers change **EVERY** year. Remember...**DO NOT USE** these envelopes until January of 2022. Envelopes will be hand delivered by a Stewardship Committee member if they are not picked up by January 9th. If you have a bank draft and the bank has been instructed to put your envelope number on the check, be sure to update the new envelope number with your bank. If you have any questions, please contact Kyle at the church office, 704-982-2722.

FINANCIAL YEAR END CLOSING

The church office will be closed December 24 through December 27. If you need any financial information, you can leave a message on the answering machine. The machine will be checked on Tuesday, December 28. The church office will be open Tuesday, December 28 through Friday, Dec. 31 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The financial books will close on Friday, Dec. 31 at 1:00 p.m.. Any contributions made after that date will be carried over to 2022.

PLEDGE CARDS

If you have not yet turned in your 2022 pledge card, please do so immediately. It is important that our Stewardship Committee have the latest updated financial information to finalize the 2022 budget. If you need a pledge card, you can find one on the counter right outside the church office.

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 19 *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Choral Christmas Presentation

- 8:30 am Session Meeting In-Person
- 9:45 am *Sunday School
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 6:30 pm SNL Christmas Lights Scavenger Hunt
(meet at the church)

Wednesday, December 22

No Youth Club/Chancel Choir Rehearsal

- 6:45 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 12:00 pm Community Advent Service at Christ Episcopal
(428 Pee Dee Ave., Albemarle)

Friday, December 24 *Christmas Eve*

- 5:15 pm *Christmas Eve Musical Prelude
- 5:30 pm *Christmas Eve Worship

Saturday, December 25

11:00 am-2:00 pm Community Christmas Dinner at First Lutheran Church (230 S. 2nd Street, Albemarle)

Sunday, December 26

No Sunday School/Service of Lessons & Carols

- 11:00 am *Worship

***childcare provided**

Your on-going support of First Presbyterian Church is essential to the mission and ministry of the church and to the well-being of our ministry partners, locally and globally. Thank you for your generosity.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

DECEMBER

- 20-Anna Henkenjohann
Morgan Smet
- 21-Emily Andrew
- 22-Joe Snuggs
- 23-Bill Jolly
- 25-Gloria Bryson
Bob Sasser
- 26-Connie Robinson

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

DECEMBER

- 21-Gerald & Lynn Poplin
- 23-Craig & Teresa Taylor
- 26-John & Anne Montgomery

**Tithes and offerings may be mailed to:
First Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 1578
Albemarle, NC 28002**

**Online giving can be done through the
church's website (www.fpcalbemarle.org).
Click on the GIVE button.**