



The Weekly Bulletin
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Albemarle, North Carolina

Church Offices: (704) 982-2722

Website: www.fpcalbemarle.org

December 5, 2021

Second Sunday of Advent

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

MORNING MEDIATION

Advent comes this year to a world out of sorts and a time out of joint, and if it doesn't yet seem like Christmas in your heart, it's probably because we know, all of us, deep inside that we cannot get there this year, all the way to Bethlehem, if we're not resolved to make the way ready - to turn away from the old ways that will not serve us well any more, to embrace the new life to which we are called.

PRELUDE

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Wilbur Held

PEALING OF THE CHIMES

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Ella Cumming

(Light two candles.)

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ, As the Lord has promised, in days to come, the wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, **The calf and the lion and the fatling will lie down together, and a little child shall lead them.**

OPENING SENTENCES

A voice cries in the wilderness, *Prepare the way of the Lord; make God's way clear.*

Lift up every valley; lower every mountain. For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

Isaiah 40

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Courtney Niederer

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Let me hear what you will speak, O God, for you will speak peace to your people.

Surely your salvation is at hand for those who fear you, that glory may dwell in our land.

Yea, God will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

In God's righteousness, let us worship, that we may walk in the Lord's way.

Psalms 85

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets, to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may meet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our redeemer, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*HYMN 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

(stanzas 1-4 and 7)

The Ten-Cents-A-Meal offering for hunger may be brought forward at this time.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Silence

Faithful God, we confess that we have not led lives of holiness. We suffer from impatience, apathy, and greed; we have not been at peace. We repent of those offenses and turn to you in love. Forgive our iniquity and pardon our sins, that we may walk in righteousness to the glory of your name. 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

ANTHEM

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

John Carter

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art:
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Kim Marshall

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

Mighty God, send your Holy Spirit to speak peace, that the good news of this age may be proclaimed through your word, which stands forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

[Isaiah 40:1-11](#)

Pew Bible, page 627

[Mark 1:1-8](#)

Pew Bible, page 32

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Home for Christmas

Reverend Cathy George

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

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From *The Heidelberg Catechism*

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

That I am not my own, but belong— body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Amen.

*HYMN 87

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Genevan 42

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Mike King

RECEIVING OF THE OFFERING

Offertory

Oh Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Paul Manz

Doxology

What Child is This

hymnal 145, stanza 3

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

Greensleeves

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come one and all, to own him .

The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.

Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.

Joy, joy; for Christ is born, the babe, the Son of Mary.

*Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, we give you thanks that in the coming of Christ, your steadfast love and faithfulness have met and your righteousness and peace have kissed. May the gifts we offer this day, lift up those in need and prepare the way of your salvation. Amen.

*HYMN 378

We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom

Merle’s Tune

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Johann Sebastian Bach

From heaven above to earth I come to bring good news to everyone!

Glad tidings of great joy I bring to all the world, and gladly sing.

*POSTLUDE

People Look East

Robert Lau

*All that are able may stand.

Thank you to the Chancel Choir, Frank Poolos, Stan Scheer, Mike King, Kim Marshall, and Courtney Niederer for their leadership in worship today.

The acolyte today is Ella Cumming.

Ushers for December: Jim Hesley (captain), Al Andrew, Emily Andrew, Jim Ivey, and Lee Snuggs

Outside Ushers for December 5: Steve Cumming; Ronnie Michael

PERMISSIONS: *Of the Father's Love Begotten*, Hymn tune: *Divinum Mysterium*, 12th-13th century plainsong, Arranged for organ by Wilbur Held (1914-2015), *Six Carol Settings*, © 1970, *Concordia Publishing House*. Used with permission under One License A-709512. *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, Text: Latin prose, pre-ninth century. Hymn tune: *Veni Emmanuel*. Plainsong, adapted by Thomas Helmore (1811-1890), 1852. 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. *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*, Text: John Wesley (1707-1788), Hymn tune: *Hyfrydol*, Roland Hugh Pritchard (1811-1887), Arranged for choir and organ by John Carter (b. 1930), © 1992, *Hope Publishing Company*. Used with permission under One License A-709512. *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*, Text: Johannes Olearius (1611-1684), 1671. Hymn tune: *Genevan 42*. Genevan Psalter 1551. Public domain. *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*, Hymn tune: *Veni Emmanuel*, Plainsong; arranged for organ by Paul Manz (1919-2009), *Ten Chorale Improvisations, Set IV* © 1970, *Concordia Publishing House*. Used with permission under One License A-709512. *What Child Is This*, Text: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898), 1871. Hymn tune: *Greensleeves*. 16th Century English ballad. Public domain. *We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom*, Text: Kathleen R. Moore (b. 1951), 2010. © 2010, *The Hymn Society* (admin. Hope Publishing Company). Hymn tune: *Merle's Tune*, Hal H. Hopson (b. 1933), 1983. © 1983, *Hope Publishing Company*. All rights reserved. Used with permission under One License A-709512. *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*, Text: and music: *Vom Himmel hoch*, Martin Luther (1483-1546), 1539. Harmonization: Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750). Public domain. *People, Look East*. Melody: *Besançon*, French carol. Setting for organ by Robert Lau (b. 1943) © 2016, *Lorenz Publishing Company*. All rights reserved. Used with permission under One License A-709512.

Elder Greeters: Debbie Bennett; Jim Sawyer **Sound:** Evan Sanges; Ken Knight **Film:** Andy McLeod
Nursery: Kate White **Kids Care Crew:** Kristie Bryson
Children's Church: Kristie Bryson; Elizabeth Bryson

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.



NAME TAG ALERT!

Upon entering the sanctuary, we are requesting that everyone make a name tag. Stick-on name tags are available at both entrances to the sanctuary. Thank you!

Alternative Christmas Gifts Available in the Pit Stop on Sundays, December 5 & 12

On Sundays, December 5 & 12, there will be opportunities to purchase alternative gifts in the Pit Stop. You will be able to select from among both local and international recipients. For each purchase, you will receive one of several holiday-themed acknowledgement cards. The charities are: John P. Murray Community Care Clinic, Mwandi Milk Formula, OASIS, and Will's Place.



Advent Congregational Devotions...Night Watch

Published by *Presbyterian Outlook* and written by editor, Teri McDowell Ott

Advent devotionals are emailed each week. Devotionals includes a reflection, daily Scripture readings, suggestions for living out the Bible and a short prayer for each day. **Printed copies are available at both entrances to the church for visitors or upon request (contact Pam Knighten; 704-982-2722 or pknighnten@fpcalbemarle.org).**





**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PARTNERSHIP DRIVE-THRU LUNCH WITH OFF THE SQUARE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8 FROM 11:30 A.M.- NOON
RSVP BY 2:00 P.M. ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 6
PICK-UP OR DELIVERY OF THE MEAL**

Off the Square is partnering with FPC to provide lunch to you! Drive-Thru Meal Pick-up or Delivery is on WEDNESDAY, December 8! Please RSVP by Monday, December 6 at 2:00 p.m., and we will have your meal ready for pick-up or delivery on Wednesday, December 8 between 11:30 a.m.-NOON. For your safety, kitchen staff will wear masks and gloves while preparing your plates.

**Menu: Off the Square's Shrimp Bisque, Mixed Green Salad,
Cornbread and Angie Earnhardt's Chocolate Chess Pie**

Suggested Donation: \$5 per person....Maximum of \$15 per family.

Please come with correct change or a check written to First Presbyterian Church. We prefer cash.

**All we need you to do is: call or text Jane Snyder at 704-438-3358
and let her know how many plates you need and if it will be a pickup or delivery
(include address and any special instructions).**



Joy Program on Sunday, December 12
The Youth Club children will present *O Come Let Us Adore Him* during worship on December 12. While the story will be well-known, and the songs will be familiar, you will notice a few new twists on your favorite Christmas carols. Our children will tell us the age-old story of faith.

!!! Hurray For Breakfast Bunch for K-5th Graders !!!

Who can come?

K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th graders

What?

Gathering as friends to enjoy breakfast!

When and Where?

Sunday, December 12 at 9:00 a.m. in the Media Room

Why?

To pray together & build strong community of faith.

Please let Rebekah Ayscue (rebekah.ayscue@gmail.com) or Katherine Jolly (kat6420@gmail.com) know if you are able to join us. *Muffins, yogurt and fruit provided.



SANCTUARY POINSETTIAS

If you would like to contribute to the purchase of 8 ten-inch poinsettias as a Christmas memorial/honorarium, please make a check for \$10.00 payable to First Presbyterian Church and designate for poinsettias. Please return the check along with the form below to the church office by Monday, December 13. A

complete list will appear in the bulletin on Sunday, December 19. Following the Christmas Eve service on December 24, all 8 poinsettias will be delivered to the hospital and local nursing homes.

SANCTUARY POINSETTIAS & HOLIDAY GREENERY

Please print below the information exactly as it is to appear in the bulletin.

In memory of: _____

Given by: _____

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

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

ON WEDNESDAYS, DECEMBER 8, 15, & 22 AT NOON



Join in worship with others from the downtown churches during Advent at Christ Episcopal Church (428 Pee Dee Avenue). We will gather there on the following Wednesdays at noon in Advent: December 8, 15, and 22. No lunch will be served. On Wednesday, December 8, Rev. Jacob Waldrip of Central United Methodist Church, will be preaching. Rev. George will be preaching on Wednesday, December 22. **Advent Worship will be streamed on the YouTube channel for Christ Episcopal Church.**

Advent Worship will be streamed on the YouTube channel for Christ Episcopal Church.

Central School Backpack Food Program Donations Needed

Oatmeal Packets, Breakfast Cookies, Individual Bags of Goldfish, Large Cans of Soup, Saltine Crackers, Tuna Helper, Cans of Tuna, Chicken Helper, Cans of Chicken, Snack Crackers, Pineapple, or Fruit Cocktail Cups

Donations may be dropped off in the Pit Stop at the church.

Next Packing Date: Wednesday, December 8 at 10:30 a.m.



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)**



**Announcing the FPC Angel Tree Project
Personal Shopper Service or Pick Your Own Angel or Two**

Perhaps you would like to participate in our Angel Tree Project but are unable to do the shopping. Not to worry. We have a team of personal shoppers who will do that for you. **You can still help fulfil the wishes of one of the children by making a monetary donation. Please get it to the church office by Monday, December 6. Make checks payable to First Presbyterian church with “Angel Tree” written in the memo line.**

If you would like to do your own shopping, there is a tag waiting for you or your group on the Angel Tree board in the Pit Stop. Please stop by and select one or more with the name of a Central Elementary School student or their siblings. We have 50 children needing gifts. The tag will include the child’s Christmas gift wish-list, as well as information on their age and size. There are also guidelines for how best to bring delight to that child on Christmas Day. **Be sure to fill in your name or group on the appropriate line on the sign-up sheet. Each child’s name is linked to a specific number on the sheet.** The unwrapped gifts need to be returned to the church by Sunday, December 12. If you have any questions, contact Peggy Finley at 704/985-1136 or maf447@windstream.net.

!!! It’s Back !!!

Christmas Kitchen on Sunday, December 12

Sponsored by SNL



This annual event will help you check off some of your final Christmas to-dos and support the youth in one of the largest fundraisers of the season.

On December 12, Christmas Kitchen will fill the Pit Stop before and after worship. There you'll find everything you need for your holiday season or just for general freezer filing.

The Christmas Kitchen will have pints of chill, pints of taco soup, casseroles – dinner and breakfast, pies, cookies, pecan blondies, and much more. Plan to shop this delicious sale on December 12.

If you love cooking or baking and want to contribute, please let Rebekah Ayscue (704-985-2944) or Jane Boone (704-604-3836) know what you plan to make. Christmas Kitchen items can be stored at the church ahead of December 12 in the freezer in the closet off the Pit Stop.

**THIRD WEDNESDAY DRIVE-THRU MEAL
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15 FROM 5:00 P.M.- 6:00 P.M.
RSVP BY 2:00 P.M. ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 13
PICK-UP OR DELIVERY OF THE MEAL**



Third Wednesday Drive-Thru Meal Pick-up or Delivery is on Wednesday, December 15! If you would like a Third Wednesday meal, please RSVP by Monday, December 13 at 2:00 p.m., and we will have your meal ready for pick-up or delivery on Wednesday, December 15 between 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. For your safety, the kitchen staff will wear masks and gloves while preparing your plates.

Menu:

Chicken and Wild Rice, Green Beans, Copper Pennies (Marinated Carrots) and Apple Crumb
Suggested Donation: \$5 per person....Maximum of \$15 per family.

Please come with correct change or a check written to First Presbyterian Church.

All we need you to do is:

**call Anne Montgomery at 704-796 5841 or email Anne at johnandannemontgomery@yahoo.com
and let her know how many plates you need and
if it will be a pickup or delivery (include address and any special instructions).**

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 5 *Second Sunday of Advent*

Ten Cents a Meal Offering for Hunger/Alternative Gifts

- 9:45 am *Sunday School
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 12:00 pm Christian Education Committee Meeting
- 4:00 pm North Stanly High School Handbell & Chorus Concert
- 6:30 pm-8:00 p.m. SNL Youth at FPC, Albemarle

Monday, December 6

- 10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 2:00 pm RSVP for partnership lunch with Off the Square
- 8:30 pm-9:30 pm High School Faith Conversations at the home of Debby Johnston (1212 Heritage Dr., Albemarle)

Wednesday, December 8

- 6:45 am Men’s Prayer Breakfast
- 10:00 am Morning Prayer
- 10:30 am Backpack Food Program
- 11:30 am-12:00 pm Drive-Thru Lunch with Off the Square
- 12:00 pm Community Advent Service at Christ Episcopal (428 Pee Dee Ave., Albemarle)
- 3:30 pm-5:30 pm Youth Club (K-5th Graders)
- 5:30 pm-6:00 pm Youth Club Handbells with Frank Poolos
- 6:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, December 9

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting

Saturday, December 11

- 5:30 pm-9:00 pm Light the Night OASIS Fundraiser at the YMCA Pavilion Park

Sunday, December 12 *Third Sunday of Advent/JOY Gift Program/JOY Offering/Alternative Gifts/Christmas Kitchen before & after worship*

- 8:45 am Diaconate Meeting In-Person
- 9:00 am Breakfast Bunch (K-5th Graders – Media Room)
- 9:45 am *Sunday School
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 12:00 pm-3:30 pm Faith Explorers The Joy of Sharing
- 6:30 pm-8:00 pm SNL Christmas Party (Location: TBA)

***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

05-Thora Kilde
Nathan Sanges
06-Scott Bullard
08-Pam Morgan
Robert McIntyre
10-Terry Morgan
Bill Pickler
Seth Richards
11-Mackenzie Smet

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!
DECEMBER

07-Charlie & Kelly Lentz
10-Terry & Pam Morgan

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.