



**The Weekly Bulletin**  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Albemarle, North Carolina

Church Offices: (704) 982-2722

Website: [www.fpcalbemarle.org](http://www.fpcalbemarle.org)

December 26, 2021

**GATHERING BEFORE GOD**

PEALING OF THE CHIMES

WORDS OF WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Nathaniel Eudy

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

PRELUDE

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

Dale Wood

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Ella Cumming

\*OPENING SENTENCES

Sing to the Lord and bless God's name.

**Tell the good news of salvation from day to day.**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**Those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.**

The light shines in the darkness.

**And the darkness did not overcome it.**

For Christ is born in Bethlehem.

**Come, let us adore him.**

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Almighty God, Christ your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, born in Bethlehem.**

**May we receive Christ into our lives and become, through him, your blessed children**

**who walk in the light you have sent into our world. Through Christ we pray. Amen.**

\*HYMN 133

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Adeste fideles

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Silence

**Almighty God, we confess that our hearts have not been open to all that you have revealed to us in the Nativity of your Son. You sent Christ to be born as a helpless Child, and yet we have not attended to the suffering of children. You chose humble Mary to be mother of our Lord Jesus, and yet we have not attended to the struggles of women. The holy family could find no room in Bethlehem but a stable, and we have not attended to the cry of the homeless. You announced your birth to lowly shepherds, yet we ignore those who tend our farms and fields. Forgive our lack of attention, and free us for joyful compassion, that we may know Christ in serving others. Through Jesus Christ we pray. 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**

Ann Crutchfield

*Children will be invited to come forward. At the conclusion of the Faith Sharing with Children, parents may take preschool children to the nursery.*

***Lesson and Carols***

LESSON ONE	<i>Adam and Eve Disobey God</i>	<a href="#">Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19</a>
CAROL 121	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	St. Louis
LESSON TWO	<i>God's Promise to Abraham</i>	<a href="#">Genesis 22:15-18</a>
CAROL 88	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i> (stanzas 1, 4, and 5)	Veni Emmanuel
LESSON THREE	<i>A Great Light in the Darkness</i>	<a href="#">Isaiah 9:2, 6-7</a>
CAROL 123	<i>It Came Upon the Midnight Clear</i>	Carol
LESSON FOUR	<i>A Little Child Will Lead Them</i>	<a href="#">Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9</a>
CAROL 129	<i>Lo, How a Rose E'er Bloming</i>	Es ist ein' Ros'
LESSON FIVE	<i>An Angel Appears to Mary</i>	<a href="#">Luke 1:26-35, 38</a>
CAROL 119	<i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>	Mendelssohn
LESSON SIX	<i>Mary Gives Birth in Bethlehem</i>	<a href="#">Luke 2:1-7</a>
CAROL 115	<i>Away in a Manger</i>	Cradle Song
LESSON SEVEN	<i>Angels Announce the Messiah</i>	<a href="#">Luke 2:8-16</a>
CAROL 113	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	Gloria
LESSON EIGHT	<i>Magi Come from the East</i>	<a href="#">Matthew 2:1-11</a>
CAROL 151	<i>We Three Kings of Orient Are</i> (stanzas 1 and 5)	Kings of Orient
LESSON NINE	<i>And the Word Became Flesh</i>	<a href="#">John 1:1-14</a>
CAROL 122	<i>Silent Night, Holy Night</i>	Stille Nacht

**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.**

## RECEIVING OF THE OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory

Doxology

*Christmas Is Here*

*What Child is This*

Dale Wood

hymnal 145, stanza 3

Greensleeves

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

*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

**On this glad new day for all the earth, we're grateful for giving hearts made joyful in the gift of your son. For you, O God, are generosity itself. Bless these gifts we offer to the benefit of those in need. Bless our lives in service of sharing your love in the world; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

\*HYMN 134

*Joy to the World*

Antioch

\*BLESSING AND CHARGE

May the Christ, who, by his incarnation, gathered into one the things of heaven and earth, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and good will, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

**Alleluia!**

Go forth in peace and joy.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

\*POSTLUDE

*Variations on an Ancient Polish Christmas Carol*

Alexandre Guilmant

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\*All that are able may stand.

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**Thank you** to the Chancel Choir, Frank Poolos, Stan Scheer, Ann Crutchfield, and Nathaniel Eudy 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 26:** Steve Cumming; Ronnie Michael

**Elder Greeters:** Debbie Bennett; Jim Sawyer

**Sound:** Evan Sanges; Ken Knight   **Film:** James Cotton

**Nursery:** Kate White   **Kids Care Crew:** Gayle and Ned Russell

**There is no Children's Church today.** Children in grades K-5 are encouraged to remain in worship.

**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.

**The Wired Word Sunday School Class** will not meet on Sunday, December 26 nor Sunday, January 2.

**FINANCIAL YEAR END CLOSING...**Please note the financial books will close on Friday, December 31 at noon. Any contributions received after that time will be carried over to 2021.

**Child Protection Policy Training**

**Sunday, January 2 at 12:00 p.m. in the Old Session Room**

Child Protection Policy Training will be offered on Sunday, January 2 at 12:00 p.m. in the Old Session Room. If you are interested in volunteering with the children at First Presbyterian Church, contact Gina Martin (gmartin@fpcalbemarle.org or 704-982-2722).

First Presbyterian Church continues to provide dinner on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month at the Community Inn.

The next date to serve is January 7 at 6:30 p.m. Volunteers gather at 6:00 p.m.

If anyone is interested in helping, please contact Ruth Cotton (hugawolf@hotmail.com).

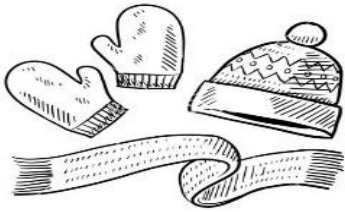
**Facilities Maintenance Coordinator...**The church is in great need of a Facilities Maintenance Coordinator. This position recently received a pay upgrade and requires approximately 10 hours per week. The ideal person would be able to open/prepare and close the church on Sundays and as needed for scheduled events. The position involves operating and assisting in routine maintenance of the building systems including lighting, heating, air conditioning, plumbing, etc. The coordinator will work closely with the Property Committee chair, minister, and office manager to determine long-term maintenance needs. A job description for this position can be requested from the church office. If you know someone who might be interested, please contact the church office (704-982-2722).



## Gaither Endowment Grant Applications

The Endowment Committee will accept applications for grants from the Gaither Endowment until January 15. Applications are available in the church office. If you have questions, contact the church office (704-982-2722 or klambert@fpcalbemarle.org).

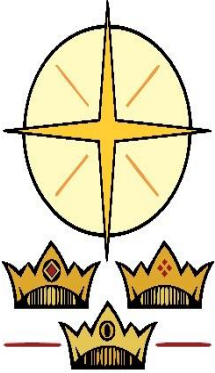
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### Warm Gifts of Winter

This winter, please help us spread the warmth to our friends in the community by bringing new and gently used scarves, mittens, gloves, socks, and toboggans to the First Family Drive-Thru on Wednesday, January 5 or place in the manger in the Pit Stop. We will donate these warm gifts to children at Central Elementary School and the SCCM Clothing Closet.

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### FIRST FAMILY MEAL WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5 FROM 5:00 P.M.-6:00 P.M.

**RSVP BY 2:00 P.M. ON MONDAY, JANUARY 3  
PICK-UP OR DELIVERY OF THE MEAL**

First Family Meal Pick-up or Delivery is on Wednesday, January 5! Unfortunately, we are still unable to gather for First Family. If you would like a First Family meal, please RSVP by Monday, January 3 at 2:00 p.m., and we will have your meal ready for pick-up or delivery on Wednesday between 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. For your safety, the kitchen staff will wear masks and gloves while preparing your plates.

**PLEASE DROP OFF WARM ITEMS WHEN YOU DRIVE THRU TO PICK-UP YOUR MEAL.**

### Menu:

Greg Lisk's Roast Beef, Rice, Broccoli, Caesar Salad, Sweet Potato Cake, Pound Cake, and Brownies

**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,**

**if you would like sweet potato cake, pound cake or brownies for each meal**

**and**

**if it will be a pickup or delivery (include address and any special instructions).**

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### !!! 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.



**OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK**

**Sunday, December 26**

*No Sunday School/Service of Lessons & Carols*

11:00 am \*Worship

**Monday, December 27** *Church Office Closed*

**Tuesday, December 28**

9:00 am-1:00 pm Church Office Hours

**Wednesday, December 29**

*No Youth Club/No Chancel Choir Rehearsal*

6:45 am Men's Prayer Breakfast

9:00 am-1:00 pm Church Office Hours

**Thursday, December 30**

9:00 am-1:00 pm Church Office Hours

**Friday, December 31**

9:00 am-1:00 pm Church Office Hours

**Saturday, January 1**

*New Year's Day*

**Sunday, January 2**

*Ten Cents a Meal Offering for Hunger*

*The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper*

9:45 am \*Sunday School

11:00 am \*Worship

12:00 pm Child Protection Policy Training Meeting

**\*childcare provided**

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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**

26-Connie Robinson

27-Duncan Bryson

29-Campbell Bullard

30-Sally Grantier

John Montgomery

31-Mildred Andrew

Adrienne Robinson

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!**

**DECEMBER**

26-John & Anne Montgomery

27-Brad & Jane Boone

28-Ben & Shannon Lisk

29-Don & Nancy Joines

The Wired Word Sunday School Class will not meet on Sundays, December 26 and January 2.

**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](http://www.fpcalbemarle.org)).**

**Click on the GIVE button.**



**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, January 19 at 10:30 a.m.**