



The Weekly Bulletin
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Albemarle, North Carolina

Church Offices: (704) 982-2722

Website: www.fpcalbemarle.org

January 2, 2022
Epiphany of the Lord

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

MORNING MEDITATION

The gifts of the three Wise Men or Kings or Magi brought to the manger in Bethlehem cost them plenty but seem hardly appropriate to the occasion. Maybe they were all they could think of for the child who had everything. In any case, they set them down on the straw – the gold, frankincense, the myrrh – worshipped briefly, and then returned to the East where they had come from. It gives you pause to consider how, for all their great wisdom, they overlooked the one gift that the child would have been genuinely pleased to have some day, and that was the gift of themselves and their love.

~Frederick Buechner

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ellen Snyder

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

PRELUDE

What Child Is This?

Richard I. Purvis

Isaiah 60

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Natalie Niederer

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Arise, shine; for your light has come.

The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

Come, worship the Lord of glory.

Proclaim God's praise among the nations.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Everlasting God, the radiance of faithful souls, who brought nations to your light and kings to the brightness of your rising: Fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all the nations; through him who is the true light and the bright morning star; Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***HYMN 143**

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Regent Square

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

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Silence

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and pour out the gifts of your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory shining on the face of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*RESPONSE TO ASSURANCE

hymnal 119, stanza 3

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

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

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we nor more may die,

Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

ANTHEM

We Three Kings

Philip W.J. Stopford

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain:

*O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again.

King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.

(Refrain)

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, all men raising, worship him, God on high.

(Refrain)

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

(Refrain)

Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice:

Heaven sings Alleluia, Alleluia, the earth replies:

(Refrain)

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

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Penny Morton

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy One, giver of all light, lift up our hearts and minds to Christ, the morning star that never fades. By the light of your Holy Spirit, reveal to us your saving word and lead us to offer our lives to you in service and in love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

[Matthew 2:1-12](#)

Pew Bible, page 1

SERMON

Home by Another Way

Reverend Cathy S. George

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick, and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

From
*A Brief
Confession
of Faith,*
PC(USA).

*HYMN 147

The First Nowell

The First Nowell

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RECEIVING OF THE OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory

Doxology

Offertory

As With Gladness Men of Old

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

As they offered gifts more rare at thy manger, rude and bare,

So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,

All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly king.

Theodore Dubois

hymnal 150, stanza 3

Dix

*Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, you led three men of wisdom to seek Jesus, your Holy Child, born of Mary. Overjoyed in the presence of his light, the men knelt down at the infant's crib and offered him precious gifts. We, too, offer our gifts in gratitude, reverence, and thanksgiving for the birth of your child whom you called to lead the world into fullness of life. Receive and bless this offering as a joyful sign of the boundless love and abundant life we are called to share in Christ. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy...Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Gracious God...Now hear us as we are bold to pray together the prayer taught to us by our Lord, saying,

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.

Communion of the People

Prayer After Communion

*HYMN 100 *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout* Star of the County Down

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

(Please be seated after the Benediction and remain seated until the end of the Postlude.)

CHORAL RESPONSE *Sevenfold Amen* John Stainer

POSTLUDE *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen* Wilbur Held

*All that are able may stand.

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Thank you to the Chancel Choir, Frank Poolos, Stan Scheer, Penny Morton, and Ellen Snyder for their leadership in worship today.

The acolyte today is Natalie Niederer.

Ushers for January: John Howell (captain), Duncan Bryson, Keith Bryson, and Jim Hesley

Outside Ushers for January 2: Jim Marshall; Chris Whitley

Sound: Evan Sanges; TBD **Film:** James Cotton

Nursery: Kate White **Kids Care Crew:** Becky Andrew; Emily Andrew

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

We will receive the Ten-Cents-A-Meal offering for hunger today.

We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on Sunday, January 2. All those who trust in Jesus Christ are invited to share in this meal of our community.

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in honor and celebration of the 90th birthday of Mildred Andrew by her family.

We ask that you keep these people in your prayers: The family of Paula Shedd (mother of Mike Shedd), Terry Morgan, 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.

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 1st Friday of the month at the Community Inn.**
Dinner will be served on 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).

Church Staff Opening
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).

Christian Education Committee Meeting

Sunday, January 9 following worship in the Session Room

A Christian Education Committee Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 9 following worship. If you are interested in volunteering with the children at First Presbyterian Church, contact Gina Martin (gmartin@fpcalbemarle.org or 704-982-2722).



2022 Committee Reorganization

Each year in January, committees reorganize and every member of the congregation has an opportunity to be part of the work of the church by saying **YES, I want to help.**

Contact Cathy Georg (704-982-2722 or cgeorge@fpcalbemarle.org)

to learn more about the Diaconate and Session Committees and engage in the work of one or more.

Diaconate Committees which need you!

- Congregational Care
- Fellowship
- Ushering

Session Committees which need you!

- Christian Education
- Mission
- Property
- Stewardship
- Worship



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.

OFFICERS' RETREAT AND ORDINATION & INSTALLATION

Elders and deacons elect will gather for the annual Officer's Retreat on January 8. Ordination and installation of First Presbyterian Church officers will be Sunday, January 9 during worship. Your prayers and support of our leaders are essential during this weekend as they prepare to serve.

Our new officers are:

Elders – Bill Jolly, Mary Kesselman, Andy McLeod, Catherine Moeller, and Chris Whitley

Deacons – Shannon Bullard, Wes Eudy, Lillie Hancock, Liz Jolly, and Myron Lowder

!!! Pfeiffer Pfriends Are Needed !!!

The Health Sciences Program of Pfeiffer University continues its presence in downtown Albemarle as students are working on a degree in the Physician's Assistant or Occupational Therapy Programs. **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.



School supplies are needed for Central Elementary to finish the 2021-2022 school year. Please take the list below as you shop for much needed supplies for our partner school. BRING YOUR DONATION OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO THE CHURCH AND DROP-OFF IN THE DESIGNATED BIN IN THE PIT STOP. If you have any questions, contact Ruth Cotton (704-942-1381 or hugawolf@hotmail.com).

Student Supplies

- | | |
|--|---|
| Crayons – 16 or 24 count Crayola brand only | Zipper Pencil Pouch or Plastic Pencil Box |
| Elmer’s brand Glue Sticks | Plain Solid 2-pocket folders |
| #2 Pencils | Pocket folders with prongs |
| #2 Beginner Jumbo Pencils (for Kindergarten students) | Pencil top erasers |
| Composition Hard Cover Wide-Ruled books (not spiral bound) | Highlighters (packs) |
| 70-sheet wide-ruled 1-subject composition books | Crayola brand Colored Pencils |
| Scissors (child & youth sizes) | Crayola Markers |
| Playdoh brand play-doh | Clipboards |
| Pink Pearl Eraser | Ear Buds |
| Card Stock Paper | Headphones |
| Expo Dry Erase Markers (large & small size) | Small Pencil Sharpener |
| Notebook Paper (wide-ruled & regular-ruled) | Sticky Notes |

Classroom Supplies Needed Include:

Lysol or Clorox Wipes, Kleenex, Copy Paper, Hand Sanitizer, Band-aids, and Ziplock Sandwich Bags (Quart and Gallon)

Warm Gifts of Winter

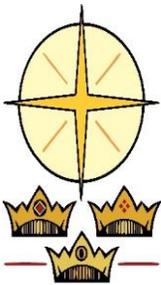


This winter, please help us spread the warmth to our friends in the community by bringing new and gently used scarves, mittens, gloves, socks, and toboggans to the First Family Drive-Thru on Wednesday, January 5 or place in the manger in the Pit Stop. We will donate these warm gifts to children at Central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

FIRST FAMILY MEAL ON 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).

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

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

Monday, January 3

- 10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 2:00 pm RSVP Deadline for First Family Drive-Thru Meal
- 8:30 pm-9:30 pm High School Faith Conversations at the home of
Debby Johnston (1212 Heritage Dr., Albemarle)

Wednesday, January 5

Donations of Warm Gifts taken at First Family Drive-Thru

- 6:45 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 1:30 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (Parlor)
- 3:30 pm-5:30 pm Youth Club (K-5th Graders)
- 5:00 pm-6:00 pm First Family Drive-Thru Meal
- 5:30 pm-6:00 pm Youth Club Handbells with Frank Poolos
- 6:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, January 6

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
- 4:00 pm-5:00 pm Zoom Bible Study with Catherine & Matt Moeller

Friday, January 7

- 6:00 pm Meal for the Community Inn

Saturday, January 8

- 10:00 am-12:00 pm Officer's Retreat

Sunday, January 9 *The Baptism of the Lord/Ordination & Installation of Officers*

- 9:00 am Breakfast Bunch for K-5th Graders (Gym)
- 9:45 am *Sunday School
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 12:00 pm Christian Education Committee Meeting (Session Room)
- 12:00 pm-3:00 pm Faith Explorers' Movie Afternoon
- 6:00 pm-8:00 pm SNL Youth

***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!
JANUARY

03-Mike McLeod
Sandy Rogers

04-Sandy Saunders

05-Austin Coats
Miriam Russell

06-Shannon Lisk

09-Isabel McIntyre

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!
JANUARY

05-John & Debbie Hahn

The Wired Word Sunday
School Class will not meet on
Sunday, 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).
Click on the GIVE button.**