



The Weekly Bulletin
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Albemarle, North Carolina

Elizabeth McNair Ayscue, Pastor

Matt Drumheller, Associate Pastor

Frank Poolos, Director of Vocal and Handbell Music

Stanley Scheer, Organist

Gina Martin, Director of Christian Education

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Vol. 49

December 11, 2016

No. 50

CHRISTMAS JOY PROGRAM AND LUNCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2016

***Music Presented by The Youth Club Choir**

***Joy Luncheon –**
Bring your favorite covered dishes to share

***Joy Offering**

**THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
GATHERING BEFORE GOD**

PEALING OF THE BELLS

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

PRELUDE

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Dale Wood

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always;

People: Again, I will say, Rejoice.

Leader: Let your gentleness be known to everyone.

People: The Lord is near. We are here to worship him.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*HYMN 104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Valet will ich dir geben

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Silence

Unison

God of tenderness and love, breathe your grace into our lives. Forgive our wandering ways, and guide us along your paths of peace. When we lose our way, and forget the one for whom we wait, lead us back to you. Carry us up to that high mountain of faith and hope, that we may proclaim with conviction, *Here is our God!*

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Believe the good news,

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

hymn 143, stanza 4

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the coming king!**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Leslie and Stephen Kinley
Morgan and Merrin

Leader: Why did Jesus come to earth?

People: He came down that we may have hope.

Leader: Why did Jesus come to earth?

People: He came down that we may have peace.

Leader: Why did Jesus come to earth?

People: He came down that we may have joy.

Leader: Why did Jesus come to earth?

People: He came down that we may have love.

Leader: Today we light the candle of joy, trusting in the one who sent the child to be born in a manger.

RESPONSE TO THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy; hal-le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Barbara McManus

Children will be invited to come forward. At the conclusion of the children's greeting, parents may take preschool children to the nursery.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Speak to us, Lord. Speak to us in the waiting, the watching, the hoping, and the longing. Speak to us through your Word in these Advent days, and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

[*Psalm 146:5-10*](#)

Pew Bible, page 549

CHRISTMAS JOY PROGRAM

Youth Club Choir

Follow the Star

created by Susie Williams, Luke Gambill, and David Ebensberger

(see bulletin insert)

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PASTORAL PRAYER 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.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

Born in Bethlehem

*Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

hymnal, page 606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

*HYMN 134

Joy to the World

Antioch

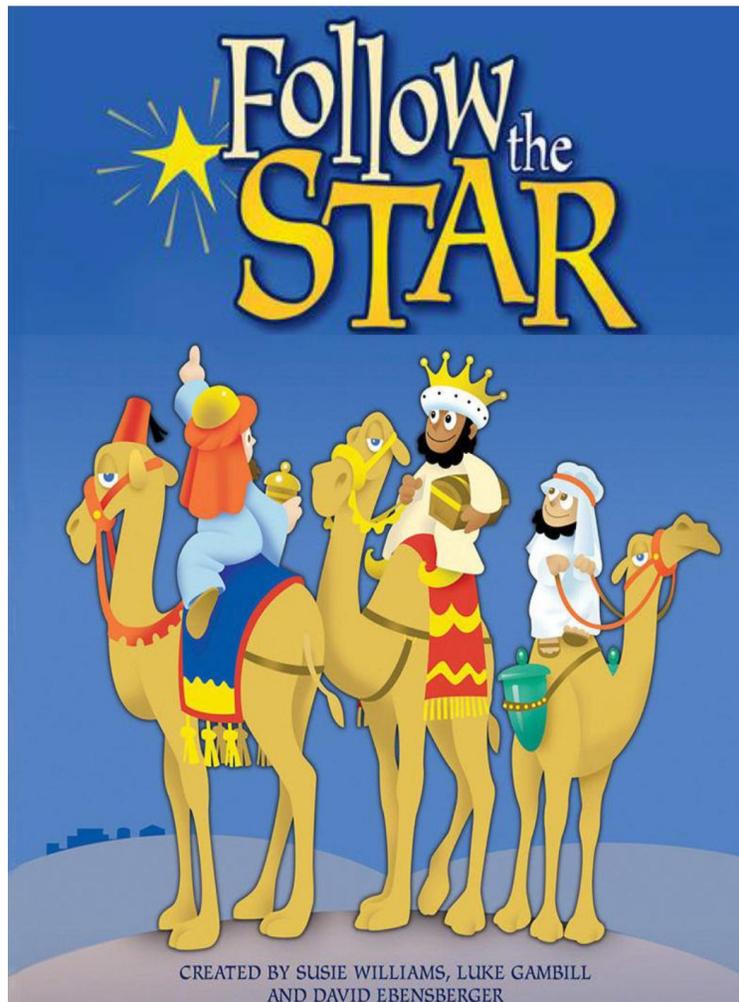
*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Sleepers Wake, A Voice Is Calling

Johann Walther

*All that are able may stand.



Follow the Star

Scene 1

We Three Kings

Scene 2

Out of the Bethlehem Sky

Soloists:

Aidyn Osborne & Grant Lisk

Scene 3

Adore Him

Soloist: Natalie Taylor

Scene 4

Carol Medley:

Joy to the World

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Angels We Have Heard on High

Cast of Characters

Page – Abby Snuggs
King Herod – Danny Saltzman
Chief Priest #1 – Elizabeth Bryson
Chief Priest #2 – Lily Snyder
Melchior (gold) – Hunter Josey
Balthazar (frankincense) – Elijah McSwain
Gaspar (myrrh) – Merrin Kinley
Caravan servants – Brent Lisk, Grant Lisk, Aidyn Osborne, and Natalie Taylor
Joseph – Jackson Palmer
Mary – Hailey Biddle
Star- Addison Marks
Angel – Sonya Patel, Ella Shelton, Lily Shelton
Innkeeper – Eli Snuggs

Angels

Eriyanna Baldwin	Caroline Lisk
Zi'yonna Brown	Stella Marks
Piper Campbell	Anya McSwain
Ella Cumming	Ke'zia Redfearn
Cidney Eudy	Caroline West
Thora Kilde	

Shepherds

Gabriel Beamon	Ollie Henkenjohann
Brody Campbell	Seth Richards
Nathaniel Eudy	Holden Taylor

Donkeys

Hugh Carpenter	Kemarian Redfearn
Maddox Jolly	Eston West
Leo McLeod	

Sheep

Emily Deese	Sanah Patel
Carter Gibson	Sophie Poplin
Melanie Hendrix	Madelyn Taylor

Gina Martin, Director of Christian Education
Frank Poolos, Director of Vocal and Handbell Music
Dona Lisk and Beth Poolos, Youth Club Music Assistants

We rejoice that you are worshipping with us today. If you are a member of this church, please seek out those who are visiting and welcome them to this family of faith. If you are visiting and would like to know more about the church and membership here, please speak with one of the ministers following worship.

The acolyte today is Katherine Jolly. After extinguishing the Christ candle, the acolyte takes the light of Jesus Christ out into the world.

Thanks to the Kinley family for lighting the advent candle today.

There is no Children's Church today. Children of all ages are encouraged to remain in worship for the JOY program.

Ushers: Heather Kilde, captain; Jim Carter, Michelle Cumming, David Kilde, Ben McLeod, Isabel McLeod
Elder Greeters: Sarah Michael; Tom Norwood **Nursery:** Samantha Wangler **Toddler Room:** Misty Honbarrier **Preschool Partners:** Stephanie & Josh Campbell **Nana & Papa Team:** Mary & Frank Green
No Children's Church

We ask that you keep these people in your prayers: Beth Harris (sister-in-law of Martha Sue Hall), Beth LeGette (breast and lung cancer; friend of Shannon & Kent Newport), Lindsey Harward, Sally Grantier, Pam Medlin (cousin of Janice Abernathy; multiple health concerns), Mike Dearstyne (brother of Holly Norwood, Peripheral Neuropathy), Katie & Roy Dearstyne (parents of Holly Norwood). **See newsletter for complete list.**

*Christmas Joy Offering
Sunday, December 11*

A gift to the Christmas Joy Offering helps provide financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families and also enables deserving students to attend Presbyterian-related racial ethnic colleges and schools.

If you have not already done so, please return your 2017 pledge card as soon as possible. The Stewardship Committee needs all commitments in order to formulate the 2017 budget. Thank you.

Alternative Christmas Gifts



On December 11 and 18, 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. Agencies sponsored this year are: The Community Care Clinic, Esther House, Homes of Hope, and Montaña de Luz. For each purchase, you will receive one of several holiday-themed acknowledgement cards that were designed by artist Leslie Carter.

Longest Night Worship



On December 11 at 4:00 p.m., First Presbyterian Church is going to have a Service for the Longest Night. This is a service of healing and wholeness designed to acknowledge the complex array of emotions of the Christmas season. We seek to give voice to the pain as well as to the joy of Christmas. Please join us in the chapel for this contemplative, reverent service.

Kneeling in Bethlehem

presented by the Chancel Choir on Sunday, December 18

This year's Chancel Choir Christmas presentation follows the traditional Christmas story in scripture and the thought-provoking poems of Ann Weems as found in her book, *Kneeling in Bethlehem*. The service includes a number of familiar Christmas texts and carols plus opportunity for the congregation to join in singing some of the great music of this season.

**Carol Sing
Monday, December 19
8:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
Tiffany's at First & Main
Everyone is invited!**

Opportunities for Growth & Reflection during Advent

- | | | |
|-----------|----------------------|--|
| Mondays | 12:15 p.m.-1:15 p.m. | Study: A Season of Anticipation & Hope.
We'll focus on gospel themes; bring your lunch. |
| Tuesdays | 6:00 p.m. | Contemplative Worship in the Chapel.
Worship will last for 30 minutes & will include the
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. |
| Wednesday | Noon | Community Worship at Christ December 14 at
Christ Episcopal Church. Lunch follows.
Preacher: Rev. David McAuley |

**IMPORTANT STEWARDSHIP/FINANCIAL
YEAR END INFORMATION**

2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for 2017 are available for pick up in the office area. PLEASE help us save on postage by picking up your envelopes. If you do not find your envelopes, please contact the church office so we can assist you. **NOTE: Envelope numbers change each year.** Remember...**DO NOT USE these envelopes until January 2017.** *If you have a bank draft and the bank has been instructed to put your envelope number on your check, be sure to update the new envelope number with your bank.* If you have any questions, please contact the church office at (704-982-2722).

FINANCIAL YEAR END CLOSING

There are three Sundays remaining in which to pay up your 2016 pledge and your Living Legacy pledge by December 31. The financial books will close Friday, December 30, 2016 at NOON. Any contributions received after that time will be carried over to 2017. IMPORTANT: Due to uncertainty of mail delivery during the holiday season, the office suggests you mail your contribution no later than December 5. The correct mailing address is 126 W. North Street, P.O. Box 1578, Albemarle, NC 28002. If you are transferring stock, please do so BEFORE December 12 **and** be sure to notify Kyle when the transfer has been made.

2017 PLEDGE CARDS

Make sure you have turned in your 2017 Pledge Card. If you have misplaced your card or did not receive one, you can find pledge cards on the counter top outside the church office or stop by the office to pick one up. If you are not a member of the church but would like a pledge card and/or contribution envelopes just call or stop by the church office!

!!! IMPORTANT !!!

Community Christmas Dinner

Sunday, December 25 at First Presbyterian Church

We are well on the way to hosting the 27th Annual Community Christmas Dinner at First Presbyterian Church.

Check the bulletin board for food and volunteer sign-up opportunities. We are looking forward to food, fun, fellowship and celebration on Christmas Day.

Come out and bring your family...you will be blessed by the sharing of the season!

Coordinators for this event are:

Martha Sue Hall (704-985-5821 or hallmsh@hotmail.com)

Mary Kesselman (704-982-6754 or manapier@msn.com)

Sandy Saunders (704-982-3845 or swsaunders63@gmail.com)



Attention...Help is needed following worship on December 18 to set-up tables and chairs in the gym in preparation for the Community Christmas Dinner. The more we have help...the less time it will take. Pizza will be provided as soon as the work is finished.

COLORING GOD'S WORD

This Christmas, surprise your teachers, grandparents, neighbors, or friends with a coloring book filled with lovely, scripture-based pages. Each Faith Explorer has created an original coloring page, based on a favorite scripture, to create this collection.

\$5.00 each

Pair that with a recycled wood pencil holder, complete with 8 pencils, and you have the perfect gift to encourage relaxation.

\$5.00 each

Coloring is for all ages...so switch off from the everyday stresses and enjoy some soothing, unplugged time alone with the word of God.

On sale in the pit stop on Sundays, December 4 & 11 and Wednesday, December 7 at the First Family Dinner.

Proceeds benefit Montana de Luz, Honduras.

*First Presbyterian Church presents the
Winter Art Exhibit*

featuring works by the late E. Hendry Morris

(mother & grandmother of the First Oak Studio artisans,

Leslie Carter, Olivia Keirstead, Benjamin Riddle, and J. Harrison Carter, II)

Growing up, Erne' Hendry Morris was inspired by her father and grandfather to appreciate the marvels of nature and God's creation. This exhibit will take a retrospective look at those and other influences, techniques, and changing styles of her work over the decades of her artful journey. Limited edition prints of Morris' work will be available for a donation to the First Presbyterian Church Alternative Gifts program.



**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
SATURDAY, 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 5:00 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 and traditional carol singing.

Worship at 11:00 p.m.

This service includes music by older youth and college students, drama, 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.



SANCTUARY POINSETTIAS & HOLIDAY GREENERY

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia(s) or contribute to the holiday greenery fund as a Christmas memorial/honorarium, please make a check for \$20.00 for the poinsettia or for the amount you wish for the greenery payable to *First Presbyterian Church* and designate for poinsettias or greenery. Please return the **check along with the form below to the church office by Monday, December 12.** A complete list will appear in the bulletin on Sunday, December 18.

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: _____

I plan to take my poinsettia(s) after the 5:30 p.m. service on December 24.

I will leave my poinsettia(s) for delivery to a homebound member.

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 11

*Third Sunday of Advent/JOY Gift Program &
Covered Dish Luncheon/ Christmas JOY Offering/
Alternative Gifts available in the pit stop/
Faith Explorers Sell Coloring Books/
Faith Explorers to Charlotte Children's Theatre*

- 8:45 am *Diaconate
- 9:30 am JOY Program Rehearsal
- 9:45 am *Sunday School
- 11:00 am *Worship/JOY Program
- 4:00 pm Longest Night Worship
- 5:00 pm-7:30 pm Youth Connection
- 5:45 pm Worship Committee
- 6:30 pm *Session meets in the Pit Stop

Monday, December 12

*Deadline for Sanctuary Poinsettias &
Holiday Greenery Form*

- 12:15 pm Advent Study
- 8:00 pm-9:00 pm Lectionary Bible Study at Off the Square
- 8:30 pm High School Bible Study at Elizabeth's

Tuesday, December 13

- 12:00 pm January Newsletter Deadline
- 6:00 pm Contemplative Worship (Chapel)

Wednesday, December 14

- 6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 12:00 pm Community Advent Service at Christ Episcopal Church (428 Pee Dee Ave.)
- 3:15 pm-5:15 pm Youth Cubs meet at the church
- 3:00 pm-5:00 pm Youth Club Skating Party at SK8 City (formerly Wayne's World)
- 7:00 pm *Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 15

- 9:30 am *Pray & Play
- 10:00 am Staff Meeting

Saturday, December 17

- 12:00 pm-3:00 pm Chancel Choir Lunch & Rehearsal

Sunday, December 18

*Fourth Sunday of Advent/Alternative Gifts available in the pit stop/SERRV items available before & after
worship in the pit stop*

- 9:45 am *Sunday School
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 5:00 pm Youth Connection Christmas Party

***childcare provided**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

DECEMBER

- 11-Cam Rogers
Mackenzie Smet
- 13-Tom Norwood
- 16-Alison Whisnant
- 17-Rob McIntyre
- 18-Katie Carpenter
Mary Green
Katie Saltzman

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

DECEMBER

- 15-Ronnie & Sarah Michael
Chris & Barbara Whitley

SCCM NEED FOR

DECEMBER:

Canned Beans & Dried Beans