



The Weekly Bulletin
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Albemarle, North Carolina

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December 2, 2018

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

PEALING OF THE BELLS

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

GATHERING SONGS

Hymn 104	<i>O Lord, How Shall I Meet You</i>	stanzas 1 and 2
Hymn 88	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i>	stanzas 1 and 7

SCRIPTURE SENTENCES

CANDLE LIGHTING

Hymn 82	<i>Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus</i>	stanza 1
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*CALL TO WORSHIP

Our souls magnify the Lord,

And our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.

God has done great things. Holy is God's name!

God's mercy is for all who fear the Lord, God's love from generation to generation.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming. We wait filled with hope, knowing your light will shine in the darkness. We wait anticipating your peace, believing that one day it will fill our world. We wait embracing your love, seeking to share it with our neighbors. Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming. Amen.

*HYMN 88

<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i>	Veni Emmanuel
(stanzas 4-6)	

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

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Silence

Unison

Living God, you beckon us to wake from our sleep: to open our eyes to the goodness of your reign, the injustice of our world, and the gap in between. You call us to follow in the path of your love. Forgive us, O God, when we choose the easy way. Forgive us, O God, when we choose the selfish way, the fast way, the successful way, the comfortable way. Convict us, awaken us, empower us, and enliven us to follow the Way of justice and love.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe the good news.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

The acolyte
will light the
candle of
hope on the
Advent
wreath.

Luke 1:46-50

*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.**

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

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

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Mike McLeod

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

ANTHEM

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

John Carter

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Sermons are posted to the church's website (www.fpcalbemarle.org). You can usually find the previous Sunday's sermon by Wednesday.

THE SYMBOLS OF OUR FAITH

The Tree

Scripture

[Revelation 22, selected verses](#)

Hymn 366, stanza 1

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Hyfrydol

The Light

Scripture

[John 1:1-5, 9-14](#)

Jesus the Christ

Scripture

[Matthew 16:13-16](#)

Hymn 366, stanza 2

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Hyfrydol

Baptism and The Trinity

Scripture

[Mark 1:9-11](#)

Hymn 366, stanza 3

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Hyfrydol

The Suffering Servant

Scripture

[Mark 14:32-36](#)

Hymn 223, stanza 3

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Hamburg

Christ for the World

Scripture

[Matthew 28:19-20](#)

*HYMN 100

Star of the County Down

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Martha Sue Hall

TITHES AND OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Wilbur Held

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

My Offering cards are in the pews. As a regular practice, you are invited to take one, reflect on your giving, and place it in the offering plate when it comes to you.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution

Sharing of Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving 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.

*HYMN 93 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* Truro

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE Johann Sebastian Bach
From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

*POSTLUDE *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come* Johann Sebastian Bach

*All that are able may stand.

The Lord's Supper will be received by intinction. Ushers will direct worshippers to the appropriate serving station.

We rejoice that you are worshiping 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 Merrin Kinley. After extinguishing the Advent candle, the acolyte takes the light of Jesus Christ out into the world.

There is no Children's Church today. School age children are encouraged to remain in worship and to participate in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Nursery care is provided.

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

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is available to those who trust in Jesus Christ and to those who want to trust him more. Gluten-free elements are available from the elders at the front of the sanctuary.

Ushers: Jim Marshall, captain; Robbie Beard, Duncan Bryson, Elizabeth Bryson, Keith Bryson, Lachlann Currie, Mark Mabry, Kyle Marks, Laura Beth Marks, Mike McLeod, Chris Whitley **Outside Ushers:** Steve Coats; Stephan Kinley **Elder Greeters:** Mary Kesselman; Gayle Russell **Nursery:** Caroline Snyder **Kids Care Crew:** Kristie Bryson; Elizabeth Bryson **No Children Children's Church**

We ask that you keep these people in your prayers: Jeanette Eudy (friend of Liz Davis; peritoneal cancer), Hilda Perry (sister of Cathryn Harwood; continuing health concerns), Judy Smith (friend of Meredith Moses; pancreatic cancer), Cam Rogers, Sally Warburton (friend of Debbie & John Hahn), Marty Goforth (friend of Debbie & John Hahn; treatment for melanoma), Margaret Brooks (friend of Debbie & John Hahn), Katherine Cox (mother of Sherrie Richards; health concerns), Judy Murrell. See newsletter for complete list.

SERRV items are available in the pit stop on Sunday, December 2 and at other times, contact Ann Duckwall (704-983-3498).

If you have not already done so, please return your 2019 pledge card as soon as possible. The Stewardship Committee needs all commitments in order to formulate the 2019 budget. Thank you.

Alternative Christmas Gifts



On Sundays December 2, 9, and 16, 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: The Community Care Clinic, Homes of Hope/The Community Inn, Stanly Community Christian Ministry (SCCM), and the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA).

December 2 is the First Sunday of Advent...Join us for worship and a festive chili luncheon provided by Session. Then, we'll decorate the Chrismon tree and tend to other decorations in the church. There will be Advent activities and fun for everyone!

Angel Tree gifts are to be returned to the Pit Stop no later than Sunday, December 2. Should you have any questions, contact Peggy Finley at 704/985-1136 or maf447@windtsream.net.

Advent Worship

Tuesdays, December 4, 11, & 18 at 5:30 p.m . in the Chapel

Come for quiet reflection, carol singing, scripture reading, and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Volunteers Are Needed for First Family Gathering

- Dessert & Salad Crew: Tuesday, December 4 at 10:00 a.m.
- Set-up Crew: Wednesday, December 5 at 3:45 p.m.
- Clean-up Crew: Wednesday, December 5 at 6:45 p.m.

Please call Jane Snyder at the church (704-982-2722) or on her cell phone (704-438-3358) if you would like to help!

JOY Program...Carriers of the Light

Sunday, December 9 at 11:00 a.m.

The program will be led by the children in Youth Club followed by the JOY covered-dish luncheon in the gym.

The Youth Club children will present the Joy Program during worship on December 9th. The Joy Program is called *Carriers of the Light*. While the story will be well known, and the songs will be familiar, you'll notice a few new twists on your favorite Christmas carols. Our children will tell us all about carrying God's light into a dark world. Please plan to stay after worship for the Joy Luncheon, which is a covered dish meal. **Bring your family's favorite dish to share!**



Baked Items Needed for the Youth Sponsored Christmas Kitchen on Sunday, December 16

If you are willing to make and donate cakes, pies, casseroles, etc., for the youth sponsored Christmas kitchen, please sign-up below and place in the offering plate.

Contact Dorothy if you have questions.

dorothyhart@fpcalbemarle.org or 828-244-3824.



Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Item(s) you will make & donate: _____

Thank you in advance for your help.

**PRIMETIMERS' LUNCHEON
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6 AT NOON**



First, we will visit the Roger Martin Sculpture Gallery. Roger's presentation will be *Creation of the Bronze Sculpture*. He will also show how sculptures are created. Then, we will enjoy a small buffet lunch (**\$10 per person**) at 5 Points Public House Restaurant in the upstairs room. Contact the church office by **10:00 a.m. on Monday, December 3** (klambert@fpcalbemarle.org or 704-982-2722) to say you are coming and/or if you need transportation.

COMMUNITY ADVENT WORSHIP

AT CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON WEDNESDAYS 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 5, 12 & 19. A light lunch will follow worship. Working folks can be on their way by 1:00 p.m. Proceeds from lunch will be donated to SCCM.



Wednesday, December 5

Preaching: Rev. Ray Sipe, Interim Pastor at Mount Gilead Lutheran Church and Chaplain at Trinity Place
Liturgist: Rev. Nikki Raye Rice, Pastor at Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church, Misenheimer.

FIRST FAMILY GATHERING

Wednesday, December 5

Evening Prayer at 5:45 p.m. in the Chapel...Dinner at 6:00 p.m. in the Gym

Menu: Ribollita Soup with Gratineed Croutons (vegetarian), Vegetable Beef Soup, Mixed Green Salad, PB&J Station, Assorted Desserts, Tea, Lemonade, Coffee

Contact the church office to make reservations (704-982-2722 or klambert@fpcalbemarle.org) by noon on Tuesday, December 4 to say you're coming.



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 17**. A complete list will appear in the

bulletin on Sunday, December 23.

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 Monday, December 24.

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

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 2

First Sunday of Advent/The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper/Ten-Cents-A-Meal/Alternative Gifts Available in the Pit Stop/SERRV items available in the Pit Stop

- 9:00 am Breakfast Bunch
- 9:45 am *Sunday School
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 12:00 pm Advent Chili Lunch, Decorating & Advent for All
- 5:00 pm-7:30 pm Youth Group

Monday, December 3

- 7:00 pm Circle #5 meets at the home of Gloria Bryson (811 Smith St., Albemarle)
- 8:00 pm Bible Study w/Matt

Tuesday, December 4

- 10:00 am First Family Dessert & Salad Crew
- 5:30 pm Advent Worship (Chapel)

Wednesday, December 5

- 6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 12:00 pm Community Advent Worship at Christ Episcopal Church (428 Pee Dee Ave., Albemarle)
- 12:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (Parlor)
- 3:15 pm-5:45 pm Youth Cubs/Youth Club
- 3:45 am First Family Set-Up Crew
- 5:45 pm Evening Prayer (Chapel)
- 6:00 pm First Family Dinner
- 6:45 pm First Family Clean-Up Crew
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm Opiod Task Force

Thursday, December 6

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
- 12:00 pm PrimeTimers' Tour of the Roger Martin Gallery & Dutch Treat Luncheon at 5 Points Public House
- 12:00 pm Young Adult Lunch at Coach's Neighborhood Grill (720 NC 24 27, Albemarle)

Saturday, December 8

- 1:30 pm-3:00 pm Joy Program Dress Rehearsal (sanctuary)

Sunday, December 9 *Second Sunday of Advent/JOY Program & Luncheon/Alternative Gifts Available in the Pit Stop*

- 8:45 am *Diaconate
- 9:45 am *Sunday School
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 12:00 pm JOY Luncheon (covered dish meal)/Faith Explorers' Outing to Elf, Jr. The Musical
- 5:00 pm-7:30 pm Youth Group

***childcare provided**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! DECEMBER

- 02-Taylor Barbee
Don Stewart
Lynn White
- 04-Kate Gibson
- 05-Thora Kilde
Nathan Sanges
- 06-Glenn Miller
- 08-Pam Morgan
John Robert McIntyre, Jr.
Hope Wolf

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY! DECEMBER

- 04-Jack & Penny Morton

Backpack Food Program Donations Needed:

Oatmeal Packets, Breakfast Cookies,
Individual Bags of Goldfish,
Large Cans of Soup, Saltine Crackers,
Tuna Helper, Snack Crackers, Pineapple,
or Fruit Cocktail Cups
A bin in the pit stop will receive your donation.

Next Packing Date:

Wednesday, January 2 at 10:30 a.m.



*From the
First Presbyterian Church
Community Christmas Dinner
Committee...*

Community Christmas Dinner Tuesday, December 25 at Central UMC

Check the bulletin board for food and volunteer sign-up opportunities. Come out and bring your family...you will be blessed by the sharing of the season! Blessings to all for helping provide a Christmas meal for so many in our community.

First Presbyterian Church Contact:
Martha Sue Hall
(704-985-5821 or
hallmsh@hotmail.com)

SCCM CHALLENGE FOR DECEMBER
Canned Meat: (Chicken, Salmon, Spam, Tuna)