



The Weekly Bulletin
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Albemarle, North Carolina

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December 23, 2018

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

PEALING OF THE BELLS

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

SCRIPTURE SENTENCES

CANDLE LIGHTING

Hymn 110

Love Has Come

stanzas 1 and 3

*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 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Bereden väg för Herran

*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.

*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.

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

Luke 1:46-50

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

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

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Drumheller

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

SCRIPTURE READING

[Isaiah 9:2-7](#)

Pew Bible, page 600

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHRISTMAS JOY PROGRAM

Carriers of the Light
(see bulletin insert)

Youth Club Choir

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Elizabeth Bryson and Addison Marks

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.

TITHES AND OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory

Born in Bethlehem

Helmut Walcha

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 87

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Genevan 42

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Wilbur Held

*All that are able may stand.

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 Danny Saltzman. 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 for the JOY program. Nursery care is provided.

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:** Brad Boone; John Earnhardt **Elder Greeters:** Mary Kesselman; Gayle Russell **Nursery:** Caroline Snyder **Kids Care Crew:** Gayle & Ned Russell **No Children's Church**

The Christmas Joy Program is a retelling of the Christmas story by our Youth Club children. We hope that they will give you fresh insight into this important faith story.

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.

We ask that you keep these people in your prayers: Judy Toney (sister of Jim Hesley; chemotherapy for breast cancer), Steve Granger (brother of Laura McLeod; stage 4 lung cancer), Jeanette Eudy (friend of Liz Davis; peritoneal cancer), Hilda Perry (sister of Cathryn Harwood; continuing health concerns). **See newsletter for complete list.**

There will be no Sunday School on December 30.

Work on the Habitat house will resume on January 5. Let's make a concerted effort to get the Johnson family *home* in January. Let Elizabeth Wilson (704-982-3625) or Sandy Rogers (704-982-2649) when you can work.

Opioid Taskforce...A group of FPC members has begun having conversations about what our congregation might do to help address the crisis of opioid abuse in Stanly County. As part of our conversations, we have been seeking to education ourselves and the congregation about drug abuse. Did you know...

- 46 people across the country died every day from overdoses involving prescription pain medications (opioids) in the year 2016.
- Data from 2016 shows that 1 out of every 10 people over the age of 12 struggles with some level of substance abuse, including addiction to prescription medications.
- 50% of people who misuse prescription pain medications obtained them from a friend or family member for free.

Please keep those who struggle with drug abuse and addiction and their families in your prayers, and keep your eyes out for more information and further updates from the opioid taskforce.

JOY PROGRAM AND LUNCHEON ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23
Worship will be a lively telling of the Christmas story by the Youth Club children.
And then there's lunch..
Bring a couple of your family's favorites to share at our covered dish luncheon.

Faith on the Fifth Offering-Sunday, December 30...The Faith on the Fifth offering will be donated to SCCM's Winter Heating Assistance Fund. With many cold weeks ahead of us and many folks coming into SCCM for assistance, SCCM's funds will be depleted quickly. The Mission Committee asks that you give from your heart to help those in need. Thank you!



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

MONDAY, 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, 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.



CARRIERS OF THE LIGHT
A CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

Overture

Come, Light of the World

Mary's Song of Praise
Natalie Niederer, Solo

I Will Name Him Jesus

Light in the Manger

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

We Three Kings

Carriers of the Light

Narrator 1 – Ella Cumming
Narrator 2 – Nathaniel Eudy

Mary – Natalie Niederer
Joseph – Thomas Shedd

Angel – Ellie Niederer

Animal 1 – Katie Saltzman
Animal 2 – Marshall Jolly
Animal 3 – Russ Carpenter

Shepherd 1 – Leo McLeod
Shepherd 2 – Maddox Jolly

Wise Man 1 – Hugh Carpenter
Wise Man 2 – Cooper Atwater
Wise Man 3 – Holden Taylor

King Herod – Seth Richards

Donkeys
Brayden Brown
Wray Stokes

Sheep
Ashley Deese
Emma Gibson
Ayla Hahn
Leni Henkenjohann

Angels
Zi'yonna Brown
Emily Deese
Cidney Eudy
Carter Gibson
Caitlyn Thompson
Sophie Poplin
Claire Stokes
Madelyn Taylor

Shepherds
Ollie Henkenjohann
Ke'zia Redfearn
Caroline West
Eston West

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS & HOLIDAY GREENERY

IN MEMORY OF:

Johnny Andrew.....	His Family
Rich and Betty Long.....	Al, Becky, Emily, & Jay Andrew
George and Dorothy Brown.....	John, Penny, and Sally
Ian D. Bryson.....	The Bryson Family
Sue Green.....	Kristie Bryson & Family
John, Nora, and James W. Duckwall.....	Ann Duckwall
Olin and Ruth Huneycutt.....	John & Angie Earnhardt
Jerry and Betsy Earnhardt.....	John & Angie Earnhardt
Gary L. Grantier.....	David, Betsy, & Susan
Lowell and Florence Grantier.....	Judy Grantier
Daniel Mann Whitley.....	Doug & Martha Hughes
Hugh McLaurin.....	Lee McLaurin
Roy and Katie Dearstyne.....	Tom & Holly Norwood
Freck and Oleta Norwood.....	Tom & Holly Norwood
Juanita and Harry Murrell.....	Jane & Bill Pickler
Frances and Spencer Pickler.....	Jane & Bill Pickler
John and Vista Robertson.....	Jeff & Kim Robertson
Steve W. Saunders.....	Sandy, Jennifer, & Stacey
Lectie Shankle.....	Morgan Hall Schultz & Murphy Hall
Tom Yost.....	Carole Yost

GIVEN BY:

IN HONOR OF:

Mildred Andrew.....	Her Family
Peg Long.....	Al, Becky, Emily, & Jay Andrew
Gloria Bryson.....	The Bryson Children
Gina Martin.....	Emily Deese & Ashley Deese
Miriam Russell.....	Susan & Banks Garrison
Rebekah Ayscue.....	Laura D. Frazier
Patsy McLaurin.....	Lee McLaurin
Anna, Dave, Mason, and Addie Feezor.....	Hop & DaDa Norwood
Tommy and Judy Murrell.....	Jane & Bill Pickler
Mildred Andrew.....	Marshall & Cam Rogers
The Chancel Choir.....	Marshall & Cam Rogers
Our Children and Grandchildren.....	Dan & Martha Sue
Blue Honeycutt.....	Sandy W. Saunders
Harold and Carolyn Sharpe.....	Their Children & Grandchildren

GIVEN BY:

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 23

Fourth Sunday of Advent

JOY Program/Joy Luncheon

9:45 am *Sunday School

11:00 am *Worship

12:00 pm JOY Luncheon (Gym)

Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve/Church Office Closed

5:00 pm *Christmas Eve Musical Prelude

5:30 pm *Christmas Eve Worship

11:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship & Breakfast

Tuesday, December 25

Christmas Day/Community Christmas Dinner at Central UMC/

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, December 26

Christmas Holiday/Church Office Closed

Thursday, December 27

Christmas Holiday/Church Office Closed

Sunday, December 30

Service of Lessons & Carols

11:00 am *Worship

***childcare provided**

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)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

DECEMBER

23-Bill Jolly

25-Gloria Bryson

Bob Sasser

26-Ernie Borders

Connie Robinson

27-Duncan Bryson

Claire George Drumheller

29-Kay Griffin

Kate Lemons

30-Sally Grantier

John Montgomery

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

DECEMBER

23-Harold & Carolyn Sharpe

Craig & Teresa Taylor

26-John & Anne Montgomery

27-Brad & Jane Boone

28-Ben & Shannon Lisk

29-Don & Nancy Joines

SCCM CHALLENGE FOR

DECEMBER

Canned Meat

(Chicken, Salmon, Spam, Tuna)

2019 Offering Envelopes

Are Ready for Pick-Up!

Offering envelopes for 2019 are available for pick up in the common area right outside the office. If you do not find your envelopes, please see Kyle in the church office. If your child would like envelopes, please let Kyle know. NOTE: Envelope numbers change each year. Remember...**DO NOT USE these envelopes until January 2019. 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.