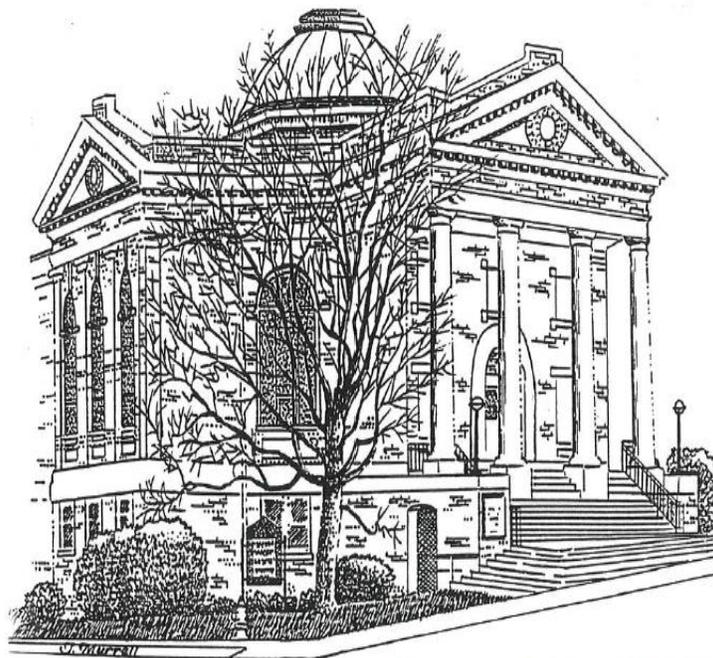


*First Presbyterian Church
Albemarle, North Carolina*



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 4, 2022

2nd Sunday of Advent

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

Johannes Brahms

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Jordan Hesley, acolyte

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. As the Lord has promised, in days to come, the wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, **the calf and the lion and the fatling will lie down together, and a little child shall lead them.** Let us walk in the light of the Lord.
Amen.

Response:

“The Candle of Hope”

LYONS

(“O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!”)

*The candle of peace shines bright with God's plan; the wolf will lie down and dwell with the lamb.
Our guns and our weapons, our hatred and war, will give way to gardens that heal and restore.*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Steve Cumming, liturgist

Not in the places of power, but in little Bethlehem, in a room out back: **The Messiah is coming.** Not born in nobility and wealth, but of Mary and Joseph, who pondered and planed wood: **The Messiah is coming.** Not announced by prophets, priests, and kings, but by two women, who were the first to know: **The Messiah is coming.** Nothing will be impossible for God, but when and where we least expect it, look among the straw and the stars: **The Messiah is coming.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Your steadfast love endures forever, O God; your name is heralded throughout the land. Songs of rejoicing are heard in your sanctuary as hymns of praise proceed from our mouths. You fill your people with the gift of your Holy Spirit; you send forth a Savior with the promise of new life. You are our God, and great are your wonderful deeds. We worship you now in great adoration. Amen.

***HYMN 88**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

VENI EMMANUEL

(stanza 1,5-7)

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

O Come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*O Come, Desire of nations, bind, all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God our Savior, we ask for your mercy. Though we know Mary's song, we still seek security in pride and power and possessions. Though we know your story, we resist the cost of following you. We pass by those considered lowly on this world. We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for the justice you intend. Make us messengers of the peace you bring. As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.

Silent Confession and Reflection

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

Those coming forward for Faith Sharing are invited to move to the chancel area during the Response.

***RESPONSE 132 “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” (stanza 3)**

IN DULCI JUBILO

*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!*

THE WORD

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Lori Ivey

ANTHEM

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

John Carter

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art: Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart. Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king, Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;

By thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, send your Holy Spirit upon us as we await the coming of your Son. Fill us with good things that we may conceive your reign on earth and glorify you according to your Word; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Luke 1:46-55](#)

pew Bible, page 55

SERMON

“Mary’s Song”

Rev. George

*HYMN 99

“My Soul Gives Glory to My God”

MORNING SONG

*My soul gives glory to my God; my heart pours out its praise.
God lifted up my lowliness In many marvelous ways.*

*My God has done great things for me: yes, holy is God's Name.
All people will declare me blessed, and blessings they shall claim.*

*From age to age to all who fear, such mercy love imparts,
Dispensing justice far and near, dismissing selfish hearts.*

*Love casts the mighty from their thrones, promotes the insecure,
Leaves hungry spirits satisfied; the rich seem suddenly poor.*

*Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress,
Remembering past promises with present faithfulness.*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

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.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Katherine Jolly

RECEIVING OF THE OFFERING

Offertory

“Magnificat”

Marcel Dupré

*Response 150

“As With Gladness Men of Old” (stanza 3)

DIX

*As they offered gifts most rare at that 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.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, your love is magnified in the gift of your Son, whom you so freely share with us. Bless these gifts that we offer to lift up the lowly and fill the hungry in your coming reign of justice and peace; in Christ's name. Amen.

SENDING

*HYMN 100

“My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful Shout”

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

*My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn
Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!*

*Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!*

*From the halls of power to the fortress tower. not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!*

*Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

“A Carol”

Roland E. Martin

Once for a shining hour, heaven touched earth, Hope was born anew, and peace reigned in the world.

*POSTLUDE

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

Wilbur Held

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

***Bold print** indicates places where congregation reads or sings*

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Thank you to Stan Scheer, Frank Poolos, Steve Cumming, and Lori Ivey for their leadership in worship today.

The acolyte today is Jordan Hesley.

Ushers for November: Wes Eudy (captain), Nathaniel Eudy, Cidney Eudy, Brett Richards, Seth Richards.

Outside Ushers for December 4: Jim Marshall, Tom Norwood.

Elder Greeters: Andy Mcleod, Mary Kesselman.

Sound: Evan Sanges **Film:** James Cotton **Nursery:** Bailey Mitchell

There is no Children's Church during November. Children are encouraged to remain in worship.

We ask that you keep these people in your prayers: Claude Harwood, Wayne Palmer, Penny Welling (friend of the congregation), Gloria Bryson (Trinity Place), Ann Byrd (Home), Tim Rodgers, Doris Forte-Spring Arbor, Brayden Enzor (grandson of Gus & Pam Holbrook); (Home), Carole Yost (Home), Don Abernathy, Jean Rabe, Anita Gower, Nancy Jolly, Jane Scheer, Don Joines, Elizabeth Wilson, Ann Snuggs, Susan Pandich-breast cancer, Jason Miller (friend of the congregation), Laura Frazier, Debbie Hinson.

See newsletter for complete list.



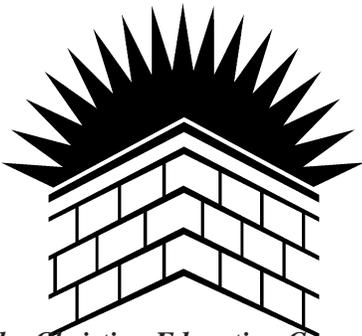
Angel Tree

We only have 5 names left on our tree! Let's get all the names cleared off the mission bulletin board in the Pit Stop! Please sign your name on the sign up sheet beside the number that represents your Angel Tree child. Please return your unwrapped gifts in a large plastic bag with the pink or blue card attached to the bag. Gifts should be returned by Sunday, December 11 under the Angel Tree Bulletin board.

Alternative Christmas Gifts

Alternative Gifts are on sale in the Pit Stop and will continue December 4, 11 and end on December 18. The charities we chose this year are Stanly Community Christian Ministry (SCCM), Presbyterian Disaster Relief and The Esther House.





The Christian Education Corner

We encourage children to remain in worship!
There are worship bags available for them in both lobbies of the church.
Feel free to pick these up anytime before, during or after worship.

If you are not on the SPOND app please download it. That is the easiest way for all of us to keep in touch. Here is the link to join <https://group.spond.com/LTOXZ>

Monday Night Bible Study 9th-12th graders at the home of Debby Johnston (1212 Heritage Dr.) Mondays at 8:30 pm.





CHRISTMAS KITCHEN

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

FUNDS RAISED WILL HELP PAY FOR YOUTH TO ATTEND MONTREAT YOUTH CONFERENCES NEXT SUMMER!

PLEASE STOP BY THE PIT STOP BEFORE AND AFTER WORSHIP TO PURCHASE ITEMS.
IF YOU ARE WILLING TO DONATE BAKED GOODS, CASSEROLES, SOUPS, OR ANY OTHER HOMEMADE ITEMS, PLEASE CONTACT LIZ JOLLY
JOLLYMOM2@GMAIL.COM | 704-699-6699



Show your FPC spirit

Order an "At Home Under the Dome" t-shirt. Youth will be in the Pit Stop for the next few Sundays taking orders. All proceeds go to youth summer Montreat trips





**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRESENTS
THE WINTER ART GALLERY EXHIBIT BY
NORTH STANLY MIDDLE
SCHOOL STUDENTS**

We are so excited to have their work featured in December!

The congregation of First Presbyterian Church is invited to meet the NSMS artists at the Art Gallery Reception on Wednesday, December 7 from 4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. in the church common area.

**NEW OFFICER
TRAINING**

Wednesday Dec. 7, 4-6 pm
Wednesday Dec.14, 4-6 pm
Wednesday Dec. 21, 4-6 pm



**Community Table
Saturday, December 10th - 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**

On Saturday, December 10th, FPC will host lunch at the Community Table. Volunteers are needed for the following:

- 1) to provide a pot of chili to serve 15-20 people
- 2) to provide a dessert (pound cakes, cookies, or brownies)
- 3) to provide 2 dozen cornbread muffins
- 4) to provide individual fruit cups
- 5) to provide granola bars
- 6) to help serve and clean up on the 10th from 9:30-1:00.

If you are interested in helping out, please contact Linda Anderson.



***Save the Date for the Joy Program
Sunday, December 11 at 11:00 a.m.***



The Youth will present the Joy Program during worship on December 11. The Joy Program is called, ***O Come Let Us Adore Him***. While the story will be well-known, and the songs will be familiar, you will notice a few new twists on your favorite Christmas carols. Our children will tell us the age-old story of faith. We will have a covered dish following worship.



**CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11**
*Every generous act of giving...
is from above.
James 1:17*

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 4

2nd Sunday of Advent/ Ten Cents a Meal Offering/

Alternative Gifts before & after worship

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am *Worship

6:00 pm to 8 pm SNL Baking for Christmas Kitchen

Monday, December 5

10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

8:30 pm Bible Study 9th-12th grade –Home of Debby Johnston

Wednesday, December 7

6:45 am Men’s Prayer Breakfast

10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

10:30 am Packing of the Backpacks

1:30 pm Prayer Shawl in Parlor

4:00 pm New Officer Training

4:00 -5:30 pm Art Gallery Reception

6:00 pm First Family Gathering Dinner in Gym

6:45 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 8

4:00 pm Zoom Bible Study with Catherine & Matt Moeller

Sunday, December 11

3rd Sunday of Advent/

JOY Program & Luncheon/JOY Gift Offering/Alternative Gifts/

Christmas Kitchen before & after worship

8:45 am Diaconate Meeting

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am *Worship

12:00 pm Lunch in gym

6:00 pm Youth Christmas Party

Church Staff

Transitional Pastor, Rev Catherine George

Office Manager, Kyle Lambert

Secretary, Beth Poolos

Transitional Director of Christian Ed, Melissa

Eudy

Director of Fellowship/Congregational Care,

Jane Snyder

Music Director, Frank Poolos

Organist, Stan Scheer

Facilities Manager, Shawn Graeff

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

December

- 01- Steve Cumming
Ruth Goodwin
Catherine Moeller
- 02- Taylor Barbee
Lynn White
- 03- Glenn Miller
- 04- Kate Gibson
- 05- Thora Kilde
Nathan Sanges
- 06- Scott Bullard
- 08- Pam Morgan
Robert McIntyre
- 10- Terry Morgan
Bill Pickler
Seth Richards

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

December

- 04- Jack & Penny Morton
- 07- Charlie & Kelly Lentz
- 10- Terry & Pam Morgan

***childcare provided**

Elders

Al Andrew, John Earnhardt, Bill Jolly, Mary Kesselman,
Mike King, Ken Knight, Kim Marshall, Andy McLeod,
Catherine Moeller, Sandy Rogers, Ellen Snyder, Chris Whitley, Ellen Whitley

Deacons

Emily Andrew, Keith Bryson, Shannon Bullard, Michelle Cumming, Wes Eudy, Martha Sue Hall, Lillie Hancock, Jim Hesley, Liz Jolly, Myron Lowder, Laura McLeod, Lee Snuggs

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.**

The offering as part of our worship is a response to God’s grace. The plates will be passed by the ushers or you may make your gift by scanning the QR Code here. Thank you for your generosity.

POINSETTIAS



SANCTUARY POINSETTIAS

If you would like to contribute to the purchase of 8 ten-inch poinsettias as a Christmas memorial/honorarium, please make a check for \$10.00 payable to *First Presbyterian Church* and designate for poinsettias. Please return the check along with the form below to the church office by noon Monday, December 12. A complete list will appear in the bulletin on Sunday, December 18. Following the Christmas Eve service on December 24, all 8 poinsettias will be delivered to the hospital and local nursing homes.

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:
