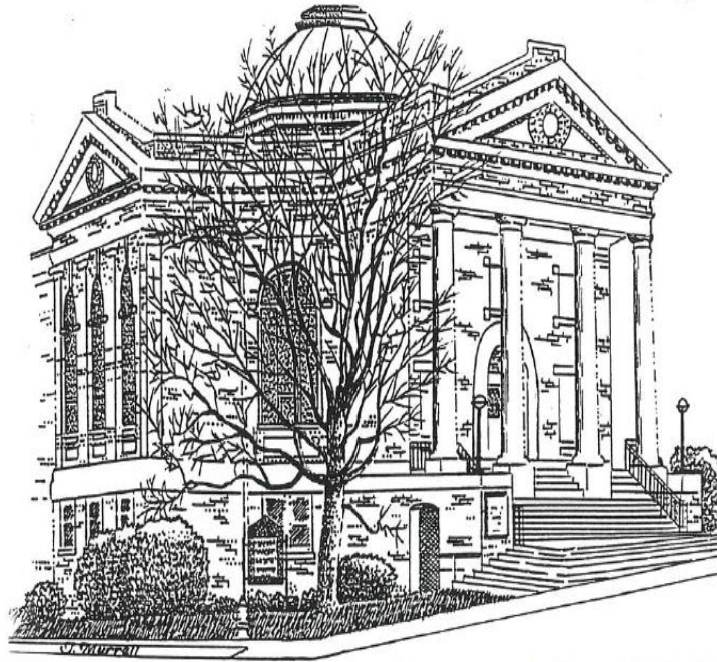


First Presbyterian Church Albemarle, North Carolina



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 11, 2022

3rd Sunday of Advent

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

David Lasky

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Leo McLeod, acolyte

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. As the Lord has promised, in days to come the wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; **like the crocus, it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.** 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 joy reminds us to sing, for God is at work to do a new thing.

The proud will be humbled; the lowly will rise. God's kingdom is one of delight and surprise.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 35

Ellen Snyder, liturgist

The ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing. **Everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.** Let us worship our God with joy!

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

God of Israel, with expectant hearts, we your people await Christ's coming. As once he came in humility, so now may he come in glory, that he may make all things perfect in your everlasting kingdom. For he is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

***HYMN 106**

“Prepare the Way, O Zion” BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

*Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near! Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story. Oh blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.*

*He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above. His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding. Oh blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.*

*Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace, his tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing. Oh blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.*

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious God, our doubt and despair lead us to low and longsuffering places. Our eyes downcast, we find nothing for which to give thanks, we find no reason to rejoice. Yet, you call us to resist the overwhelming forces that drag us down. You call us to rejoice in a babe about to be born. You call us to lift our eyes in hopeful anticipation of your kingdom to come. Forgive us. Help us. Save us.

Silent Confession and Reflection

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

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

***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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy One, giver of life and light, as your word is read and proclaimed, illumine our hearts and minds, that by the power of the Holy Spirit, our lives may reflect God's glory. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Luke 2:1-7](#)

pew Bible, page 55

CHRISTMAS JOY

“O Come, Let Us Adore Him”

Marie Pooler

“O Come, Let Us Adore Him”

“Who Comes to Bethlehem This Night?”

“Away in a Manger”

“Glory to God”

“We Have Seen a Babe, a Holy Child”

“Shining Star”

“Gifts of Love”

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” Congregation Sings stanzas 1 and 3
*O Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels! O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

*Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

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.

RECEIVING OF THE OFFERING AND JOY GIFT

Offertory

“Come Ye Shepherds, Ye Children of Earth”

Wilbur Held

*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

Gracious God, accept these gifts in grateful response for your generosity. May these gifts bring joy to those most in need of Christ's mission and ministry. Amen.

SENDING

*HYMN 105

“People Look East”

BESANÇON

*People look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able;
Trim the hearth and set the table. People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way*

*Furrows be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there. Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish. People, look east and sing today: Love, the rose, is on the way.*

*Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled. Even the hour when wings are frozen,
God for fledgling time has chosen. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Bird, is on the way.*

*Stars, keep the watch when night is dim. One more light the bowl the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as the sun and moon together. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way*

*Angels, announce with shouts of mirth, Christ who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming,
With the word, the Lord is coming. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.*

*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 “Prepare the Way, O Zion” TRADITIONAL SWEDISH MELODY

*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, Ellen Snyder, and the Youth for their leadership in worship today.

The acolyte today is Leo McLeod.

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

Outside Ushers for December 11: Chris Whitley, Jack Morton.

Elder Greeters: Andy Mcleod, Mary Kesselman.

Sound: Evan Sanges **Film:** Elizabeth Bryson **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), 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, Joe Russell Jr, Emma Gibson. The family of Don Abernathy. See newsletter for complete list.

IN MEMORIAM
Don Abernathy
July 4, 1937 – December 6, 2022

NEW OFFICER TRAINING

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

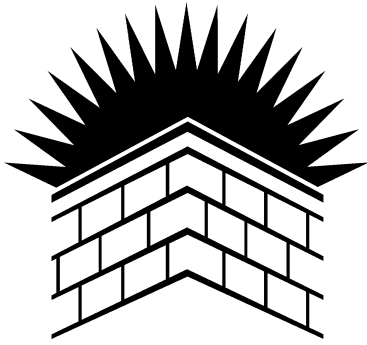


The NSMS artist Art Gallery Reception has been Rescheduled to Tuesday, December 13 from 4:00 to 5:30 pm in the church common area.

Alternative Christmas Gifts

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





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.

The Christian Education Corner

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



Lunch today after Joy Program



The Youth will present the Joy Program today during worship. 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. **We are having a covered dish in the gym following worship.**
Special thanks to our youth today: Ella Averette, Maddie Averette, Julian Eudy, Drew Melone, Maggie Melone and narrators Nathaniel Eudy, Cidney Eudy and Leo McLeod.



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING
TODAY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY
SUNDAY DEC. 11
6:00 pm to 7:30 pm
at Jalapeños
Bring a \$10 gift to exchange.



Thank you

Thanks to the following people who prepared and served for the Community Inn dinner on Friday December 2: Debbie Hahn, Marlene and Nathan Sanges, Ann Crutchfield, and Nancy Joines all prepared food. Marlene and Nathan Sanges, and Andy and Ruth Cotton served the meal. Thanks!



**DRIVE-THRU MEAL WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14
FROM 5:00 P.M.- 6:00 P.M. RSVP BY 2:00 P.M.
ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 12,
PICK-UP OR DELIVERY OF THE MEAL**

Menu: Chicken & Wild Rice, Green Beans, Copper Pennies, and Apple Crumb
Call Anne Montgomery at 704-796-5841 or email Anne at johnandannemontgomery@yahoo.com and let her know, How many plates, and if it p/u or delivery. Suggested Donation is \$6 per person, Max of \$20 per immediate family.

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for 2023 are available for pickup in the common area right outside the church office. If your child would like envelopes, please let Kyle know. **NOTE: Envelope numbers change every year. Remember...DO NOT USE these envelopes until January of 2023.**



*Lessons & Carols
Presented by the Chancel Choir
of First Presbyterian Church*

Sunday, December 18...11:00 a.m. Worship Service

The 2022 Advent Choral Service will continue our tradition of tracing the Biblical account of the birth of Christ using scripture followed by contemplative readings. The choir will be accompanied by organist Stan Scheer, the Piedmont Triad String Quartet, and percussionist, Mike Poolos, directed by Frank Poolos.

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:

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

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 to 7:30 pm Youth Christmas Party at Jalapeños

Monday, December 12

10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

12:00 pm Sanctuary Poinsettia Deadline

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

Wednesday, December 14

6:45 am Men’s Prayer Breakfast

10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

4:00 pm New Officer Training

5:00 pm Drive Thru Meal

6:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 15

10:00 am Staff Meeting

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

4:30 pm Chancel Choir w/strings rehearsal

Sunday, December 18

4th Sunday of Advent/Choral Christmas Lessons & Carols/Alternative Gifts before & after worship

8:30 am Session

9:45 am Sunday School

9:45 am Breakfast Bunch (K-5th graders)

11:00 am *Worship

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm Christmas Light Scavenger Hunt

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

December

11-Mackenzie Smet
 13-Tom Norwood
 14- Greg Jones
 16- Alison Whisnant
 17- Rob McIntyre
 18- Katie Carpenter
 Mary Green
 Katie Saltzman

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

December

15- Ronnie & Sarah Michael
 Chris & Barbara Whitley

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

***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

Online giving can be done through the church’s website

www.fpcalbemarle.org

Click on the GIVE

Tithes and offerings may be mailed to:

First Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 1578
Albemarle, NC 28002



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.