



The Weekly Bulletin
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Albemarle, North Carolina

Church Offices: (704) 982-2722

Website: www.fpcalbemarle.org

November 28, 2021
First Sunday of Advent

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

MORNING MEDIATION

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand, Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence -Liturgy of St. James, fourth century

PRELUDE

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Johannes Brahms

PEALING OF THE CHIMES

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Ellie Niederer

(Lighting of the first candle.)

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. As the Lord has promised, in days to come, the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks;

Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

OPENING SENTENCES

Jesus said, *I am coming soon.*

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Elizabeth Bryson

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. In you I put my trust.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation.

According to your steadfast love, remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord!

Let us worship God!

Psalms 25

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, you have promised us that the day of our salvation is near. Keep us faithful in love and watchful in prayer, so that we may stand with confidence and joy at the coming of Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.

*HYMN 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Truro

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Silence

Lord, have mercy on us. We are not ready for your coming. We live in sin, as though there were no justice. We live in fear, as though there were no grace. Forgive us, Lord. Show us your mercy and steadfast love. Lead us in your truth, and teach us your paths, for you are the God of our salvation. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***RESPONSE TO ASSURANCE**

hymnal 132, stanza 3

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

In dulci jubilo

(The response will be sung by choir and congregation.)

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!

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

ANTHEM

Every Valley

John Ness Beck

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain made low,

And the crooked made straight, and the rough places plain.

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Cathy George

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

God of grace, illumine our understanding so that we would rightly see ourselves in the world by the light of your love. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

[Psalm 25:1-10](#)

Pew Bible, page 475

[Luke 21:25-36](#)

Pew Bible, page 80

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Work of Waiting

Reverend Cathy George

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The risen Christ is the savior of all people. Those joined to him by faith are set right with God and commissioned to serve as God's reconciling community. Christ is head of this community, the church, which began with the apostles and continues through all generations. The same Jesus Christ is the judge of all people. His judgment discloses the ultimate seriousness of life and gives promise of God's final victory over the power of sin and death. To receive life from the risen Lord is to have life eternal; to refuse life from him is to choose the death which is separation from God. All who put their trust in Christ face divine judgment without fear, for the judge is their redeemer. Amen.

***HYMN 357**

The Days Are Surely Coming

Llangloffan

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Elizabeth Bryson and Katherine Jolly

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

From *The Confession of 1967.*

RECEIVING OF THE OFFERING AND PLEDGE CARDS

Offertory *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came Down* Paul Manz
Doxology *What Child is This* hymnal 145, stanza 3
(*The response will be sung by choir and congregation.*) Greensleeves

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come one and all, to own him .
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy; for Christ is born, the babe, the Son of Mary.*

*Prayer of Dedication

Shine your light and love upon these gifts and these givers, O God. We offer ourselves as offerings, trusting that your spirit of power can make us instruments of your healing and wholeness. Through Christ, we pray. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy...Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Gracious God...Now hear us as we are bold to pray together the prayer taught to us by our Lord, saying,

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.

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

*HYMN 463 *How Firm a Foundation* Foundation

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come* Johann Sebastian Bach
From heaven above to earth I come to bring good news to everyone!
Glad tidings of great joy I bring to all the world, and gladly sing.

*POSTLUDE *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come* Wilbur Held

*All that are able may stand.

Thank you to the Chancel Choir, Frank Poolos, Stan Scheer, Elizabeth Bryson, and Katherine Jolly for their leadership in worship today.

PERMISSIONS: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*, Johannes Brahms (1833-1897), 1896. Public domain. *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*, Text: Georg Weissel (1590-1635), trans. Catherine Winkworth. Hymn tune: *Truro* (c. 1778). Public domain. *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*, Text: 14th century Medieval Latin hymn, trans. John Mason Neale (1818-1866), 1853. Public domain. Hymn tune: *In dulci jubilo* 14th century German folk melody, harm. David Hugh Jones, (1900-1983), 1953. © 1955, ren. 1983, John Ribble (admin. Westminster John Knox Press) ,All rights reserved. Used with permission. *Every Valley*, Text: Isaiah 40: 4-5 Music: John Ness Beck (1930-1987) © 1976, *Beckenhorst Press Inc.* Used with permission under One License A-709512. *The Days Are Surely Coming*, Text: David Gambrell, 2009. © 2011, *David Gambrell* (admin. Presbyterian Publishing Corp.). All rights reserved. Used by permission. Hymn tune: *Llangloffan*, Welsh folk melody, public domain. *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*, Hymn tune: *Basque Carol*, Paul Manz (1919-2009) © 1990, *MorningStar Music Publishers.* Used with permission under One License A-709512. *What Child Is This*, Text: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898), 1871. Hymn tune: *Greensleeves.* 16th Century English ballad. Public domain. *How Firm a Foundation*, Text: "K" in John Rippon's *A Selection of Hymns* (1787), Hymn tune: *Foundation.* American Folk Melody. Public domain. *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*, Text: and music: *Vom Himmel hoch*, Martin Luther (1483-1546), 1539. Harmonization: Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750). Public domain. *From Heaven Above*, Hymn tune: *Vom Himmel hoch*, Martin Luther (1483-1546), 1539. Setting for organ by Wilbur Held (1914-2015), © 1970, *Concordia Publishing House.* All rights reserved. Used with permission under One License A-709512.

The acolyte today is Ellie Niederer.

There is no Children's Church today. School-aged children are encouraged to remain in worship.

Ushers for November: John Earnhardt (captain), Bob Johnston, Jim Marshall, Kim Marshall, Jack Morton and Penny Morton

Elder Greeters: Mike King; Ellen Whitley

Outside Ushers for November 28: Wes Eudy, Tom Norwood **Sound:** Evan Sanges; Leah Kilde

Film: Katherine Jolly **Nursery:** Kate White **Kids Care Crew:** Carol Sasser **No Children's Church**

We ask that you keep these people in your prayers: Richard Kimrey (father of Todd Kimrey; recovering from COVID & Pneumonia), Lindsey Clark (wife of Mark Clark, friend of Debbie Hahn; metastatic breast cancer), Robin Howell (chemotherapy for return of lymphoma), Don Abernathy (multiple myeloma), Jean Rabe, Anita Gower, Gloria Bryson, Nancy Jolly (Trinity Place), Claude Harwood, Jane Scheer, Don Joines, Jane Pickler. See newsletter for complete list.



NAME TAG ALERT!

Upon entering the sanctuary, we are requesting that everyone make a name tag. Stick-on name tags are available at both entrances to the sanctuary. Thank you!

Please Return Your Pledge Card...If you have not already returned your pledge card, you mail or drop them off at the church. Pledge cards are also available in the narthex to both entrances to the sanctuary.



**Alternative Christmas Gifts Available in the Pit Stop
Sundays, November 28 and Sundays, December 5 & 12**

On Sundays, November 21 & 28, December 5 & 12, 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: John P. Murray Community Care Clinic, Mwandi Milk Formula, OASIS, and Will's Place.

**Advent Congregational Devotions
Night Watch**



Published by *Presbyterian Outlook* and written by editor, Teri McDowell Ott
Hope is hard to find during a long pandemic. Dark feelings of grief, loss, anger, betrayal and despair plague our souls and our communities. As the light fades and the evenings grow long this December, the season of Advent reminds us that God is with us in the night.

See and observe God at work in the dark, marvel at the beauty of creation lit by moon and stars, and rest from the day's labor. Exploring biblical happenings that occur at night – visions, angel visits, prisoners set free – we will move through this Advent season as watchful disciples, keeping vigil for the One who is promised to arrive like a thief in the night.

Each week includes a reflection, daily Scripture readings, suggestions for living out the Bible and a short prayer for each day. ***You should receive an email copy of Night Watch on Sunday, November 28 to begin the season of Advent. Printed copies will be mailed to those who do not have access to the internet, and some will be available at both entrances to the church for visitors.***

**FIRST FAMILY MEAL ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1
FROM 5:00 P.M.- 6:00 P.M.**

**RSVP BY 2:00 P.M. ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29
PICK-UP OR DELIVERY OF THE MEAL**



First Family Meal Pick-up or Delivery is on Wednesday, December 1! If you would like a First Family meal, please RSVP by Monday, November 29 at 2:00 p.m., and we will have your meal ready for pick-up or delivery on Wednesday, December 1 between 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. For your safety, the kitchen staff will wear masks and gloves while preparing your plates.

Menu: Vegetable Soup, Salad, Oyster Crackers, Sweet Potato Cake, Pound Cake and Brownies

Suggested Donation: \$5 per person...Maximum of \$15 per family.

Please come with correct change or a check written to First Presbyterian Church.

All we need you to do is:

call Anne Montgomery at 704-796 5841 or email Anne at johnandannemontgomery@yahoo.com and let her know how many plates you need, if you would like sweet potato cake, pound cake or brownies for each meal, and if it will be a pickup or delivery (include address and any special instructions).

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 Monday, December 13. A complete list will appear in the bulletin on Sunday, December 19. **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: _____



Freezer Fest

Saturday, December 4 at 9:30 a.m. in the church kitchen

Host: Kristie Bryson

We will make Crustless Zucchini & Basil Mini-Quiches, Bacon-Wrapped Water Chestnuts with Sauce, and Spinach Balls that you can put in your freezer to get a jump-start on holiday treats.

Cost: \$20.00

Limit: 10 people

Masks optional.

Bring 3 large containers to transport your goodies home and into the freezer.

Or, you can donate some of your goodies to the Christmas Kitchen.

You must RSVP to Jane Snyder by Tuesday, November 30

(jsnyder@fpcalbemarle.org or 704-438-3358).

COMMUNITY ADVENT WORSHIP AT CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ON WEDNESDAYS, DECEMBER 1, 8, 15, & 22 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 1, 8, 15, and 22. No lunch will be served. On Wednesday, December 1, Rev. Dr. Kendall Cameron of First Baptist Church, will be preaching. Rev. George will be preaching on Wednesday, December 22.



Central School Backpack Food Program Donations Needed

Oatmeal Packets, Breakfast Cookies, Individual Bags of Goldfish, Large Cans of Soup, Saltine Crackers, Tuna Helper, Cans of Tuna, Chicken Helper, Cans of Chicken, Snack Crackers, Pineapple, or Fruit Cocktail Cups

Donations may be dropped off in the Pit Stop at the church.

Next Packing Date: Wednesday, December 8 at 10:30 a.m.



DRIVE-THRU COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH (230 SOUTH 2ND ST, ALBEMARLE)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25 FROM 11:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M. OR UNTIL PLATES RUN OUT

The Annual Community Christmas Dinner is still ON for this year. It will again be a DRIVE-THRU on Christmas Day (Saturday, December 25). The food will be prepared and packaged by Tiffany's. All of the desserts are being provided by the Albemarle Sweet Shop, and all of the volunteers will be from First Lutheran. The only things we are being asked to provide are 100 Christmas Cards (Youth Club is coloring the cards!) and the monetary donation to help cover the cost of the meals (\$700.00) from First Presbyterian Church. Please help us meet this goal by:

1. Giving Generously to the Community Christmas Dinner (in the memo of your check designate "Community Christmas Dinner").
2. Gina Martin, our Interim Director of Christian Education, will have the children color the Christmas cards this year.

**CONTACT MARTHA SUE HALL FOR MORE INFORMATION
(704-985-5821 OR HALLMSH@HOTMAIL.COM)**



Angel Tree Board 2021

The Angel Tree Board is ready on the bulletin board in the pit stop! Come by the church during office hours (Monday-Thursday; 9 am-5 pm) or on Sunday to take an *angel* or two.

We've been given the names of 50 children.

Be sure to fill in your name or the name of your group/family on the appropriate line(s) on the sign-up sheet.

Each child's name is linked to a specific number on the sheet.

Please make sure to pick-up a guideline sheet.

This ensures the best gift-giving for all children.

The unwrapped gifts need to be returned to the church in a large bag by Sunday, December 12.

Questions? Contact Peggy Finley at 704-985-1136 or maf447 @windtstream.net.

!!! It's Back !!!

Christmas Kitchen on Sunday, December 12

Sponsored by SNL

This annual event will help you check off some of your final Christmas to-dos and support the youth in one of the largest fundraisers of the season.

On December 12, Christmas Kitchen will fill the Pit Stop before and after worship. There you'll find everything you need for your holiday season or just for general freezer filing.

The Christmas Kitchen will have pints of chill, pints of taco soup, casseroles – dinner and breakfast, pies, cookies, pecan blondies, and much more. Plan to shop this delicious sale on December 12.

If you love cooking or baking and want to contribute, please let Rebekah Ayscue (704-985-2944) or Jane Boone (704-604-3836) know what you plan to make. Christmas Kitchen items can be stored at the church ahead of December 12 in the freezer in the closet off the Pit Stop.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PARTNERSHIP DRIVE-THRU LUNCH WITH OFF THE SQUARE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8 FROM 11:30 A.M.- NOON

RSVP BY 2:00 P.M. ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 6

PICK-UP OR DELIVERY OF THE MEAL

Off the Square is partnering with FPC to provide lunch to you! Drive-Thru Meal Pick-up or Delivery is on WEDNESDAY, December 8! Please RSVP by Monday, December 6 at 2:00 p.m., and we will have your meal ready for pick-up or delivery on Wednesday, December 8 between 11:30 a.m.-NOON. For your safety, kitchen staff will wear masks and gloves while preparing your plates.

Menu:

Off the Square's Shrimp Bisque, Mixed Green Salad, Cornbread and Angie Earnhardt's Chocolate Chess Pie

Suggested Donation: \$5 per person....Maximum of \$15 per family.

Please come with correct change or a check written to First Presbyterian Church. We prefer cash.

All we need you to do is: call or text Jane Snyder at 704-438-3358 and let her know how many plates you need and if it will be a pickup or delivery (include address and any special instructions).



OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 28

*First Sunday of Advent/The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper/
Alternative Gifts*

- 9:30 am The Wired Word Sunday School Class via Zoom
- 9:45 am *Sunday School
- 11:00 am *Worship

Monday, November 29

- 10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 8:30 pm-9:30 pm High School Faith Conversations at the home of Debby Johnston (1212 Heritage Dr., Albemarle)

Wednesday, December 1

- 6:45 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 12:00 pm Community Advent Service at Christ Episcopal (428 Pee Dee Ave., Albemarle)
- 1:30 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (Pit Stop)
- 3:30 pm-5:30 pm Youth Club (K-5th Graders)
- 5:00 pm-6:00 pm First Family Drive-Thru Meal
- 5:30 pm-6:00 pm Youth Club Handbells with Frank Poolos
- 6:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, December 2

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting

Friday, December 3

- 6:00 pm Meal for the Community Inn

Saturday, December 4

- 9:30 am Freezer Fest (Church Kitchen)

Sunday, December 5 *Second Sunday of Advent/Ten Cents a Meal*

Offering for Hunger/Alternative Gifts

- 9:45 am *Sunday School
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 12:00 pm Christian Education Committee Meeting
- 4:00 pm North Stanly High School Handbell & Chorus Concert
- 6:30 pm-8:00 p.m. SNL Youth at FPC, Albemarle

***childcare provided**

Your on-going support of First Presbyterian Church is essential to the mission and ministry of the church and to the well-being of our ministry partners, locally and globally. Thank you for your generosity.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
NOVEMBER**

29-Janice Abernathy
Matt Drumheller

30-Bill Hall
Diane Stevenson

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!
NOVEMBER**

29-Skeet & Elizabeth Ayscue

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
DECEMBER**

01-Steve Cumming
Ruth Goodwin
Catherine Moeller

02-Taylor Barbee
Don Stewart
Lynn White

03-Glenn Miller
Tammy Ocampo Eudy

04-Kate Gibson

05-Thora Kilde
Nathan Sanges

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!
DECEMBER**

04-Jack & Penny Morton

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.