



The Weekly Bulletin
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Albemarle, North Carolina

Elizabeth McNair Ayscue, Pastor Matt Drumheller, Associate Pastor
Church Offices: (704) 982-2722 Website: www.fpcalbemarle.org

December 24, 2017

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

PEALING OF THE BELLS

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

CANDLE LIGHTING

Hymn 98 *To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary* stanzas 1 and 6
During the singing, the acolyte will light the Mary candle on the Advent wreath.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O that the Lord would tear open the heavens and come down,

People: So that the mountains would quake at God's presence.

Leader: In the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord.

People: Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Leader: The spirit of the Lord God is upon us.

People: The Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up.

Leader: For the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

People: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

*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 105

People, Look East

Besançon

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Silence

Unison

Patient God, we confess that we are in a hurry and make little time for you. Generous God, we confess that we spend with abandon, but forgive with reluctance. Loving God, we confess that we love too little and worry too much. In your patience, wait for us. In your generosity, pour out your grace. In your love, grant us forgiveness and peace. We ask for the sake of Mary's child, born to set us free.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.

People: 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.**

*Each week during
Advent, we will
sing a hymn about
the character
whose candle we
are lighting.
Today, we recall
Mary, the mother
of Jesus.*

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

ANTHEM *Who Comes to Bethlehem This Night?* Marie Pooler
Youth Club Children
Cooper Atwater, Ari Beamon, Gabriel Beamon, Elizabeth Bryson, Hugh Carpenter, Russ Carpenter, Sidney Eudy, Nathaniel Eudy, Carter Gibson, Melanie Hendrix, Jordan Hesley, Thora Kilde, Merrin Kinley, Addison Marks, Stella Marks, Ellie Niederer, Natalie Niederer, Seth Richards, Danny Saltzman, Thomas Shedd, Lily Snyder

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN Mr. Drumheller
Children will be invited to come forward. At the conclusion of the children's greeting, parents may take preschool children to the nursery.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, in this season of waiting, send your Spirit into our midst to inspire and enlighten us. May your Word draw us into a deeper understanding of the meaning of your incarnation. Amen.

GOSPEL READING [Luke 1:26-38](#) Pew Bible, page 53

SERMON *A Pause* Mrs. Ayscue

*HYMN 84 *Creator of the Stars of Night* Conditor alme siderum

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Introduction

Reaffirmation of Faith

*Affirmation of Faith *The Apostles' Creed* hymnal, page 35

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.

Prayer

Congregational Welcome

**With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you to share with us
in the ministry of Christ, for we are all one in him.**

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.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory *Every Valley* John Ness Beck

Craig Taylor, Bass

*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 134 *Joy to the World* Antioch

*BENEDICTION

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

*All who 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.

During Advent, we will include worship notes in the bulletin. These notes will provide information about prayers, music, and the movements of worship. They are designed to deepen our understanding of worship.

The acolyte today is Leah Kilde. After extinguishing the Advent candle, the acolyte takes the light of Jesus Christ out into the world.

Thanks to the Youth Club Children and Craig Taylor for their music leadership in worship today.

There is no Children’s Church today. Children in grades K-2 are encouraged to participate in worship.

Ushers: Jim Hesley, captain; Duncan Bryson, Keith Bryson, Banks Garrison, Sandy Saunders, Harold Sharpe

Outside Ushers: John Howell; Kyle Marks **Elder Greeters:** Adam Jolly; Dona Lisk **Nursery:** Anna Wainwright **Preschool Partners:** Angie Earnhardt; Kelly Lentz **Nana & Papa Team:** Gayle & Ned Russell

We ask that you refer to the newsletter for a complete list of those in need of prayer.

If you have not already done so, please return your 2018 pledge card as soon as possible.

Community Christmas Dinner on Monday, December 25 at Central United Methodist Church

11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

(172 North 2nd Street, Albemarle)

FINANCIAL YEAR END CLOSING...December 24 is the last Sunday to pay up your 2017 pledge and your Legacy pledge. The financial books will close Friday, December 29, 2017 at NOON. Any contributions received after that time will be carried over to 2018.

New Members

Catherine & Matt Moeller

1301 Prestwick Place

Albemarle, NC 28001

Phone: 704-985-1375

Email: mattandcatherine@hotmail.com



**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 AT
11:00 A.M., 5:30 P.M., AND 11:00 P.M.**

Carols and candlelight will mark the evening as we celebrate the birth of Christ.

11:00 a.m. Morning Worship will focus on Mary, the mother of Jesus.

5:30 p.m. 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, and sharing the light of Christ and traditional carol singing. An offering will be received for Union Presbytery Seminary.

11:00 p.m. Worship

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.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

IN MEMORY OF:

GIVEN BY:

Johnny Andrew.....	Al, Becky, Emily, & Jay Andrew
Betty Long.....	Al, Becky, Emily, & Jay Andrew
Paul Honeycutt.....	Wanda & Bill Brannon
John, Nora, and James W. Duckwall.....	Ann Duckwall
Idalene Whitley & Earl Whitley.....	Lori & Chuck Gaskin
Lowell and Florence Grantier.....	daughter, Judy Grantier
Daniel Whitley.....	Martha Hughes
Jim Ivey.....	Margaret Ivey & Family
Rita Whitley.....	Kyle, Laura Beth, Addison, & Stella Marks
Hugh McLaurin.....	Lee McLaurin
Roswell and Myra Stilwell.....	Glenn & Becky Miller
Milton and Mary Miller.....	Glenn & Becky Miller
Dade and Betty Jean Moeller.....	The Moeller Family
M.C. "Preacher" and Eloise Morgan.....	Rodney & Rita Morgan
Curtis and Otis Morris.....	Rodney & Rita Morgan
Charlie Lambert.....	Jack & Penny Morton
Marvin (Son) and Joyce Morton.....	Jack & Penny Morton
Roy and Katie Dearstyne.....	Tom & Holly Norwood
Freck and Oleta Norwood.....	Tom & Holly Norwood
Bob Palmer.....	Frankie Palmer
Juanita and Harry Murrell.....	Jane & Bill Pickler
Frances and Spencer Pickler.....	Jane & Bill Pickler
Our Parents.....	Dan & Martha Sue
Steve Saunders.....	Sandy, Jennifer, & Stacey
George and Dorothy Brown.....	children: Sally, John, & Penny
Gary Grantier.....	children: David, Betsy, & Susan
Daniel Mann Whitley.....	David & Ellen Whitley

IN HONOR OF:

GIVEN BY:

Mildred Andrew.....	Al, Becky, Emily, & Jay Andrew
Richard Long.....	Al, Becky, Emily, & Jay Andrew
Blue Honeycutt.....	Wanda & Bill Brannon
Ann and Joe Snuggs.....	Mary & Frank Green
Melissa Eudy.....	Kyle Lambert
Patsy McLaurin.....	Lee McLaurin
Betty Lambert.....	Jack & Penny Morton
Tucker Moses-First Christmas.....	Derek & Meredith Moses
Dave, Anna, Mason, and Addie Feezor.....	Tom & Holly Norwood
Our Welcoming Church Community.....	Jeff & Kim Robertson
Our Children and Grandchildren.....	Dan & Martha Sue

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas Eve

Reception of New Members

- 10:40 am Called Session Meeting (Parlor)
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 5:00 pm *Christmas Eve Musical Prelude
- 5:30 pm *Christmas Eve Worship
- 11:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship & Breakfast

Monday, December 25

Christmas Day

Community Christmas Dinner at

Central UMC

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, December 26

Christmas Holiday

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, December 27

No Wednesday Activities

Friday, December 29

Sunday, December 31

Service of Lessons & Carols

Faith on the Fifth Offering for

SCCM Winter Heating Assistance

- 11:00 am *Worship

***childcare provided**



**Visit the Winter Art Gallery Exhibit
Featuring Paintings by Matt Moeller**



Backpack Food Program

UPDATED LIST OF DONATIONS NEEDED:

Breakfast Cookies, Individual Bags of Goldfish, Large Cans of Soup, Canned Tuna, and Saltine Crackers. A bin in the pit stop will receive your donation.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

DECEMBER

- 17- Rob McIntyre
- 18- Katie Carpenter
Mary Green
Katie Saltzman
- 20- Virginia Currie
Anna Henkenjohann
Morgan Smet
- 21- Emily Andrew
- 22- Joe Snuggs
- 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
- 31- Mildred Andrew
Adrienne Robinson

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 21- Gerald & Lynn Poplin
Tom & Jean Rabe
- 23- Harold & Carolyn Sharpe
Craig & Teresa Taylor
- 26- John & Anne Montgomery
- 27- Brad & Jane Boone
- 28- Ben & Shannon Lisk
- 29- Don & Nancy Joines



Faith on the Fifth Offering Sunday, December 31 Winter Heating Assistance

The Faith on the Fifth offering on December 31st will be donated to SCCM's Winter Heating Assistance Fund. These funds are shared with our neighbors in need throughout Stanly County. The Mission Committee asks that you give from your heart to help those in need.

SCCM CHALLENGE FOR DECEMBER

Canned Vegetables

Green Beans, Corn, Carrots, Peas, Beans, Canned Tomatoes,
Mixed Vegetables... Vegall