



The Weekly Bulletin
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Volume 48

December 6, 2015

No. 49

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
GATHERING BEFORE GOD

PEALING OF THE BELLS

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

PRELUDE

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Wilbur Held

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: As farmers wait for rainfall, as prisoners wait for freedom,

People: We wait for the coming of God.

Leader: As refugees yearn for home, as peacemakers yearn for justice,

People: We yearn for the coming of God.

Leader: As travelers prepare for the journey, as parents prepare for a newborn child,

People: We prepare for the coming of God.

*CHORAL INTROIT

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Divinum mysterium

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*HYMN 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Truro

The Ten-Cents-A-Meal offering for hunger may be brought forward at this time.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Silence

Unison

Holy and loving God, we dwell in the darkness and prefer it to the light. We are proud of our accomplishments and despair over our shortcomings. Smooth down the mountains of our pride and lift up the valleys of our doubts. Open a path in the wilderness of our lives, that we might find our way to you. Secure us in your love, refine us, and prepare us for life in your kingdom.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Believe the good news,

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

hymn 84, stanza 4

**To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One,
Praise, Honor, Might, and Glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Campbell Family

Leader: The Gospel of Luke tells us, *By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death to guide our feet into the way of peace. We live in the beginning of the good news,*

People: The good news of forgiveness through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: We live in the middle of the wilderness,

People: And we await the presence of the Lord.

Leader: May this candle enlighten us in our darkness, that we may know God's peace in our midst.

People: May this candle illumine our path that we may see the way of the Lord.

Leader: God who is hidden, be revealed.

People: Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

RESPONSE TO THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

hymn 88, stanza 7

**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 thee, O Israel.**

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Mike McLeod

Children will be invited to come forward. At the conclusion of the Children's Greeting, parents may take preschool children to the nursery. Children in grades K-2 may go to the chapel for Children's Church.

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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Malachi 3:1-4

Pew Bible, page 838

ANTHEM

The Best of Rooms

Hal H. Hopson

Christ, He requires till, wheresoe'er He comes To feed or lodge, to have the best of rooms:
Give Him the choice; grant Him the nobler part Of all the house:
the best of all's the heart.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 1:68-79

Pew Bible, page 54

SERMON

The Way of Peace

Mrs. Ayscue

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From The Confession of 1967

The new life in Christ finds its direction in the life of Jesus, his deeds and words, his struggles against temptation, his compassion, his anger, and his willingness to suffer death. The teaching of apostles and prophets guides men and women in living this life, and the Christian community nurtures and equips them for their ministries. The members of the church are emissaries of peace and seek the good of humankind in cooperation with powers and authorities in politics, culture, and economics. But they have to fight against pretensions and injustices when these same powers endanger human welfare. Their strength is in their confidence that God's purpose, rather than humanity's schemes, will finally prevail. Life in Christ is eternal. The resurrection of Jesus is God's sign that he will consummate the work of creation and reconciliation beyond death and bring to fulfillment the new life begun in Christ. Amen.

*HYMN 104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Valet will ich dir geben

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Isabel McLeod

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Mr. Drumheller

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

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Paul Manz

*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 366

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Hyfrydol

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

*POSTLUDE

Come, Savior of the World

Johann Sebastian Bach

*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 Jacob Palmer. After extinguishing the Advent candle, the acolyte takes the light of Jesus Christ out into the world.

Thanks to the Campbell family for lighting the advent candle today.

We will receive the Ten-Cents-A-Meal offering for hunger on Sunday, December 6.

Ushers: Wes Eudy, captain; Steve Cumming, Angie Earnhardt, Greg Lisk, Ronnie Michael, Witt Snuggs, and Morgan Smet **Elder Greeters:** Kim Marshall; Lee McManus **Nursery:** Jana Sanderson **Toddler Room:** Lauren Cranford **Preschool Partners:** Melissa Eudy; Dona Lisk **Nana & Papa Team:** Joan Belsan; Debby Johnston **Children's Church:** Laura McLeod; Jacob Palmer

We ask that you keep these people in your prayers: Carroll Sitton (knee replacement), Michael Corl & family (UPS delivery employee), Banks Garrison, Rowena Warren, John McIntyre, Janet Gardner Fleming (stepdaughter of Ruth Ann Rogers), David Sanges (brother of Nathan Sanges); Struggling families. **See newsletter for complete list.**

Alternative Christmas Gifts...Alternative Gift cards are offered for donations directed to: The Community Care Clinic, Homes of Hope, Crisis Assistance Fund, and Montaña de Luz. The minimum gift is \$10 per card. For each purchase, you will receive one of several holiday-themed acknowledgement cards that were designed by artist Leslie Carter. Gifts will be available for purchase before and after worship through December 13.

26TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

!!! NEW THIS YEAR....ENTERTAINMENT !!!

We are responsible for entertainment from 1:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m. If you would like to provide festive music or some other entertainment, please let Jim Sawyer, (H) 704-986-6920 (C) 980-621-1929, or email: jameshardinsawyer@gmail.com, know of your interest and availability. Your reply before Sunday, December 6, would be greatly appreciated!!

COMMUNITY ADVENT WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAYS 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 2, 9, and 16*. Lunch will follow. Our own Matt Drumheller is preaching on December 9.



**Contemplative Advent Worship
Tuesdays, December 8, 15, & 22
at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel**

These will be contemplative services (30 minutes) designed to help worshipers focus on the anticipation of advent and will include the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Join us for these new worship moments. Childcare provided.

SANCTUARY POINSETTIAS & HOLIDAY GREENERY

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia(s) or contribute to the holiday greenery fund as a Christmas memorial/honorarium, please make a check for \$22.00 for the poinsettia or for the amount you wish for the greenery payable to *First Presbyterian Church* and designate for poinsettias or greenery. Please return the **check along with the form below to the church office by Monday, December 14**. A complete list will appear in the bulletin on Sunday, December 20.

SANCTUARY POINSETTIAS & HOLIDAY GREENERY

Please print below the information exactly as it is to appear in the bulletin.

In memory of: _____

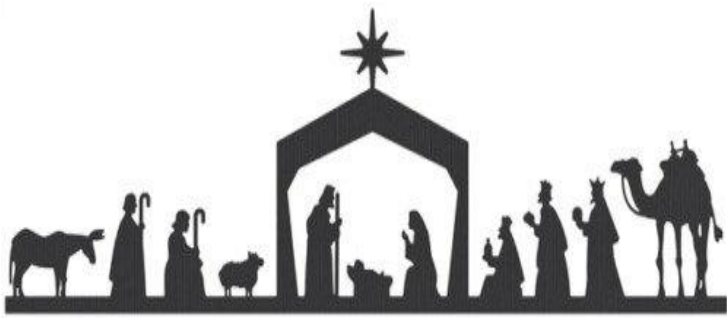
Given by: _____

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

I plan to take my poinsettia(s) after the 5:30 p.m. service on December 24.

I will leave my poinsettia(s) for delivery to a homebound member.



THE INN CROWD

A CHRISTMAS MUSICAL FOR CHILDREN

BY LEE DENGLER AND SUSAN NAUS DENGLER

Joy Gift Program

Sunday, December 13 during Worship

Youth Club Children will be presenting *The Inn Crowd* on Sunday, December 13 during worship at 11:00 am. Through word, song and movement, these children will create a sense of wonder and joy as we move through the Advent season. Come see each child in their finest hour as they tell the story of Jesus' birth. Plan to stay for the Joy Gift Luncheon at noon and share a favorite covered dish with friends.

Christmas Joy Offering

Sunday, December 13

A gift to the Christmas Joy Offering helps provide financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families and also enables deserving students to attend Presbyterian-related racial ethnic colleges and schools.



CHRISTMAS JOY LUNCHEON

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

FOLLOWING WORSHIP IN THE GYM

The congregation is invited to bring their favorite covered dishes to share.

We will enjoy this meal together.

2016 Children's Art Calendar



Give the gift of *art* this holiday season to your family, teacher, friends and neighbors and help a neighbor in need. The Trusty Travelers have created these lovely works of art as they have focused on *Deepening Community through Grace & Gratitude* each Wednesday.

\$ 8.00 each

**Proceeds will support our neighbor, Laura,
in Montaña de Luz**

**On sale in the pit stop Sunday, December 13 & 20
and Wednesday, January 7 (at the First Family Epiphany Dinner)**



ENGAGE CAFÉ at 9:30 a.m.

ENGAGE Groups begin at 9:45 a.m.

Sundays, December 6, 13, & 20

ENGAGE! TOPICS

Old Testament Location: Session Room

Utilizing a video series developed by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, a Jewish scholar who teaches at Vanderbilt University, Bill Jolly and Larry Sitton will lead this class. Levine presents a commentary on the origins, meanings, and interpretations of the stories in the Old Testament, in a thought-provoking and stimulating way. Interesting class discussion will follow.

Wired Word Discussion Group Location: Classroom 2

Patrick Currie and Debby Johnston will lead this group which bring scripture to bear on the life of the world.

Experiencing Advent through the Words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer

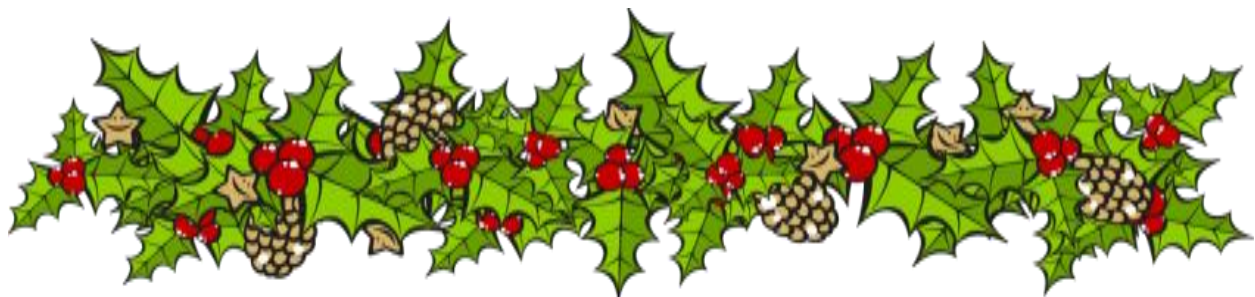
Location: Parlor

Matt Drumheller will be leading a daily reflection class based on the book *God in the Manger*. This is a book of daily devotions for the Advent season based on Dietrich Bonhoeffer's reflections and sermons. Take this opportunity to read Bonhoeffer's compelling reflections...the writings of one of the most influential modern theologians, as well as one of our most inspirational models of faith.

Finishing Well: Caregiving, Medical, Legal, & Faith Issues in Later Years

Location: Old Session Room

Elizabeth and others will lead this class which will tackle such issues as funeral planning, long-term care options, legal documents relating to finances and medical care. Come for conversation and to share your experiences. Guest speakers will include Patrick & Lisa Currie, Dr. Lenny Saltzman, and someone from the Senior Center.



26TH Annual Community Christmas Dinner

Friday, December 25 at First Presbyterian Church

Our food and volunteer sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the Pit Stop. If you sign-up for Dressing or Sweet Potato Casserole we will provide the aluminum pan and lid. This year all six churches are purchasing the non-perishable items (canned vegetables; potatoes; gravy; rolls and tea) in bulk. We will be accepting monetary donations toward our church's portion of this total amount. If you would like to make such a donation, please indicate on your check Community Christmas.

Additional volunteers will be needed to assist before Christmas Day. If you would like to help and will not be available on Christmas Day, please let Mary, Sandy or Martha Sue know.

Coordinators for this event are:

Martha Sue Hall (704-985-5821 or hallmsh@hotmail.com)
Mary Kesselman (704-982-6754 or manapier@msn.com)
Sandy Saunders (704-982-3845 or swsaunders63@gmail.com)

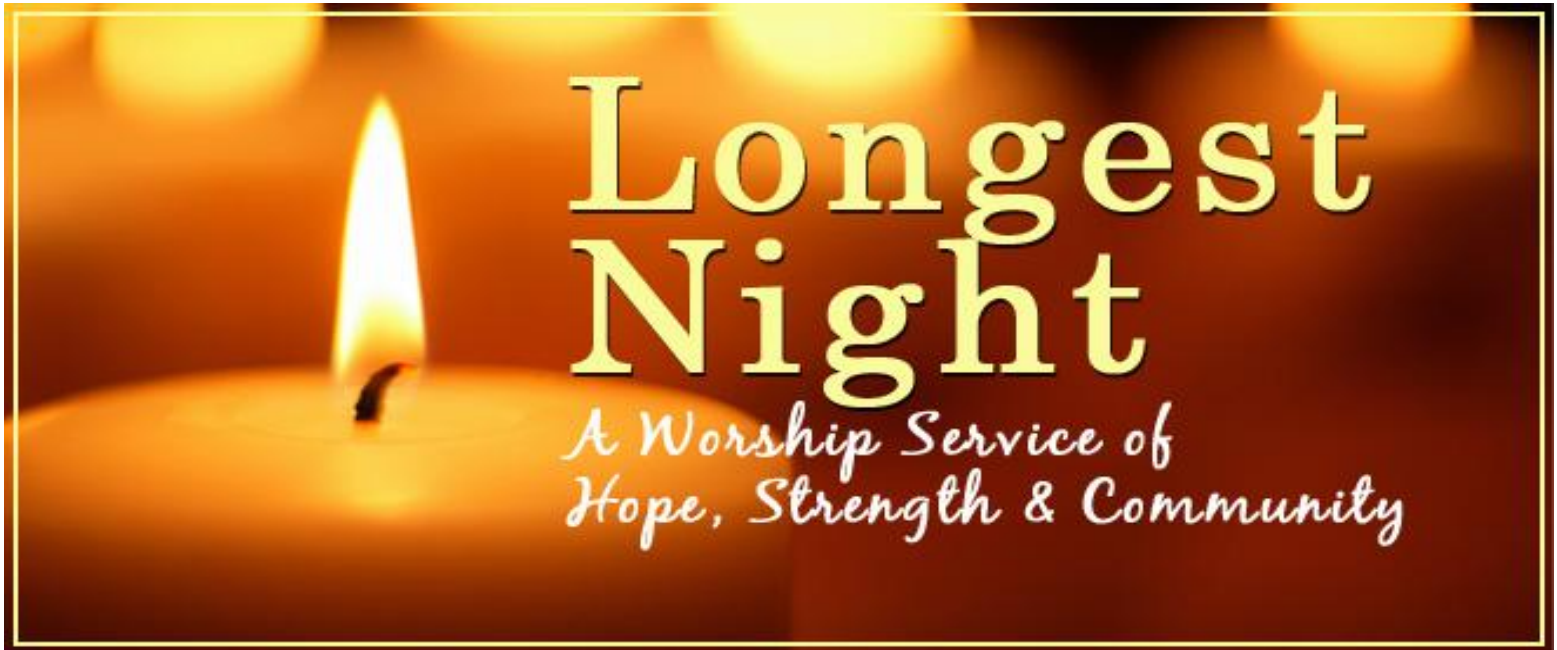


Support SNL's
Christmas Kitchen
Sunday, December 6
before and after worship
in the Pit Stop

SNL needs volunteers to make their favorite casseroles, soups, BBQ, cookies, cakes, coffee cakes, candies, & pies to be sold at the *Christmas Kitchen* on December 6.
Make ahead & freeze if you like!

SNL also needs hungry members of the congregation to shop at the *Christmas Kitchen* on December 6.
Stock your freezer with holiday food from the great cooks at First Presbyterian & support our youth!

Call Liz Jolly (704-699-6699) or Jane Boone (704-604-3836)
to let us know what delectable dish you can donate!



Service for the Longest Night
Sunday December 13
4:00 p.m. in the Chapel

On December 13 at 4:00 p.m., First Presbyterian Church is going to have a Service for the Longest Night. While the Christmas season is primarily a joyful time, it can also be a difficult reminder of the losses we have experienced. For some people, the absence of loved ones or the reminder of other losses can be painful. This is a service of healing and wholeness designed to acknowledge the complex array of emotions of the Christmas season. We seek to give voice to the pain as well as to the joy of Christmas. Please join us in the chapel for this contemplative, reverent service and afterwards for cider and cookies.

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 6

Second Sunday of Advent

SNL Christmas Kitchen in the gym

Alternative Gifts available in the pit stop

Ten-Cents-A-Meal

- 9:00 am Breakfast Bunch
- 9:30 am ENGAGE Café (pit stop)
- 9:45 am *Sunday School/ENGAGE! Topics
- 11:00 am *Worship

Monday, December 7

- 6:00 pm Circle #5 meets at the home of
Gloria Bryson (811 Smith St., Albemarle)
- 8:30 pm Sr. High Bible Study at Elizabeth's

Tuesday, December 8

- 6:00 pm *Contemplative Worship (Chapel)

Wednesday, December 9

- 6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 12:00 pm Community Advent Service at Christ Episcopal Church
(428 Pee Dee Ave.)
- 3:15 pm-5:00 pm Youth Cubs
- 3:15 pm-5:00 pm Youth Club
- 5:30 pm Stewardship Committee (Old Session Room)
- 7:00 pm *Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 8:30 pm Pick-up Basketball

Thursday, December 10

- 9:30 am *Pray & Play
- 10:00 am Staff Meeting

Saturday, December 12

- 11:00 am-12:30 pm JOY Program Rehearsal

Sunday, December 13

Third Sunday of Advent

JOY Program

JOY Offering

JOY Luncheon

Trusty Travelers' Youth Club Fundraiser available in the pit stop

Alternative Gifts available in the pit stop

Faith Explorers' outing to Shrek the Musical

- 8:45 am *Diaconate
- 9:30 am ENGAGE Café (pit stop)
- 9:45 am JOY Program Rehearsal in the sanctuary
- 9:45 am *Sunday School/ENGAGE! Topics
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 12:00 pm JOY Luncheon (Gym)
- 4:00 pm Longest Night Service (Chapel)
- 5:00 pm-7:30 pm SNL (Gym)
- 5:30 pm Worship Committee
- 6:30 pm *Session (Pit Stop)

***childcare provided**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

DECEMBER

- 06-Glenn Miller
- 08-Pam Morgan
Hannah Smith
Hope Wolf
- 09-Lee Deese
- 10-Terry Morgan
Bill Pickler
Seth Richards
- 11-Cam Rogers
Mackenzie Smet
- 13-Tom Norwood

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

DECEMBER

- 10-Terry & Pam Morgan

**SCCM Food Challenge for:
December:
Canned Beans & Dried Beans**