



The Weekly Bulletin
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Albemarle, North Carolina

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Matt Drumheller, Associate Pastor

Frank Poolos, Director of Vocal and Handbell Music

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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

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Wilbur Held

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.

People: The night is far gone, the day is near.

All: Let us worship God with great anticipation.

*CHORAL INTROIT

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Picardy

*PRAYER OF THE DAY 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.

*HYMN 83

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Stuttgart

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Silence

Unison

God of tenderness and love, breathe your grace into our lives. Forgive our wandering ways, and guide us along your paths of peace. When we lose our way, and forget the one for whom we wait, lead us back to you. Carry us up to that high mountain of faith and hope, that we may proclaim with conviction: *Here is our God!*

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: 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!**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Debby & Bob Johnston
Lisa, Taylor, & Colette Johnston

Leader: Why did Christ come?

People: He came down that we may have hope.

Leader: Why did Christ come?

People: He came down that we may have peace.

Leader: Why did Christ come?

People: He came down that we may have joy.

Leader: Why did Christ come?

People: He came down that we may have love.

Leader: Why did Christ come?

People: Christ came down that we may be forgiven and free.

Leader: Today we light the candle of hope, trusting in the one who sent the child to be born in a manger.

RESPONSE TO THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

He came down that we may have hope; he came down that we may have hope;

he came down that we may have hope; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Presentation

Renunciation and Affirmation

*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.

Thanksgiving Over the Water

The Baptism

Introduction to the Congregation

Anthem

Feed My Lambs

Natalie Sleeth

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Speak to us, Lord. Speak to us in the waiting, the watching, the hoping, and the longing. Speak to us through your Word in these Advent days, and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

Pew Bible, page 594

ANTHEM

Emmanuel

Carl J. Nygard

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, O come, great Lord of might, as to your tribes on Sinai's height.
In ancient times gave the law, in cloud, and majesty, and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

A day shall come when all humankind, with opened ears and eyes no longer blind,
And hearts renewed in grace from above shall come to thee in faith, hope, and love.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

SERMON

How Should We Prepare?

Mrs. Ayscue

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Jacob Palmer

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Johannes Brahms

*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

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Anthem

Lamb of God from 'The Sewanee Service'

Malcolm Archer

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*HYMN 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Truro

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

From Heaven on High to Earth I Come

Von Himmel hoch

*POSTLUDE

From Heaven on High to Earth I Come

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 Duncan Bryson. After extinguishing the Christ candle, the acolyte takes the light of Jesus Christ out into the world.

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

Colette Lee Johnston, daughter of Lisa and Taylor Johnston, will receive the Sacrament of Baptism today. Elders assisting in the baptism are Colette's grandparents, Debby and Bob Johnston.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is available to all those who trust in Jesus Christ. The elements will be served by intinction. Gluten-free elements are available from the elders at the front of the sanctuary.

There will be no Children's Church today. School age children are encouraged to remain in worship and to participate in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Nursery care is provided.

Ushers: John Howell, captain; Brad Boone, Lee Boone, Bill Hall, Robin Howell, Adam Jolly, Jack Morton, Penny Morton, and Ellen Snyder **Elder Greeters:** Mary Kesselman; Lee McManus **Nursery:** Jana Sanderson **Toddler Room:** Cora Harrison **Preschool Partners:** Leah Beamon; Rose Saltzman **Nana & Papa Team:** Teresa Taylor; Shirley Welch **No Children's Church**

We ask that you keep these people in your prayers: The family of Joan Belsan, Lindsey Harward, Elliott Efird (granddaughter of Gayle & Ned Russell; recovering from RSV), Sally Grantier, Pam Medlin (cousin of Janice Abernathy; multiple health concerns), Mike Dearstyne (brother of Holly Norwood, Peripheral Neuropathy), Katie & Roy Dearstyne (parents of Holly Norwood). **See newsletter for complete list.**

!!! EXTENDED DATE !!!

Please return Angel Tree gifts on Sunday, December 4.


If you have not already done so, please return your 2017 pledge card as soon as possible. The Stewardship Committee needs all commitments in order to formulate the 2017 budget. Thank you.

Community Table on Saturday, December 3

First Presbyterian Church will host the Saturday lunch at the Community Table on Saturday, December 3. Volunteers are needed to prepare food ahead of time and to help serve and clean-up on December 5. For more information, contact Linda Anderson (704-982-3723) or refer to the Mission Bulletin Board in the pit stop area.



Alternative Christmas Gifts

 On November 27 and December 4, 11, and 18, 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. Agencies sponsored this year are: The Community Care Clinic, Esther House, Homes of Hope, and Montaña de Luz. For each purchase, you will receive one of several holiday-themed acknowledgement cards that were designed by artist Leslie Carter.

MWANDI MISSION INTEREST MEETING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

AT 12:00 P.M. IN THE PARLOR

Come to the parlor following worship to hear about plans for a possible return trip to the Mwandu Mission in April 2017. No commitments required at this time.



Support the Youth Ministry

Christmas Kitchen

on Sunday, December 4

Before and After Worship in the Pit Stop

The Youth Ministry needs volunteers to make their favorite casseroles, soups, BBQ, cookies, cakes, coffee cakes, candies, and pies to be sold at the **Christmas Kitchen** on December 4. Make ahead & freeze if you like!

The Youth Ministry also needs hungry members of the congregation to shop at the **Christmas Kitchen** on December 4. Stock your freezer with holiday food from the great cooks at First Presbyterian & support our youth!

Call Leah Beamon (704-438-5083) or

Rose Saltzman (704-322-8344)

to let us know what delectable dish you can donate!

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, November 27

Plan to share in the expectation of the season.

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship including –
Lighting the candle of hope on the Advent wreath
The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Noon Luncheon prepared and served by Session.
On the menu...
Chili (vegetarian & meat), Potato Soup, Chicken Noodle Soup, Cornbread, Dessert

Soon After Lunch Decorating the Chrismon Tree
Advent for Kids... Advent for Kids... Activities include: painting a candle holder, creating an Advent Banner, decorating cookies & making cards for the Community Christmas Dinner.



Opportunities for Growth & Reflection during Advent

Mondays Begins November 28	12:15 p.m.-1:15 p.m.	Study: A Season of Anticipation & Hope. We’ll focus on gospel themes; bring your lunch.
Tuesdays Begins November 29	6:00 p.m.	Contemplative Worship in the Chapel. Worship will last for 30 minutes & will include the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper.
Wednesdays Begins November 30	Noon	Community Worship at Christ Episcopal Church. Lunch follows. Preacher: Rev. Louise Hilbert Interim Pastor of First Lutheran

COLORING GOD'S WORD

This Christmas, surprise your teachers, grandparents, neighbors, or friends with a coloring book filled with lovely, scripture-based pages. Each Faith Explorer has created an original coloring page, based on a favorite scripture, to create this collection.

\$5.00 each

Pair that with a recycled wood pencil holder, complete with 8 pencils, and you have the perfect gift to encourage relaxation.

\$5.00 each

Coloring is for all ages...so switch off from the everyday stresses and enjoy some soothing, unplugged time alone with the word of God.

On sale in the pit stop on Sundays, December 4 & 11 and Wednesday, December 7 at the First Family Dinner.

Proceeds benefit Montana de Luz, Honduras.

*First Presbyterian Church presents the Winter Art Exhibit
featuring works by the late E. Hendry Morris
(mother & grandmother of the First Oak Studio artisans,
Leslie Carter, Olivia Keirstead, Benjamin Riddle, and J. Harrison Carter, II)
Opening Sunday, December 4*

Growing up, Erne' Hendry Morris was inspired by her father and grandfather to appreciate the marvels of nature and God's creation. This exhibit will take a retrospective look at those and other influences, techniques, and changing styles of her work over the decades of her artful journey. Limited edition prints of Morris' work will be available for a donation to the First Presbyterian Church Alternative Gifts program.

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 \$20.00 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 12. A complete list will appear in the bulletin on Sunday, December 18.

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.



Class Location: Basement, Classroom 2

(A new name and focus for a continuing Sunday School class.)

Adults of all ages are welcome any Sunday to join this laid back group. We use a variety of materials to begin discussions about our faith and how faith speaks to life. Discussion materials will be available ahead of time; however, preparation is not required. Folks are encouraged to come and listen as we share the journey of faith.

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**JOY Gift Program
&
Covered Dish Luncheon
Sunday, December 11 at 11:00 a.m. worship**

!!! IMPORTANT !!!

Community Christmas Dinner

Sunday, December 25 at First Presbyterian Church

We are well on the way to hosting the 27th Annual Community Christmas Dinner at First Presbyterian Church. Thanks to each of the following Committee Chairpersons who are working hard in their area of responsibility:



<u>Committees</u>	<u>Committee Chair(s)</u>
Children's Activities	Rebekah Ayscue
Clean-Up	Debbie Wainwright
Dining Room Management	Hugh and Debbie Wainwright
Food	Hugh Wainwright
Food Receiving	Jim Hesley
Logistics	Lee Snuggs
Publicity	John & Anne Montgomery
Set-Up	Lee Snuggs
Table Decorations	Ann Snuggs
Take-Out	Skeet Ayscue
Volunteers	Jim Carter and Lori Ivey

Check the bulletin board for food and volunteer sign-up opportunities. We are looking forward to food, fun, fellowship and celebration on Christmas Day. Come out and bring your family...you will be blessed by the sharing of the season!

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)



Shepherd's Joy: A Christmas Collage will be presented on Sunday, December 4 at 3:00 p.m. and Monday, December 5 at 7:30 p.m., both times at the First Presbyterian Church in Albemarle. The program will be directed by Michelle Williams-Gonzales and accompanied by Zoey Brouters. Please mark your calendars and join us! We would love to see you there!

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 27

First Sunday of Advent/No Children's Church/Alternative Gifts Available in the Pit Stop/Hanging of the Christmas Greenery

- 9:45 am *Sunday School
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 12:00 pm Hanging of the Christmas Greenery & Chili Luncheon
Advent for Kids

Monday, November 28

- 12:15 pm Advent Study (Old Session Room)
- 8:00 pm-9:00 pm Lectionary Bible Study at Off the Square
- 8:30 pm High School Bible Study at Elizabeth's

Tuesday, November 29

- 6:00 pm Contemplative Advent Worship (Chapel)
- 7:00 pm Planned Giving Task Force (Old Session Room)

Wednesday, November 30

- 6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 12:00 pm Community Advent Worship at Christ Episcopal Church
(428 Pee Dee Ave.)
- 3:15 pm-5:15 pm Youth Cubs/Youth Club
- 7:00 pm *Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 1

- 9:30 am *Pray & Play
- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
- 12:00 pm Young Adult Lunch at Ly Cuisine
- 1:00 pm Technology Committee

Saturday, December 3

Community Table

Sunday, December 4

*Second Sunday of Advent/Ten-Cents-A-Meal/Alternative Gifts available in the pit stop/
Youth Ministry Christmas Kitchen Before & After Worship in the Pit Stop/
Faith Explorers Sell Coloring Book/Art Gallery Opening/ Return Angel Tree Gifts*

- 9:00 am *Breakfast Bunch
- 9:45 am *Sunday School
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 12:00 pm Mission Committee (Session Room)
- 12:00 pm Mwandu Mission Interest Meeting (Parlor)
- 3:00 pm Stanly County Chorale Concert at First Presbyterian
- 5:00 pm-7:00 pm Youth Connection at the Moeller's

***childcare provided**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

NOVEMBER

- 27-Charles McLaurin
- 28-Shirley Welch
- 29-Janice Abernathy
Matt Drumheller
- 30-Bill Hall
Diane Stevenson

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

NOVEMBER

- 27-George & Judith Gilbreath
- 29-Skeet & Elizabeth Ayscue

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

DECEMBER

- 01-Steve Cumming
Ruth Goodwin

- 02-Taylor Jolly
Don Stewart
Lynn White

- 04-Kate Gibson

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

DECEMBER

- 04-Jack & Penny Morton

SCCM NEED FOR

NOVEMBER:

Jelly

SCCM NEED FOR

DECEMBER:

Canned Beans & Dried Beans

2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for 2017 are available for pick up in the office area. PLEASE help us save on postage by picking up your envelopes. If you do not find your envelopes, please contact the church office so we can assist you.

NOTE: Envelope numbers change each year.

Remember...DO NOT USE these envelopes until January 2017.

If you have a bank draft and the bank has been instructed to put your envelope number on your check, be sure to update the bank with your new envelope number.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office at (704-982-2722).