



The Weekly Bulletin
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Albemarle, North Carolina

Matt Drumheller, Pastor

Church Office: (704) 982-2722

Website: www.fpcalbemarle.org

December 13, 2020

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

MORNING MEDITATION

The joy that I have the world didn't give to me. The world didn't give it to me and the world can't take it away.

This Joy I Have
by Shirley Caesar

PRELUDE

Joy to the World

arr. Sandra Ethun

Handbell Ensemble:

Ann Crutchfield, Wiley Crutchfield, Martha Sue Hall,
Courtney Niederer, Natalie Niederer, and Beth Poolos

Piano: Frank Poolos

PEALING OF THE BELLS

OPENING SENTENCES

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me.

Because the Lord has anointed me.

Isaiah 61:1

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

CALL TO WORSHIP

Nathan Sanges, liturgist

Luke 1:46-50

Our souls magnify the Lord!

Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

The mighty One has done great things for us!

Holy is God's name!

Let us worship God.

For God is our Maker and our Redeemer.

HYMN 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Truro

First Presbyterian Church
Worship Archive
December 3, 2017

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.

Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Silence

Merciful God, with a sky full of stars and a world full of flowers, there should be no end to joy. And yet, instead of decorating our very being with joy, we let it slip away like loose change. Instead of singing like Mary, or dancing like David, we pass by remarkable beauty and live most days unfazed. Lord, in your mercy, forgive us.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe the good news.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS *Raise a Song of Gladness* Jubilate Deo

CANDLELIGHTING

Mary Lane and Craig Minkler

Hymn 107 *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* Rejoice, Rejoice

Andy Cotton, Baritone

Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.

Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! the Child of our longing.

Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,

He opens wide the heavenly door and lives now inside us forever.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

At the conclusion of Faith Sharing with Children, children in grades K-2nd are encouraged to join Emily Andrew for Children's Church via Zoom. The link for the Zoom call can be found in yesterday's worship email.

ANTHEM

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

John Carter

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art:
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING [*Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11*](#) and [*Luke 1:46-55*](#)

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Those Who Dream Sow Joy

Reverend Matt Drumheller

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world. Amen.

On the third Sunday of Advent, the acolyte lights the candle of joy. Today's acolyte is Elizabeth Bryson.

First Presbyterian Church
Worship Archive
December 2, 2018

Sermons are posted on the church's website (www.fpcalbemarle.org). You can usually find the previous Sunday's sermon by Wednesday.

This is an excerpt from the Confession of 1967. The confession focuses on God's reconciling power. This excerpt focuses on the birth of Jesus Christ as the ultimate expression of God's reconciliation.

HYMN

Tell Out My Soul
Ann Crutchfield, Soprano

Woodlands

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of his Word;
In God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of his Word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and forevermore!**

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PASTORAL PRAYER 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

Invitation

Offertory *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* Paul Manz

Prayer of Dedication

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Joahnn Sebastian Bach

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

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.

First Presbyterian Church
Worship Archive
December 2, 2018

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Thank you to James Cotton and Wiley Crutchfield for helping to create this morning's video. Thank you to Andy Cotton, Ann Crutchfield, Mary Lane, Craig Minkler, Nathan Sanges, and the Handbell Ensemble for participating in worship this morning.

Liturgy in this worship service adapted from prayers by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

The acolyte today is Elizabeth Bryson.

We ask that you keep these people in your prayers: The family of Cathryn Harwood (wife of Claude Harwood), the family of Yoder Whitley (father of Laura Beth Marks and Amy Whitley), The family of Betty Michael (mother of Ronnie Michael), Lindsey (Whitley) Harward (Myeloid Lukemia; admitted to Medical University of South Carolina-Charleston), Dick Liles, Ann Hatcher (mother of Ann Snuggs; recovering from fall), Gus Feather, Judy Ross (diagnosis of pancreatic cancer; friend of Tom & Holly Norwood), Bede Karr, Sandy Saunders, Ann Upchurch, Jean Rabe, Jane Scheer, Don Joines, Jane Pickler. See newsletter for complete list.

In an effort to keep the newsletter prayer list updated, we would appreciate your help. Please notify the church office (704-982-2722 or pknighnten@fpcalbemarle.org) or Martha Sue Hall (704-985-5821 or hallmsh@hotmail.com) of changes. Thank you.

Please stop by the church and sign a hymnal for Marlene and Bruce Mittendorf. They have moved to Cary. Call the church office before you to come to make sure someone is in the building (704-982-2722).

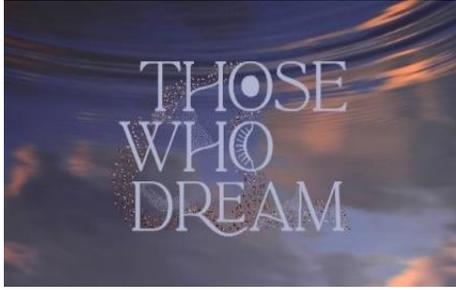
A memoriam has been made in memory of Campbell Whitenack Rogers to the Minister's Discretionary Fund by Marsh and Shannon Rogers and Katie Taylor.

In lieu of poinsettias in the sanctuary this year due to COVID-19, please consider a memorial or contribution to the Alternative Gift program this season.

All staff members are working at home whenever possible to limit the risk of COVID exposure. While there is often someone present at the church, the building will be open sporadically. If you need to come by the church, please call first to make sure the building is open. The church's answering machine is being checked periodically; however, in case of an emergency, please contact Matt (540.449.5319) directly.

IN MEMORIAM

Cathryn Caulder Harwood
February 29, 1936 – December 3, 2020



Advent Drive-Thru Sundays following Worship

Fellowship Drive-Thru

After worship each Sunday (whether online or in person) you are invited to hop in your car and come drive thru the parking lot. You'll receive sweet treats and a chance to see some familiar faces. Also, you will have the opportunity to participate in our Alternative Gifts program, our Christmas Kitchen, and more.

Advent Music

You will have an opportunity to enjoy some of your favorite Advent music this season. On several days in December, Stan and some friends will be playing live music in the sanctuary. Contact the church office (704-982-2722) to sign-up for a 30-minute time slot. This will be a masked and socially distanced event with limited attendance. Dates/Times are: **Sunday, December 13 at 4:00 p.m.; Tuesday, December 15 at 10:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.; Thursday, December 17 at 10:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.**

2021 Offering Envelopes

The 2021 offering envelopes can be picked up on Sunday mornings following worship at the drive-thru or may be picked up at the church office on Monday mornings, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. Please call the office (704-982-2722) to make sure someone is there before you come.

Alternative Christmas Gifts Available thru Sunday, December 20



Alternative Gifts will be available at the Advent Drive-Thru through Sunday, December 20. Also, you may purchase Alternative Gifts in the church office (please call 704-982-2722 to make sure staff is available to serve you). Sandy Rogers and Sandy Saunders are available to deliver your Alternative Gift order(s). A minimum donation of \$10.00 per card is requested. The charities benefitting are: The Community Care Clinic, Homes of Hope/The Community Inn, Stanly

Community Christian Ministry (SCCM), and the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). **In lieu of poinsettias in the church sanctuary, please consider giving an Alternative Gift.**

Online Community Advent Devotionals ...We are unable to gather each week during Advent on Wednesday at Christ Episcopal Church. In lieu of our tradition of ecumenical worship services and lunch during Advent, pastors from local churches are going to create video devotionals each week. These will be posted on our YouTube account and our Facebook page.



College Student Drive-Thru Take-Out Brunch Thursday, December 17 at 10:30 a.m.

We invite our college students to come drive-thru the church parking lot and pick-up a delicious brunch! The Congregational Care Committee, along with Matt, will greet you with your take-out box! Please notify Matt (text or call 540-449-5319) that you will be coming.



**Christmas Kitchen Drive-Thru Event
Sunday, December 13 following worship**

On **Sunday, December 13 after worship**, you will be able to drive through the church parking lot and pick up your Christmas Kitchen items. If there are any items left over, those will be available for purchase as well. Please try to bring a check or correct change if possible.

Proceeds from the Christmas Kitchen go toward our youth program. Thank you for your support!

YEAR-END INFORMATION

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Beginning December 6, offering envelopes for 2021 will be available for pick up in the common area right outside the church office. If your child would like envelopes, please let Kyle Know. NOTE: Envelope number change EVERY year. Remember...**DO NOT USE** these envelopes until January of 2021. 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 new envelope number with your bank. If you have any questions, please contact Kyle at the church office, 704-982-2722.

FINANCIAL YEAR END CLOSING

The church office will be closed December 23 through December 28. If you need any financial information, you can leave a message and name and number on the answering machine. The machine will be checked on Monday, Dec. 28 and someone will get back with you. There are four Sundays in December in which to pay up your 2020 pledge by December 31, 2020. The financial books will close on Thursday, December 31, 2020 at noon. Any contributions made after that time will be carried over to 2021. **IMPORTANT:** Due to the uncertainty of mail delivery during the holiday season the office suggests you mail your contribution no later than December 15. The mailing address is 126 W. North Street, PO Box 1578, Albemarle, NC 28002. If you are transferring stock, please do so by December 16 and be sure to notify Kyle when the transfer has been made.

PLEDGE CARDS

If you have not yet turned in your 2021 pledge card, please do so immediately. It is important that our Stewardship Committee has the latest updated financial information to finalize the 2021 budget. If you need a pledge card, please let Kyle know.

This week's worship video will become available at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. To access the worship video, go to the church's website (www.fpcalbemarle.org) and click on the worship banner or search for the church on *YouTube* and click on the appropriate video.



**DRIVE-THRU COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER
AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH (202 N. 2ND STREET, ALBEMARLE)
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25 FROM 11:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M. OR
UNTIL ALL BOXED MEALS ARE GONE**

For a successful Community Christmas Dinner to happen, each downtown church is responsible for \$450.00 and Christmas Cards. Please help us meet this goal by giving generously to the Community Christmas Dinner (in the memo of your check designate *Community Christmas Dinner*).

*****UPDATE*****

The Albemarle Sweet Shop is donating all cakes needed for the Community Christmas Dinner, therefore, we are not requesting cakes from the downtown church community.

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



Christmas Eve Worship Opportunities

Thursday, December 24

Christmas Eve at the Badin Road Drive-In at 5:30 p.m.

We are hoping to have a viewing of the Christmas Eve worship service at the Badin Road Drive-In on Christmas Eve at 5:30 p.m. If you would like to participate, please sign-up online using the link emailed to you on Friday. If we have a critical mass of people signed up, we'll gather on Christmas Eve in our cars for a socially distant, in car celebration of the birth of Jesus!

Thursday, December 24

Christmas Eve Online Worship at 5:30 p.m.

Our online Christmas Eve worship service will premiere on YouTube at 5:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Tune in to celebrate the fulfillment of God's promises in the birth of Jesus Christ, Immanuel. We will worship with the familiar sounds of the season: music (including a string quartet), scripture, and prayer. Let us celebrate the birth of Christ!

Christmas Joy Offering

Sunday, December 13

Please give generously to the Joy Offering to support these important programs. Ways to give during COVID19:

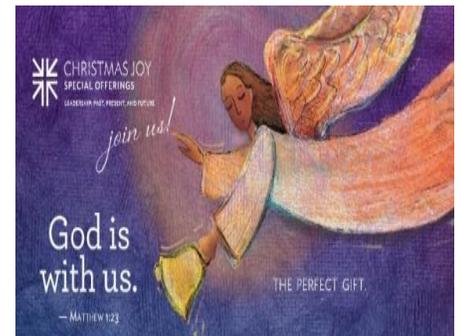
1. **Write a check (in the memo designate Christmas Joy Offering) and mail to:**

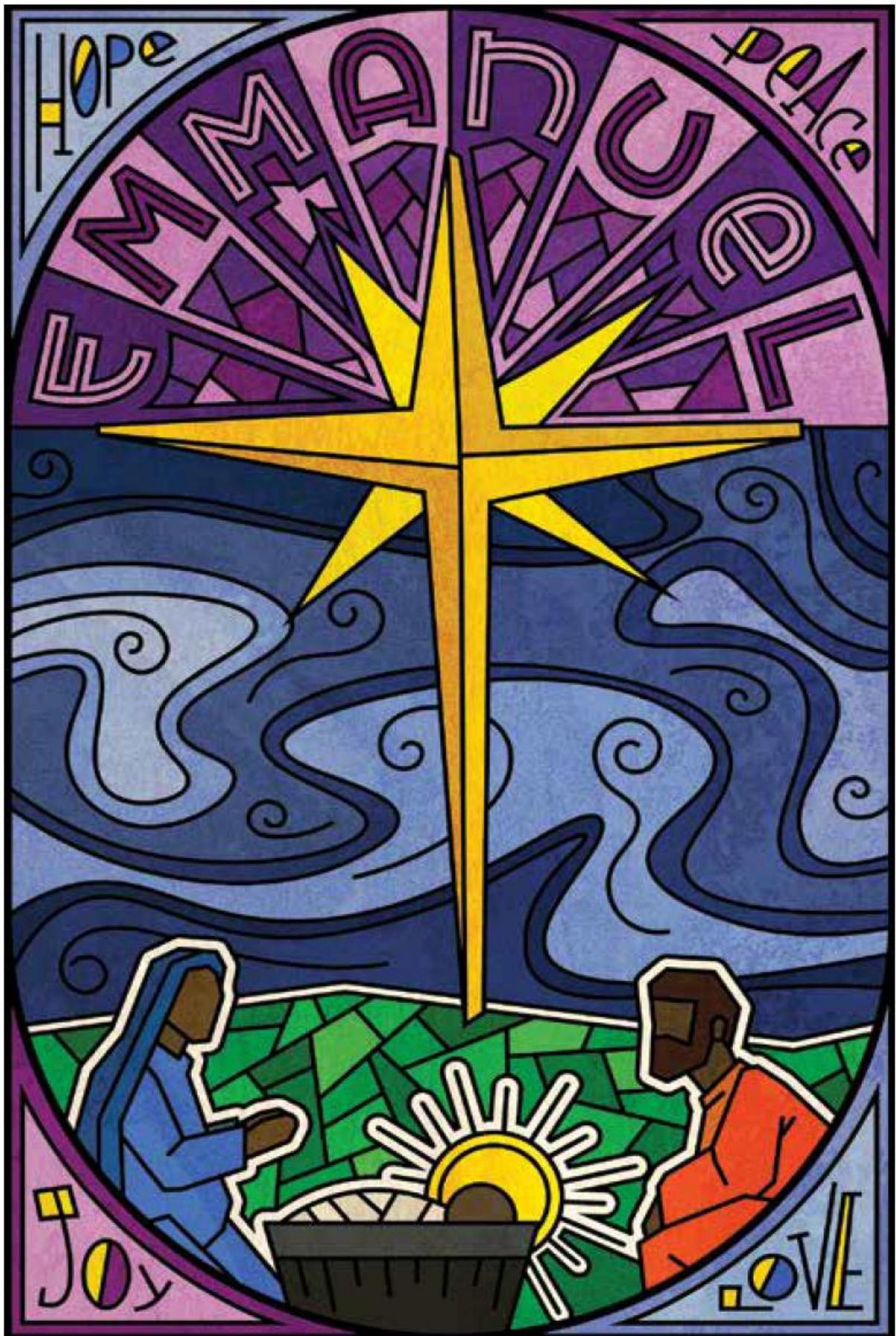
**First Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 1578
Albemarle, NC 28002**

2. **Donate online at <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/christmas-joy/> and press "GIVE NOW" at the top right of the webpage.**

The family of Lindsey (Whitley) Harward is requesting Christmas cards to be sent to Lindsey to decorate her hospital room for the holiday season. Please mail cards to:

MUSC (Medical University of South Carolina)
Lindsey S. Harward
ART 7 - Hope Unit, Room 7019
25 Courtenay Drive
Charleston, SC 29425





CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

THE PERFECT GIFT

God saw the great needs of the world and offered a perfect gift, Jesus Christ. In Jesus, we receive the perfect gift of God being with us, and of being with those in need—the gift of being together when we are near, and being together when we are apart.

When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, we share our love with the leaders of our Church — past, present and future.

50%

50% of your gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

50%

50% of your gifts provide assistance for current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs.

Please give generously.

IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.



“What the Board of Pensions does is really important to me and others like me, so that we can carry on with life even with our disabilities.”



Rev. Dr. Stewart M. Pattison is living with multiple sclerosis — as he has for years. Support from the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions made it possible for him to purchase a motorized scooter so he can have better mobility, a better quality of life — and enables him to continue to serve the church he loves. He is grateful for the help he has received thanks to gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering, and wants people to know that these gifts have “helped in ways that have opened up my life.”





CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

The Christmas Joy Offering reflects that God is with us, through the generous gifts that support church leaders among us, retired, present and future, who have pointed us to God. Even as we support our current and former church leaders through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, God is calling new leaders for our Church and world, through the ministry of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color — offering students the means for a brighter future and enhanced opportunities to use their talents and skills to serve God, the Church and the world for years to come.



WAYS TO GIVE



Through your congregation



Text JOY to 56512 to learn more or donate



Online at pcusa.org/christmasjoy



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission

The Christmas Joy Offering is one of four annual special offerings. The church-wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the 21st century, bringing together the diversity of the PC (USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Special Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and they profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 13

Third Sunday of Advent/Alternative Gifts/

Christmas Kitchen Drive-Thru Event/JOY Offering

- 9:00 am Diaconate Meeting via Zoom
- 9:45 am-10:30 am Adult Sunday School via Zoom
- 10:00 am Youth Group @ FPC for Christmas Kitchen
- 10:15 am Children Sunday School via Zoom
- 11:00 am Online Worship followed by
Christmas Kitchen Drive-Thru Event
- 4:00 pm Advent Music in the sanctuary
(by reservation only; masked & socially distanced)
- 5:00 pm Youth Group

Monday, December 14

- 10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 8:00 pm Monday Night Bible Study with Matt
- 8:30 pm High School Bible Study with Debby Johnston &
Jack Morton at the home of Debby & Bob Johnston (1212 Heritage Drive, Albemarle)

Tuesday, December 15

- 10:00 am Advent Music in the sanctuary (by reservation only; masked & socially distanced)
- 12:00 pm January Newsletter Deadline
- 5:30 pm Advent Music in the sanctuary (by reservation only; masked & socially distanced)
- 7:00 pm Youth Group Virtual Game Night

Wednesday, December 16

- 6:45 am Men's Prayer Breakfast Zoom Meeting
- 10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 10:30 am Staff Meeting
- 3:30 pm-4:00 pm Youth Club Trusty Travelers (K-3rd graders) via Zoom
- 4:00 pm-4:30 pm Youth Club Faith Explorers (4th & 5th graders) via Zoom

Thursday, December 17

- 10:00 am Advent Music in the sanctuary (by reservation only; masked & socially distanced)
- 10:30 am College Student Christmas Drive-Thru Take-Out Brunch (church parking lot)
- 5:30 pm Advent Music in the sanctuary (by reservation only; masked & socially distanced)

Sunday, December 20

Fourth Sunday of Advent/Chancel Choir Christmas Presentation

- 8:30 am Session Meeting via Zoom
- 9:45 am-10:30 am Adult Sunday School via Zoom
- 10:15 am Children & Youth Sunday School via Zoom
- 11:00 am Online Worship
- 7:00 pm Youth Group Christmas Party

**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!
DECEMBER**

13-Tom Norwood
16-Alison Whisnant
17-Rob McIntyre
18-Katie Carpenter
Mary Green
Katie Saltzman
20-Virginia Currie
Anna Henkenjohann
Morgan Smet

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!
DECEMBER**

15-Ronnie & Sarah Michael
Chris & Barbara Whitley

**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.**