



The Weekly Bulletin
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Albemarle, North Carolina

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December 8, 2019

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

MORNING MEDITATION

For the greatest, most profound, tenderest things in the world, we must wait. It happens not here in a storm, but according to the divine laws of sprouting, growing, and becoming.

PEALING OF THE BELLS

OPENING SENTENCES

A voice cries out in the wilderness:
Prepare the way of the Lord!

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rejoice in the Lord always;

Again I will say, Rejoice.

The world says, *Worry.*

And we say, Rejoice!

The world says, *Fear.*

And we say, Rejoice!

The worlds says, *Be happy.*

And the church says, Be faithful.

As we light our second Advent candle,

We pray for the holy peace of God.

Come now, O Child of Mary.

Come now, O Prince of Peace.

Hymn 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

stanza 2

**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.**

***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 104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Valet will ich dir geben

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Matthew 3:3

On the second Sunday
of Advent, the acolyte
lights the candle of
peace.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Silence

Advent God, you enter into our weary world to lift up the lowly, to fill the hungry, and to establish equity throughout the earth. Yet, like perplexed prophets and doubting disciples, we scarcely believe that you can mend this broken world. Expand our hearts, that we might see the extraordinary in our midst and embrace the everlasting joy you bring.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Friends, believe the good news.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS**

hymnal 107, stanza 1

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

**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

Reverend Drumheller

Children will be invited to come forward. At the conclusion of Faith Sharing with Children, parents may take preschool children to the nursery.

ANTHEM

Every Valley

John Ness Beck

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, our hope and strength, prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

[Isaiah 11:1-9](#)

Pew Bible, page 602

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHRISTMAS JOY PROGRAM

Youth Club Choir

O Come, Let Us Adore Him

(see bulletin insert)

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Jim Sawyer

TITHES AND OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory

Born in Bethlehem

Helmut Walcha

Doxology

Creator of the Stars of Night

hymnal 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.**

*Prayer of Dedication

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

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

*HYMN 106 *Prepare the Way, O Zion* Bereden väg för Herran

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL AND CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE hymnal 105, stanza 1
People, Look East

**People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Guest, is on the way.**

*POSTLUDE *Sleepers Wake, A Voice Is Calling* Johann Walther

*All that are able may stand.

We are grateful for your presence 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 Elizabeth Bryson. After extinguishing the Christ candle, the acolyte takes the light of Jesus Christ out into the world.

Ushers: Jack Morton, captain; Kyle Barbee, Taylor Barbee, John Earnhardt, Brent Lisk, Grant Lisk, Greg Lisk, Penny Morton, Jeff Robertson, and Kim Robertson **Outside Ushers:** Wes Eudy; Lee McManus **Elder Greeters:** Sandy Saunders; David Whitley **Nursery:** Kate White **Kids Care Crew:** Gayle & Ned Russell

We ask that you keep these people in your prayers: Sally Grantier, Katie Regner (pregnancy with triplets; daughter of Meg Connell Watson), Sean Hickey (brother-in-law of Lori Ivey; colon cancer), Jean Rabe (Trinity Place), Jane Scheer (Spring Arbor), Don Joines, Mark Mabry, Jane Pickler. **See newsletter for complete list.**

Angel Tree 2019

**Return Angel Tree gift to the church in a large bag by Sunday, December 8.
Questions? Contact Peggy Finley at 704-985-1136 or maf447 @windtstream.net.**

**ALTERNATIVE GIFTS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE PIT STOP
SUNDAYS DECEMBER 8 AND 15**

CARDS PREPARED BY ARTIST, LESLIE CARTER

**CHARITIES: THE COMMUNITY CARE CLINIC, HOMES OF HOPE/THE
COMMUNITY INN, STANLY COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN MINISTRY (SCCM),
PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (PDA)**



JOY PROGRAM AND COVERED DISH LUNCHEON ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8
Worship will be a lively telling of the Christmas story by the Youth Club children.
And then there's lunch...Bring a couple of your family's favorites to share at our covered dish luncheon.

**Winter Art Gallery Exhibition
Featuring Photography by Andy Cotton
Opens Sunday, December 8**

**COMMUNITY ADVENT WORSHIP
AT CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON WEDNESDAYS AT NOON BEGINNING DECEMBER 11
LUNCH WILL FOLLOW WORSHIP
PROCEEDS FROM LUNCH WILL BE DONATED TO THE ESTHER HOUSE**

Wednesday, December 11

Preaching: Rev. Jill Rhinehart, Pastor at Central United Methodist Church, Albemarle
Liturgist: Rev. Elizabeth McNair Ayscue, Co-Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Albemarle

First Presbyterian Church is responsible for packing backpacks of food for Central School on Wednesday, December 11. We desperately need the following: Cans of Tuna, Tuna Helper, Individual Packages of Goldfish, and Family-Sized Cans of Soup. If you can respond to this need, please do so by Tuesday, December 10. Thank you!

Longest Night Worship

Sunday, December 15 at 4:00 p.m. in the Chapel

While the Christmas season is primarily a joyful time, it can also be a difficult reminder of loss. This can be especially difficult for those who have lost a loved one over the past year. 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.



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 16.** A complete list will appear in the bulletin on Sunday, December 22.

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.

ANGELS VISIT WHEN WE SING
Presented by the Chancel Choir of First Presbyterian Church
Sunday, December 15 at the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received on Sunday, December 15. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you provide assistance to current and retired church workers in time of need and help develop future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

Support the Youth Group



Kitchen

Sunday, December 15
Before & After Worship
in the Pit Stop

2020 Offering Envelopes
Are Ready for Pick-Up!

Offering envelopes for 2020 are available for pick up in the common area outside the office. If you do not find your envelopes, please see Kyle in the church office. If your child would like envelopes, please let Kyle know. NOTE: Envelope numbers change each year. Remember...**DO NOT USE these envelopes until January 2020. 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 the church office at 704-982-2722.

College Student Fellowship & Brunch at Elizabeth's House
Thursday, December 19 at 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Whether you are just rolling out of bed (pjs are welcome) or heading out of town to shop, stop by Elizabeth's house (1611 Bellamy Circle) for a festive welcome home brunch. Matt and members of the College & Military Committee will be there to greet you!

Contact Elizabeth by: Text: 704-985-2945 or Email: eayscue@fpcalbemarle.org



Carol Singing... On December 19 at 7:00 p.m., you are invited to join us at Tiffany's at the Boardroom to celebrate the holiday season. We will sing carols together. Food and drink will be available for purchase. Come celebrate the season with joy and music!

New Information from the First Presbyterian Church Community Christmas Dinner Committee...

Community Christmas Dinner

Wednesday, December 25

First Baptist Church

For a delivered meal on Christmas, sign-up the name, address, and number of people at the home on the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board in the pit stop. You can also sign-up to volunteer or bake a cake. Monetary donations can be made to the Minister's Discretionary Fund.



O Come, Let Us Adore Him
by Marie Pooler

O Come, Let Us Adore Him

Who Comes to Bethlehem This Night?

Away in a Manger

Glory to God

We Have Seen a Babe, a Holy Child

Shining Star

Gifts of Love

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Narrators:

Zi'yonna Brown	Ellie Niederer
Nathaniel Eudy	Seth Richards
Leo McLeod	Holden Taylor

Soloist:

Ellie Niederer

Mary:

Emily Deese

Joseph:

Leo McLeod

Star:

Ashley Deese

Wise Men:

Maddox Jolly
Holden Taylor
Eston West

Shepherds:

Cooper Atwater	Kemarian Redfearn
Brayden Brown	Seth Richards
Nathaniel Eudy	Jake Whisnant

Angels:

Zi'yonna Brown	Jordan Hesley
Cidney Eudy	Ellie Niederer
Carter Gibson	Sophie Poplin
Leni Henkenjohann	Ke'zia Redfearn

Sheep:

Kennady Atwater
Emma Gibson

Donkeys:

Faith Brown
Marshall Jolly

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 8

Second Sunday of Advent/JOY Program & Luncheon/Angel Tree Gifts due in the Pit Stop/Alternative Gifts Available in the Pit Stop/SERRV items for sale in the Pit Stop/Opening of the Winter Art Gallery Exhibit...Andy Cotton, Photographer

- 8:45 am *Diaconate
- 9:45 am *Sunday School
- 11:00 am *Worship/JOY Program
- 12:00 pm JOY Luncheon (Covered Dish Meal)
- 12:00 pm-2:00 pm Faith Explorers' Lunch & Escape Room
- 12:30 pm Pop-Up Event-Cookie Decorating with Matt
- 5:00 pm-6:30 pm Youth Group (Middle School)
- 6:00 pm-7:30 pm Youth Group (High School)

Monday, December 9

- 8:00 pm Bible Study with Matt
- 8:30 pm High School Bible Study at Elizabeth's (1611 Bellamy Circle, Albemarle)

Tuesday, December 10

- 10:00 am Adult Bible Study

Wednesday, December 11

- 6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 10:30 am Backpack Food Program
- 12:00 pm Community Advent Service at Christ Episcopal (428 Pee Dee Ave., Albemarle)
- 4:00 pm-6:00 pm Youth Club at SK8City
- 4:00 pm-6:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary with the Piedmont Triad String Quartet

Thursday, December 12

- 10:30 am Staff Meeting

Sunday, December 15

Third Sunday of Advent/JOY Offering/Chancel Choir Presentation of Angels Visit When We Sing/Youth Sponsored Christmas Kitchen/Alternative Gifts Available in the Pit Stop

- 9:45 am *Sunday School
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 4:00 pm Longest Night Service (Chapel)
- 6:00 pm Youth Group Christmas Party at Little Tokyo (1446 Hwy 52 North, Albemarle)
- 6:30 pm Session Meeting – Examination of Officers

*childcare provided

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

DECEMBER

- 08-Pam Morgan
Robert McIntyre
Hope Wolf
- 10-Terry Morgan
Bill Pickler
Seth Richards
- 11-Cam Rogers
Mackenzie Smet
- 13-Tom Norwood

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

DECEMBER

- 10-Terry & Pam Morgan
- 15-Ronnie & Sarah Michael
Chris & Barbara Whitley

SCCM CHALLENGE FOR DECEMBER

Boxed Pasta Meals (Hamburger Helper)
Instant Potatoes
Stuffing Mix