



The Weekly Bulletin
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Albemarle, North Carolina

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December 15, 2019

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

MORNING MEDITATION

And that is the wonder of all wonders, that God loves the lowly. God is not ashamed of the lowliness of human beings. God is near to lowliness. God loves the lost, the neglected, the unseemly, the excluded, the weak and broken.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

PEALING OF THE BELLS

OPENING SENTENCES

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

Matthew 3:3

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

GATHERING SONGS

Hymn 610	<i>O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing</i>	stanzas 1 and 2
Hymn 83	<i>Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus</i>	stanzas 1 and 2

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

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

A choir sings in the silence,
O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Every valley shall be filled.

Every heart shall be made whole,

For peace is stronger than turmoil,

And love is louder than hate.

As we light our third Advent candle,

We pray for the abundant joy of God.

Come now, O Child of Mary.

Come now, O Prince of Joy.

Hymn 88	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i>	stanza 7
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On the third Sunday
of Advent, the
acolyte lights the
candle of joy.

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.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*HYMN 97	<i>Watchman, Tell Us of the Night</i>	Aberystwyth
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Luke 23:33-43

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Reverend Ayscue

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

Penny Morton

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

ANTHEM

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

John Carter

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

[Matthew 1:18-25](#)

Pew Bible, page 1

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

God Is With Us

Reverend 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.

***HYMN 94**

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

Jefferson

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.

This affirmation is excerpted from the Confession of 1967.

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.

TITHES AND OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Robert Lau

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

*HYMN 100 *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout* Star of the County Down

*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 *Come, Savior of the Nations* Johann Sebastian Bach

*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 Addison Marks. After extinguishing the advent wreath, the acolyte takes the light of Jesus Christ out into the world.

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.

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:** Lee Snuggs; Kyle Marks **Elder Greeters:** Sandy Saunders; David Whitley **Nursery:** Kate White **Kids Care Crew:** Dona & Greg Lisk **Children's Church:** Kristie Bryson; Elizabeth Bryson

We ask that you keep these people in your prayers: Carolyn Sharpe, 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.**

SCHEDULE CHANGE...
ANGELS VISIT WHEN WE SING
Presented by the Chancel Choir of First Presbyterian Church
Sunday, December 22 at the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

ALTERNATIVE GIFTS ARE AVAILABLE TODAY IN THE PIT STOP
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)

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.

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.



COMMUNITY ADVENT WORSHIP

AT CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY; NOON ON DECEMBER 18
LUNCH WILL FOLLOW WORSHIP WITH PROCEEDS TO THE ESTHER HOUSE

Worship Leaders are:

Reverend Ryan Clore and Reverend Jacob Waldrip, pastors at First Baptist Church

College Student Fellowship & Brunch at Elizabeth's House
(1611 Bellamy Circle, Albemarle)

Thursday, December 19 at 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Contact Elizabeth to say you're coming.

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

I'll be home for
CHRISTMAS



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 available for purchase. Come celebrate the season with joy and music!



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

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

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, sharing the light of Christ, and traditional carol singing.

Worship at 11:00 p.m.

This service includes leadership by older youth and college students, 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.

**Community Christmas Dinner
Wednesday, December 25 at First Baptist Church**

Sign-up on the Mission bulletin board in the pit stop to help with food and/or to volunteer.

**SANCTUARY POINSETTIAS & HOLIDAY GREENERY
\$20 per poinsettia. Any amount for 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.

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 15

Third Sunday of Advent/JOY Offering/

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

Monday, December 16

Deadline for Poinsettia Orders

8:00 pm Bible Study with Matt

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

Tuesday, December 17

12:00 pm January Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday, December 18

No Youth Club

6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast

12:00 pm Community Advent Service at Christ Episcopal (428 Pee Dee Ave., Albemarle)

4:00 pm Choir Rehearsal in the sanctuary with instrumentalists followed by a light supper in the Pit Stop

Thursday, December 19

10:00 am-11:30 am College Student Christmas Brunch at Elizabeth's (1611 Bellamy Circle, Albemarle)

Sunday, December 22

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Chancel Choir Presentation of Angels Visit When We Sing

9:45 am *Sunday School

11:00 am *Worship

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

DECEMBER

16-Alison Whisnant

17-Rob McIntyre

18-Katie Carpenter

Mary Green

Katie Saltzman

20-Virginia Currie

Anna Henkenjohann

Morgan Smet

21-Emily Andrew

22-Joe Snuggs

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

DECEMBER

15-Ronnie & Sarah Michael

Chris & Barbara Whitley

21-Gerald & Lynn Poplin

SCCM CHALLENGE FOR

DECEMBER

Boxed Pasta Meals (Hamburger Helper)

Instant Potatoes

Stuffing Mix

***childcare provided**

**Visit the
Winter Art Gallery Exhibition
featuring Photography by Andy Cotton**