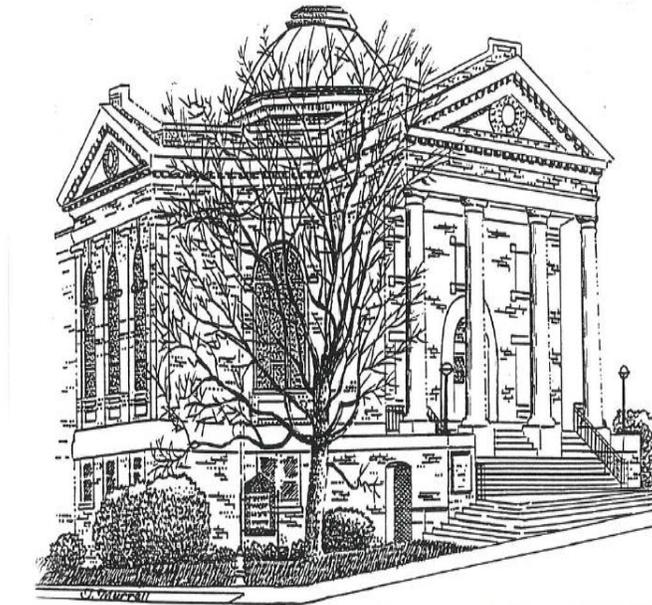


*First Presbyterian Church  
Albemarle, North Carolina*



*SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY*

*November 27, 2022*

*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent*

**GATHERING**

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Of the Father's Love “

Wilbur Held

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Jordan Hesley, acolyte

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. As the Lord has promised, in days to come, the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks;

**Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.** Let us walk in the light of the Lord. **Amen.**

Response:

“The Candle of Hope”

LYONS

(“O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!”)

*The candle of hope we light in this hour, proclaims that the Lord is coming in power.*

*We wait for a future, now hidden from view, when Christ in his glory will make all things new.*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 122

Heather Kilde, liturgist

I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord!”

**For the sake of my relatives and friends, I will say, “Peace be within you.”**

For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

**Our feet are standing with your gates, O Jerusalem. Peace be within your walls.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**The day is coming, O Lord, when people will say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, that you may teach us your ways and we may walk in your paths. As swords are beaten into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks, nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.” In anticipation of the shalom Christ brings to all people, we come now before your throne of grace to give you our praise and thanksgiving. Amen.**

**\*HYMN 82**

**“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”**

**HYFRYDOL**

*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 OF CONFESSION**

**God of the future, you are coming to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we have lived casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.**

*Silent Confession and Reflection*

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

**Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

*Those coming forward for Faith Sharing are invited to move to the chancel area during the Response.*

**\*RESPONSE 475**

**“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”**

**NETTLETON**

(stanza 3)

*O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let that grace now like a fetter bind my wandering heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.*

**THE WORD**

**FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN**

**Ann Crutchfield**

**ANTHEM**

**“Every Valley”**

**John Ness Beck**

*Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain made low, and the crooked made straight, and the rough places plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit, prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS**

[Isaiah 2:1-5](#); [Matthew 24:36-44](#)

pew Bible, pages 594, 26

**SERMON**

**“The Unexpected Hour”**

**Rev. George**

\*HYMN 104  
GEBEN

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

VALET WILL ICH DIR

*O Lord, how shall I meet you, How welcome you aright? Your people long to greet you, my Hope, my heart's delight!  
O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast, to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.*

*Love caused your incarnation, love brought You down to me; your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.  
O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace in love all loves excelling our lost and fallen race.*

*You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill, to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.  
In patient expectation we live for that great day when your renewed creation your glory shall display.*

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From the *Confession of 1967*

**In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all. The risen Christ is the Savior of all humanity. Those joined to him by faith are set right with God and commissioned to serve as his reconciling community. God reveals his love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinners. The power of God's love to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of his love. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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.**

RECEIVING OF THE OFFERING

Offertory

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Paul Manz

\*Response 675

“All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night”  
(stanza 4)

TALLIS CANON

*Praise, God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**We give you thanks and praise, O God, that you have built us up in faith and bound us together in love. By your grace, may all that we do show the glory of your name and serve the good of your people; through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SENDING

\*HYMN 756

“O God of Every Nation”

LLANGLOFFAN

*O God of every nation, of every race and land,  
Redeem the whole creation with your almighty hand.  
Where hate and fear divide us and bitter threats are hurled,  
In love and mercy guide us, and heal our strife-torn world.*

*From search for wealth and power and scorn of truth and right,  
From trust in bombs that shower destruction through the night,  
From pride of race and station and blindness to your way,  
Deliver every nation, eternal God, we pray!*

*Lord, strengthen all who labor that we may find release  
From fear of rattling saber, from dread of war's increase.  
When hope and courage falter, your still small voice be heard;  
With faith that none can alter, your servants undergird.*

*Keep bright in us the vision of days when war shall cease,  
When hatred and division give way to love and peace,  
Till dawns the morning glorious when truth and justice reign,  
And Christ shall rule victorious o'er all the world's domain.*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE  
Bach

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

Johann Sebastian

*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.*

\*POSTLUDE

“Postlude on “Veni Emmanuel”

Paul Fey

*\*Please stand in body or spirit.*

***Bold print*** indicates places where congregation reads or sings.

PERMISSIONS: *Of the Father's Love Begotten*, Hymn tune: *Divinum Mysterium*, 12th-13th century plainsong, Arranged for organ by Wilbur Held (1914-2015), *Six Carol Settings*, © 1970, *Concordia Publishing House*. Used with permission under One License A-709512. *The Candle of Hope*, Text: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (b. 1961. © 2015, *Carolyn Winfrey Gillette*, All rights reserved. Used with permission of the author. Hymn tune: *Lyons*, Joseph Martin Kraus (1756-1792), 1784. Public domain. *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*, Text: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), 1744. Hymn tune: *Hyfyrdol*. Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811-1887), 1830. Public domain. *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*, Text: Robert Robinson (1735-1790), 1758. Hymn tune: *Nettleton*. *Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music*, Part Second (1813). Public domain. *Every Valley*, Text: Isaiah 40: 4-5 Music: John Ness Beck (1930-1987) © 1976, *Beckenhorst Press Inc*. Used with permission under One License A-709512. *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*, Text: Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676), 1653. Hymn tune: *Valet will ich dir geben*, Melchior Teschner (1584-1635), 1614. Public domain. *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, Hymn tune: *Veni Emmanuel*, Plainsong; arranged for organ by Paul Manz (1919-2009), *Ten Chorale Improvisations, Set IV* © 1970, *Concordia Publishing House*. Used with permission under One License A-709512. *All Praise to Thee, My God This Night*, Text: Thomas Ken (1637-1711), 1674. Hymn tune: *Tallis' Canon*, Tomas Tallis (1508-1585), 1567. Public domain. *O God of Every Nation*, Text: William Watkins Reid (1923-2007), © 1958, ren. 1986, *The Hymn Society* (admin. *Hope Publishing Company*). All rights reserved. Used by permission under One License A-709512. Hymn tune: *Llangloffan*, Welsh folk melody; *Llwybrau Moliant*, 1872, harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906. Public domain. *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*, Text: and music: *Vom Himmel hoch*, Martin Luther (1483-1546), 1539. Harmonization: Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750). Public domain. *Prelude on "Veni Emmanuel"*. Hymn tune: *Veni Emmanuel*, Plainsong. Setting for organ © 2021, *Paul Fey*. All rights reserved.

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**Thank you** to Stan Scheer, Frank Poolos, Heather Kilde and Ann Crutchfield for their leadership in worship today.

**The acolyte today is** Jordan Hesley.

**Ushers for November:** Myron Lowder (captain), Jim Hesley, Al Andrew, Steve Cumming, Ella Cumming, Jack Morton.

**Outside Ushers for November 27:** John Howell, Wes Eudy.

**Elder Greeters:** Mike King, Chris Whitley.

**Sound:** Evan Sanges    **Film:** James Cotton    **Nursery:** Bailey Mitchell

**There is no Children's Church during November.** Children are encouraged to remain in worship.

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**We ask that you keep these people in your prayers:** Claude Harwood, Wayne Palmer, Penny Welling (friend of the congregation), Gloria Bryson (Trinity Place), Ann Byrd (Home), Tim Rodgers, Doris Forte-Spring Arbor, Brayden Enzor (grandson of Gus & Pam Holbrook); (Home), Carole Yost (Home), Don Abernathy, Jean Rabe, Anita Gower, Nancy Jolly, Jane Scheer, Don Joines, Jane Pickler, Elizabeth Wilson, Ann Snuggs, Susan Pandich-breast cancer, Jason Miller (friend of the congregation), Laura Frazier, Debbie Hinson. The family of Teresa Samples. The family of Ashley Lowder (neice of Ronnie & Sarah Michael) See newsletter for complete list.

\*\*\*\*\*



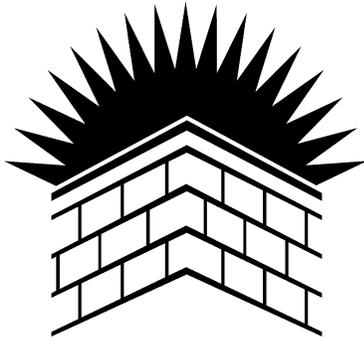
**Angel Tree**

This year we are sponsoring 25 children. You can get a name and info off the mission bulletin board in the Pit Stop. Please sign your name on the sign up sheet beside the number that represents your Angel Tree child. Please return your unwrapped gifts in a large plastic bag with the pink or blue card attached to the bag. Gifts should be returned by Sunday, December 11 under the Angel Tree Bulletin board.

**Alternative Christmas Gifts**

Alternative Gifts go on sale in the Pit Stop November 27 and will continue December 4, 11 and end on December 18. The charities we chose this year are Stanly Community Christian Ministry (SCCM), Presbyterian Disaster Relief and The Esther House.





We encourage children to remain in worship!  
 There are worship bags available for them in both lobbies of the church.  
 Feel free to pick these up anytime before, during or after worship.

**The Christian Education Corner**

If you are not on the SPOND app please download it. That is the easiest way for all of us to keep in touch. Here is the link to join <https://group.spond.com/LTOXZ>

**Monday Night Bible Study** 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders at the home of Debby Johnston (1212 Heritage Dr.) Mondays at 8:30 pm.



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**It's a Holly, "Jolly" Christmas Kitchen and Village**  
 Please stop by the Pit Stop Sunday, December 11 before and after worship. This year, we have a special treat as we will have a collection of Christmas houses from Nancy Jolly's personal collection for sale along with our baked goods. If you are willing to donate baked goods, casseroles, soups, or any homemade items, please contact Liz Jolly [Jollymom2@gmail.com](mailto:Jollymom2@gmail.com) or 704-699-6699

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**Show your FPC spirit!**  
 Order an "At Home Under the Dome" t-shirt. Youth will be in the Pit Stop for the next few Sundays taking orders.

All proceeds go to youth summer Montreat trips.

**SCCM PANTRY NEEDS**

- |                             |                                   |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Mayo (small jars)           | Flour (All-purpose & self-rising) |
| Cream of mushroom soup      | Ketchup                           |
| Pasta Sauces                | Mustard                           |
| Salad Dressing              | Syrup                             |
| <i>Canned meats</i>         | Pancake Mix                       |
| Chicken                     | Cereal                            |
| Spam                        | Canned Pineapple                  |
| Baked Beans/Pork & Beans    | Grits                             |
| Pickles/relish (small jars) | Side Pasta/Rice Dishes            |
| <i>Skillet Meals</i>        | <i>Household Goods</i>            |
| Hamburger Helper            | Laundry Detergent (Small)         |
| Instant Potatoes            | Cleaning Supplies                 |
| Boxed Potatoes              | Diapers                           |
| Canned Carrots              | Wipes                             |
|                             | Toothbrushes                      |

Community Table  
Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> - 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.



On Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, FPC will host lunch at the Community Table. Volunteers are needed for the following:

- 1) to provide a pot of chili to serve 15-20 people
- 2) to provide a dessert (pound cakes, cookies, or brownies)
- 3) to provide 2 dozen cornbread muffins
- 4) to provide individual fruit cups
- 5) to provide granola bars
- 6) to help serve and clean up on the 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-1:00.

If you are interested in helping out, please contact Linda Anderson.

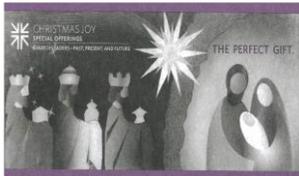
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**Save the Date for the Joy Program  
Sunday, December 11 at 11:00 a.m.**



The Youth will present the Joy Program during worship on December 11. The Joy Program is called, *O Come Let Us Adore Him*. While the story will be well-known, and the songs will be familiar, you will notice a few new twists on your favorite Christmas carols. Our children will tell us the age-old story of faith. We will have a covered dish following worship.

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**CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING**  
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11**  
*Every generous act of giving...  
is from above.*  
**James 1:17**

\*\*\*\*\*

**SANCTUARY POINSETTIAS**



POINSETTIAS

If you would like to contribute to the purchase of 8 ten-inch poinsettias as a Christmas memorial/honorarium, please make a check for \$10.00 payable to *First Presbyterian Church* and designate for poinsettias. **Please return the check along with the form below to the church office by noon Monday, December 12.** A complete list will appear in the bulletin on Sunday, December 18. **Following the Christmas Eve service on December 24, all 8 poinsettias will be delivered to the hospital and local nursing homes.**

**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:**

\_\_\_\_\_

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

**Sunday, November 27**

*1st Sunday of Advent*

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am \*Worship

**Monday, November 28**

10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

8:30 pm Bible Study 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade –Home of Debby Johnston  
1212 Heritage Dr.

**Wednesday, November 30**

6:45 am Men’s Prayer Breakfast

10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

6:14 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, December 1**

4:00 pm Zoom Bible Study with Catherine & Matt Moeller

**Sunday, December 4**

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent/ Ten Cents a Meal Offering/  
Alternative Gifts before & after worship*

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am \*Worship

6:00 pm to 8 pm SNL Baking for Christmas Kitchen

**\*childcare provided**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**  
**November**  
29- Janice Abernathy  
30- Bill Hall  
Diane Stevenson  
  
**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!**  
**November**  
29- Skeet and Elizabeth Ayscue

**Church Staff**  
Transitional Pastor, Rev Catherine George  
Office Manager, Kyle Lambert  
Secretary, Beth Poolos  
Transitional Director of Christian Ed,  
Melissa Eudy  
Director of Fellowship/Congregational Care,  
Jane Snyder  
Music Director, Frank Poolos  
Organist, Stan Scheer  
Facilities Manager, Shawn Graeff

**Elders**  
Al Andrew, John Earnhardt, Bill Jolly, Mary  
Kesselman,  
Mike King, Ken Knight, Kim Marshall, Andy  
McLeod,  
Catherine Moeller, Sandy Rogers, Ellen Snyder,  
Chris Whitley, Ellen Whitley  
  
**Deacons**  
Emily Andrew, Keith Bryson, Shannon Bullard,  
Michelle Cumming, Wes Eudy, Martha Sue Hall,  
Lillie Hancock, Jim Hesley, Liz Jolly, Myron Lowder,  
Laura McLeod, Lee Snuggs

**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](http://www.fpcalbemarle.org)).  
Click on the GIVE button.**

The offering as part of our worship is a response to God’s grace. The plates will be passed by the ushers or you may make your gift by scanning the QR Code here. Thank you for your generosity.