



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Albemarle, North Carolina

Matt Drumheller, Pastor

Frank Poolos, Director of Vocal and Handbell Music

Stan Scheer, Organist

Jane Snyder, Director of Christian Education & Fellowship

Dorothy Hart, Youth Director

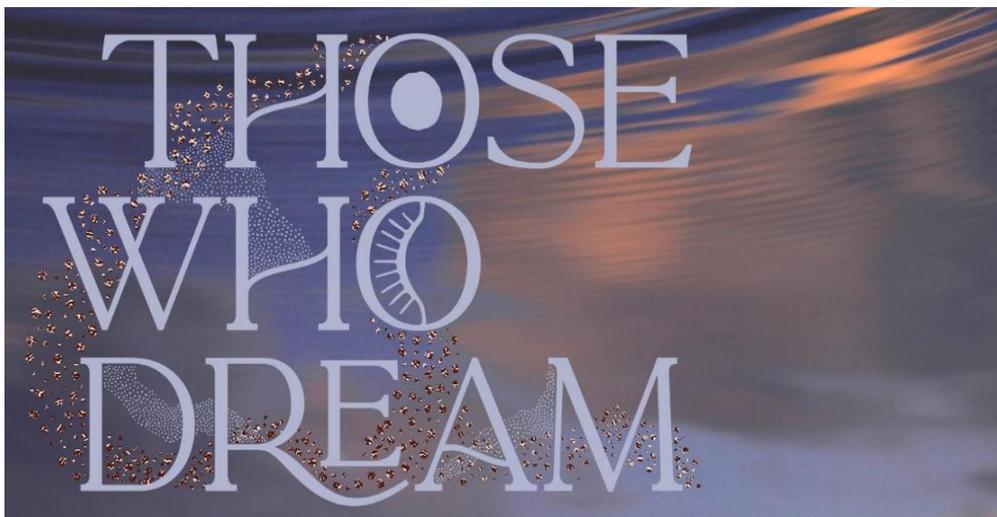
Kyle Lambert, Office Manager
Secretary

Pam Knighten,

Church Office: (704) 982-2722

Website: www.fpcalbemarle.org

E-mail: klambert@fpcalbemarle.org



December 2020

Dear Friends,

The Advent season, which we began at the end of November, is a season focused on waiting. In a year dominated by pandemic, we will not have to strain to explore the idea of waiting. We have already been waiting. We have been waiting for a vaccine. We have been waiting for the numbers to go up or down. We have been waiting for 2020 to end (though that may not be particularly helpful). We are familiar with waiting.

As we enter the season of Advent, my thoughts turn to our theme, *Those Who Dream*. This theme comes from one of the Psalm readings for this season: *When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.* (Psalm 126)

To dream is to expectantly hope for a different and better future. To dream is to envision God's plans for creation. In Advent, we anticipate the birth of Christ as the fulfillment of God's dreams for humanity. We are like those who dream when we expectantly wait for a world redeemed by the birth of Christ.

This Advent, may we find hope in the practice of waiting. May we be like those who dream.

Grace and Peace,
Matt



At its November 15 meeting, the Session decided to delay our plan to resume in-person worship due to the worsening conditions in Stanly County. We are now planning to resume limited in-person worship on January 10, 2021. Session will continue to monitor the situation and will reassess the plan at its regular December meeting.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SEASON

Sunday, November 29 **First Sunday of Advent**

Like everything else this year, Advent is going to look different. Our celebration of Advent this year will be inspired by and supported by *A Sanctified Art*. This is a company that creates artistic worship and devotional materials. As we begin an important season in the life of the church, there are several ways for you to get involved.

Advent for All Drive-Thru Event...Our *Advent for All* event this year will look very different since we are unable to gather. When you drive through after worship for your Cookies & Cocoa and Advent Devotional on the first Sunday of Advent on November 29, we will provide you with material to make an advent wreath at home, along with the devotions for each week in Advent. We hope you will make time to craft your wreath and gather for the devotions with your family every week.

Hanging of the Greenery...We will be unable to decorate the sanctuary and the church as we normally would this year, however we would love to have your help decorating the Chrismon Tree. In the week following the First Sunday of Advent, you are invited to sign-up to come hang some Chrismons. On Tuesday, December 1 and Thursday, December 3, 15 minute time slots will be available from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Please call the church office to sign-up to come into the sanctuary help decorate (wearing a mask and practicing social distancing). In this way, you can help create our Advent worship space.

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...Are you missing the chance to be in the sanctuary this Advent to hear the music of the season? We have just the Pop-Up event for you! For one week during Advent, there will be several days in which you can come to the sanctuary and listen to our wonderful organist, Stan Scheer, play through the music of the season. You can sign up for a 30-minute time slot to sit in the sanctuary and hear the music. We will be following social distancing guidelines, mask guidelines, and the indoor gathering restrictions put in place by the governor. This means that space will be limited at each of our sessions. Here are the dates:

Sunday, December 13 at 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 15 at 10:00 a.m. or 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 17 at 10:00 a.m. or 5:30 p.m.

To sign up for one of these time slots, call the church office (704-982-2722). Reservations will be first come first served. Please keep in mind that particular days may fill up. If you do not speak to someone when you call, we will try to get back in touch with you as quickly as possible.

Sunday, December 6 **Second Sunday of Advent/Lighting of the Candle of Hope**
Scripture: Mark 1:1-8

Sunday, December 13 **Third Sunday of Advent/Lighting of the Candle of Peace**
Scripture: Luke 1:46-55

Sunday, December 20 **Fourth Sunday of Advent/Lighting of the Candle of Joy**
Chancel Choir Christmas Presentation & Joy Offering

Thursday, December 24 **Christmas Eve on the Front Porch at 5:30 p.m.**
We will worship on the front porch of the church as we celebrate the birth of the Christ child with Scripture, song, and prayer.

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!

Sunday, December 27 **Service of Lessons and Carols**
Scripture: John 1:1-18



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.

this night, we are
**THOSE WHO
DREAM**
christmas eve

*Christmas Eve
Worship Opportunities*

Thursday, December 24

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**Christmas Joy Offering
Sunday, December 20**

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Each year our church participates in the Christmas Joy Offering. These funds are used by PCUSA in two very important ways. First, this offering honors current and retired church workers and their families by providing critical financial assistance to support them through life's challenging circumstances. Right now, those needs are very great. Second, PCUSA, with its historic commitment to higher learning, has long promoted education and leadership development through the establishment and support 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. These future church leaders can receive much-needed financial assistance while they discover and pursue their professional goals at these schools and colleges.

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.

STEWARDSHIP AND SUCH...OCTOBER 2020 FINANCIAL REPORT

GENERAL FUND

Actual:	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Budget-to-Date</u>
Total Income Received:	373,455.00	466,967.00
Total Expenses:	<u>354,325.00</u>	<u>468,014.00</u>
(Shortage)/Surplus	19,130.00	(1,047.00)

GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2020

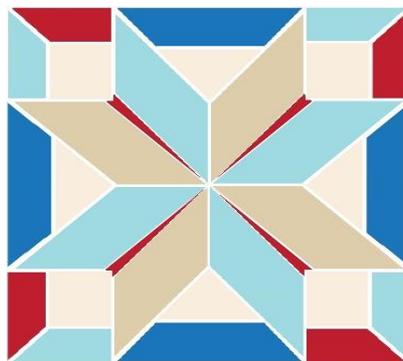
Pledges:	512,746
Total Income:	561,860
Total Expenses:	561,860

Weekly Amount Needed to Keep Commitments: \$10,805

We are behind \$25,263 in pledges.

Average Weekly Amount Received in October: \$7,245

Ten-Cents-A-Meal for October: \$262.00



IMPORTANT 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.

Thank you,
Kyle

*Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving
let your requests be made known to God.*

*And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 4:6



Angel Tree 2020

**Gifts are due at the church
by Sunday, December 6.
Please call the church office (704-982-2722)
before you come.**



Alternative Christmas Gifts

Available thru Sunday, December 20

Alternative Gifts will be available at the Advent for All Drive-Thru event on Sunday, November 29. Also, you may purchase Alternative Gifts in the church office. 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.**



**DRIVE-THRU COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER
AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
(202 NORTH SECOND 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")
- &
- ❖ **Returning colored Christmas Cards at the First Family Drive-Thru on**
Wednesday, December 2

*****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)**



News from Mabumba

During the years of 2018 and 2019, the central and southern areas of Africa suffered from a severe drought. Our friends in Mwandi fared much better than other more isolated villages in Zambia and neighboring countries. Mwandi is located on the Zambezi River, the third largest river in Zambia. Although the river was extremely low, the people surrounding the river had access to water. This was not true for others

The water tables fell so low at the village of Mabumba that the First Presbyterian sponsored well pulled sediment into the pump. At the time the school headmaster contacted us, the pump was operating at approximately one-third capacity. The pump has now been repaired using funds from the original fundraising effort, and a regular maintenance schedule is being implemented. Headmaster Mutipan Mutafela has reported that the pump is fully functional and providing water for the students at the Mabumba School.



Backpack Food Program Donations Needed:

Oatmeal Packets, Breakfast Cookies,
Individual Bags of Goldfish, Large Cans of Soup, Saltine Crackers, Tuna Helper,
Snack Crackers, Pineapple, or Fruit Cocktail Cups
Donations may be dropped off at the church.

Packing Date: Wednesday, December 9 at 10:30 a.m.



SCCM FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Peanut Butter	Navy Beans
Jelly	Great Northern Beans
Mayonnaise	Cannellini Bean
Mustard	Lima Beans
Ketchup	Kidney Beans
Evaporated Milk	Cream Corn
Flour: Self Rising	Chicken Broth
Flour: All-Purpose	Beef Broth
Tomato Soup	Pre-Sweetened Cereal
Cream of Mushroom Soup	Applesauce
Cream of Chicken Soup	Canned Pineapple
Canned Potatoes	Canned Peaches
Spaghetti	Canned Pears
Black Eye Peas	Canned Fruit Cocktail
Sliced Carrots	Canned Mandarin Oranges
Mixed Vegetables	Beef Stew
Green Beans	Canned Chicken

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

We collected 16 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to provide God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your generosity.



NEWS & NOTES

Minister's Discretionary Fund:

In memory of Bob and Linda Richards, given by Brett Richards.
In memory of Sherry Richards Rollins, given by Brett Richards.

SYMPATHY

To Heather Kilde and family upon the death of her mother, Jane Smith, on October 5.

NEW ADDRESSES

Emily Andrew
1515 Springhaven Circle
Albemarle, NC 28001

Marlene & Bruce Mittendorf
110 Brandywine Drive
Raleigh, NC 27607

Session Notes

At the November 15 Session meeting, Ruling Elders voted to postpone in person worship until January 10, 2021. The Property committee is working with a company who will inspect the gym roof for any design/construction flaws completed in the prior renovation. The Christian Education and Mission committees continue to do wonderful work remotely and through the use of drive-thru and pop up events. Advent season will include plans to have safe and exciting activities for all to enjoy.

Steve Cumming, Clerk of Session

Thanks to Frankie Palmer and Rich Schaefer for helping in the church office.

November's First Family Dinner

Thanks to all of the FABULOUS volunteers that helped make this dinner a huge success! We served 90 plates! Linda Anderson, Elizabeth Bryson, Gloria Bryson, Andy Cotton, Ruth Cotton, Ann Duckwall, Jim Hesley, Jennifer Hesley, Jordan Hesley, John Howell, Leslie Kinley, Merrin Kinley, Stephan Kinley, Lee McLaurin, Catherine Moeller, Anne Montgomery, Gayle Russell, and Ned Russell. **YOU ARE A BLESSING TO ME!!** Thank you so much for sharing your time and talents with us.



The **Mission Committee** would like to thank the following people who donated food items/money, helped to prepare sandwiches and desserts on Friday, and those who helped serve the bag lunches at the Community Table on Saturday, November 7th: Linda Anderson, Mildred Andrew, Andy Cotton, Ruth Cotton, Ann Duckwall, Cidney Eudy, Melissa Eudy, Peggy Finley, Debbie Hahn, John Hahn, Danielle Harmsen, Margaret Ivey, Don Joines, Nancy Joines, Catherine Moeller, Matt Moeller, Marlene Sanges, Carol Sasser, Jane Snyder, Teresa Taylor, Connie Wallace, Martha White, and Elizabeth Wilson. My apologies if I have omitted anyone's name.

Linda Anderson, Community Table Coordinator

10 CENTS A MEAL

We will receive the Ten-Cents-A-Meal offering for hunger on December 6. This monthly offering is used by the Presbytery of Charlotte to fund hunger programs and agencies (including SCCM) throughout the presbytery. We received a total of \$262.00 for Ten-Cents-A-Meal for October 2020.

New Scholarship

Empowered by the grace of God, Catherine and Matt Moeller added an endowed scholarship to the growing list of those sponsored by families and members of First Presbyterian Church. This scholarship is specifically designed to support college students in need of financial aide who identify as members of ethnic minority groups. This scholarship will be included in the 2021 granting cycle next spring. If you would like to contribute to this endowment or any other scholarship endowment granted by First Presbyterian Church, please contact the church office (704-982-2722 or klambert@fpcalbemarle.org).

In an effort to keep the 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.



Do you ever see a name on the prayer list and think, *Now who is that?* Or forget what the relationship is? You are not alone as many folks have asked for help with this. The *Prayer List Connection* will refresh all our memories. Folks with chronic needs will be listed for a month in the bulletin. Following that month, we will keep them on the newsletter's *Prayer List Connection* for as long as we are requested to do so. Critical prayer concerns will be added weekly to the prayer list in the bulletin.

Friends of the Congregation:

- Brinn Andrew**, daughter of Kellie & Jason Andrew.
- David Bailiff**, friend of Debbie Hahn; previous kidney transplant concerns & immunity issues.
- David & Marsha Bell**, friends of Debbie & John Hahn; David has cancer.
- Tom Bonekemper**, cousin of Linda Anderson; pancreatic cancer.
- Joan Bunn**, friend of Gina Martin; health concerns.
- Gus Feather**.
- Debbie Gabriel**, sister of Gayle Russell; breast cancer.
- Calvin Hall**, friend of Ruth Goodwin; kidney cancer – physical therapy for stroke.
- Ann Hatcher**, mother of Ann Snuggs; recovering from a fall.
- Sean Hickey**, brother-in-law of Lori Ivey; colon cancer.
- Catherine Johnson**, niece of Elizabeth Wilson; diagnosed with breast cancer.
- Denise LaBoube**, half-sister of Martha White; diagnosed with brain cancer-Astrocytoma.
- Molly Amelia Lowder**, low immunity health concerns.
- Maddie McRae**, daughter of Renee & Keith McRae; diagnosis & treatment for a brain tumor.
- Bryanna Medlin**, Hodgkins Lymphoma.
- Bern Morehead, III**, son of Sally Pleasant & Dr. Bernard “Bernie” Morehead; diagnosed with brain tumor.
- James Nunn**, 19 year old nephew of Billie Jean Snuggs; hospitalized following surgery on optic nerve.
- Sally Ormand**, friend of Ruth Goodwin; cancer treatment.
- Judy Portner**, sister of Billie Jean Snuggs; stage 4 brain tumor (Glioblastoma).
- Clay Price**, cousin of Steve Cumming; cancer.
- Lauren Reder**, niece of Laura & Mike McLeod.
- Mark Rodgers**, son of Laura and Tim Rodgers; recovering from surgery related to Ewing’s sarcoma.
- Judy Ross**, friend of Tom & Holly Norwood; diagnosis of pancreatic cancer.
- David Sanges**, brother of Nathan Sanges.
- Jane Scheer**, spouse of Stan Scheer; Spring Arbor.
- Betty Stancik**, sister of Bill Hall; continuing health concerns.
- Garin Stepp**, Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.
- Judy Toney**, sister of Jim Hesley; chemotherapy treatment for breast cancer.
- Jason Washburn**, friend of Jessica & John Palmer; pancreatic cancer.
- Yoder Whitley**.

Members of the Congregation:

- Don Joines**.
- Bede Karr**.
- Dick Liles**.
- Jane Pickler**.
- Jean Rabe**.
- Sandy Saunders**.
- Pete Smith**.
- Ann Upchurch**.

DECEMBER Birthdays

- | | |
|--|---|
| 01- Steve Cumming
Ruth Goodwin
Catherine Moeller | 17- Rob McIntyre |
| 02- Taylor Barbee
Don Stewart
Lynn White | 18- Katie Carpenter
Mary Green
Katie Saltzman |
| 03- Glenn Miller
Tammy Ocampo | 20- Virginia Currie
Anna Henkenjohann
Morgan Smet |
| 04- Kate Gibson | 21- Emily Andrew |
| 05- Thora Kilde
Nathan Sanges | 22- Joe Snuggs |
| 06- Scott Bullard | 23- Bill Jolly |
| 08- Pam Morgan
Robert McIntyre | 25- Gloria Bryson
Bob Sasser |
| 10- Terry Morgan
Bill Pickler
Seth Richards | 26- Connie Robinson |
| 11- Mackenzie Smet | 27- Duncan Bryson
Claire George Drumheller |
| 13- Tom Norwood | 29- Campbell Bullard |
| 16- Alison Whisnant | 30- Sally Grantier
John Montgomery |
| | 31- Mildred Andrew
Adrienne Robinson |

DECEMBER Anniversaries

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 04- Jack & Penny Morton | 23- Craig & Teresa Taylor |
| 10- Terry & Pam Morgan | 26- John & Anne Montgomery |
| 15- Ronnie & Sarah Michael
Chris & Barbara Whitley | 27- Brad & Jane Boone |
| 21- Gerald & Lynn Poplin | 28- Ben & Shannon Lisk |
| | 29- Don & Nancy Joines |



The Senior Care Committee encourages the congregation to send a Christmas card to our members and friends at home, in a care facility, and out of town. Make their Christmas a special one!

Ruth D. Goforth
Room 228 C
728 Klumac Road
Salisbury, NC 28144

Dennis & Anita Gower
530 Avondale Ave.
Albemarle, NC 28001

Cathryn & Claude Harwood
P.O. Box 878
Albemarle, NC 28002

Dick Liles
10300 Hanging Moss Trail
Mint Hill, NC 28227

Polly Moose
745 Dilworth Lane
Apt. 124
Rock Hill, SC 29732

Jean Rabe
c/o Trinity Place
24724 US 52 Hwy
Albemarle, NC 28001

Jane Scheer
c/o Spring Arbor Senior Living
315 Park Ridge Rd.
Albemarle, NC 28001



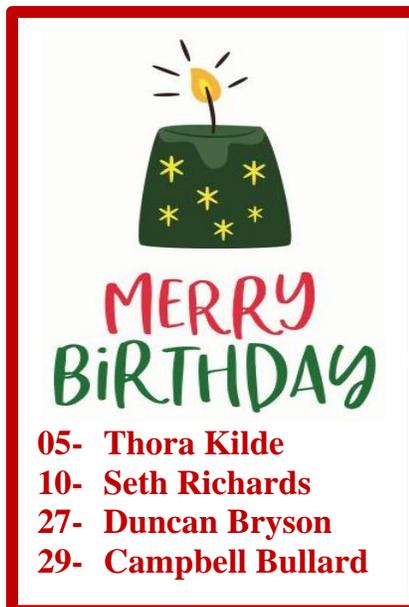
Youth Group News & Information

Christmas time is here!

We hope you'll join us for some fellowship as we celebrate the season of Advent and prepare for Christmas. We are especially looking forward to the Christmas Kitchen and Christmas Party with our annual gift exchange. Check your email and our Instagram page for updates!

Sunday, December 6	Youth Group	5:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 13	Christmas Kitchen Youth Group	10:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 17	Virtual Game Night	7:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 20	Youth Group Christmas Party	5:00 p.m.

High School Bible Study
with Debby Johnston & Jack Morton
at the home of Debby & Bob Johnston
(1212 Heritage Drive, Albemarle)
Mondays at 8:30 p.m.





Youth Club News

Our Youth Club children continue to gather on Wednesday afternoons for time of fellowship, singing, and faith reflection with their peers. In December we will finish exploring the Beatitudes from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Each session stands alone, so we're always happy to welcome any K-5th graders who would like to join us!

The **Trusty Travelers** meet with Matt and others on Zoom each Wednesday from 3:30 to 4:00 pm. We've been doing some hiking, singing some songs, praying together, and celebrating God's blessings. To access the Zoom information, please

contact Matt (mdrumheller@fpcalbemarle.org).

The **Faith Explorers** continue to meet virtually over Zoom on Wednesday afternoon. We are enjoying spending time seeing each other's faces while we cannot be together in person. This month we have been discussing what it means to show mercy and how Heaven is different from life on Earth.

**Youth Club will meet via Zoom on Wednesdays, December 2, 9, & 16.
Youth Club will resume after the Christmas school break (Wednesday, January 13).**



Morning Prayer

Mondays and Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom

Members of FPC have been gathering on Zoom each Monday and Wednesday morning to share joys and concerns, to pray, and to spend time *together*. This has become an important way to see and speak with one another. We invite you to join us in these regular meetings. See your weekly email update for the link to join us on Zoom.

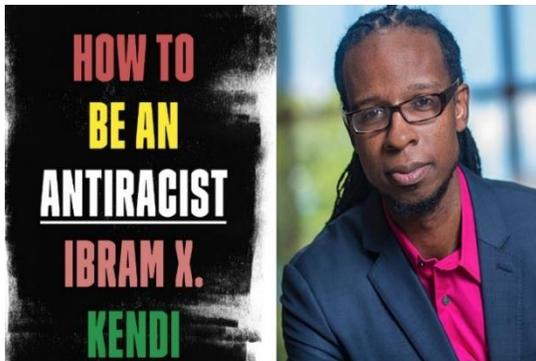


Bible Study and Conversation

Thursdays, December 3 & 10

from 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. via Zoom

Join Catherine and Matt Moeller for fellowship and biblical reflection. The material for this online discussion will be selected from pieces of scripture from which Matt is preaching. Each Monday, you will receive an email with the selected devotional for the week. Discussion will focus on the significance and application of the scripture. Topics will include how this challenging time impacts our faith, our spiritual gifts, our compassion, and our charity. This should be a great opportunity for Bible study and connecting with a cross-section of our church family. If you need help with Zoom, contact the church office (704-982-2722). Please email Matt Drumheller (mdrumheller@fpcalbemarle.org) or Catherine Moeller (mattandcatherine@hotmail.com) to say you are interested or need more information. Please join us!



Education and Conversation Tuesday, December 1 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Our congregation, along with many others, is continuing a challenging journey of educating ourselves about systemic racism in America. Members of the church have been gathering on Zoom to explore how we benefit from or are affected by systems of privilege, and how we might bring about a kingdom-oriented world in which, *we are all one in Christ.*" (Galatians 3:28)

Our next conversation will take place on December 1. We will be reading the book *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi. In his memoir, Kendi weaves together an electrifying combination of ethics, history, law,

and science - including the story of his own awakening to antiracism - bringing it all together in a cogent, accessible form. Please join us on Zoom on Tuesday, December 1 at 7:00 pm to discuss this book.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our next gathering will be on **Wednesday, Dec. 2 at 1:30 p.m. in the Pit Stop.** Please contact Peggy Finley 704-985-1136 or maf447@windstream.net if you have questions.





FIRST FAMILY MEAL

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2 FROM 5:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

RSVP BY 2:00 P.M. ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30

First Family Meal Pick-up or Delivery is on Wednesday, December 2! Unfortunately, we are still unable to gather for First Family in December. If you would like a First Family meal, please RSVP by Monday, November 30 at 2:00 p.m., and we will have your meal ready for pick-up or delivery on Wednesday, December 2 between 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. For your safety, kitchen staff will wear masks and gloves while preparing your plates.

Menu:

**Hugh Wainwright's Chicken-n-Dumplings
Sweet Potato Cake, Pound Cake and Brownies**

Suggested Donation: \$5 per person....Maximum of \$15 per family.

Please come with correct change or a check written to First Presbyterian Church.

All we need you to do is:

call Anne Montgomery at 704-982-7823 or email Anne at johnandannemontgomery@yahoo.com

and let her know how many plates you need,

if you would like sweet potato cake, pound cake or brownies for each meal

and

if it will be a pickup or delivery (include address and any special instructions).

*****PLEASE RETURN COLORED COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER CARDS*****

Though we will not share the meal at the same table, we will delight in the opportunity to share the same meal at our own tables. A prayer and table ritual will be included for each household. Sharing the meal and the ritual will bind us together as the one body of Christ.



YOUTH GROUP DRIVE-THRU

CHRISTMAS KITCHEN ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

Our Christmas Kitchen will look a little bit different this year! There are 3 important dates for this event.

December 6 is the deadline to let Dorothy know what you will be contributing if you are planning to bake a sweet or savory treat!

On December 9 at 6:00 p.m., we will open up a list of items for purchase.

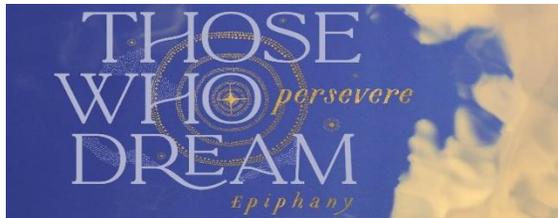
On December 13 after worship, you can drive through and pick-up your item from the church. Be on the lookout for more details in an upcoming email! Contact Dorothy at dhart@fpcalbeamarle.org or 828-244-3824 if you would like to contribute an item.

College Student Brunch at the Church

Thursday, December 17 at 10:00 a.m.

Depending on the COVID conditions in mid-December, Matt and the Congregational Care committee are planning to welcome you home with a brunch! If possible, we will gather at the church and have a socially distanced celebration of the end of your semester. Keep your eyes open for changes in the plans depending on local restriction, and let Matt know if you're interested in coming (mdrumheller@fpcalbeamarle.org or 540-449-5319).





EPIPHANY WORSHIP SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2021

On January 3, we will celebrate the revelation of Jesus to the Gentiles with an Epiphany worship service. This is a worship service we typically celebrate on the first Wednesday evening in January. Because we are unable to gather for our regular First Family Gatherings, our Sunday morning worship will be devoted to this holy day. Join us on Sunday morning to celebrate the journey of the magi, the light of the Bethlehem star, and the revelation of Jesus!

Confirmation 2021

We are making plans to begin a new class of confirmands in January of 2021. Eighth and ninth graders are invited to join us this spring as we explore what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ. We will be using the PC(USA) curriculum called *Big God, Big Questions*. If eighth graders or their parents have not heard from Matt, please contact him to get on the list. Also, please keep these youth, their families, and the confirmation partners in your prayers as the program will have to make major adjustments this year.

There is no Book Conversation in December.

Enjoy your families and have a Merry Christmas!

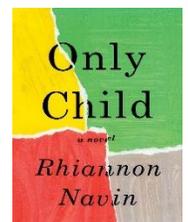


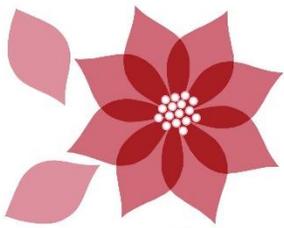
**Save the Date for the January Book Conversation
Monday, January 25 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
Book: *Only Child* by Rhiannon Navin**

Only Child is a dazzling, tenderhearted debut about healing, family, and the exquisite wisdom of children, narrated by a 6-year-old boy who reminds us that sometimes the littlest bodies hold the biggest hearts, and the quietest voices speak the loudest.

**Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76026386946>**

**Meeting ID: 760 2638 6946
Passcode: Z71g4D**





DECEMBER

Tuesday, December 1

7:00 pm Education & Conversation via Zoom

Wednesday, December 2

6:45 am Men's Prayer Breakfast Zoom Meeting

10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

10:30 am Staff Meeting

1:30 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (Pit Stop)

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

5:00 pm-6:00 pm First Family Meal Pick-Up & Return of Community Christmas Dinner Coloring Cards

Thursday, December 3

4:00 pm-5:00 pm Zoom Bible Study with Catherine & Matt Moeller

Sunday, December 6

*Second Sunday of Advent/The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper/
Alternative Gifts/Ten-Cents-A-Meal Offering for
Hunger/Deadline for Angel Tree Gifts/Offering Envelopes Available*

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

5:00 pm Youth Group

Monday, December 7

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)

Wednesday, December 9

6:45 am Men's Prayer Breakfast Zoom Meeting

10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

10:30 am Staff Meeting

10:30 am Backpack Food Program

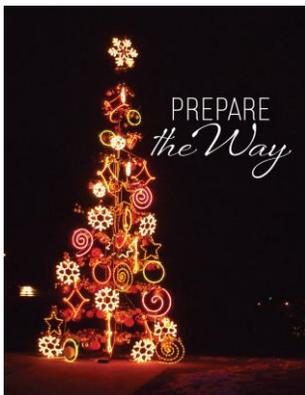
3:30 pm-4:00 pm Youth Club Trusty Travelers (K-3rd graders) via Zoom

4:00 pm-4:30 pm Youth Club Faith Explorers (4th & 5th graders) via Zoom

6:00 pm Online ordering open for Christmas Kitchen

Thursday, December 10

4:00 pm-5:00 pm Zoom Bible Study with Catherine & Matt Moeller



Sunday, December 13

*Third Sunday of Advent/Alternative Gifts/
Christmas Kitchen Drive-Thru Event*

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

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

12:00 pm January Newsletter Deadline

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

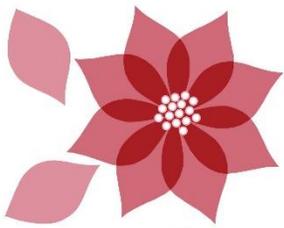
10:00 am College Student Christmas Brunch at First Presbyterian Church

7:00 pm Youth Group Virtual Game Night

And Mary said,

*My soul
magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit
rejoices in God
my Savior*

Luke 1:46-47



DECEMBER

Sunday, December 20

*Fourth Sunday of Advent/Chancel Choir Christmas Presentation/
JOY Offering/Alternative Gifts*

- 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

Monday, December 21

- 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)

Wednesday, December 23

No Youth Club

Church Office Closed

- 6:45 am Men's Prayer Breakfast Zoom Meeting
- 10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

Thursday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Church Office Closed

- 5:30 pm Christmas Eve Worship on the Front Porch
- 5:30 pm Christmas Eve Online Worship

Friday, December 25

Christmas Day

Church Office Closed

- 11:00 am-1:00 pm Community Christmas Dinner Drive-Thru Event at First Baptist Church (202 North 2nd Street, Albemarle)

Sunday, December 27

Service of Lessons and Carols

- 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

Monday, December 28

Church Office Closed

- 10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 8:00 pm Monday Night Bible Study with Matt

Wednesday, December 30

No Youth Club

- 6:45 am Men's Prayer Breakfast Zoom Meeting
- 10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

Thursday, December 31

New Year's Eve

Church Office Closes at Noon

- 12:00 pm Financial Books Close

Friday, January 1

New Year's Day

Church Office Closed



**And the Word
became flesh and
dwelt among us ...**

John 1:14, ESV

Acolyte Schedule for December

December 6: Natalie Niederer
December 13: Elizabeth Bryson
December 20: Merrin Kinley
December 24: Seth Richards
December 27: Holden Taylor

Children’s Church Schedule for December

December 6: Emily Andrew
December 13: Emily Andrew
December 20: No Children’s Church
December 27: Emily Andrew

Church Website Address & Staff Email Addresses

Church Website Address:	www.fpcalbemarle.org
Church Email Address:	klambert@fpcalbemarle.org
Matt Drumheller:	mdrumheller@fpcalbemarle.org
Kyle Lambert:	klambert@fpcalbemarle.org
Jane Snyder:	jsnyder@fpcalbemarle.org
Stan Scheer:	sscheer@fpcalbemarle.org
Dorothy Hart:	dhart@fpcalbemarle.org
Pam Knighten:	pknighten@fpcalbemarle.org

PLEASE NOTE:

All members of the church staff are working at home unless it is necessary for them to be at church. The church's answering machine is being checked periodically; however, in case of an emergency, please contact Matt (540.449.5319) directly.

PLEASE NOTE:

January Newsletter Deadline
Tuesday, December 15.
Early submissions are always welcome!
If you type your items in Microsoft Word, please email them as an attachment to:
[**pknighten@fpcalbemarle.org.**](mailto:pknighten@fpcalbemarle.org)



Watch



your email for additions and changes to this schedule.

