



The Weekly Bulletin
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Albemarle, North Carolina

Elizabeth McNair Ayscue, Pastor

Matt Drumheller, Associate Pastor

Frank Poolos, Director of Vocal and Handbell Music

Stanley Scheer, Organist

Gina Martin, Director of Christian Education

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Vol. 49

December 4, 2016

No. 49

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

PEALING OF THE BELLS

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

GATHERING SONGS

Hymn 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

(all stanzas)

Hymn 104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

(all stanzas)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord.

People: May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord.

People: May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord.

People: May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*HYMN 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

(stanzas 1, 6, & 7)

The Ten-Cents-A-Meal offering for hunger may be brought forward at this time.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Silence

Unison

God of tenderness and love, breathe your grace into our lives. Forgive our wandering ways, and guide us along your paths of peace. When we lose our way, and forget the one for whom we wait, lead us back to you. Carry us up to that high mountain of faith and hope, that we may proclaim with conviction, *Here is our God!*

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Believe the good news,

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

hymn 143, stanza 4

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,

Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the coming king!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Nancy and Don Joines

Leader: Why did Jesus come to earth?

People: He came down that we may have hope.

Leader: Why did Jesus come to earth?

People: He came down that we may have peace.

Leader: Why did Jesus come to earth?

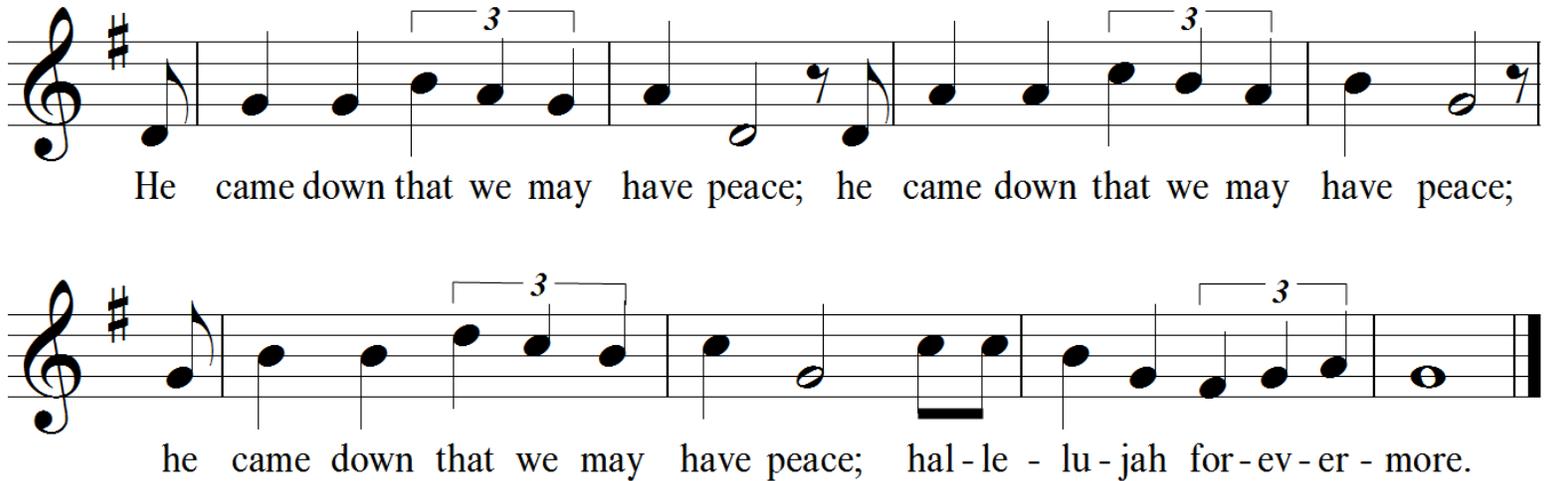
People: He came down that we may have joy.

Leader: Why did Jesus come to earth?

People: He came down that we may have love.

Leader: Today we light the candle of peace, trusting in the one who sent the child to be born in a manger.

RESPONSE TO THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE



He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace; hal-le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Speak to us, Lord. Speak to us in the waiting, the watching, the hoping, and the longing. Speak to us through your Word in these Advent days, and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

[Isaiah 11:1-10](#)

Pew Bible, page 602

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.

GOSPEL READING

[Matthew 3:1-12](#)

Pew Bible, page 2

SERMON

Wilderness

Mr. Drumheller

*HYMN 163

Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice

Aberystwyth

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Hailey Biddle, Lily Snyder, and Natalie Taylor

Faith Explorers

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

Offertory

Of the Father’s Love Begotten

Wilbur Held

*Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

hymnal, page 606

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

*Prayer of Dedication

*HYMN 94

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

Jefferson

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

Peter C. Lutkin

*POSTLUDE

Come, Savior of the Nations, Come

Johann Sebastian Bach

*All that are able may stand.

We rejoice that you are worshiping 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 Graham Chapman. After extinguishing the Christ candle, the acolyte takes the light of Jesus Christ out into the world.

Thanks to Nancy and Don Joines for lighting the advent candle today.

Thank you to Katherine Jolly and Andy McLeod for participating in today’s Faith Sharing with Children.

Ushers: Heather Kilde, captain; Jim Carter, Michelle Cumming, David Kilde, Ben McLeod, Isabel McLeod
Elder Greeters: Sarah Michael; Tom Norwood **Nursery:** Jana Sanderson **Toddler Room:** Misty Honbarrier
Preschool Partners: Heather Deese; Anna Henkenjohann **Nana & Papa Team:** Mary Kesselman; Debby Johnston **Children’s Church:** Liz Davis; Jacob Palmer

We will receive the Ten-Cents-A-Meal offering for hunger on Sunday, December 4.

Please return Angel Tree gifts on Sunday, December 4.

We ask that you keep these people in your prayers: The family of Bruce Coats (father of Steve Coats), Rich Schaefer (recovering from melanoma surgery), Lindsey Harward, Elliott Efird (granddaughter of Gayle & Ned Russell; recovering from RSV), Sally Grantier, Pam Medlin (cousin of Janice Abernathy; multiple health concerns), Mike Dearstyne (brother of Holly Norwood, Peripheral Neuropathy), Katie & Roy Dearstyne (parents of Holly Norwood). **See newsletter for complete list.**

If you have not already done so, please return your 2017 pledge card as soon as possible. The Stewardship Committee needs all commitments in order to formulate the 2017 budget. Thank you.



Alternative Christmas Gifts

On December 4, 11, and 18, there will be opportunities to purchase alternative gifts in the Pit Stop. You will be able to select from among both local and international recipients. Agencies sponsored this year are: The Community Care Clinic, Esther House, Homes of Hope, and Montaña de Luz. For each purchase, you will receive one of several holiday-themed acknowledgement cards that were designed by artist Leslie Carter.

MWANDI MISSION INTEREST MEETING
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 AT 12:00 P.M.

Come to the parlor following worship to hear about plans for a possible return trip to the Mwandu Mission in April 2017. No commitments required at this time.

2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for 2017 are available for pick up in the office area. PLEASE help us save on postage by picking up your envelopes. If you do not find your envelopes, please contact the church office so we can assist you.

NOTE: Envelope numbers change each year.

Remember...DO NOT USE these envelopes until January 2017.

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 bank with your new envelope number.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office at (704-982-2722).



Support the Youth Ministry

Christmas Kitchen

on Sunday, December 4

Before and After Worship in the Pit Stop

The Youth Ministry needs volunteers to make their favorite casseroles, soups, BBQ, cookies, cakes, coffee cakes, candies, and pies to be sold at the **Christmas Kitchen** on December 4. Make ahead & freeze if you like!

The Youth Ministry also needs hungry members of the congregation to shop at the **Christmas Kitchen** on December 4. Stock your freezer with holiday food from the great cooks at First Presbyterian & support our youth!

Call Leah Beamon (704-438-5083) or Rose Saltzman (704-322-8344)

to let us know what delectable dish you can donate!



Opportunities for Growth & Reflection during Advent

Mondays	12:15 p.m.-1:15 p.m.	Study: A Season of Anticipation & Hope. We'll focus on gospel themes; bring your lunch.
Tuesdays	6:00 p.m.	Contemplative Worship in the chapel. Worship will last for 30 minutes & will include the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.
Wednesday December 7	Noon	Community Worship at Christ Episcopal Church. Lunch follows. Preacher: Rev. Matt Drumheller



Longest Night Worship

On December 11 at 4:00 p.m., First Presbyterian Church is going to have a Service for the Longest Night. 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.

Volunteers Needed for First Family Gathering

- Dessert Crew: Tuesday, December 6th at 10:00 a.m.
- Toppings Crew: Wednesday, December 7th at 10:30 a.m.
- Set up crew: Wednesday, December 7th at 3:45 p.m.
- Final Touches crew: Wednesday, December 7th at 5:00 p.m.
- Clean-up crew: Wednesday, December 7th at 6:45 p.m.

Please join us as a volunteer or just as our guest! We have such a good time together! Please call Jane Snyder at the church 704-982-2722 or on her phone 704-438-3358 if you would like to help☺.

FIRST FAMILY GATHERING
WEDNESDAY, December 7th
EVENING PRAYER 5:45 in the Chapel
DINNER at 6:00 in the Gym

Menu:

Mexican Rice Bowl –

Shredded Chicken, Ground Beef, Mexican Rice, Black Beans, Jalepenos, Avocados, Tomatoes, Shredded Cheese, Salsa, Sour Cream, Cilantro, Crushed Tortilla Chips

Thai Rice Bowl –

Chicken, Brown Rice, Bean Sprouts, Cucumbers, Carrots, Edamame, Peanut Sauce, Garlic Yogurt Sauce, Crushed Peanuts

Desserts –

Sweet Potato Cake, Pumpkins Bars, Apple Crisp, Brownies and Ice Cream

Contact the church office 704-982-2722 or klambert@fpcalbemarle.org by noon on Tuesday, December 6 to say you're coming.

COLORING GOD'S WORD

This Christmas, surprise your teachers, grandparents, neighbors, or friends with a coloring book filled with lovely, scripture-based pages. Each Faith Explorer has created an original coloring page, based on a favorite scripture, to create this collection.

\$5.00 each

Pair that with a recycled wood pencil holder, complete with 8 pencils, and you have the perfect gift to encourage relaxation.

\$5.00 each

Coloring is for all ages...so switch off from the everyday stresses and enjoy some soothing, unplugged time alone with the word of God.

On sale in the pit stop on Sundays, December 4 & 11 and Wednesday, December 7 at the First Family Dinner.

Proceeds benefit Montana de Luz, Honduras.

*First Presbyterian Church presents the Winter Art Exhibit
featuring works by the late E. Hendry Morris
(mother & grandmother of the First Oak Studio artisans, Leslie Carter, Olivia Keirstead,
Benjamin Riddle, and J. Harrison Carter, II)
Opening Sunday, December 4*

Growing up, Erne' Hendry Morris was inspired by her father and grandfather to appreciate the marvels of nature and God's creation. This exhibit will take a retrospective look at those and other influences, techniques, and changing styles of her work over the decades of her artful journey. Limited edition prints of Morris' work will be available for a donation to the First Presbyterian Church Alternative Gifts program.



Class Location: Basement, Classroom 2

(A new name and focus for a continuing Sunday School class.)

Adults of all ages are welcome any Sunday to join this laid back group. We use a variety of materials to begin discussions about our faith and how faith speaks to life. Discussion materials will be available ahead of time; however, preparation is not required. Folks are encouraged to come and listen as we share the journey of faith.

**JOY Gift Program & Covered Dish Luncheon
Sunday, December 11 at 11:00 a.m. worship**

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 12.** A complete list will appear in the bulletin on Sunday, December 18.

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.



Sign Up Now

!!! IMPORTANT !!!

Community Christmas Dinner

Sunday, December 25 at First Presbyterian Church

We are well on the way to hosting the 27th Annual Community Christmas Dinner at First Presbyterian Church. Thanks to each of the following Committee Chairpersons who are working hard in their area of responsibility:



Committees

Children's Activities
Clean-Up
Dining Room Management
Food
Food Receiving
Logistics
Publicity
Set-Up
Table Decorations
Take-Out
Volunteers

Committee Chair(s)

Rebekah Ayscue
Debbie Wainwright
Hugh and Debbie Wainwright
Hugh Wainwright
Jim Hesley
Lee Snuggs
John & Anne Montgomery
Lee Snuggs
Ann Snuggs
Skeet Ayscue
Jim Carter and Lori Ivey

Check the bulletin board for food and volunteer sign-up opportunities. We are looking forward to food, fun, fellowship and celebration on Christmas Day. Come out and bring your family...you will be blessed by the sharing of the season!

Coordinators for this event are:

Martha Sue Hall (704-985-5821 or hallmsh@hotmail.com)
Mary Kesselman (704-982-6754 or manapier@msn.com)
Sandy Saunders (704-982-3845 or swsaunders63@gmail.com)

**Stanly County Chorale presents
*Shepherd's Joy: A Christmas Collage***

Shepherd's Joy: A Christmas Collage will be presented on Sunday, December 4 at 3:00 p.m. and Monday, December 5 at 7:30 p.m., both times at the First Presbyterian Church in Albemarle. The program will be directed by Michelle Williams-Gonzales and accompanied by Zoey Brouthers. Please mark your calendars and join us! We would love to see you there!

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 4

Second Sunday of Advent/Ten-Cents-A-Meal/Alternative Gifts available in the pit stop/Youth Ministry Christmas Kitchen Before & After Worship in the Pit Stop/Faith Explorers Sell Coloring Books/Art Gallery Opening/Return Angel Tree Gifts

- 9:00 am *Breakfast Bunch
- 9:45 am *Sunday School
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 12:00 pm Mission Committee (Session Room)
- 12:00 pm Mwandu Mission Interest Meeting (Parlor)
- 3:00 pm Stanly County Chorale Concert at First Presbyterian
- 5:00 pm-7:00 pm Youth Connection at the Moeller's

Monday, December 5

- 12:15 pm Advent Study
- 7:00 pm Circle #5 meets at the home of Gloria Bryson (811 Smith Street, Albemarle)
- 7:30 pm Stanly County Chorale Concert at First Presbyterian
- 8:00 pm-9:00 pm Lectionary Bible Study at Off the Square
- 8:30 pm High School Bible Study at Elizabeth's

Tuesday, December 6

- 10:00 am First Family Dessert Crew
- 6:00 pm Contemplative Worship (Chapel)

Wednesday, December 7

Faith Explorers Sell Coloring Books

- 6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 10:30 am First Family Toppings Crew
- 12:00 pm Community Advent Service at Christ Episcopal Church (428 Pee Dee Ave.)
- 3:15 pm-5:15 pm Youth Cubs/Youth Club
- 3:45 pm First Family Set-up Crew
- 5:00 pm First Family Final Touches Crew
- 5:15 pm-5:45 pm Youth Club Handbells & Orff Rehearsals
- 5:45 pm Evening Prayer (chapel)
- 6:00 pm First Family Dinner
- 6:45 pm First Family Clean-up Crew
- 7:00 pm *Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 8

- 9:30 am *Pray & Play
- 10:00 am Staff Meeting

Saturday, December 10

- 10:00 am-11:30 am JOY Program rehearsal

Sunday, December 11

Third Sunday of Advent/JOY Gift Program & Covered Dish Luncheon/ Christmas JOY Offering/Alternative Gifts available in the pit stop/Faith Explorers Sell Coloring Books/Faith Explorers to Charlotte Children's Theatre

- 8:45 am *Diaconate
- 9:30 am JOY Program Rehearsal
- 9:45 am *Sunday School
- 11:00 am *Worship/JOY Program
- 4:00 pm Longest Night Worship
- 5:00 pm-7:30 pm Youth Connection
- 6:30 pm *Session meets in the Pit Stop

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

DECEMBER

- 04- Kate Gibson
- 05- Thora Kilde
Nathan Sanges
- 06- Glenn Miller
- 08- Pam Morgan
Hannah Smith
Hope Wolf
- 09- Lee Deese
- 10- Terry Morgan
Bill Pickler
Seth Richards
- 11- Cam Rogers
Mackenzie Smet

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

DECEMBER

- 10- Terry & Pam Morgan

SCCM NEED FOR

DECEMBER:

Canned Beans & Dried Beans

***childcare provided**