



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Albemarle, North Carolina

Elizabeth McNair Ayscue, Pastor Matt Drumheller, Associate Pastor

Church Offices: (704) 982-2722

Website: [www.fpcalbemarle.org](http://www.fpcalbemarle.org)

December 3, 2017

## GATHERING BEFORE GOD

PEALING OF THE BELLS

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

CANDLE LIGHTING

Hymn 105 *People, Look East* stanzas 1 and 5  
*The acolyte will light the angel candle on the Advent wreath.*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O that the Lord would tear open the heavens and come down,

**People: So that the mountains would quake at God's presence.**

*Isaiah 64:1*

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming. We wait filled with hope, knowing your light will shine in the darkness. We wait anticipating your peace, believing that one day it will fill our world. We wait embracing your love, seeking to share it with our neighbors. Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming. Amen.**

\*HYMN 88

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Veni Emmanuel  
(stanzas 1-4 and 7)

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

*Filled with Old Testament imagery, this hymn speaks of Christ as the fulfillment of God's promises.*

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Silence

Unison

**Patient God, we confess that we are in a hurry and make little time for you. Generous God, we confess that we spend with abandon, but forgive with reluctance. Loving God, we confess that we love too little and worry too much. In your patience, wait for us. In your generosity, pour out your grace. In your love, grant us forgiveness and peace. We ask for the sake of Mary's child, born to set us free.**

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Friends, 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.**

*The Gloria Patri, also called the Lesser Doxology, has been used in worship for centuries as a response of praise. This practice later found its way into our hymns when authors chose to incorporate a paraphrase of this Trinitarian text as the final stanza.*

*This setting of Charles Wesley's Advent hymn (#82) uses an 18<sup>th</sup> century form in which the organ provides a two-part accompaniment to the hymn sung by the choir. The organ's dance-like figuration and rhythmic syncopation in the choral parts contributes to the joyous, festive feeling of John Carter's 1992 anthem.*

*The Scots Confession was written by six ministers, including John Knox, after Scotland was declared a Protestant nation in 1560.*

*Using an Irish folk tune, the hymn joyfully anticipates the great changes accompanying God's incarnation.*

*I Corinthians 1:5-8*

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

### FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Mike McLeod

*Children will be invited to come forward. At the conclusion of the children's greeting, parents may take preschool children to the nursery.*

### ANTHEM

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

John Carter

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Holy God, in this season of waiting, send your Spirit into our midst to inspire and enlighten us. May your Word draw us into a deeper understanding of the meaning of your incarnation. Amen.**

### SCRIPTURE READING

[Mark 13:24-37](#)

Pew Bible, page 47

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

### SERMON

*Upheaval*

Mr. Drumheller

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**When the fullness of time came, God sent his Son, his eternal wisdom, the substance of his own glory, into this world, who took the nature of humanity from the substance of a woman, a virgin, by means of the Holy Ghost. And so was born the just seed of David, the Angel of the great counsel of God, the very Messiah promised, whom we confess and acknowledge to be Emmanuel, true God and true man, two perfect natures united and joined in one person. Amen.**

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

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### MINUTE FOR MISSION

Lee McLaurin

### 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

### THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*HYMN 93	<i>Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates</i>	Truro
CHARGE AND BENEDICTION		
CHORAL RESPONSE	<i>From Heaven Above to Earth I Come</i>	J.S. Bach
*POSTLUDE	<i>From Heaven Above to Earth I Come</i>	J.S. Bach

*I Corinthians 1:8  
Mark 13:29*

\*All that are able may stand.

**We rejoice that you are worshipping 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.

**For the season of Advent,** we will be including worship notes in the bulletin. These notes will provide information about prayers, music, and the movements of worship. They are designed to deepen our understanding of worship.

**The acolyte today is Natalie Taylor.** After extinguishing the Advent candle, the acolyte takes the light of Jesus Christ out into the world.

**The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper** is available to those who trust in Jesus Christ and to those who want to trust him more. The elements will be served by intinction. Gluten-free elements are available from the elders at the front of the sanctuary.

**There will be no Children's Church today.** School age children are encouraged to remain in worship and to participate in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Nursery care is provided.

**Ushers:** Jim Hesley, captain; Duncan Bryson, Keith Bryson, Banks Garrison, Sandy Saunders, Harold Sharpe  
**Outside Ushers:** Jim Marshall; Chris Whitley **Elder Greeters:** Adam Jolly; Dona Lisk **Nursery:** Courtney Brown  
**Preschool Partners:** Kristie & Keith Bryson **Nana & Papa Team:** Debby Johnston; Carol Sasser

**We ask that you keep these people in your prayers:** Marty Goforth (treatment for melanoma). **See newsletter for complete list.**

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**December 3 is the First Sunday of Advent**

Join us for worship and a festive chili luncheon provided by Session. Then, we'll decorate the Chrismon tree and tend to other decorations in the church. There will be Advent activities and fun for children of all ages.

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**Advent Worship on Tuesdays, December 5, 12, & 19 at 5:30 p.m. in the Chapel**

Come for quiet reflection, carol singing, scripture reading, and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

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**COMMUNITY ADVENT WORSHIP AT CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
ON WEDNESDAYS AT NOON**

Join in worship with others from the downtown churches during Advent at Christ Episcopal Church (428 Pee Dee Avenue). We will gather there on the following Wednesdays at noon in Advent: December 6, 13, & 20. A light lunch will follow worship. Working folks can be on their way by 1:00 p.m. Proceeds from the lunch will be donated for hurricane relief.

**Wednesday, December 6**

Preaching: The Rev. Ben Sloan, Pastor of Bethany United Methodist Church  
Worship Leader: Doctor Andy Jung, Pastor of First Baptist Church

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**If you have not already done so, please return your 2018 pledge card as soon as possible.** The Stewardship Committee needs all commitments in order to formulate the 2018 budget. Thank you.



**FIRST FAMILY GATHERING  
EVENING PRAYER AT 5:45 P.M. IN THE CHAPEL  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6 AT 6:00 P.M.**

We will gather as a church family for dinner on December 6 at 6:00pm. Everyone is welcome for fellowship and a delicious meal together. Jane needs your help cooking, baking, prepping, serving and cleaning up.

**December Menu: Homemade Vegetable Beef Soup, Tomato Soup, Crackers, Fruit, Kale Salad, Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich Station, Desserts, Tea, Lemonade, Coffee and Water.**

Contact the church office to make reservations: 704-982-2722 or klambert@fpcalbemarle.org.

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**Volunteers Needed for First Family Gathering**

- Dessert and Soup Crew: Tuesday, December 5 at 10:00 a.m.
- Salad and Fruit Crew: Wednesday, December 6 at 10:00 a.m.
- Set up crew: Wednesday, December 6 at 3:45 p.m.
- Final Touches crew: Wednesday, December 6 at 5:00 p.m.
- Clean-up crew: Wednesday, December 6 at 6:45 p.m.

Before and after the First Family Gathering is a great time for fellowship. We have so much fun in the kitchen. I would love to have you join us! Please call Jane Snyder at the church 704-982-2722, on her phone 704-438-3358 or email her at jsnyder@fpcalbemarle.org.

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**Backpack Food Program**

**UPDATED LIST OF DONATIONS NEEDED:**

Breakfast Cookies, Individual Bags of Goldfish, Large Cans of Soup, Canned Tuna, and Saltine Crackers.

A bin in the pit stop will receive your donation.



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***From the First Presbyterian Church  
Community Christmas Dinner Committee...***

**Community Christmas Dinner**

**Monday, December 25 at Central United Methodist Church**

Though we are not hosting the dinner this year, we will participate by providing food and help on Christmas Day. Food and volunteer sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the pit stop. If you sign-up to make dressing or sweet potato casserole, please take an aluminum pan and lid. Monetary donations will be accepted toward our church's portion of the church's food. If you would like to make such a donation, please indicate on your check *Community Christmas Dinner*. First Presbyterian Church Contact Person: Martha Sue Hall (704-985-5821 or hallmsh@hotmail.com). Blessings to all for helping provide a Christmas meal for so many in our community.

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**Winter Art Gallery Exhibit  
Featuring Paintings by Matt Moeller**

First Presbyterian Church feels honored to have on display during the winter months some treasured paintings by our own, Matt Moeller. Matt is a Certified Health Physicist, earned his Master's degree in Environmental Health from Harvard University's School of Public Health and his Bachelor's degree in Mathematics from Cornell University. He has more than 35 years of experience as a safety professional and has served on numerous corporate, charitable, and professional boards and committees, including those for the Health Physics Society, Illinois Institute of Technology, the United Way, and the Boys & Girls Clubs.



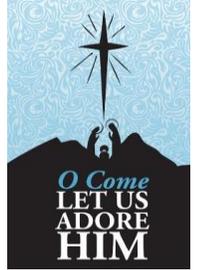
### Alternative Christmas Gifts

On December 3, 10, and 17, opportunities are available to purchase alternative gifts in the Pit Stop. You can select from among both local and international recipients. Charities include: Homes of Hope, Community Care Clinic, SCCM-Clothing Closet, and the Heifer International. For each purchase, you will receive one of several holiday-themed acknowledgement cards designed by artist Leslie Carter. A new card this year features the artwork of Dr. Davis Fort. Come visit us in the pit stop on Sunday or the church office Monday-Thursday during office hours.

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### Joy Program & Luncheon Sunday, December 10 at 11:00 a.m.

The Youth Club children will present the Joy program during worship on December 10<sup>th</sup>. *O Come, Let Us Adore Him* is a beautiful children's program that will delight you with traditional Christmas hymns, as well as some exciting new songs as our children tell the story of the birth of Jesus. Please plan to stay for the Joy Gift luncheon immediately following worship. The JOY luncheon is a covered dish meal. Bring some family favorites to share.



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### !!! SERRV SALE IN THE PIT STOP TODAY !!!

SERRV items are available in the pit stop today before and following worship. Come check some items off your Christmas list!



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### Angel Tree

There is an angel ornament waiting for you or your group on the Christmas tree in the Pit Stop. Please stop by and select one or more with the names. You will be provided with the child's Christmas gift wish-list. Be sure to fill in your name or the name of your group/family on the appropriate line(s) on the sign-up sheet. Each child's angel ornament is linked to a specific number on the sheet. **The unwrapped gifts need to be returned to the church by December 10.** See the instruction sheet for more details. Should you have any questions, contact Peggy Finley at 704-985-1136 or maf447@windstream.net.



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### 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 18.** A complete list will appear in the bulletin on Sunday, December 24.

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**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.**

## OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

### Sunday, December 3

*First Sunday of Advent/The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper/Ten-Cents-A-Meal/Alternative Gifts Available in the Pit Stop/Faith Explorers' Christmas Cards Fundraiser in the Pit Stop/SERRV Sale in the Pit Stop before & after worship*

- 9:00 am Breakfast Bunch (2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders-Media Room)
- 9:45 am \*Sunday School
- 11:00 am \*Worship
- 12:00 pm Advent Chili Lunch, Decorating, & Advent for Kids
- 5:00 pm-7:30 pm Youth Group

### Monday, December 4

- 6:00 pm Circle meets at the home of Gloria Bryson (811 Smith St., Albemarle)
- 8:00 pm-9:00 pm Bible Study with Matt at Off the Square

### Tuesday, December 5

- 10:00 am First Family Dessert & Soup Crew
- 5:30 pm Advent Worship (Chapel)

### Wednesday, December 6

*Faith Explorers' Christmas Card Fundraiser in the Pit Stop*

- 6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 9:15 am-11:00 am \*Pray & Play
- 10:00 am First Family Main Salad & Fruit Crew
- 12:00 pm Community Advent Worship at Christ Episcopal Church (428 Pee Dee Ave., Albemarle)
- 12:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (Parlor)
- 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 Orff Ensemble (Grades K-2)
- 5:15 pm-5:45 pm Youth Handbells (Grades 3-5)
- 5:45 pm Evening Prayer
- 6:00 pm First Family Dinner
- 6:45 pm First Family Clean-up Crew
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, December 7

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
- 12:00 pm Young Adult Lunch at Ly Cuisine

### Saturday, December 9

- 1:30 pm-3:00 pm Children's JOY program rehearsal

### Sunday, December 10

*Second Sunday of Advent/Joy Program & Luncheon/Joy Christmas Offering/Alternative Gifts Available in the Pit Stop/Faith Explorers' Christmas Card Fundraiser in the Pit Stop*

- 8:45 am \*Diaconate
- 9:45 am \*Sunday School
- 11:00 am \*Worship
- 12:00 pm-3:00 pm Faith Explorers' Christmas Snack Ministry
- 1:00 pm-5:00 pm Youth Group Ice Skating Trip to Pineville Ice House
- 5:30 pm Worship Committee
- 6:30 pm \*Session

**\*childcare provided**

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY! DECEMBER

- 04- Kate Gibson
- 05- Thora Kilde  
Nathan Sanges
- 06- Glenn Miller
- 08- Pam Morgan  
Hope Wolf
- 10- Terry Morgan  
Bill Pickler  
Seth Richards

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY! DECEMBER

- 04- Jack & Penny Morton
- 10- Terry & Pam Morgan

## SCCM CHALLENGE DECEMBER

Canned Vegetables  
Green Beans, Corn, Carrots,  
Peas, Beans,  
Canned Tomatoes,  
Mixed Vegetables...Vegall



### Faith Explorers' Christmas Card Fundraiser

This December, you can help our Faith Explorers (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders) support the Helping Hands Ministry at SCCM by purchasing beautiful handmade Christmas cards to send to your family and friends. These unique cards were made with love by our Faith Explorers and will be sold in packs of 6 for \$10. Cards will be on sale in the Pit Stop on Sundays, December 3 and 10, and on Wednesday December 6 before and after First Family Dinner.