



The Weekly Bulletin
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Albemarle, North Carolina

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December 1, 2019

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

MORNING MEDITATION

God who tramps the highways of the world, trespass now into the territory we covet. Come and call us to your far-flung places: where steadfast love and faithfulness meet; where righteousness and peace kiss each other. Our spirits long to go there with you, our hearts are desperate to stay; but the journey is long. God who travels beside us, hold our hearts and our hands, and lead us on. Amen.

*From Hope Was
Heard Singing by
Sally Foster-Fulton.*

PEALING OF THE BELLS

OPENING SENTENCES

It is good to give thanks to the Lord.

To sing praises to God.

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

GATHERING SONGS

Hymn 664	<i>Morning Has Broken</i>	stanzas 1 and 3
Hymn 686	<i>God of Our Life</i>	stanzas 1 and 2

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

The world says, *All is lost.*

God says, *All are loved.*

The darkness says, *The light is dying.*

The light says, *The fire is catching.*

Fear says, *Cover your eyes and your ears.*

Hope says, *Wait, watch, and listen.*

Hymn 88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* stanza 6

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer, our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

On the first Sunday
of Advent, the
acolyte lights the
candle of hope.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Holy One, you have promised us that the day of our salvation is near. Keep us faithful in love and watchful in prayer, so that we may stand with confidence and joy at the coming of Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.

***HYMN 88** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Veni Emmanuel
(stanzas 1-3, 7)

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

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Silence

Advent God, you enter into our weary world to lift up the lowly, to fill the hungry, and to establish equity throughout the earth. Yet, like perplexed prophets and doubting disciples, we scarcely believe that you can mend this broken world. Expand our hearts, that we might see the extraordinary in our midst and embrace the everlasting joy you bring.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Friends, believe the good news.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS**

hymnal 107, stanza 4

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn
Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night.
Though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light;
Be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer
and love our endless story;
May God fill every day we share
and bring us at last into glory.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Melissa Eudy

Children will be invited to come forward. At the conclusion of Faith Sharing with Children, parents may take preschool children to the nursery.

ANTHEM

Every Valley

John Ness Beck

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, our hope and strength, prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled. Amen.

GOSPEL READING

[Matthew 24:36-44](#)

Pew Bible, page 26

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HOMILY

Alert to the Holy

Reverend Ayscue

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The people of God have often misused God's promises as excuses for doing nothing about present evils. But in Christ, the new world has already broken in and the old can no longer be tolerated. We know our efforts cannot bring in God's kingdom. But hope plunges us into the struggle for victories over evil that are possible now in the world, the church, and our individual lives. Hope gives us courage and energy to contend against all opposition, however invincible it may seem, for the new world and the new humanity that are surely coming. Jesus is Lord! He has been Lord from the beginning. He will be Lord at the end. Amen.

This contemporary carol uses familiar images in new ways.

The congregation is encouraged to participate in the prayer with the children.

Sermons are posted to the church's website (www.fpcalbemarle.org). You can usually find the previous Sunday's sermon by Wednesday.

From *A Declaration of Faith*. The General Assembly of the PCUSA adopted this contemporary statement of faith in 1985.

*HYMN 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Hyfrydol

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

TITHES AND OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Wilbur Held

Doxology

Creator of the Stars of Night

hymnal 84, stanza 4

**To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One,
Praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution

Sharing of Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving 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.

*HYMN 515

I Come with Joy

Dove of Peace

*BENEDICTION

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Johann Sebastian Bach

*CHORAL AND CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

hymnal 105, stanza 1

People, Look East

**People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Guest, is on the way.**

*POSTLUDE

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Johann Sebastian Bach

*All that are able may stand.

We are grateful for your presence with us today. If you are a member of this church, please seek out those who are visiting and welcome them to this family of faith. If you are visiting and would like to know more about the church and membership here, please speak with one of the ministers following worship.

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

There is 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.

We will receive the Ten-Cents-A-Meal offering for hunger today.

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. Gluten-free elements are available from the elders at the front of the sanctuary.

Ushers: Jack Morton, captain; Kyle Barbee, Taylor Barbee, John Earnhardt, Brent Lisk, Grant Lisk, Greg Lisk, Penny Morton, Jeff Robertson, and Kim Robertson **Outside Ushers:** Brad Boone, John Earnhardt **Elder Greeters:** Sandy Saunders; David Whitley **Nursery:** Kate White **Kids Care Crew:** Kristie Bryson; Elizabeth Bryson

We ask that you keep these people in your prayers: Sally Grantier, Stan Scheer, Sean Hickey (brother-in-law of Lori Ivey; colon cancer), Jean Rabe (Trinity Place), Jane Scheer (Spring Arbor), Catherine Johnson (niece of Elizabeth Wilson; diagnosed with breast cancer), Rin Gannon (friend of Isabel McLeod; recovering from a stroke), Barbara Whitley (recovering from back surgery), Don Joines, Mark Mabry, Jane Pickler. **See newsletter for complete list.**

**ALTERNATIVE GIFTS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE PIT STOP
SUNDAYS DECEMBER 1, 8, AND 15**

CARDS PREPARED BY ARTIST, LESLIE CARTER

**CHARITIES: THE COMMUNITY CARE CLINIC, HOMES OF HOPE/THE
COMMUNITY INN, STANLY COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN MINISTRY
(SCCM), AND THE PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (PDA)**



**Luncheon Help Needed for Advent Service at Christ Episcopal Church
Wednesday, December 4 at Noon**



First Presbyterian Church is responsible for providing lunch following the noon advent service. Janet Schaefer is the coordinator. Please let her know if you can donate a dessert, soup, or cornbread. She will also need help with prep, transporting, serving, and clean-up on the day of the lunch, Wednesday, December 4. Sign-up sheet on clip board in Pit Stop or contact Janet Schaefer (janet.schaefer@gmail.com or 614-579-9096). Thank You!

COMMUNITY ADVENT WORSHIP

**AT CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON WEDNESDAYS AT NOON BEGINNING DECEMBER 4
LUNCH WILL FOLLOW WORSHIP
PROCEEDS FROM LUNCH WILL BE DONATED TO THE ESTHER HOUSE**

Wednesday, December 4

Preaching: Rev. Matt Drumheller, Co-Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Albemarle
Liturgist: Rev. Nikki Raye Rice, Pastor at Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church, Misenheimer.



Joy Program

Sunday, December 8 at 11:00 a.m.

The Youth Club children will present the Joy Program during worship on December 8. 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'll notice a few new twists on your favorite Christmas carols. Our children will tell us the age-old story of faith. Please plan to stay after worship for the Joy Luncheon, which is a covered dish meal. **Bring your family's favorite dish to share!**

**Winter Art Gallery Exhibition
Featuring Photography by Andy Cotton
Opens Sunday, December 8**



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
CHILI LUNCH, DECORATING, AND ADVENT FOR ALL
Sunday, December 1 following worship

EVERYONE is invited to join us on Sunday, December 1 after the chili luncheon for our Advent celebration!
This is a joyous time of fellowship as we celebrate the beginning of the Advent season together.
We will frost and sprinkle Christmas cookies, make a take home Christmas countdown craft,
and share God's love by making Christmas cards
that we will be giving to our neighbors at the Community Christmas Dinner.

Angel Tree 2019

!! Central School Angel Tree Ornaments are on the tree NOW !!

Come by the church to take an angel or two.

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 name is linked to a specific number on the sheet.

Please make sure to pick-up a guideline sheet. This ensures the best gift-giving for all children.

The unwrapped gifts need to be returned to the church in a large bag by Sunday, December 8.

Questions? Contact Peggy Finley at 704-985-1136 or maf447 @windsream.net.

Christmas Kitchen

Sunday, December 15

Before & After Worship in the Pit Stop



Mark your calendars!!! Our Youth Group is hosting its Christmas Kitchen on Sunday,
December 15 before and after worship in the pit stop. Make plans to attend and purchase
some delicious baked goods for the holidays. If you are contributing to the sale, dishes should
be brought to the church no later than 9:00 a.m. on December 15. You are also welcome to
bring dishes in advance. Contact Dorothy know if you are willing to bake any treats to
contribute (dhart@fpcalbemarle.org or 828-244-3824).

If you are willing to make and donate cakes, pies, casseroles, soups, breads, etc., for the youth sponsored
Christmas Kitchen, please sign-up below and turn in to the church office.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Item(s) you will make & donate: _____

Thank you for your help!



**First Family Gathering
Wednesday, December 4**

**5:45 p.m. Evening Prayer 6:00 p.m. Dinner in the Gym
Asian Fusion Meal**

Mexican Bar (beef, shredded Chicken, Mexican Rice, nachos, black beans...)
Asian Bar (Chicken, coconut rice, edamame, carrots...)
Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich Station, Assorted Desserts,
Tea, Coffee, Water and Lemonade

**Please RSVP to the church office by Monday, December 2
(704-982-2722 or klambert@fpcalbemarle.org).**

Volunteers Needed for next First Family Gathering

Dessert Crew: Tuesday, December 3 at 10:00 a.m.
Sides Crew: Wednesday, December 4 at 10:00 a.m.
Set-up crew: Wednesday, December 4 at 4:30 p.m.
Clean-up crew: Wednesday, December 4 at 6:45 p.m.

Please call Jane Snyder at the church 704-982-2722 or on her phone 704-438-3358 if you would like to help.



Freezer Fest

**Saturday, December 7 at 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. in the Church Kitchen
Host: Kristie Bryson**

**We will make sausage balls and spinach balls that you can put in your freezer as holiday treats.
Cost: \$15.00**

You must RSVP to Jane Snyder by Thursday, December 5 (jsnyder@fpcalbemarle.org or 704-438-3358).

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

The Community Christmas Dinner will be hosted by First Baptist Church this year.

See the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to find out how you can help.

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 16.** A complete list will appear in the bulletin on Sunday, December 22.

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 1

*First Sunday of Advent/The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper/
Ten-Cents-A-Meal Offering for Hunger/Alternative Gifts Available
in the Pit Stop*

- 9:00 am Breakfast Bunch (2nd & 3rd Graders in Media Room)
- 9:45 am *Sunday School
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 12:00 pm Advent Chili Lunch, Decorating, & Advent for All
- 12:00 pm Mission Committee

Monday, December 2

- 7:00 pm Circle #5 meets at the home of Gloria Bryson
(811 Smith Street, Albemarle)
- 8:00 pm Bible Study with Matt
- 8:30 pm High School Bible Study at Elizabeth's
(1611 Bellamy Circle, Albemarle)

Tuesday, December 3

- 10:00 am Adult Bible Study
- 10:00 am First Family Dessert Crew

Wednesday, December 4

- 6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 10:00 am First Family Sides Crew
- 12:00 pm Community Advent Service at Christ Episcopal
(428 Pee Dee Ave., Albemarle)
- 12:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (Parlor)
- 4:00 pm-6:00 pm Youth Club
- 4:30 pm First Family Set-Up Crew
- 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 Rehearsal

Thursday, December 5

- 10:30 am Staff Meeting
- 12:00 pm Young Adult Lunch at Log Cabin BBQ
(2322 US 52 Hwy, Albemarle)

Saturday, December 7

- 9:00 am Freezer Fest Pop-up (Church Kitchen)
- 10:30 am-12:00 pm Joy Program Dress Rehearsal (sanctuary)

Sunday, December 8

*Second Sunday of Advent/JOY Program & Luncheon/Angel Tree
Gifts due in the Pit Stop/Alternative Gifts Available in the Pit
Stop/SERRV items for sale in the Pit Stop/Opening of the Winter
Art Gallery Exhibit...Andy Cotton, Photographer*

- 8:45 am *Diaconate
- 9:45 am *Sunday School
- 11:00 am *Worship/JOY Program
- 12:00 pm JOY Luncheon (Covered Dish Meal)
- 12:00 pm Faith Explorers' trip to Escape Room
- 5:00 pm-6:30 pm Youth Group (Middle School)
- 6:00 p.m.-7:30 pm Youth Group (High School)

*childcare provided

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

DECEMBER

- 01- Steve Cumming
Ruth Goodwin
Catherine Moeller
- 02- Taylor Barbee
Don Stewart
Lynn White
- 04- Kate Gibson
- 05- Thora Kilde
Nathan Sanges
- 06- Glenn Miller
- 08- Pam Morgan
Robert McIntyre
Hope Wolf

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

DECEMBER

- 04- Jack & Penny Morton

SCCM CHALLENGE FOR DECEMBER

- Boxed Pasta Meals
(Hamburger Helper)
- Instant Potatoes
- Stuffing Mix



Hurray For Breakfast Bunch!!!

Who can come? 2nd & 3rd graders

What?

Breakfast...muffins, fruit, yogurt, milk, juice,
etc.

When? Sunday, December 1 at 9:00 a.m.

Where? Media Room

Why?

To pray together & build a strong
community of faith.

Please let Jill Niebler (jlniebler@gmail.com)
know if you are able to join us.