



The Weekly Bulletin
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Albemarle, North Carolina
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Volume 48

November 29, 2015

No. 48

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.

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Wilbur Held

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: As farmers wait for rainfall, as prisoners wait for freedom,

People: We wait for the coming of God.

Leader: As refugees yearn for home, as peacemakers yearn for justice,

People: We yearn for the coming of God.

Leader: As travelers prepare for the journey, as parents prepare for a newborn child,

People: We prepare for the coming of God.

*CHORAL INTROIT

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Picardy

*PRAYER OF THE DAY AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Mr. Drumheller

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 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Silence

Unison **Holy and loving God, we dwell in the darkness and prefer it to the light. We are proud of our accomplishments and despair over our shortcomings. Smooth down the mountains of our pride and lift up the valleys of our doubts. Open a path in the wilderness of our lives, that we might find our way to you. Secure us in your love, refine us, and prepare us for life in your kingdom.**

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Believe the good news,

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

hymn 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.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Bryson Family

Leader: Psalm 25 says, *Make me to know your ways, O Lord; lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation, for you I wait all day long.* We live in the presence of God, God who creates, sustains, renews. God’s presence often seems hidden from us, or maybe we’re too busy to notice.

People: **Be revealed to us, O God. Surprise us with your presence, O Spirit. Move us to see you, to hear you, O Christ.**

Leader: May this candle remind us to keep awake: To watch for God’s presence in our midst. As we light our first advent candle, we remind one another to live in holy hope: Eager anticipation of encounters with God.

People: **God who seems hidden, be revealed. Come, O come, Emmanuel!**

RESPONSE TO THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

hymn 88, stanza 3

**O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai’s height
In ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Mr. Drumheller

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

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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Pew Bible, page 694

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.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 21:25-33

Pew Bible, page 80

SERMON

The Wait Begins

Mr. Drumheller

*HYMN 94

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

Jefferson

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming

Johannes Brahms

*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

Come to the Table of Grace

hymn 507, stanza 1

(Stanza 1 - Choir)

(Stanza 1 - Choir & Congregation)

Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of grace.

This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.

Come to the table of grace.

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

The elements will be served by intinction; when directed by the usher to come forward, take bread, dip it in the juice, and partake immediately. A gluten-free station is available at the center front of the sanctuary.

Anthem

Lamb of God from 'Sewanee Service'

Malcolm Archer

Hymn 507

Come to the Table of Grace

Table of Grace

(stanzas 1-5)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*HYMN 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Hyfrydol

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

From Heaven on High to Earth I Come

Vom Himmel hoch

*POSTLUDE

From Heaven on High to Earth I Come

Johann Sebastian Bach

*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.

The acolyte today is Grace Richards. After extinguishing the Advent candle, the acolyte takes the light of Jesus Christ out into the world.

Thanks to the Bryson family for lighting the advent candle today.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is available to all those who trust in Jesus Christ.

Ushers: John Howell, captain; Al Andrew, Jay Andrew, Brad Boone, Lee Boone, Kalyn Caudle, Bill Hall, Robin Howell, Adam Jolly, Greg Lisk, Ben McLeod, Isabel McLeod, and Joe Snuggs **Elder Greeters:** Peggy Finley; Marshall Rogers **Nursery:** Misty Honbarrier **Toddler Room:** Salem Taylor **Preschool Partners:** Laura McLeod; Ben McLeod **Nana & Papa Team:** Carroll Sitton **Children's Church:** No Children's Church

We ask that you keep these people in your prayers: Michael Corl & family (UPS delivery employee), Banks Garrison, Rowena Warren, Rose Saltzman, John McIntyre, Janet Gardner Fleming (stepdaughter of Ruth Ann Rogers), David Sanges (brother of Nathan Sanges); Struggling families. **See newsletter for complete list.**

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.

Please return Angel Tree gifts on Sunday, November 29.

Advent for Kids

YOU ARE INVITED

Who? Children of All Ages

What? Advent Activities

Where? The Pit Stop

When? Sunday, November 29, following the luncheon

Why? To Celebrate the First Sunday in Advent

Theme? Light- Jesus is the Light of the World!

Activities Include:

Creating Advent Candle, Making a Wreath of Kindness for the 25 Days of Advent,

Decorating Cookies & More



Alternative Christmas Gifts



Alternative Gift cards are offered for donations directed to: **The Community Care Clinic, Homes of Hope, Crisis Assistance Fund, and Montaña de Luz.** The minimum gift is \$10 per card. For each purchase, you will receive one of several holiday-themed

acknowledgement cards that were designed by artist Leslie Carter. Gifts will be available for purchase before and after worship through December 13.

Hanging of the Greenery & Chili Luncheon

Sunday, November 29



The first Sunday in Advent is November 29. We'll enjoy the day with a chili luncheon prepared and served by Session. Following lunch, we'll decorate the Chrismon tree and participate in a variety of Advent activities for children and families.

26TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

!!! NEW THIS YEAR....ENTERTAINMENT !!!

We are responsible for entertainment from 1:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m. If you would like to provide festive music or some other entertainment, please let Jim Sawyer, (H) 704-986-6920 (C) 980-621-1929, or email: jameshardinsawyer@gmail.com, know of your interest and availability. Your reply before Sunday, December 6, would be greatly appreciated!!

COMMUNITY ADVENT WORSHIP 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 2, 9, and 16.* Lunch will follow. Reverend Donald M. Phillips, Interim Pastor of Saint Martin's Lutheran Church, is preaching on December 2.

Contemplative Advent Worship

Tuesdays, December 1, 8, 15, & 22

at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel



Beginning Tuesday, December 1, there will be an advent evening service in the chapel. These will be contemplative services (30 minutes) designed to help worshipers focus on the anticipation of advent and will include the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Join us for these new worship moments. Childcare provided.

**FIRST FAMILY GATHERING AND KITCHEN CHRISTENING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2
AT 6:00 P.M.**

In the midst of the holiday season's hustle and bustle,
join your church family for a Fiesta Mexicana to christen our new kitchen!

En el menu:
Taco Bar, Mexican Rice, Nachos, Black Beans,
Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich Station,
Assorted Desserts, Te, Café, Aqua y Limonada

Healthy Meal Alternative: Taco Salad

Sign-up on the Friendship Register on Sundays or contact the church office to let us know you are planning to come (704-982-2722 or klambert@fpcalbemarle.org).

Volunteer's Needed for December First Family Gathering

Los Dessert Crew: Tuesday, December 1 at 10:00 a.m.
Los Taco and Salad crew: Wednesday, December 2 at 11:00 a.m.
Los Set up crew: Wednesday, December 2 at 3:45 p.m.
Los Decorating crew: Wednesday, December 2 at 4:30 p.m.
Los Clean-up crew: Wednesday, December 2 at 6:45 p.m.

Please call Senora Jane Snyder at the church 704-982-2722 or on her phone 704-438-3358 if you would like to 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 \$22.00 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 14.** A complete list will appear in the bulletin on Sunday, December 20.

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.



ENGAGE CAFÉ at 9:30 a.m.

ENGAGE Groups begin at 9:45 a.m.

Sundays, November 29...December 6, 13, & 20

ENGAGE! TOPICS

Old Testament Location: Session Room

Utilizing a video series developed by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, a Jewish scholar who teaches at Vanderbilt University, Bill Jolly and Larry Sitton will lead this class. Levine presents a commentary on the origins, meanings, and interpretations of the stories in the Old Testament, in a thought-provoking and stimulating way. Interesting class discussion will follow.

Wired Word Discussion Group Location: Classroom 2

Patrick Currie and Debby Johnston will lead this group which bring scripture to bear on the life of the world.

Experiencing Advent through the Words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Location: Parlor

Matt Drumheller will be leading a daily reflection class based on the book *God in the Manger*. This is a book of daily devotions for the Advent season based on Dietrich Bonhoeffer's reflections and sermons. Take this opportunity to read Bonhoeffer's compelling reflections...the writings of one of the most influential modern theologians, as well as one of our most inspirational models of faith.

Finishing Well: Caregiving, Medical, Legal, & Faith Issues in Later Years

Location: Old Session Room

Elizabeth and others will lead this class which will tackle such issues as funeral planning, long-term care options, legal documents relating to finances and medical care. Come for conversation and to share your experiences. Guest speakers will include Patrick & Lisa Currie, Dr. Lenny Saltzman, and someone from the Senior Center.



26TH Annual Community Christmas Dinner

Friday, December 25 at First Presbyterian Church

Our food and volunteer sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the Pit Stop. If you sign-up for Dressing or Sweet Potato Casserole we will provide the aluminum pan and lid. This year all six churches are purchasing the non-perishable items (canned vegetables; potatoes; gravy; rolls and tea) in bulk. We will be accepting monetary donations toward our church's portion of this total amount. If you would like to make such a donation, please indicate on your check Community Christmas.

Additional volunteers will be needed to assist before Christmas Day. If you would like to help and will not be available on Christmas Day, please let Mary, Sandy or Martha Sue know.

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) |



**Support SNL's
Christmas Kitchen
Sunday, December 6 before and after worship in the Pit Stop**

SNL needs volunteers to make their favorite casseroles, soups, BBQ, cookies, cakes, coffee cakes, candies, & pies to be sold at the *Christmas Kitchen* on December 6.

Make ahead & freeze if you like!

SNL also needs hungry members of the congregation to shop at the *Christmas Kitchen* on December 6.

Stock your freezer with holiday food from the great cooks at First Presbyterian & support our youth!

**Call Liz Jolly (704-699-6699) or Jane Boone (704-604-3836)
to let us know what delectable dish you can donate!**

Community Table on Saturday, December 5

First Presbyterian Church will host the Saturday lunch at the Community Table on Saturday, December 5. Volunteers are needed to prepare food (vegetable soup & desserts) ahead of time and to help serve and clean-up on December 5. For more information as to how you can help or to volunteer your services, contact Linda Anderson (704-982-3723) or refer to the Mission Bulletin Board in the pit stop area.

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 29

First Sunday of Advent

Alternative Gifts Available

- 9:30 am ENGAGE Café (pit stop)
- 9:45 am *Sunday School/ENGAGE! Topics
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 12:00 pm Hanging of the Christmas
Greenery & Chili Luncheon
Advent for Kids

Tuesday, December 1

- 10:00 am Covenant Bible Study
- 10:00 am First Family Dessert Crew
- 6:00 pm *Contemplative Advent Worship
(Chapel)

Wednesday, December 2

- 6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 11:00 am First Family Taco & Salad Crew
- 12:00 pm Community Advent Service at
Christ Episcopal Church
(428 Pee Dee Ave.)
- 12:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 2:00 pm Legacy Committee Meeting
(Old Session Room)
- 3:15 pm-5:15 pm Youth Cubs
- 3:15 pm-5:15 pm Youth Club
- 3:45 pm First Family Set Up Crew
- 4:30 pm First Family Decorating 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 in the Chapel
- 6:00 pm First Family Gathering in the Gym
- 6:45 pm First Family Clean Up Crew
- 7:00 pm *Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 8:30 pm Pick-up Basketball

Thursday, December 3

- 12:00 pm Young Adult Lunch at Ly Cuisine (807A N. 2nd Street)

Saturday, December 5

Community Table

- 7:00 pm Stanly County Chorale Concert at FPC

Sunday, December 6

Second Sunday of Advent/SNL Christmas Kitchen in the gym/

Alternative Gifts available in the pit stop/Ten-Cents-A-Meal

- 9:00 am Breakfast Bunch
- 9:30 am ENGAGE Café (pit stop)
- 9:45 am *Sunday School/ENGAGE!
- 11:00 am *Worship

***childcare provided**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

NOVEMBER

- 29-Janice Abernathy
- Matt Drumheller

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

NOVEMBER

- 29-Skeet & Elizabeth Ayscue

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

DECEMBER

- 01-Pam Brafford
- Steve Cumming
- Ruth Goodwin
- 02-Taylor Jolly
- Don Stewart
- Lynn White
- 04-Kate Gibson
- 05-Thora Kilde
- Nathan Sanges
- 06-Glenn Miller
- 08-Pam Morgan
- Hannah Smith
- Hope Wolf

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

DECEMBER

- 04-Jack & Penny Morton

SCCM Food Challenge for:

**November:
Peanut Butter & Jelly**

**December:
Canned Beans &
Dried Beans**