



**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

Kyle Lambert, Office Manager

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**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 336

*We Gather Together* (all stanzas)

Kremser

Hymn 804

*Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!* (stanzas 1 and 2)

Marion

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Elizabeth Bryson, Merrin Kinley, Brent Lisk, Grant Lisk

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY 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 643

*Now Thank We All Our God*

Nun danket alle Gott

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Silence

**Unison**

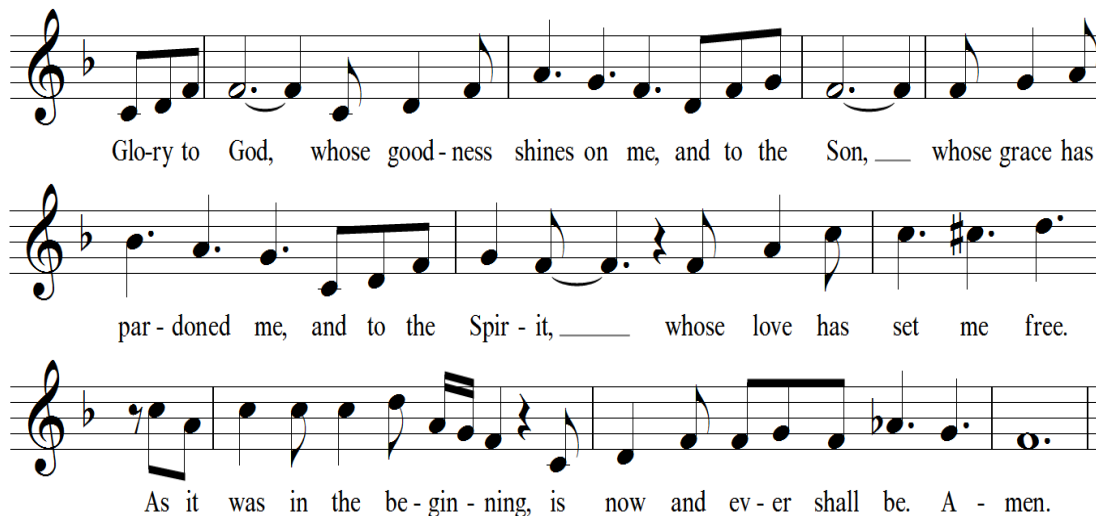
**Holy God, we confess that we have neglected to declare Jesus the king and model for our lives. We have been quick to call on others to follow the ways of Christ yet slow to do the same. We have been bold in demanding generosity, mercy, and forgiveness yet quiet when it comes to offering unconditional love and compassion. Forgive us, O God. Restore in us, yet again, the commitment to be more Christlike in word, in deed, and in spirit.**

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Believe the good news,

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

\*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS



Glo-ry to God, whose good-ness shines on me, and to the Son, — whose grace has  
par-doned me, and to the Spir-it, — whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the be-gin-ning, is now and ev-er shall be. A-men.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Penny Morton

*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 to the chapel for Children's Church.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Holy God, through the generations you have spoken to us. You have sent voices crying out in the wilderness. You have sent the words of an overjoyed new father and expectant mother. You have sent the assurance of a condemned man on a cross. Quiet in us any voice but your own that, by the power of your Spirit, we might hear the words you speak to us today. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

[Jeremiah 23:1-6](#)

Pew Bible, page 681

ANTHEM

*How Shall I Sing that Majesty*

Kenneth Naylor  
arr. S.R. Scheer

How shall I sing that majesty which angels do admire?  
Let dust in dust and silence lie; sing, sing, ye heavenly choir.  
Thousands of thousands stand around Thy throne, O God most high;  
Ten thousand times ten thousand sound Thy praise; but who am I?  
Thy brightness unto them appears, whilst I Thy footsteps trace;  
A sound of God comes to my ears, but they behold Thy face.  
They sing because Thou art their Sun; Lord, send a beam on me;  
For where heaven is but once begun there alleluias be.  
Enlighten with faith's light my heart, inflame it with love's fire;  
Then shall I sing and bear a part with that celestial choir.  
I shall, I fear, be dark and cold, with all my fire and light;  
Yet when Thou dost accept their gold, Lord, treasure up my mite.  
How great a being, Lord, is Thine, which doth all beings keep!  
Thy knowledge is the only line to sound so vast a deep.  
Thou art a sea without a shore, a sun without a sphere;  
Thy time is now and evermore, Thy place is everywhere.

GOSPEL READING

[Luke 23:33-43](#)

Pew Bible, page 83

SERMON

Mrs. Ayscue

\*HYMN 268

*Crown Him with Many Crowns*

Diademata

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PASTORAL PRAYER

Mr. Drumheller

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

*Now Thank We All Our God*

Georg Kaufmann

\*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 263

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

Coronation

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

*A Clare Benediction*

John Rutter

\*POSTLUDE

*Crown Imperial March*

William Walton

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\*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 Angus Currie.** After extinguishing the Christ candle, the acolyte takes the light of Jesus Christ out into the world.

**The flowers in the sanctuary** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of our daughter, Jody Oliver, and her husband, Jacob Oliver, by Cathryn and Claude Harwood.

**Thank you** to Barbara and Lee McManus for the lovely cornucopia.

**Ushers:** John Howell, captain; Brad Boone, Lee Boone, Bill Hall, Robin Howell, Adam Jolly, Jack Morton, Penny Morton, and Ellen Snyder **Elder Greeters:** Lee McManus; Sarah Michael **Nursery:** Samantha Wangler **Toddler Room:** Misty Honbarrier **Preschool Partners:** Jill Niebler; Isabel McLeod **Nana & Papa Team:** Sarah & Ronnie Michael **Children's Church:** Laura McLeod; Andy McLeod; Jacob Palmer

**We ask that you keep these people in your prayers:** The family of David Hancock, Lindsey Harward, Elliott Efird (granddaughter of Gayle & Ned Russell; recovering from RSV), Joan Belsan (Stanly Manor), 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.**

**The Thanksgiving Offering for Children's Hope Alliance** will be received on Sunday, November 20. Your support will help meet the needs of children through various programs such as residential care, childcare, clinical services, educational services, and campus ministry.

**Community Thanksgiving Worship  
at First Presbyterian Church  
Sunday, November 20 at 7:00 p.m.**



We are delighted to host the community Thanksgiving worship service this year. The Rev. Ben Sloan, pastor of Bethany United Methodist Church will preach and other local pastors will assist in worship. A special offering will be received for Presbyterian Disaster Service to be used in eastern North Carolina. **We also ask you to bring a can or bag of beans for SCCM.** Following worship, we will host a time of fellowship.

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**SERRV Bazaar & Catalog Orders  
In the Pit Stop on Sunday, November 20  
Before & Following Worship  
Catalog Order Deadline: Tuesday, November 22**

This is the place to find...

- ❖ Gifts with meaning – helps children go to school, helps with community development
- ❖ Environmentally sensitive gifts – some organic or shade grown products which are shipped in recyclables
- ❖ Fair trade gifts – artisan’s and farmer’s cooperatives have input in setting a fair price for their products
- ❖ Gifts for under \$10.00 – coffee, tea, chocolates, baking cocoa, nuts, jams, mango chutney, spice mixes, olive oil, and other food items

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The *Angel Tree* is now in the pit stop with the names of our *angels* from Central Elementary School. These children and siblings will receive Christmas gifts from our church. Each family or group of friends may select *angels* from the tree and purchase gifts for those children. The gifts are to be returned to the pit stop under the tree no later than Tuesday, November 29. They should be unwrapped and in a clear plastic bag. Please add some gift wrap for the parents.

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**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.**

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**Community Table on Saturday, December 3**

First Presbyterian Church will host the Saturday lunch at the Community Table on Saturday, December 3. Volunteers are needed to prepare food ahead of time and to help serve and clean-up on December 5. For more information, contact Linda Anderson (704-982-3723) or refer to the Mission Bulletin Board in the pit stop area.





**Alternative Christmas Gifts**

On November 27 and 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. Charities 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.

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**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!**

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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 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.**

# THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## Sunday, November 27

Plan to share in the expectation of the season.

- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship including –  
Lighting the candle of hope on the Advent wreath  
The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
- Noon Luncheon prepared and served by Session.  
On the menu...  
Chili (vegetarian & meat)  
Potato Soup  
Chicken Noodle Soup  
Cornbread  
Dessert
- Soon After Lunch Decorating the Chrismon Tree  
Advent for Kids... Advent for Kids... Activities include: painting a candle holder, creating an Advent Banner, decorating cookies & making cards for the Community Christmas Dinner.



### Opportunities for Growth & Reflection during Advent

- |                                  |                      |   |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Mondays<br>Begins November 28    | 12:15 p.m.-1:15 p.m. | Study: A Season of Anticipation & Hope<br>We'll focus on gospel themes; bring your lunch.                                     |
| Tuesdays<br>Begins November 29   | 6:00 p.m.            | Contemplative Worship in the Chapel<br>Worship will last for 30 minutes & will include the<br>Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. |
| Wednesdays<br>Begins November 30 | Noon                 | Community Worship at Christ Episcopal Church<br>Lunch follows.  |



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

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**!!! IMPORTANT !!!**

**Community Christmas Dinner**

**Sunday, December 25 at First Presbyterian Church**

We are well on the way to hosting the 27<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:hallmsh@hotmail.com))
- Mary Kesselman (704-982-6754 or [manapier@msn.com](mailto:manapier@msn.com))
- Sandy Saunders (704-982-3845 or [swsaunders63@gmail.com](mailto:swsaunders63@gmail.com))

## OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

### Sunday, November 20

*Thanksgiving Offering for Children's Hope Alliance*

- 9:45 am \*Sunday School  
11:00 am \*Worship  
12:00 pm Christian Education Meeting  
(Session Room)  
3:00 pm-5:00 pm Ecumenical Youth Rake n' Run  
7:00 pm \*Community Thanksgiving Worship  
(reception following)

### Monday, November 21

- 7:00 pm Fall Book Study  
*Underground Airlines* by Ben Winters  
8:00 pm-9:00 pm Lectionary Bible Study at Off the Square  
8:30 pm High School Bible Study at Elizabeth's

### Tuesday, November 22

- 10:00 am Backpack Program

### Wednesday, November 23

*No Wednesday Activities*

### Thursday, November 24

*Church Office Closed*  
*Thanksgiving Holiday*

### Friday, November 25

*Church Office Closed*

### Sunday, November 27

*First Sunday of Advent*  
*Alternative Gifts Available in the Pit Stop*  
*No Children's Church*  
*Hanging of the Christmas Greenery*  
9:45 am \*Sunday School  
11:00 am \*Worship  
12:00 pm Hanging of the Christmas Greenery &  
Chili Luncheon Advent for Kids

**\*childcare provided**

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY! NOVEMBER

- 21-Tom Rabe  
Debbie Wainwright  
23-Meredith Moses  
Gayle Russell  
Thomas Taylor  
24-John Earnhardt  
25-Shirley Hinson  
27-Charles McLaurin

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY! NOVEMBER

- 22-Ned & Gayle Russell  
26-Mark & Kim Andrew  
27-George & Judith Gilbreath

## 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).**

**SCCM NEED FOR NOVEMBER:**

**Jelly**