



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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December 18, 2016

No. 51

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.

ANTHEM

Comfort Ye My People

Howard Helvey

Comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.

Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

Hark, the voice of one that crieth in the desert far and near,
Calling us to repentance since the kingdom is here.

Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet Him and the hills bow down to greet Him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain;
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits His holy reign.

For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad;
And all flesh shall see the token that the word is never broken.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord;

People: My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Leader: The Mighty One has done great things.

People: Holy is God's name.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of grace, you chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace to be the mother of our Lord and Savior. Now fill us with your grace, that with her, we may rejoice in your salvation, and in all things, embrace your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*HYMN 140

Once in Royal David's City

Irby

***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

Emily Andrew and Jay Andrew
Mackenzie Smet and Morgan Smet

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?

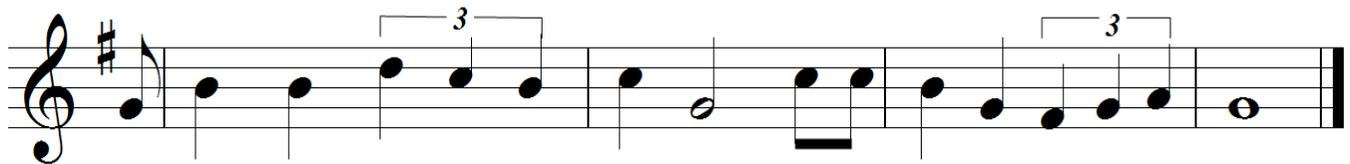
People: He came down that we may have love.

Leader: Today we light the candle of love, 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 love; he came down that we may have love;



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

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

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.

*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 Ethan Richards. After extinguishing the Christ candle, the acolyte takes the light of Jesus Christ out into the world.

Thanks to the Emily Andrew, Jay Andrew, Mackenzie Smet, and Morgan Smet for lighting the advent candle today.

Thanks to Linda Anderson (flute), Jacob Lancaster (tambourine) and Frank Poolos (oboe; Director of Vocal & Handbell Musice), Stan Scheer (Organist), and the Chancel Choir for sharing their talent with us this morning.

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:** Cici Ly

Preschool Partners: Dona & Greg Lisk **Nana & Papa Team:** Chris Mabry **Children's Church:** Liz Davis; Jacob Palmer

We ask that you keep these people in your prayers: The family of Katie Dearstyne (mother of Holly Norwood), Lindsey Harward, Sally Grantier, Pam Medlin (cousin of Janice Abernathy; multiple health concerns), Mike Dearstyne (brother of Holly Norwood, Peripheral Neuropathy), Roy Dearstyne (father of Holly Norwood). **See newsletter for complete list.**



Alternative Christmas Gifts

Available on Sunday, December 18 in the pit stop

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.

Thank you to everyone who donated food or purchased food during the Christmas Kitchen to support our youth program. It was one of the most successful we have ever had, and we are thankful for support from the congregation. Special thanks to Leah Beamon and Rose Saltzman for organizing the event.

**Community Christmas Dinner on
Sunday, December 25 at First Presbyterian Church**

We are hosting the 27th Annual Community Christmas Dinner at First Presbyterian Church. 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)

Attention...Help is needed following worship on December 18 to set-up tables and chairs in the gym in preparation for the Community Christmas Dinner. The more we have help...the less time it will take. Pizza will be provided as soon as the work is finished.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

An offering will be received at the 5:30 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. It will be designated for Stanly County's Habitat for Humanity 2017 Faith Build.

Worship on Christmas Day is at 9:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. Children of all ages are welcome to wear their pajamas as we hear the story of Christ's birth from some of the people closest to it.

**IMPORTANT STEWARDSHIP/FINANCIAL
YEAR END INFORMATION**

FINANCIAL YEAR END CLOSING

There are four Sundays in December in which to pay up your 2016 pledge by December 31. The financial books will close Friday, December 30, 2016 at NOON. Any contributions received after that time will be carried over to 2017. IMPORTANT: Due to uncertainty of mail delivery during the holiday season, the office suggests you mail your contribution no later than December 5. The correct mailing address is 126 W. North Street, P.O. Box 1578, Albemarle, NC 28002. If you are transferring stock, please do so BEFORE December 12 **and** be sure to notify Kyle when the transfer has been made.

2017 PLEDGE CARDS

Make sure you have turned in your 2017 Pledge Card. If you have misplaced your card or did not receive one, you can find pledge cards on the counter top outside the church office or stop by the office to pick one up. If you are not a member of the church but would like a pledge card and/or contribution envelopes just call or stop by the church office!



**Carol Sing at Tiffany's at First & Main
Monday, December 19
8:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
(103 North 1st Street, Albemarle)**

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS AND HOLIDAY GREENERY

IN MEMORY OF:

Gil and Edna Anderson.....	Linda Anderson
Johnny Andrew	His Family
Ed and Ruth Arnold	Linda Anderson
George and Dorothy Brown.....	John Brown, Penny Bates, & Sally Grantier
Ian D. Bryson	His Children & Grandchildren
Katie Dearstyne.....	Tom & Holly Norwood
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Downtin	Mary & Frank Green
Raymond and Agatha Drye	Barbara & Chris Whitley
John, Nora, and James W. Duckwall	Ann Duckwall
Jerry and Betsy Earnhardt.....	John & Angie Earnhardt
Taylor Benjamin Enzor.....	Jennifer & Matt Enzor and Pam & Gus Holbrook
Fay Granger	Mike, Laura, Caroline, Ben, Isabel, Andy, & Leo McLeod
Gary Grantier	David Grantier, Betsy Hernandez, & Susan Grantier
Lowell and Florence Grantier.....	Judy Grantier
Dr. and Mrs. P.J. Green	Mary & Frank Green
Betty and Caldwell Holbrook	Pam & Gus Holbrook
Olin and Ruth Huneycutt	John & Angie Earnhardt
Jeanette Isenhour.....	Frankie Palmer
Milton and Mary Miller	Glenn & Becky Miller
Verne Moose.....	Polly Moose
M.C. "Preacher" and Eloise Morgan	Rodney & Rita Morgan
Curtis and Otis Morris	Rodney & Rita Morgan
"Freck" and Oleta Norwood	Tom & Holly Norwood
Bob Palmer	Frankie Palmer
John David Rodda.....	Jane & Roger Lisk and Family
Steve W. Saunders	Sandy, Jennifer, & Stacey
Roswell and Myra Stilwill	Glenn & Becky Miller
Ellen and Brady Thomas.....	Pam & Gus Holbrook
Daniel Mann Whitley.....	David & Ellen Whitley
Daniel Whitley.....	Martha Hughes
Glenn and Edith Whitley	Barbara & Chris Whitley
Rita Whitley	Kyle, Laura Beth, Addison & Stella Marks
Tom Yost	Carole Yost & Family
Our Parents	Martha Sue & Dan

GIVEN BY:

IN HONOR OF:

Mildred Andrew.....	Her Family
Gloria Bryson.....	Her Children & Grandchildren
Anissa Chapman	Chris Chapman
Roy Dearstyne.....	Tom & Holly Norwood
Dr. and Mrs. Mike Dearstyne	Tom & Holly Norwood
John and Angie Earnhardt.....	Adrienne, Kevin & Ella Averette and Charlie, Kelly, & Will Lentz
Blue Honeycutt	Sandy Saunders
Our Children and Grandchildren	Martha Sue & Dan

GIVEN BY:



**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24
AT 5:30 P.M. AND 11:00 P.M.**

*Carols and candlelight
will mark the evening as we celebrate the birth of Christ.*

Christmas Candlelighting Service

The musical prelude begins at 5:00 p.m. Highlights will include organ, vocal, and instrumental music. *The traditional candlelight service begins at 5:30 p.m.* Worship includes a story for the children, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, music by the adult choir, and sharing the light of Christ and traditional carol singing. We will also receive an offering for Stanly County's Habitat for Humanity 2017 Faith Build.

Worship at 11:00 p.m.

This service includes music by older youth and college students, drama, traditional carol singing, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and sharing the light of Christ. This service is full of expectation as we move toward midnight and the birth of Christ. Dress is informal. Following worship, youth and their families are invited to enjoy a light breakfast and fellowship.



OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 18

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Alternative Gifts available in the pit stop

9:45 am *Sunday School

11:00 am *Worship

5:00 pm Youth Connection Christmas Party

Monday, December 19

12:15 pm Advent Study

8:00 pm-9:30 pm Carol Sing at Tiffany's at First & Main

Tuesday, December 20

10:00 am College Student Brunch at Elizabeth's
(1611 Bellamy Circle, Albemarle)

6:00 pm Contemplative Worship (Chapel)

Wednesday, December 21

No Youth Cubs/ No Youth Club

7:00 pm *Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 22

Church Office Closed

Friday, December 23

Church Office Closed

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve/Christmas Holiday

Church Office Closed

5:00 pm *Christmas Eve Musical Prelude

5:30 pm *Christmas Eve Worship

11:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship & Breakfast

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day

9:00 am Worship

11:00 am-2:00 pm Community Christmas Dinner

***childcare provided**

SCCM NEED FOR DECEMBER:

Canned Beans & Dried Beans

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

DECEMBER

18-Katie Carpenter

Mary Green

Katie Saltzman

20- Virginia Currie

Anna Henkenjohann

Morgan Smet

Toby Webb

21-Emily Andrew

22-Carroll Sitton

Joe Snuggs

23-Bill Jolly

25-Gloria Bryson

Bob Sasser

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

DECEMBER

21-Gerald & Lynn Poplin

Tom & Jean Rabe

22-Joe & Brittany Mallory

23-Harold & Carolyn Sharpe

Craig & Teresa Taylor

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)

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.