

First Presbyterian Church

December 1, 2024

11:00 am

1st Sunday of Advent



Missional Priorities

Spirit-Centered Discipleship
Hands-on Local Mission

Friendships Across Differences
Embracing the Unchurched

Worship of the Living God

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Teresa de Freitas

An Advent Prelude
Charles Callahan

Welcome

Dr. Randy Kirby

* Call to Worship

Lighting the Candles of Advent

Kevin & Jessica Settineri, Robert, Lincoln, & Marilyn

We wait for the coming of Christ with hope. Jesus comes as a light amid darkness, hope amid despair, peace amid conflict, joy amid grief, and love amid hate.

We wait for the coming of Christ with hope.

As we wait, we light the candle of Hope to guide us through long days of waiting and the dark nights of the soul. As the Psalmist says, "Make us to know your

ways, O Lord; teach us your paths. Lead us in your truth and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation. For you we wait all day long.”

We wait for the coming of Christ with hope.

* Hymn 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

* Confession of Sin

Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

God our Maker, we confess that we are not ready to meet you. You call us to repent, but we turn away from you. You send your Spirit to release us, yet we remain captivated by sin. You wait patiently for us, but we fail to watch and wait for you. You stand among us in Christ Jesus, yet we claim we do not know you.

Forgive us, God of grace. Embrace us with tender mercy so that we may encounter you.

* Assurance of Forgiveness

* Response 113

Angels We Have Heard on High (refrain only)

Glo—ria in excelsis Deo.

Glo—ria in excelsis Deo.

Proclamation of the Word

Baptism & Children’s Message

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Scripture: Luke 21:25-36

Sermon

Dr. Randy Kirby

Moment for Reflection

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arr. Carol Tornquist

Responding to the Word

* Affirmation of Faith

Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

The Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;**

who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he
descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he
ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father
Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Prayers of the People

Announcements & Celebrations

Offering

Offertory

Sanctuary Choir

An Advent Garden
arr. Joseph M. Martin

* Hymn 92

While We Are Waiting, Come

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Communion of the People

"The body of Christ, given for you."

"The blood of Christ, shed for you."

Music during Communion

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
arr. Carolyne M. Taylor

* Prayer after Communion

Sending to share the Word

* Hymn 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

* Benediction

* Benediction Response 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

***O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.***

Postlude

Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates
Wilbur Held

The living Christ encounters us in the ordinary elements of Communion. Christ extends the invitation to the Lord's Supper and is open to all – believers and doubters, young children and adults, members and non-members. To highlight this gracious welcome, only non-alcoholic juice is served, and gluten-free bread is available. If you would like to refrain from the feast, you may cross your arms, and a blessing will be offered. If you cannot come forward, a minister will serve you in your seat. If you feel so moved to respond, people often reply with “Amen” or “Thanks be to God.”

*Those who are able are invited to stand.
Bold indicates words spoken in unison.

**The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Virginia and Leo Wallace, Jr.
by Suzanne Wallace Casey, Vickie and Victor Wallace,
and Lee and Mona Wallace.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Steve Coggin, Sara Cook, Margaret Graham, Denny Shantz

Zandra Spencer on the death of her cousin, Tip McCachren

CONTINUING CONCERNS

Fred Aggers, Bill Baker, Ray Bowden (Eva Nelson's step-father), Bob Bruce, CC Crofton, Amy De Graaf (Dan and Karen De Graaf's daughter-in-law), Alice Edwards (Tracy Smith's mother), Richard Franklin, Atticus Hampton (Kathy Sanborn's friend), Scott Hay, Richard Hudson, Tricia Johnson, Vonnie Jordan (Mike Jordan's mother), Jan Kichefski, John Laughlin, Ed Lewis and family, Wib Manuel, John McLaughlin, Andy Rowland (Jared Rowland's father), John Smith, Ryan Snyder, Ebbie Whisenant, Sharon Whittington

CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays: David Whitley, Sharon Hoffman, Janet Loeblein, Gabe Steinman, Diana Storey, John Drye, Betty Fellows, Mark Grover, Barry Sang, Graham Smith, Kathy Vestal

Anniversaries: Jeff and Lyn Beaver, Dyke and Deborah Messinger, Jim and Barbara Norman

Church Life

Communion Elders: Mike Drinkard

MINISTRY FOCUS – DEEPLY ROOTED

Welcome! We welcome all new and returning visitors to First Pres. We are glad you're here and hope you feel God's presence as you worship and fellowship among this community of believers. Children are always welcome in worship. However, if your little one needs some time to wiggle or play, a nursery is available for infants-4 Pre-K. Please see an usher for more information.

Baptism: This morning, Ian and Brooke Swaim present their son, Hampton Lee, for baptism. Hampton was born on January 22, 2024. His grandparents are David and Marianna Swaim.

Gather: Advent Gatherings are held each Sunday of Advent, 9:15-10:00, in Fellowship Hall join us for food and fellowship!

Grow in Faith: Countdown to Christmas will be TODAY at 9:45 in Fellowship Hall with Advent Wreaths, applesauce ornaments, cinnamon crosses, and children's crafts. If you have your previous wreath forms, please bring them. Dec. 8: Christmas Card Writing, Dec. 15: Christmas Hymn Sing, Dec. 22: Karl Hales's Stories for adults.

Grow in Friendship: JOY Christmas Party will be at the Gables Clubhouse (210 Riverbirch Dr) on Sunday, December 8 at 4:00. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Limited to 50, so please RSVP to the church office TODAY.

Grow in Faith: First Kids Christmas Pageant! The congregation is invited to see The Christmas Story Pageant on Wednesday, December 18, at 6:30 in Lewis Hall.

Worship: The Longest Night Worship Service will be held on Saturday, December 21, at 7:00 pm, in Lewis Hall. A service of reflection, healing, and hope.

CORE

Staff: Don't assume we know! Your pastors and congregation want to care for you through prayer, visitation, letters, and more, but we can't do that unless you tell us something is going on. Let us love you.

Giving: As of November 27, we have received 167 pledges for a total of \$910,570.00.

BRANCHING OUT

Community Ministries: Race & Justice's Christmas Party is Sunday, December 8, at 5:00. Food, fellowship and Christmas caroling! Contact Debbie Collins for more details.

Showing Up: The Helene Ministry Team has received an updated list of needs from West Jefferson, NC; cleaning supplies, hot hands, toilet paper, and laundry detergent are being collected. Items may be dropped off during office hours at the church office. We will periodically arrange transport for these items. For a more detailed list of needs for collection, see the Facebook page of the coordinators at <https://www.tiktok.com/@jimmyandjeansnc>.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Dec 1	8:30	Contemporary Worship: Lewis Hall
	9:15	Advent Gathering
	9:45	Countdown to Christmas
	11:00	Traditional Worship: Sanctuary
Dec 2	9:30	MomCo
	10:15	PWCT
	11:00	Presbyterian Women's Bible Study
	6:00	Youth Team
Dec 3	10:00	Staff
Dec 4	9:00	Yoga
	12:00	Office Volunteer's Lunch
	5:00	Handbell Rehearsal
	5:30	First Kids
	7:00	Choir Rehearsal
Dec 5	6:30	LCW Rehearsal
Dec 7	10:00	Music Rehearsal
	12:00	Music Team Lunch
Dec 8	8:30	Contemporary Worship: Lewis Hall
	9:15	Advent Gathering
	9:45	Christmas Card writing
	11:00	Traditional Worship: Sanctuary
	4:00	JOY Christmas Party
	5:00	Race & Justice Christmas Party
	5:00	Youth Christmas Party-Lewis Hall

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