

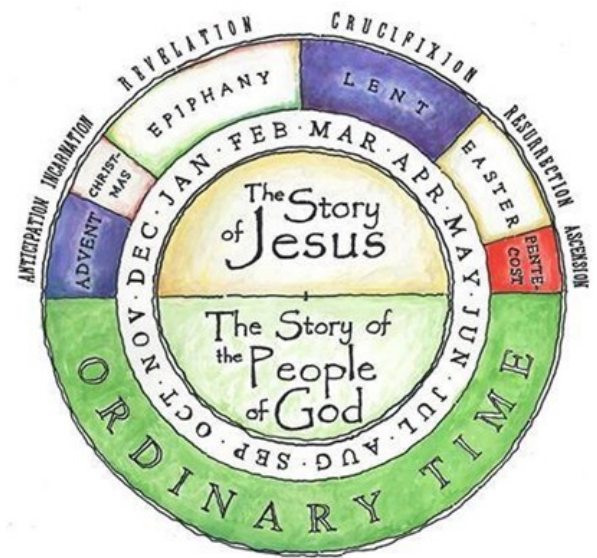
A Note From Our Pastor

A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken. -Isaiah 40:3-5

I think we can all agree that 2020 has been rough. If you're like me, you're ready to be D.O.N.E. with it. Some of us are thinking, *can the ball drop already, and we just move on to 2021?* Well, what if the Season of Advent is exactly what we need as 2020 draws to a close. On the one hand, Advent is the beginning of new liturgical calendar, so technically, it's a loop hole, and we can say that we've already moved on to the next year ☺. However, and more seriously, the themes of Advent are exactly what we need in the midst of all this disruption.

Advent is about longing, anticipation, yearning. Advent means "coming." It's a time when we acknowledge the holy discontent we have this side of Christ's return. Drawing on the words of Isaiah, we realize that the path isn't straight, that the mountains are steep, the valleys are low, and the rough ground is just too rugged for our weary feet. We take time to name it. In our immediate-gratification world, Advent tells us to counter-culturally wait.

The world around us will rush to celebrate Christ-less sentimentality which some have come to call "Christmas." It too realizes things are not the way they ought to be, but the world tells us that shopping straightens the path, or entertainment will level the way, or a party could light the darkness. However, as disciples of Jesus, we wait, knowing he alone is the answer, so we long for the day when "the glory of the Lord will be revealed." We don't rush to a Christ-less Christmas. We celebrate Advent. We pray, "Come, Lord Jesus."



Some Spiritual Disciplines to consider as we wait:

1. The Jesse Tree: This is a modest evergreen, with an ornament to hang each day of Advent. The ornaments correspond with Old Testament stories leading up to the birth of Christ. I love this practice because every year its roots me again in Scripture and the hope we have in the coming Messiah

2. Advent Candles: Sure, we light these on Sunday morning in worship, but I would encourage you to light advent candles at home. While the darkness grows around us, we light a candle in anticipation of Christ, the Light who shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome.

3. Acts of Kindness Advent Calendar: You'll find this custom calendar in this newsletter. Our Butterfly Mission Team, put together 4 weeks of kind actions we can take every day leading up to Christmas. This is a way to live incarnationally as we look to Christ's incarnation. **A way to be a light as we anticipate THE light.** (Page 2)

Join me in waiting. Join me in praying..."Come, Lord Jesus!" Pastor Timothy

Weekly Worship

Every Sunday,
 The Lord's Day
 9:00

Worship Service Outside
 on the Church Lawn and
 Facebook Live

11:00 Facebook Video
 Available

Worship Service 11:00
 in the Sanctuary

Upcoming Events

Monday, Dec. 7

1:00 Prayers & Squares

Monday, Dec. 21

1:00 Prayers & Squares

3:00 Visitation Ministry

5:00 Session Meeting

Thursday, Dec. 24

Christmas Eve Services

4:30 On the Lawn

7:00 Sanctuary

(See Page 3)

Sunday, Dec. 27

(no 9:00 service)

Young Adult Sunday

Pastor

Timothy Scoonover

Director of Spiritual
 Formation

Angeline Brock

Editor

Sally Harvey

Tear Out and put on your refrigerator. Spread Acts of Kindness every day!



Acts of Kindness Advent Calendar

 <p>Sunday</p> <p>29 Make a financial contribution to the Christmas Food Boxes. (See Hugh Smith or Jerry Stuckey)</p>	 <p>Monday</p> <p>30 Donate dog or cat food to the animal shelter.</p>	 <p>Tuesday</p> <p>1 Let someone go in front of you in line at a store.</p>	 <p>Wednesday</p> <p>2 Pray for our community.</p>	 <p>Thursday</p> <p>3 Help a neighbor/friend with a chore.</p>	 <p>Friday</p> <p>4 Donate a toy for a child in need.</p>	 <p>Saturday</p> <p>5  Read Scripture to prepare for Sunday Genesis 12:10-20</p>
<p>6 Donate a food item to our church food pantry.</p>	<p>7 Leave a surprise for a postal or garbage truck worker.</p>	<p>8 Reach out to someone in a hospital or nursing home.</p>	<p>9 Pray for our country.</p>	<p>10 Take a treat to the fire station.</p>	<p>11 Clean up after someone else (home, neighborhood, or community)</p>	<p>12  Read Scripture to prepare for Sunday Genesis 13:1-18</p>
<p>13 Thank a member of your church for their service contribution.</p>	<p>14 Send an email of gratitude to a coworker/friend who deserves recognition.</p>	<p>15 Pay it forward - Pay for a person's meal behind you in a drive thru.</p>	<p>16 Pray for the homeless.</p>	<p>17 Compliment at least 3 people.</p>	<p>18 Thank a police officer.</p>	<p>19  Read Scripture to prepare for Sunday Genesis 14:1-24</p>
<p>20 Call someone to say hello that you haven't frequently spoken with.</p>	<p>21 Thank a healthcare worker.</p>	<p>22 Donate to one of our church partners: Habitat for Humanity, Thornwell, Callen-Lacey, Hope Repair.</p>	<p>23 Pray for our Pastor and ministers.</p>	<p>24 Give a gift card/money to someone working on Christmas Eve.</p>	<p>25 </p>	<p>26</p>



#butterflymission

*Saturday scripture readings are in preparation for Sunday sermons.



Christmas Eve Two Opportunities for Worship

4:30pm – Contemporary Worship on the Lawn

This family-friendly service will take place on the lawn. The band will lead favorite carols. Bring your lawn chair, your friends and family, communion elements (we'll have some if you forget). The service will end at sundown as we light candles and sing "Silent Night" outside. No capacity limits. No reservations needed.

7:00pm – Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

We will sing traditional hymns and celebrate communion as we space out in the sanctuary. For our health, we will wear masks, and communion will be served with safety in mind. We are limited to 90 worshipers, so reservations through the church office are required. Reservations open on Tuesday, December 8. Call or email Sally: at 843-761-8469 or firstpresbyt@homesc.com.

Minutes in a Minute

On Monday, November 16, the Session of First Presbyterian Church:

- Opened with prayer and devotion from Luke 18
- Examine and approved the following officers: William Tanner (Deacon), Troy Cribb (Deacon), Clisha Weathers (Deacon), John Spencer (Elder), Doris Partlow (Elder), and David Harris (Elder)
- Set January 23 as the date for the Officers' Retreat and meeting of the College of Elders
- Set January 24 as the date for the ordination and installation of new officers
- Conducted a first reading of the budget, and resolved to encourage the congregation to reconsider their 2021 pledges
- Authorized the Worship Ministry Team to determine the schedule for the Christmas Eve worship services
- Received update from Rev. Scoonover's doctoral work: nearing completion of his third year of studies, and looking to begin the project phase of his work in January
- Received reports from the Stewardship, Personnel, and Finance Team (pledge dedication Sunday was October 25), Hospitality Team (Elder Gene Williams provided an updated Visitor's List), Butterfly Ministry (reaching out to young adults), and Pastoral Care
- Received update and information on Elders Don Cribb and Rin Page's completion of a Missional Communities Webinar. We discussed the western church's struggle in the areas of deep discipleship and mission engagement.
- Adjourned the meeting with prayer by Elder Gene Williams

Our next Session meeting will be at 6pm on Monday, December 21.

Becoming a Tithing Church

We are still collecting 2021 pledges, as we set our budget for next year. If you have not submitted your pledge, it's as easy as emailing Sally. If you have already, consider raising your pledge to 10% of your income. Our church would love to give away 10% of our income to others, but it takes a tithing people to be a tithing church.



Happenings in December



Christmas Food Boxes—Hugh Smith and Jerry Stuckey are accepting donations for those that are less fortunate as they have done in previous years. Last year each bag contained enough food for several days. Call Jerry (843-899-4477) or Hugh (843-899-6420) for more information.



Food Pantry—Thank you, congregation, for being so generous and faithful with supporting the food closet. During the Covid Pandemic we still have been giving out food boxes as needed. Now that school is in session again, the food is going out a bit faster. Any non-perishable food items that you bring in will be gratefully accepted. If you wish to make a monetary donation, we can do the shopping for you. There truly is a great need in our community and anything you can contribute will be appreciated. Thank you, Doris Partlow



Young Adult Sunday, December 27—There will not be a 9:00 Worship Service, only an 11:00 Service. Our young adults will be bringing us the message and participating in the service. Come and see what the Lord is doing in their lives.



Save the Date — The Officer's Retreat will be, Saturday, Jan. 23, 2021.

Poinsettias



If you would like to remember or honor a loved one by placing a poinsettia in the sanctuary this Christmas, please fill out the information below and place in the offering plate or place on the secretary's desk along with your check. Flowers are \$10.00 each. Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church and designated Poinsettias. Deadline is Thursday, Dec. 17

Memory of: _____

Honor of: _____

From: _____

No. of Poinsettias _____ Amt. Paid _____

The youth joined the congregation for a “movie on the lawn”, and we plan to continue the conversation that began that night by asking.....
Which farm animal am I, and how do I or how could I contribute to the farm {to the church}?
Pray for our youth – that this movie and this conversation will open their eyes to how valuable they are as members of this farm/church.



**Our Mission: Making disciples of the next generation
who reach UP to God, IN to one another, and OUT to the world!**

Dear First Presbyterian Family,
 Thank you all so very much for the cards, food and especially your prayers and calls during my recent illness and surgery! Thank you to the Prayers and Squares group for the Prayer Quilt which means so much to me!
 In Christ, Doug Bowles

Dear First Presbyterian Church,
 Thank you so much for the beautiful prayer blanket! Having something tangible that we can see, hold and feel that others have prayed over brings us real comfort and peace. Being able to have that peace and know that others are praying for us, and especially Cole, is such a blessing anytime God's people pray for one another. It demonstrates God's love and brings His kingdom to this world. Thank you for your continued love, prayers and encouragement.
 Love, Clint, Erin, Daniel, and Cole Henderson

Dear Church Family,
 Thank you so much! It is so nice to be remembered during this trying time of college! I will use this gift card and take a friend to lunch. Thank you again.
 Love, Emma Shuler

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family,
 Thank you so much for all the love shown to our family after the death of our father and granddaddy, Rev. Dr. John Miller. Dr. Miller loved our Lord, our church and its members. He was a loving and caring person and will be greatly missed. The flowers that you sent are beautiful. Thank you very much.
 With Love, Ben, Dorothy, John Jr., Martha, Will, Laura, and Benjamin

Dear First Presbyterian Church Women,
 Thank you so much for your love and care you've shown us during the death of Rev. Dr. John Miller. It was such a wonderful thing to receive a gift certificate to the Barony House. Thank you so much. Dr. Miller (dad, granddaddy) was such a loving and caring person, who loved the Lord with his whole soul. He will be greatly missed. Thank you for your love.
 Love, Ben, Dorothy, John Jr., Martha, Will, Laura, and Benjamin



DECEMBER

- 2 Meredith Bell
- 3 Jeff Baumann
Bryant Davis
Rica Gause
T.C. Guerry
Karen Quick
- 4 Saylor Ussery
- 6 Kathy Baumann
Michael Bayless
Christopher Ollic
- 8 Ashley Huggins
Hampton Weathers
Davis Weathers
- 9 Connie Brinson
Codi Orvin
- 10 Justin Robinette
Larry Mooror
Bill Shipley
- 11 Andy Ferez
- 12 Libby Nelson
Charles Matthews II
- 12 John Nelson
- 14 Kevin Wadford
- 15 Micah Scoonover
- 16 Pam Brogdon
- 17 Christopher Wilson
Deidre Stehmeyer
- 18 Eric Buitenhuis
Elliott Millwood
- 19 Nancy Stuckey
- 21 Cadie Gooch
- 22 Melissa Anne Primm
- 23 Cyndy Britt
Arthur Devereux
- 30 Arianna Baugh
- 31 Hugh Murchison
Don Saturday




Upper Room Devotionals
 for November and December are available for you under the church carport in a plastic box for easy pickup. They are also in the church on the table outside the church office.

Bulletins in a Box
 Sunday Bulletins for the 9:00 Worship Service are placed in a plastic box under the carport for your convenience each Friday.

Commitment Report	Budget for 2020	\$450,820.00
	<u>Nov. 22 & 29, 2020</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Budget Offering	\$ 21,090.62	\$341,654.31
Weekly Budget Requirements	\$ 17,339.22	\$413,141.28



December 2020 First Presbyterian Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<p>1 8:30—12:00 Home School Coop. 11:30 Staff Meeting</p>	<p>2 11:00 Prayer Ministry</p>	<p>3 10:00 Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
6	<p>7 1:00 Prayers and Squares</p>	<p>8 8:30—12:00 Home School Coop. 11:30 Staff Meeting</p>	<p>9 11:00 Prayer Ministry</p>	<p>10 10:00 Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
13	<p>14</p>	<p>15 8:30—12:00 Home School Coop. 11:30 Staff Meeting</p>	<p>16 11:00 Prayer Ministry</p>	<p>17 10:00 Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
20	<p>21 1:00 Prayers & Squares 3:00 Visitation Ministry 6:00 Session Meeting</p>	<p>22 8:30—12:00 Home School Coop. 11:30 Staff Meeting</p>	<p>23 11:00 Prayer Ministry</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve <i>Office Closed</i> 4:30 Contemporary Service Outside 7:00 Traditional Service in the Sanctuary</p>	<p>25 Christmas Day <i>Office Closed</i></p> 	<p>26 <i>Pastor Timothy Vacation</i></p>
<p>27 (no 9:00 Service) Young Adult Sunday</p>	<p>28 <i>Pastor Timothy Vacation</i></p>	<p>29 8:30—12:00 Home School Coop. 11:30 Staff Meeting</p>	<p>30 11:00 Prayer Ministry</p>	<p>31 10:00 Women's Bible Study</p>		

*Come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.*



Details of Christmas Eve Services on Page 3

First Presbyterian Church

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**Our Mission: Making disciples who reach UP to God,
IN to one another, and OUT to the world!**