



December 2020



"I have been with you wherever you went."

2 Samuel 7:9

The third Sunday of Advent offers us this glimpse of a less familiar book from the Old Testament, 2 Samuel (2 Samuel 7:1-16). At first it seems like a very unusual lectionary (recommended) reading for the Advent season. It begins with a conversation between Nathan, the prophet, and King David. The king wants to build a house for God! But God has other plans. God assures David that there is no need for a specific house to be built for God. Rather, God says, "I have been with you wherever you went. . . . I will give you rest I will make you a house." How often do we try to build a house, a box, or expectations for God? In this very different Advent season, perhaps we can pause and consider how God is with us wherever we go (or don't go, if we are quarantined). Our lives rarely turn out how we plan or expect, and this year, needless to say, everything has been turned on its head! But, God is with us. God is with us because Christ came into the unpredictable, uncontrollable mess of our very human lives, to live with us, be with us, and to be God with us. It is upon the foundation of Christ that God builds a house for us. It is not a house defined by walls or human expectations. It is a home built upon the promise, hope, and love of our Savior. That home is with us wherever we go (or don't go). It is in the hearts and minds and prayers of our church community, our worship (whether online or in person), and the many creative ways we come together in these times. In this Advent Season, let us prepare our hearts and minds, our community, and our lives to once again welcome God who is with us wherever we go (or don't go).

May the peace of Christ be with you in this Holy Advent Season,

Pastor Leigh

December 2

Hanging of the Green
6:00 PM in the Sanctuary

December 6

2nd Sunday of Advent
Worship 9:00 & 11:00 AM
Christmas Ornament Class
4:00 PM Fellowship Hall

December 13

3rd Sunday of Advent
Worship 9:00 & 11:00 AM

December 20

4th Sunday of Advent
Worship 9:00 & 11:00 AM

Christmas Eve

3:00-4:30 PM Interactive
Outdoor Live Nativity
*Walk through the Christmas
story and experience
Christ's birth like never
before!*

5:00 PM Communion
Worship Service

7:00 PM Candlelight,
Communion Worship
Service in the Sanctuary,
concluding with candlelight
outdoors

9:00 PM Candlelight,
Communion Worship
Service in the Sanctuary,
concluding with candlelight
outdoors

*This service will include
contemplative, Taizé'
elements in worship.*

*Sign-ups required for the
5:00, 7:00, and 9:00 PM
services. To sign-up, call
the church office at*

*770-382-3511 or go to
www.cartersvillepres.org
Nursery will be available at
5:00 & 7:00 PM services*

December 27

One Worship Service
11:00 AM in the Sanctuary
No Sunday School

• Advent Zoom Bible Study

Join us for two Wednesday evening Zoom Bible studies as we reflect on and discuss the lectionary readings for Advent. Zoom invitation will be sent out the Tuesday before each Wednesday study.

Wednesday, Dec. 9, 7:00 PM

A little apocalypse

Isaiah 64:1-9; Mark 13:24-37

and

A little crazy

Isaiah 40:1-11; Mark 1:1-8

Wednesday, Dec. 16, 7:00 PM

Preparing the way . . .

Isaiah 61:1-4; 8-11; John 1:6-8; 19-28

for the impossible:

2 Samuel 1-11; 16

Luke 1:26-38

- **During Advent, the Monday Morning Message and Wednesday Time of Prayer** Constant Contact emails will be readings from *The Mystery of Holy Night* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Each reading will be followed by a hymn based musical meditation on that reading.

Bonhoeffer (1906-1945) was a German theologian. In 1933 he helped form the "Confessing Church", breaking away from the Evangelical Church after it added the "Aryan Clause" to its confession. Bonhoeffer is probably most well known for being a part of the plot to assassinate Hitler. The plan was discovered, and he was arrested in April of 1943. He spent 2 years in prison and in the spring of 1945, he was taken to Flossenbürg, an extermination camp and was executed—just 3 weeks before the Americans liberated the camp.

- **THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS**, a book of devotionals for the Advent Season, by Hank Hanegraaff, is available in the church office. You may also see one of the ushers on Sunday morning and pick one up. The purpose of *THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS* is to ensure that just as you prepare your home for Christmas, you will likewise prepare your heart.



Ordination/Installation of Elders/Deacons

In worship on Sunday, Nov. 8, we gave thanks to God for those who have been set aside by the laying on of hands and prayer to serve in the office of Deacon and Elder. We ordained and installed the class of 2023 and asked God's blessing to be upon our Session and Board of Deacons for the coming year.

December Ladies Night Out - Thursday, December 17th at 6:00pm

This month we will meet at Jennifer Nebergall's house, 28 Barrett Lane, Cartersville. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share and a small gift (\$5-\$10) for a gift exchange. Come celebrate the season with us! All ladies are welcome!



From the Session

The Session met on November 17, 2020 for its regular Stated Meeting. The following are the highlights from that meeting:

1. A 'Covenant of Care and Respect For the Leaders of First Presbyterian Church Pastors, Staff, Elders, and Deacons' is being considered for adoption by the Session.
2. The Service of Wholeness and Healing scheduled for 11/18/2020 was postponed due to Leigh being quarantined.
3. A funeral policy during the Covid-19 crises was adopted by the Session.
4. Action on the use by outside groups of the FPC facilities was postponed until the December Session Meeting.
5. Mary Gilreath reported that gift baskets are being prepared for delivery to some of our older members.
6. Beth Gaines reported that Hanging of the Greens on 12/2/2020 is still on and Christmas Eve services will take place at 5:00, 7:00, and 9:00 PM with a family-friendly service at 3:00 with animals.
7. An amendment to the FPC Child Safety policy was adopted by the Session.
8. A contract has been signed with Hunter Public Adjusting to assist us in resolving our roof damage claim with our insurance carrier.
9. Paul Green reported that the FPC finances are in good shape through 10/31/2020 and that the 2021 Budget should be ready next month.
10. Janet Martin reported that the Personnel Committee plans to prepare updated written job descriptions for all staff.
11. The Leigh Jones Installation service is scheduled for 1/10/2021 at the 11:00 AM Service.

Christmas Ornament Class

Learn how to make beautiful quilted ornaments.

We'll have a workshop on Sunday afternoon,
December 6 at 4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Supplies you will need to bring are:

- 32 - rectangles MAIN fabric, 2 x 3"
- 24 - rectangles ACCENT fabric, 2 x 3" each
- 3" foam ball (8 segments recommended)
- 230 - 250 pins, Size #17 recommended
- 1 - band MAIN fabric, 2-1/2" x 10-1/2"

You Will Also Need These Tools...

- sharp scissors
- tape measure (flexible)
- pen or pencil
- approx. 2 yards of narrow ribbon (about 3/8" recommended)
- 1 - decorative pearl pin

Masks and socially distancing protocols will be observed. A nursery will be provided. If you have questions contact Pam Radford at pam@cartersvillepres.org

Technology Ministry Team & Audio Visual for Worship

Thank you to our technology ministry team: Mike Radford, Jackson Cline, David Steinken, and Craig Godfrey. This crew has been working tirelessly to improve our sound and video quality for worship (in person and online). They are in the midst of soliciting quotes to upgrade our capabilities so that the team can make recommendations to the Session regarding improving our sound and video systems.

We would love a few more helping hands! Would you be willing to help? We are looking for a few additional people who would be willing to help get quotes and evaluate systems or to serve on a few Sunday mornings to help with sound or video. This just requires familiarity with using an Ipad or tablet and we are happy to help a volunteer become familiar with this tech if you are interested. To learn more or volunteer, contact Pastor Leigh.



Youth Group Christmas Party Sunday, December 13, 4-6 p.m.

Food, fellowship, Christmas themed games, and a White Elephant Gift Exchange.

White Elephant Gifts (\$10 Max)

Whether it is a 3-foot tall stuffed animal, a gift card, \$10 worth of candy, or your best thrift store find, this White Elephant Gift Exchange is sure to be a highlight of your December.

RSVP today to andrea@cartersvillepres.org, so Andrea knows how much pizza to get!

Adult chaperones are also needed for this event, and you are encouraged to participate in the gift exchange as well.



*Christmas
Eve
Live
Nativity*



Youth Guides and Characters Needed

Youth Volunteers are needed to help be guides and characters for our Live Nativity Stations on Christmas Eve.

Help is needed to guide groups from 2:30-4:30 on Thursday, Dec. 24.

Contact andrea@cartersvillepres.org for more information or to sign up to help.



We need 2 Acolytes each week to help lead worship. [Click here>>](#) to sign up to be an Acolyte.

If you are interested in getting your child trained to be an acolyte, please contact andrea@cartersvillepres.org.

acolyte
ministry

Youth Group Dates for your Calendar

- ♦ FAB Wednesdays at FPC—12/2 & 12/9
- ♦ Dec. 2 – Hanging of the Green Worship – RSVP here>>[RSVP Here>>](#)
- ♦ Dec. 6 – Advent Ornament Class – 4 p.m.
- ♦ Dec. 13 – Youth Group Christmas Party 4-6 p.m. White Elephant (\$10 Max)
- ♦ Dec. 20 – Last day of Sunday School for Children & Youth
- ♦ Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Interactive Nativity – Youth Help Needed 2:30-4:30

Most of our youth communication comes from our Constant Contact Weekly Youth Emails & Flocknote Texting Service. If you are not on our Youth Group Email distribution lists, email andrea@cartersvillepres.org

December 2020

First Presbyterian Pre-School

December Calendar

Christmas Parties ~ Friday, Dec. 18

School closed ~ Weeks of Dec. 21 and 28

Teacher Workday ~ Monday, January 4

School Reopens ~ Tuesday, January 5



Storm Trooper, Pastor Leigh, marches with our toddlers to the Halloween Parade.



Preschool Registration will begin in February for the 2021-2022 school year! Registration packets can be picked up from the Pre-School office from 8:00-12:00 or in the Church Office. Please call 770-382-0755 to schedule a tour if you are interested.

December Birthdays

5	Laurie McAfee	23	Wilma Cameron
7	Ken Thornton	25	Laura Layne
7	Sarah Craighead	26	Rick Richardson
7	Andy Johnson	28	Mary Cullens
9	Suzanne Collins	28	Lisa Neal
10	Joe Noble	28	Alyson Atwell
10	Marion Panter	28	Allyson Ireland
12	Nona Smith	29	Jean Ivie
13	Bonnie Floyd	29	Faye Johnson
13	Joyce Smith	30	Molly Collins
15	Kathy Farnon		
18	Harry Treadaway		
18	Molly Mendenhall		
18	Terry Lavender		
19	Carson McAlexander		
20	Floy White		
20	Emma James		
20	Elise Bares		
20	Owen Pruitt		
21	Christine Green		
21	Anna Rentz		



In December We Pray for Our Church:

Staff: Pam Radford, Stephanie Munch (ASP), Pam Nealey (ASP), Rosemary Purdy (Preschool), Carol Ries (Preschool)

Officers: Paul Green (Session), Molly Collins (Diaconate)

Ministries: Mission & Service Ministry

Families: December 1-7: Jennifer Tasker, J. B. and Dianne Tate, Debra Tatum, Lauren Tatum, Erin Templeton

December 8-14: Kathy Thomas, Ed Thomasson, Randy and Jackie Thompson, Ken and Sandra Thornton, Gerry Thrasher

December 15-21: Ben Tilley, Daniel Tilley, Lynne Tilley, David Tilley, Harry Treadaway

December 22-31: Kyle and Jamie Lee Tucker, Paul and Rhonda Wachsmuth (Luke, Hallie), Cathy Wall, Chip and Lauren Warlick (Scarlett), John and Penny Waters

First Presbyterian Church

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Contact

Leigh Jones, pastor

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pam@cartersvillepres.org

Becky Ferguson, secretary

becky@cartersvillepres.org

Angie Hood, receptionist

angie@cartersvillepres.org

Beth Weathersby, preschool co-director

beth@cartersvillepres.org

Lindsay Scoggins, preschool co-director

lindsay@cartersvillepres.org

Jean Dudley, after school program director

jean@cartersvillepres.org

Andrea Roche, children & youth director

andrea@cartersvillepres.org

December Calendar

December 1

6:30pm - Properties Committee Meeting

December 2

6:00pm - Hanging of the Green

December 6

4:00pm - Christmas Ornament Class

December 13

4:00pm Youth Christmas Party

December 15

6:15pm - Worship Committee Meeting

6:30pm - Mission Committee Meeting

7:00pm - Session Meeting

December 17

6:00pm - Ladies Night Out @ The Nebergall's

December 21

5:30pm - Stewardship & Finance Meeting

December 21 thru January 4

Preschool & ASP Christmas Holiday's

December 24

3:00pm - Interactive Outdoor Live Nativity

5:00pm - Communion Worship Service

7:00pm - Communion Worship Service concluding with candlelight outdoors

9:00pm - Communion Worship Service concluding with candlelight outdoors

December 25

Church Office Closed

December 27

11:00am - One Worship Service/No Sunday School

December 28

Church Office Closed

December 31

Church Office Closed

Christmas Holiday Schedule

- The Preschool and Hands of Christ ASP Christmas Break December 21 - January 4
- The church office will be closed December 25, 28 and 31.

