



January 2021



The Season of Epiphany

“When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”

Matthew 2:10-11

When the wisemen or, as they are also known as, magi, found the Christ child, they were overwhelmed with joy, they worshipped, and they made offerings to God. There is no better model for Epiphany living than this. Epiphany is often used to refer to any revelation, but for people of faith, when used specifically about this season, it refers to the time when the magi encountered Christ. Like the magi, we too, have encountered Christ throughout the season of Advent and Christmas.

How does that encounter with our Savior affect us for this season of Epiphany? Like the magi, we can name the joy that comes from knowing Christ, we can worship, and we can make our offerings to God.

These days, all of those practices might look a little different than we may imagine. But this does not mean they are unimportant. As a matter of fact, it means they are all the more important.

In this season of Epiphany, I invite us all to take time and energy to name the joys that we have experienced through knowing Christ. We can name that joy in prayer or conversation (on the phone, via zoom, or in person with distancing and masks) with a trusted friend. We may be a powerful witness for Christ to a friend who needs to hear about what it means to know Christ.

Also, whether it is through online worship or in person, we can make worship a priority. And, we can make an offering to God. Whether it is a financial offering or one of time or talents or offering our hearts and lives to Christ to be used to proclaim the good news, there are many ways we can offer our treasures to God. There are opportunities in this season to serve. Consider helping as an usher or exploring being on the Mission, Faith Development, Properties, Worship, or Administration Committees. Invite others to be a part of our community through worship or study or service.

Over the next few weeks, we will be sharing more about the work for Christ that goes on at FPC and inviting everyone to consider how we can be a part of that work. The season of Epiphany is a special time when we, like the magi, can grow in our faith and discipleship. May we all venture out with the wisemen to do just that.

Pastor Leigh

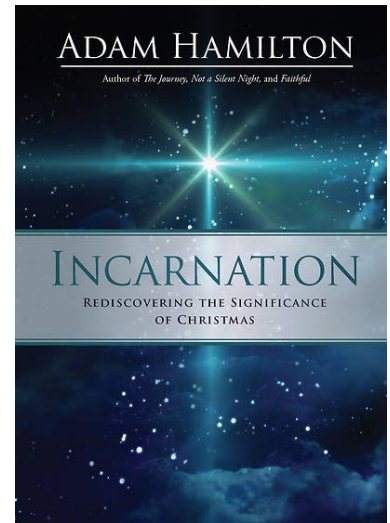
Epiphany Zoom Bible Study:

Join us for a four week study of Incarnation, by best-selling author Adam Hamilton. Incarnation examines the names of Christ used by the gospel writers, exploring the historical and personal significance of his birth for our lives and world today! The study will be Wednesday evenings, Jan. 13, 20, 27 & Feb. 3 at 7:00 PM. If you would like to experience the full depth of the study, you may purchase the study guide from Amazon or Cokesbury:

Cokesbury: <https://www.cokesbury.com/Incarnation-1-2>

Amazon: https://www.amazon.com/Incarnation-Rediscovering-Significance-Adam-Hamilton/dp/1791005543/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=incarnation&qid=1609977393&sr=8-1

Large print study guides are available.



Congregational Meeting

The Session has called our annual congregational meeting for **January 31, 2021** after worship. More information will follow about the format of that meeting and whether it will be in person and zoom or zoom only.

Worship Notes

Thank you to our Worship committee who has worked very hard for the month of December to arrange worship leaders and nurture incredible worship opportunities for us in the holy seasons of Advent and Christmas. As we enter into the Season of Epiphany, we are doing so with online only worship for Jan. 3 and 10th. Our Session will meet Jan. 12th to make a determination about worship going forward. Our Session continues to pray, individually and collectively, and be attentive to the circumstances. Stay tuned to our Constant Contact e-mails and Facebook page for up-to-date information.

We are in need of ushers for our 9:00 services. If you can commit to serving one Sunday a month, please contact Suzanne Collins at suzannelc80@gmail.com. We also need individuals to prepare communion on the first Sunday of the month. Currently, using prepared elements, it is easy to set up and takes about 15 minutes. If you feel led to do this, please let Suzanne know.

From the Session

The Session met on December 15, 2020 for its regular Stated Meeting. The following are the highlights from that meeting:

1. Session Meetings will be held via Zoom for the immediate future.
2. The FPC Landscaping contract has been renewed for an additional 12 months.
3. The FPC Janitorial services contract has been renewed for an additional 6 months.
4. A Nursery Worker contract was reviewed and approved.
5. A second nursery worker has been hired.
6. The Annual Meeting of the congregation will take place on 1/31/2021.
7. Beth Gaines reported that 17, 30, and 28 respectively have already signed up for the 5:00, 7:00, and 9:00 Christmas Eve Services.
8. A Wednesday Night Epiphany Bible Study will begin 1/6/2021.
9. Kyle Russell reported that an FPC Work Day will be held on 12/19/2020.
10. The FPC elevator service contract was recommended for renewal.
11. Paul Green reported that he expects the 2021 Budget to be presented to the Session for approval in January 2021.
12. The FPC 2020 Budget is on track to finish the year in the black.
13. The Leigh Jones installation service will be rescheduled to take place in March 2021.

Thank you

A Work in Progress and a Big Thank You!

Our online and in person tech work continues to be a work in progress. But we would not be making any progress if not for the hard work of our tech team. Thank you to those who have given and continue to give their time and talents toward making our sound work, helping our online streaming be as good as it can, making adjustments, and being there for services to make it all work. We are continuing to work on our online streaming and our in person sound. Keep an eye out because we hope to see additional improvements soon!



FPC's Book Club is meeting to discuss Will Schwalbe's The End of Your Life Book Club on **Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 10:30 am** in the Fellowship Hall.

All are welcome!

Christmas Eve Live Nativity

Thank you to all of our youth, staff, and adult volunteers who helped with the Live Nativity on Christmas Eve. There was cold rain, sleet, & snow, but they all stepped up and did a wonderful job to share the message of Christ's birth to our congregation and community. The youth also helped with finding the costumes and had a dress rehearsal before Christmas Eve.

Thank you all who stopped by to walk through our "Road to Bethlehem," and who supported our youth at FPC. It means a lot that our congregation is so supportive and encouraging of our youth in all that they do.

If you missed out on our Live Nativity, there is a walk through narrated by Allyson Ireland on our Facebook page which can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/CartersvillePres>



- **Sunday School** will tentatively resume when we return to in-person worship. Please read your emails from the church for updated information.
- **Are you signed up for youth and children's email and texts?**

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

- **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



December Highlights

We survived the month without having to close the school due to positive cases of Covid-19!

Unfortunately, our annual "Sing Around the Tree" was postponed until next year. We have noticed a few things about having to follow the Covid-19 guidelines and thank God for reminding us to look for the good:

- The school is a quieter place.
- Without the rush to practice our songs, complete Christmas ornaments, and plan parties, we saw a calmer spirit in celebrating Christmas. (We were able to have our parties with limited visitors.)

Teachers will return for a workday on January 4 and the children return the next day, Tuesday, January 5. We will also close January 18 for the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

Peace, Love, Joy, and Hope for the New Year,

Lindsay and Beth

January 2021

Happy winter days from
First Presbyterian Preschool!



2021-2022 Registration Begins in February

Please take advantage of Registration Dates for FPC members the **first week** in February. The **second week** will open for parents with children currently in attendance. Then, we will open registration to the public on **February 22**.



ATTENTION

We will follow Cartersville City Schools schedule for snow days.

However, sometimes, in the event of closings, the Pre-School may close earlier or open later to avoid traffic conflicts with the schools.



January Birthdays

1	Don Jackson	17	Jean Lumpkin
1	Janet Strange	17	Vernon Ferguson
1	Scott Panter	17	Alexandria Baker
1	Sara Gregory	18	Jack Cummings
4	Ethan Dudley	19	Nannette Enloe
6	Pearse Mullinax	20	Marcia Mein
7	Randy Davis	20	Lori Bradley
8	Valarie Lavender	20	Tinsley Cline
8	Adam Brush	22	Richard Gurley
9	Rose Diale	24	Elise Sims
9	Hayleigh James	26	Mike Radford
10	Louise Panter	28	Ellyn Olson
10	Drake Brush	29	Tommy Porter
11	Rick Shireman	29	Vaughan Longhurst
11	Ross Bridges		
12	Becky Broome		
12	Olivia Lavender		
14	Jim Allen		
14	Taylor Choate		
14	Jackson Salter		
15	Alaina Ellis		
16	Jean Robinson		



In January We Pray for Our Church:

Staff: Becky Ferguson, Margie Patton (ASP), Marla Patton (ASP), Sheila Rosser (Preschool), Louisa Thacker (Preschool)

Officers: Megan Johnson (Session), Rose Diale (Diaconate)

Ministries: Worship Ministry

Families: January 1-7: Kenzie Waters, Frank and Beth Weathersby, Jared Whatley (Olivia), Jeanne Whatley, Ross and Charlotte Whatley

January 8-14: Floy White, Peggy White, LaRue Whitehead, David and Jeannette Wilkins, Lewey Williamson (Aaron)

January 15-21: Earl and Marie Williamson, Hannah and Taylor Wilson (Jackson), Randy and Diane Wrinkle, John and Peggy Zierer, Bobbie Allen (Sommer and Trinity)

January 22-31: Jim Allen, Mike and Monnie Anderson, Karen Anderson, Ed and Sandy Atwell, Matt and Jessi Bailey (Sam and Judd)

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Contact

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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

January Calendar

January 1

Church Office Closed

Preschool & ASP Holiday's thru January 4

January 5

6:30pm - Properties Committee Meeting

January 6

2:00pm - Red Cross Blood Drive

January 13

7:00pm - Epiphany Zoom Online Bible Study

January 18

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

No Preschool & ASP

Church Office Closed

5:30pm - Stewardship & Finance Meeting

January 19

6:15pm - Worship Committee Meeting

6:30pm - Mission Committee Meeting

7:00pm - Session Meeting

January 20

7:00pm - Epiphany Zoom Online Bible Study

January 25

7:00pm - Diaconate Meeting

January 27

7:00pm - Epiphany Zoom Online Bible Study

January 31

Annual Congregational Meeting

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

- The Preschool and Hands of Christ ASP will be closed on January 18th.
- The church office will also be closed for the MLK Holiday.

