



December 2021



*On entering the house, the wise men 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 2:11*

Recently, I was listening to the familiar and beloved hymn, O Holy Night, and a line that has never really stood out to me caught my attention: Fall on your knees.

While literally falling on our knees is not practical or it evokes thoughts of difficult falls, I think it is powerful symbol. We come before Christ, God with us, and we either literally or in our hearts and spirits fall to our knees in worship. The physical act of kneeling is not nearly as important as the action of humbling ourselves before our Savior. We come before him to worship, to pay him homage and to offer him our treasures.

What are our treasures? Time? Financial resources? Our talents? God has given us many different gifts, which we offer to God as we come before Christ. I think that this one line from a familiar Christmas Carol sums up what this season is all about. We fall on our knees before Christ, grateful for his saving grace and drawing ever closer to him as we offer our hearts and lives to him.

The next line of the song is also important, for it says, Fall on your knees; Oh Hear the angel voices. We humbly come before God, offering to God all that we have and all that we are in worship. Then, we are able to not just hear the angels singing, we are also able to join our voices in choruses of praise.

I invite everyone to be a part of this Holy Season by drawing closer to God in worship, service, and study. Be a part of our study of Adam Hamilton's The Journey and join the Sunday School Class that is meeting at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Come to worship as we focus on the Scriptures from the study in each service. Join us for the many opportunities to worship through our music ministry, from Voices of Bronze, our handbell choir playing on December 5th, to the Service of Carols and Scripture at 11:00 AM on December 12th, to Lessons and Carols for Christmas Eve. Experience the Christmas Story by walking through our Live Nativity on Christmas Eve and lift your voices in song as part of our Caroling group on December 19th. There are many different ways for us to draw closer to our Savior at this time. May God bless you and yours in this Holy Season.

Peace,

Pastor Leigh



Advent Music - 11:00am Worship

December 5

Hark How the Bells

The Voices of Bronze will be ringing in Advent and Christmas with special music throughout worship. A special treat will be our youngest music makers ringing in the joy of Jesus' birth.

December 12

Angels From the Realms of Glory

This service of Scripture readings and carols highlights the importance of angels in the drama of the Christmas gospel. The point is not to focus the end of our attention on these angels but, rather to be startled to see how our awareness of these heavenly beings enlarges our perception of the beauty and glory of the triune God.

There is much in our world that flattens our view, diminishing our capacity to perceive the glory of God.

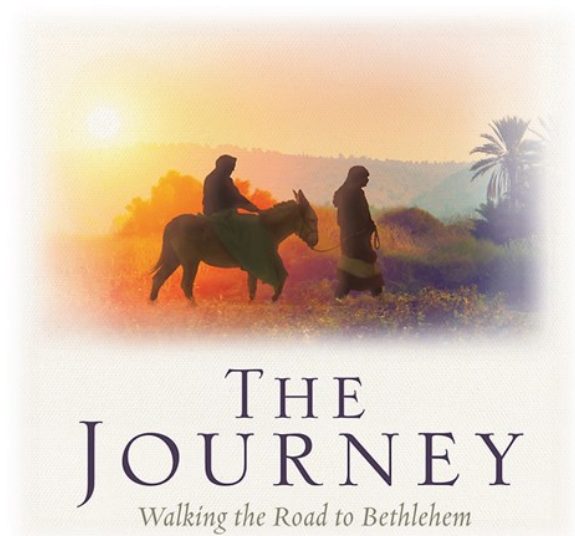
Through the gift of the Holy Spirit who opens our eyes to scripture and music, we can behold God's glory and offer our thanks and praise.

Come and worship Christ, the newborn King!

December 19

Praise God in His Sanctuary...Praise Him with strings and pipe Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord

The sounds of the flute, clarinet, organ, and piano will fill our beautiful sanctuary with music celebrating Jesus' birth.



Advent Sermon Series

This year, in our Advent worship services, we are reflecting on parts of Adam Hamilton's study, *The Journey*. *The Journey* combines historical information and archaeology to offer a new perspective on the story of Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. We will also consider our own journeys to encounter our Savior. I invite anyone who would like to be a part of some in depth contemplation on this study to purchase the study guide for your reading and reflection in this holy season. It is the 10th anniversary of this timeless work, so new editions are available, but the previous edition is also an excellent resource.



Ladies Night Out

December 9th

At Las Palmas

Join us for a night out of good food and fellowship from 6:30pm till 8:30pm. Bring an ornament (wrapped/bagged) to exchange. Everyone is welcome!

To receive text reminders, contact Megan Johnson (678)640-7926

From the Session:

The following are the minutes from the 11/16/2021 Session meeting:

1. The Session was introduced to Troy Eggersman (our newly hired Facilities Manager) at this meeting.
2. A new Facilities Work Request Form was approved.
3. Christmas Eve Services at 5:00 PM and 9:00 PM were approved.
4. Communion will be served on 1/9/2022 rather than on 1/2/2022.
5. The next meeting of the Session will be on 12/14/2021 at 7:00 PM in the Cornerstone Room.
6. A request for a change in policy regarding masking was approved.
7. The Session approved changes to Administrative Guidelines to the Memorial Gifts Committee.
8. Accrued 2020 Interest of \$3,645 due to Endowment Fund was approved for use in offsetting 2021 Montreat expenses.
9. Hanging of the Greens will take place at 6:00 PM on 12/1/2021.
10. Employee reviews by the Personnel Committee have been completed.
11. There will be one service at 11:00 AM on 12/26/2021 and 1/2/2022.

Happenings at FPC... November 14th

Dare to Serve Project





Youth Group Christmas Party

Sunday, December 12, 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.



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 Friday, Dec. 24.

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



Christmas Caroling for All Ages

Join us on Sunday, Dec. 19 for Christmas Caroling to FPC member's homes.

This opportunity to spread Christmas Cheer is open to All ages, all families, all youth, friends, etc. Anyone who wants to wear a Christmas hat and sing popular carols around Cartersville is invited, and we also need driver(s) for the buses. Let Andrea (andrea@cartersvillepres.org) know if you want to be a part of it, so we can plan to have enough drivers.

If you would like us to come carol at your home, please contact Mary Gilreath (mwgilreath@yahoo.com) to be put on our list.

Specific times are still being discussed, but an estimate would be to meet at the church at 5 p.m.

Youth Group Dates for your Calendar

Dec. 1 – Hanging of the Green Worship

Dec. 5 – Youth Group + Dinner (4-6:30 p.m.)

Dec. 12 – Youth Group Christmas Party 4-6 p.m. White Elephant (\$10 Max)

Dec. 12 – Last official day of Sunday School for Children & Youth, but there will be a combined class on Sunday, Dec. 19 at 10 a.m. for anyone who is in town!

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Interactive Nativity – Youth Help Needed 2:30-4:30 p.m.

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

December

First Presbyterian Pre-School

Lindsay Scoggins ~ Director

770-382-0755



December Calendar

- **The Nutcracker** ~ Grand Theater Friday, Dec. 3
4 year olds and Kindergarten
- **Christmas Parties** ~
Thursday Dec. 16: Nursery/Toddlers/2 year olds
Friday Dec. 17: 3 year olds/4 year olds/Kindergarten
- **School closed for Christmas Break** ~
Weeks of Dec. 20 and 27
- **Teacher Workday** ~ Monday, Jan. 3
- **School Resumes** ~ Tuesday, Jan. 4



Sing Around the Tree
Thursday, December 16
Nursery/Toddlers/2s @
10:30

Friday, December 17
3 Year Old Classes @ 9:00
4 Year Olds and K @ 10:00

You are invited to join us for the Pre-school's annual "Sing Around the Tree" in the Fellowship Hall. (See dates and times above). Our adorable students will be singing and performing all things Christmas.



Preschool Registration will begin in February for the 2022-2023 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	20	Emma James
7	Ken Thornton	20	Elise Bares
7	Sarah Craighead	20	Owen Pruitt
7	Andy Johnson	21	Christine Greene
9	Suzanne Collins	21	Anna Rentz
10	Joe Noble	23	Wilma Cameron
10	Marion Panter	25	Laura Layne
12	Nona Smith	26	Rick Richardson
12	Gillian Bergman	28	Allyson Ireland
13	Bonnie Floyd	29	Jean Ivie
13	Joyce Smith	29	Faye Johnson
15	Kathy Farnon	30	Molly Collins
15	Logan Davis		
18	Harry Treadaway		
18	Molly Mendenhall		
18	Terry Lavender		
19	Cheryl Harris		
19	Carson McAlexander		
20	Floy White		



In December We Pray for Our Church:

Staff: Jean Dudley, Lorrie Holcombe (ASP), Abbie Holden (ASP), Rosemary Purdy (Preschool), Lauren Reed (Preschool)

Officers: Kathy Farnon (Session), Elizabeth Baxley-Bowen (Diaconate)

Ministries: Hands of Christ After School Program

Families: December 1-7: Randy and Diane Wrinkle, John and Peggy Zierer, Jim Allen, Karen Anderson, Mike Anderson

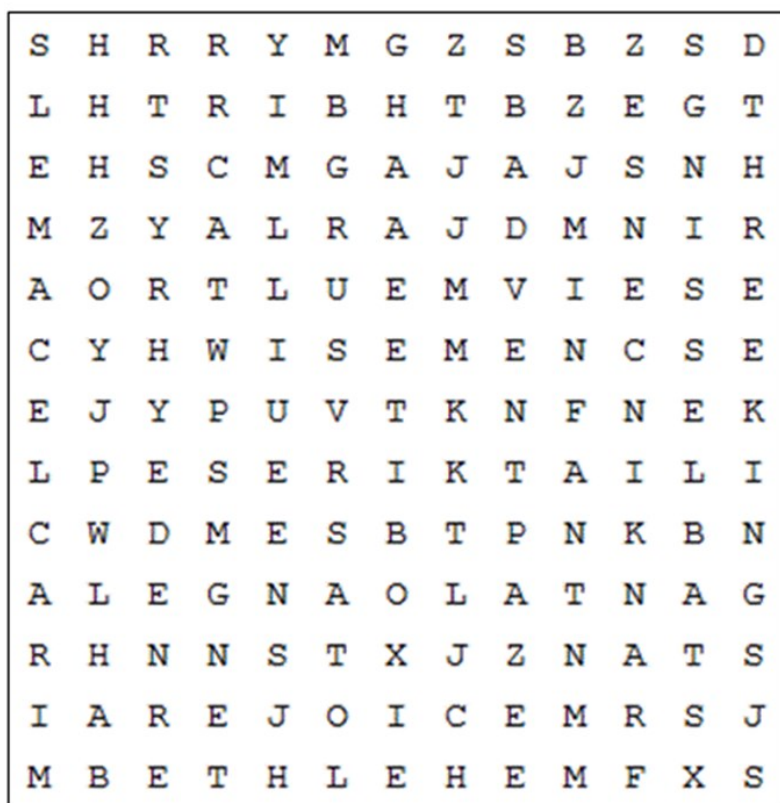
December 8-14: Matt and Jessi Bailey (Sam, Judd), Richard and Guill Bailey, Alice Baker, Lane and Tracey Baker (Alexandria), Mike and Cynthia Ball

December 15-21: Elise Bares (Anderson, Johnathan, Edward), Grace Barker (Wesley, Barbara), Brad and Susan Barrett, James and Anne Marie Benton (Jimmy, David), Bobby and Amy Bergman (Evan, Gillian)

December 22-31: Peyton Boulter, Gary and Kay Boulter, Andy and Kim Bowen (Brooke), Brandon and Elizabeth Bowen (Tom, Katherine), Ben Bridges (Ross)



Joy to the World



ADVENT
ANGEL
BETHLEHEM
BIRTH
BLESSINGS
CAMELS
FRANKINCENSE

INFANT
JESUS
JOSEPH
MAGI
MANGER
MARY
MIRACLE

MYRRH
NATIVITY
REJOICE
STABLE
STAR
THREE KINGS
WISE MEN



First Presbyterian Church

183 West Main Street—Cartersville, GA 30120

770-382-3511 www.cartersvillepres.org

Contact

Leigh Jones, pastor

pastorleighjones@gmail.com

Pam Radford, director of music

pam@cartersvillepres.org

Andrea Roche, children & youth director

andrea@cartersvillepres.org

Becky Ferguson, secretary

becky@cartersvillepres.org

Angie Hood, receptionist

angie@cartersvillepres.org

Lindsay Scoggins, preschool director

lindsay@cartersvillepres.org

Jean Dudley, after school program director

jean@cartersvillepres.org

Troy Eggersman, facilities manager

teggersman@gmail.com

December Calendar

December 1

6:00pm - Hanging of the Green

December 2

10:30am - Ladies Bible Study Group

December 6

6:00pm - Mission Committee Meeting

December 7

6:30pm - Properties Committee Meeting

7:00pm - Faith Development Meeting

December 9

6:30pm - Ladies Night Out @ Las Palmas

December 12

4:00pm - Youth Christmas Party

December 13

6:00pm - Worship Committee Meeting

December 14

3:00pm - HOC ASP Christmas Celebration K-2

7:00pm - Session Meeting

December 16

10:30am - Preschool Littles Sing Around the Tree

3:00pm - HOC ASP Christmas Celebration 3rd-5th

December 17

9:00am - Preschool 3yr olds Sing Around the Tree

10:00am - Preschool 4yr olds Sing Around the Tree

December 19

5:00pm - Christmas Caroling

December 20 - January 3

Preschool & HOC ASP Christmas Holidays

December 20

5:30pm - Stewardship & Finance Meeting

December 24

3:00pm - Interactive Outdoor Live Nativity

5:00pm - Candlelight, Communion, Lessons & Carols
Worship Service

9:00pm - Candlelight, Communion, Lessons & Carols
Worship Service

December 26

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

December 27

7:00pm - Diaconate Meeting

December 27, 28, 31

Church office closed

Christmas Holiday Schedule

- The Preschool and Hands of Christ ASP
Christmas Break December 20 - January 3
- The church office will be closed December 27,
28 and 31.

