



December 2022

*Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation. (Luke 1:48b-50)*

These lines come from Mary's song of praise that she sings immediately after the angel Gabriel tells her that she will give birth to the Savior. The song speaks of Mary's praise and of the ways that the coming Savior will change the world. Despite the challenges and vulnerability she faced, Mary also had moments of understanding the scale and scope of the good news the angel had just shared. God's promises and redemptive work were for all people, from generation to generation. That is the theme of our Advent reflections this year: From Generation to Generation. As we walk through what may be to many the familiar stories, I invite us all to consider the characters and events from that lens. Consider: What did each person pass on or contribute? How did they either participate in sharing God's redemptive, world changing love or try to thwart God's purposes? What can we learn from them, and what is our role now? What will we pass on to the next generation?

The root word of "generation" is "gen" meaning "origin" or "birth." As we focus on the generations who have been a part of God's story of salvation, we also hear a call to action that we will continue to be a part of this story. What have your ancestors and those who have come before you passed on for you to continue? Who are the spiritual elders in your community who planted the seeds for the things that are now blooming? What seeds are you planting for the future?

From Generation to Generation reminds us of the ways our lives, histories, actions, and stories are interconnected and woven together. The work of God is always unfolding - in and through us. This Advent, may we all remember that we belong - to a story that is woven into the very fabric of time, to the generations that have come before and will come after, to a love that will not let any of us go.

Our Advent theme and reflections are part of the Sanctified Art Series,
From Generation to Generation.



**Jesus, a Light to the Nations
December 18th, 11:00 a.m.**

While a large portion of the Old Testament's narrative of God's salvation history is focused on Israel, God's chosen people, let's not forget that here and there in the Old Testament are glimpses of Christ's cosmic kingdom, one that encompassed all nations.

The Psalmist says "All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, for dominion belongs to the Lord and he rules over the nations." Isaiah prophesies: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light, on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

That light is Jesus the Christ!!

Luke 2:30-32 explains in the words of Simeon: "For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

This Service of Scripture and Music celebrates the Light that came into the world!



*Christmas
Eve Worship*

5:30 Child Friendly Worship

Our 5:30 Worship will include an unrehearsed Christmas pageant where children and youth are invited to participate. Those who wish to be a part of the pageant should arrive at 5:00 PM to be assigned a part and look over the order. Worship will include telling the story of how Christ came into the world through the pageant, singing Christmas carols, communion and candlelight.

9:00 Traditional Lessons and Carols

Our 9:00 PM Worship will include traditional Lessons and Carols, Communion and Candlelight.

The offering during our Christmas Eve Worship Services goes to the Deacons Fund to help people in need in this community. Thank you for your generosity in this season.

Christmas Day & January 1st worship

Sunday, December 25th we will celebrate the coming of our Savior with worship at 11:00 AM. This very special service will include Christmas carols, readings, a poetic reading of John 1, and time for prayer. You will be invited (but not required) to write down an anonymous prayer (refrain from including any names for the sake of anonymity) and place it in a basket. At the conclusion of worship, as you leave, you will be invited to pick up one of the anonymous prayer slips that has been left by another member of the congregation. Then, you are invited to pray for that person's prayer throughout the week, knowing and trusting that someone else in the community is also praying for you.



Joy to the world



**Winter worship
(one service at 11:00)**

The Session has decided that from the season of January 8-May, we will have one worship service at 11:00 AM. We give thanks for this season of opportunity to be together and worship as the one body of Christ. We pray for the Spirit to continue to guide us on our reflections and learnings as we go forward through this Season and look toward the seasons to come. The Worship committee welcomes your prayers, reflections, and thoughts as we continue to seek God's guidance and will.

Begin the New Year in the best way possible: Join us for worship **January 1 at 11:00 AM.** - We will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion and be invited to pick up a Star Word, a prayer practice connected to Epiphany and the new year. Star Words are "intention" words, words that are offered as the focus for prayer or practice for the New Year. The Magi followed a star which ultimately led them to Jesus. Therefore, we, too, use all the resources we have available to us - including creative prayer practices and intention words for the new year - to move closer to Jesus. We trust that God uses multiple ways to guide us and speak to us and that having an intention word to consider allows for us to see God in ways we have not seen God before. Star words invite a new prayer rhythm of reflection and review that can be a powerful new way to connect with God.



The **12 Women of the Bible** small group study will meet on Thursday, December 8, 7 p.m. in the Cornerstone Room. Please contact Jean Gilliland or Andrea Roche if childcare is needed. All are welcome!

Welcome to our **New Members**



Becky Morris



Cindy Sims

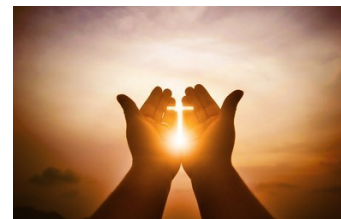


Potluck Lunch, Sunday, December 18th

After worship service

Fellowship Hall

Stay and enjoy time with your church family. Meat will be provided but bring a side dish (vegetable, salad or dessert).



Wednesday Prayer for the month of December

Beginning December 7th, join us for prayer at 11:30am in the Prayer Room.



5:30 p.m. & 9:00 p.m.

Children & Youth Volunteers are needed to help with our "Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant" at the 5:30 service on Christmas Eve. Please be at the church by 5 p.m. to get assigned a part and a costume. Email andrea@cartersvillepres.org with any questions.

Youth Group

December Calendar

- Dec. 4** - Youth Group + Dinner - 4:00-6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 6** - (Tues) Serve at Friendship Table (4:30-7:15 p.m.)
- Dec. 11** - Youth Group Christmas Party 4 -6:30 p.m. White Elephant (\$10 Max)
- Dec. 18** - Advent Workshop (Youth & Children, during Sunday School)
- Dec. 24** - Christmas Eve Worship (unrehearsed Christmas Pageant at 5:30 Service)



Youth Group Christmas Party
Sunday, December 11
4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Food, fellowship, Christmas themed games, and a White Elephant Gift Exchange.
 White Elephant Gifts (\$10 Max)



Let's Go Caroling!

Join us on **Sunday, December 18 from 4-6 p.m.** for Christmas Caroling to FPC member's homes. This opportunity to spread Christmas cheer is open to ALL ages, all families, youth, and friends. Anyone who wants to wear a Christmas hat and sing carols around Cartersville is invited, and we also need driver(s) for the buses. Let Andrea at andrea@cartersvillepres.org know if you want to join us, so we can plan for drivers. If you would like the carolers to come to your home, contact church office 770-382-3511.

College/Young Adult Care Packages

Thank you for the donations for our Care Packages. On Nov. 6, the youth wrote notes and packed 18 packages to send to those in college and young adults from our congregation.



December

First Presbyterian Pre-School

Lindsay Scoggins ~ Director

770-382-0755 - Lindsay@cartersvillepres.org



December Calendar

- * *The Nutcracker* ~ Grand Theater Thurs, Dec. 1 ~
4 year olds and Kindergarten
- * **Christmas Parties** ~
Tuesday Dec. 13 – 2 year old / 2 day class
Friday Dec. 16
- * **School closed for Christmas Break** ~
Weeks of Dec. 19 and 26
- * **Teacher Workday** ~ Monday, Jan. 2
- * **School Resumes** ~ Tuesday, Jan. 3



Sing Around the Tree

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

You are invited to join us for the Pre-school’s annual “Sing Around the Tree” in the Gathering Space. (See date and times above). Our adorable students will be singing and performing all things Christmas.

Pictured Below: Mrs. Amy and Mrs. Louisa’s Class Thanksgiving Program.



Preschool Registration will begin in February for the 2023-2024 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.

Happenings at FPC



Thank you to everyone who gave a helping hand for a great yard work day. Pack up your tools for winter, but we will be pulling them out for our Spring time yard work day!



Ordination and Installation

In November we celebrated the installation and ordination of our new leaders. We give thanks to God for those whom God has set aside for the task of leading of this congregation and ask for God's presence, power, and wisdom to be with our Session and Deacons.



This November, we welcomed Rev. Dr. Robert Gamble of This Child Here to share an update about the ministry of This Child Here in Ukraine. To learn more about that ministry: www.thischildhere.org.



December Birthdays

5	Laurie McAfee	20	Owen Pruitt
7	Ken Thornton	21	Anna Rentz
7	Sarah Craighead	23	Wilma Cameron
7	Andy Johnson	25	Laura Layne
9	Suzanne Collins	26	Rick Richardson
10	Joe Noble	28	Allyson Ireland
10	Marion Panter	29	Jean Ivie
12	Nona Smith	29	Faye Johnson
12	Jennifer Nebergall	30	Molly Collins
12	Gillian Bergman		
13	Bonnie Floyd		
13	Joyce Smith		
15	Kathy Farnon		
15	Logan Davis		
15	Anne Tatum Johnson		
18	Harry Treadaway		
18	Molly Mendenhall		
19	Carson McAlexander		
20	Emma James		



In December We Pray for Our Church:

Staff: Andrea Roche, Monse Cabanas (ASP), Maria Davis (ASP), Sharon Ellis (Preschool), Stefanie Collins (Preschool)

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

Ministries: Mission and Service Ministry

Families: December 1-7: John and Lori Cummings (Jack, Maggie), Norman Daugherty, Bill and Marilyn Devine, Blake and Jean Dudley (Ethan), David and Betty Dundee

December 8-14: Jane Dysart, Randy and Sharon Ellis (Alaina), Nannette Enloe, Kathy Farnon, Matt and Jessica Farnon (Jackson, Audrey)

December 15-21: Vernon and Becky Ferguson, Bonnie Floyd, Walt Floyd and Sunny Brown, Rich and Rhonda Gaffoglio, Trey and Beth Gaines (Margaret and Meredith)

December 22-31: Jessica Gardner (Patrick), Mark and Veletta Gebert, Betty Gilbert, Jean Gilliland, Mary Gilreath

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, ministry assistant

becky@cartersvillepres.org

Angie Hood, church administrator

angie@cartersvillepres.org

Lindsay Scoggins, preschool director

lindsay@cartersvillepres.org

Jean Dudley, after school program director

jean@cartersvillepres.org

December Calendar

December 1

10:30am - Ladies Bible Study/Celebrating Sabbath

6:00pm - Cartersville Christmas Parade/NO HOC ASP

December 4

12:00pm - Montreat Worship & Music Info Meeting

December 6

6:30pm - Properties Committee Meeting

December 7, 14, 21, 28

11:30am - Wednesday Prayer Group/Prayer Room

December 8

7:00pm - 12 Women of the Bible Study

December 11

4:00pm Youth Christmas Party

December 12

6:00pm - Worship Committee Meeting

December 13

7:00pm - Faith Development Meeting

December 16

9:00am - Preschool Sing Around the Tree

December 18

11:00am - Choir Music Program during Worship

12:00pm - Potluck Lunch/Fellowship Hall

4:00pm - Christmas Caroling/All ages

December 19 - January 2

Preschool & Hands of Christ ASP Holidays

December 19

5:30pm - Stewardship & Finance Meeting

December 20

7:00pm - Session Meeting

December 24

5:30pm - Christmas Eve Service

9:00pm - Christmas Eve Service

December 25

11:00am - Worship Service/No Sunday School

December 26, 27 & 30

Church Office Closed

January 2

Church Office Closed



Holiday Schedule

- The Preschool and Hands of Christ ASP Christmas Holidays Dec. 19 - Jan. 2.
- The church office will be closed December 26, 27 & 30 and January 2.