



December 2024

WORDS FOR THE BEGINNING

Our theme for this Advent is “Words for the Beginning.” Advent is a season of beginnings and endings. As the calendar year comes to a close, a new church year begins. Christ’s birth ushers us into new ways of living and loving; and yet, the world as we know it spins madly on and the beginnings and endings continue day in and day out. Sometimes endings and beginnings are joyful. Other times they are devastating. Even if an ending and beginning brings great joy, we still grieve change and need time to adjust to the new reality and to what God is calling us to do and be in the new reality.

When we navigate seasons filled with endings and beginnings, we need reminders. We need words and truths that can feel like steady ground, like a path for our feet to find as we step forward into the unknown. As we enter this Advent season, we are entering a sacred new chapter, welcoming Christ anew and inviting him to walk with us on our journeys of beginnings and endings. My prayer is that this series will offer us those essential reminders for our journeys of faith.

I find the visuals for this season particularly moving. The art for this series was inspired by the storied tradition of quilting. In a quilt, you can find many beginnings and endings, and sometimes cannot tell one from the other. The beauty and power of the art, as well as the stories, love, and history that is found in quilts, is a powerful statement about our lives of faith.

This theme and the art invite us all to reflect on and pray about the beginnings and endings of this season and in our own journeys. We will have many opportunities to grow in our walk with Christ this Season: From online devotions, to Wednesday words, to Worship that will lift our souls. You can help to add a square for a quilt that is being made for this congregation, and share a quilt for the quilt show or attend the show. You can join the celebration of this season with the Hanging of the Greens and come to the Choir Cantata. You can help serve at Friendship Table or give time, talent, and treasures to support all the ways this congregation shares the love and joy of Christ in this community. (More information about these opportunities is included in this Loveletter).

Pastor Leigh

Faith Development Upcoming Dates

Sundays, December 1, 8, 15, 10 AM

December 15—Advent Craft Workshop for Children during Sunday School

Sunday School for Children, Youth, Adults

Monday, December 2, 7 PM (tentative)

Faith Development Meeting

Thursday, December 5, 10:30 AM

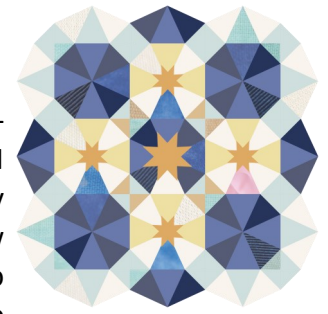
Bible Study—*Let Justice Roll Down: God’s Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation*, by Patricia K. Tull

Saturday, December 14, 5-7:30 PM

Parents Night Out (dinner included)

Be a part of the FPC quilt!

Quilts are often compilations of pieces of fabrics. I have been told by my quilting friends (I know nothing about how to make quilts, but I sure do love to enjoy looking at them, using them, and learning about them) that patchwork quilts bring together scraps that have previously been cast off. Some quilts utilize brand new fabric or intricate patterns, and others are made with no pattern in mind from leftover fabric scraps. I think this is a profound analogy for our lives. We take the magnificent pieces and the scraps we would rather toss, and offer it all to God. Like a master quilter, God puts it all together into something beautiful.



For this Advent Season, we are inviting everyone to offer a piece for our congregational quilt. There will be quilt squares and instructions available before worship on Sunday, December 1st, Hanging of the Green on December 4th, and in the church office. Or, if you are a shut in, we can bring a square to you! There are also pens available that you can use to write or draw on the quilt square. Draw a picture, share a few words, or write a verse of Scripture that shares something from your heart about this congregation or this Season.

All squares must returned to the church no later than Sunday, December 8th. Our plan is to have a quilt made that we can dedicate and celebrate on Christmas Eve. If you are an online worshipper, worshipping from afar, you are invited to Facebook message us or call the church office and share a Scripture that is meaningful to you and we will create a square for you!



Hanging of the Green

All ages are invited to join us on Wednesday, Dec. 4th at 6:00 PM for a time of worship and to celebrate this Holy Season with our Hanging of the Green service. This is an opportunity to sing Christmas songs, and decorate the sanctuary and celebrate this Season. All are welcome to hang an ornament on the tree. Be a part of this special worship service. If you are willing to help with the readings for the service, please contact Pastor Leigh.

Sanctuary Poinsettias

Beginning with our "Hanging of the Green" program on December 4 at 6:00PM our sanctuary will be filled with poinsettias for the season of Advent and Christmas. As we await the birth of the Christ child, if you would like to make a donation to defer the cost of the poinsettias, please write a check to First Presbyterian Church with "Advent 2024" on the memo line. You may drop your check in the offering plate or bring it to the church office. The Worship Committee thanks you for your support.



From the Session:

At a meeting Nov. 2, the Session:

- Examined and prayed with incoming officers.

At its stated monthly meeting Nov. 19, the Session took the following actions:

- Welcomed new members Drake and Grace Johnson, who transferred their membership from Calhoun Presbyterian Church.
- Examined Jean Gilliland and prayed with her as she begins another term on the Session.
- Approved a recommendation from the Personnel Committee to hire Donna Maini as interim organist through December.
- Approved collection of a love offering for longtime preschool employee Sheila Rosser.



The monthly Bible Study, *Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation* will meet Thursday, December 5 at 10:30 AM in the Cornerstone Room. Lesson Four focuses on Water Justice with scripture from various chapters of Genesis. Guest speaker will be Brandy Rogers, Assistant Professor of Biology, School of STEM at Georgia Highlands College. All are welcome!

Calling all ladies of the church! We would love for you to join us for fellowship and food on **Thursday, December 19 at 6pm at The City Cellar.**



Childcare will be available at the church. Contact Courtney Keen 678-431-2145 with any questions.

Stewardship Corner—On behalf of the congregation and the Stewardship and Finance Committee, thank you for your faithful giving and support of this congregation’s ministries. Thank you, also, for your commitment to Christ and his witness in this community through pledging your support for next year. If you have not made a pledge and would like to do so, you may go online to our website or contact Becky Ferguson in the church office. Also, we invite anyone who is considering year-end giving to consider a gift to the church. Your support makes all that we do to shine the light of Christ possible. Thank you for all the ways you worship and serve and grow in discipleship through feeding the hungry, nurturing all ages in Christ, and offering encouragement and hope.



DFACS Angel Tree!

This year we will be providing Christmas gifts to children in foster care in Bartow County. The Angel Trees are located at the back of the Sanctuary and outside the Sanctuary door by the choir loft stairs. Please remove an angel from the tree, sign the gift list and return the unwrapped gift to the church office. Please attach the angel tag to the gift. All gifts need to be turned in to the office by Sunday, Dec. 8th. If you prefer to make a donation, please make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church with “Angel Tree” in the memo line. Thank you!

Hygiene Drive for Middle School

Thank you for your donations for your generosity through all the ways you support our ministries with the hungry and the vulnerable in this community. For the month of December, we are collecting hygiene items for the Cartersville Middle School. Needed items (any size): deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, and soap (either bar soap or body wash). These may seem like small things to do, to grab an extra item from the store and put it in the donation cart, but it makes a world of difference for the children in this community. Thank you for your support.

Friendship Table Drive—Thank you for your generosity and support in feeding the hungry.

The need is increasing in this Season and we are serving approximately 100 meals every week. Our current needs are: Green beans, cookies, instant sweetened ice tea, and lemonade mix. The shopping cart is outside the sanctuary for donations. Thank you for always being supportive of this ministry.

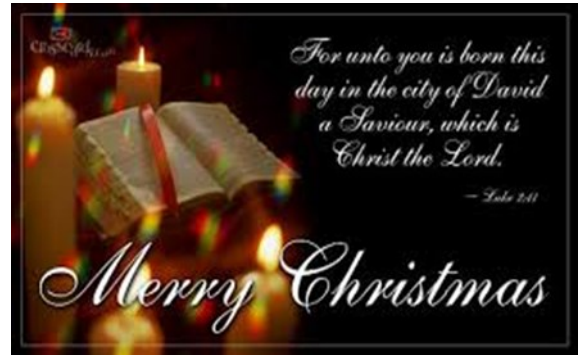
DECEMBER 2024

First Presbyterian Pre-School

Jennifer Graves, Director -770-382-0755

Events for December

- **Nutcracker @ The Grand:** Thurs. Dec. 5 (4-year-old classes only)
- **Polar Express Pajama Days:** Tues. 17 (Ms. Skyla's 2-Day class), Thurs 19(3's, 4's), Fri. 20 (Ms. Sharon, Ms. Elise, Ms. Skyla's 3-Day class)
- **Christmas Parties (following Sing Around the Tree, except Nursery)~**
- **Thurs. Dec 19:** All 2-year-old classes
- **Friday Dec. 20:** Nursery, 3 Year Old Classes, 4 Year Old Classes
- **School closed for Christmas Break ~** December 23rd – January 6th
- **School resumes –** Tuesday, January 7th



Sing Around the Tree

Thursday, December 19th - 2-year-old classes @ 9:00

Friday, December 20th - 3 Year Old and 4 Year Old classes @ 9:00

You are invited to join us for the Pre-school's annual "Sing Around the Tree" in the Fellowship Hall. Our adorable students will be singing and performing all things Christmas. Our classroom Christmas celebrations will follow in classrooms.



Our Friendship Table Food Drive was a HUGE success! Thank you to all of our wonderful parents and students for their loving donations. We had over 680 items of food donated. Mrs. Rosemary's 3-year-old class had the most donations and won a pizza party for their classroom! Thank you to all our families for being so very generous during this holiday season.



Preschool Registration will begin at the end of January for the 2025-2026 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.



Parents' Night Out – Volunteers Needed Saturday, December 14 - 5-7:30 p.m.

We are hosting another PNO for foster families and for our own church families.

This is for children & youth of all ages.

Volunteers needed to help with children,

prepping & serving dinner, clean-up. Let andrea@cartersvillepres.org know if you can help out.

Parents' Night Out – Saturday, December 14 from 5-7:30 p.m. FPC volunteers will be offering a night of fun for children while giving parents an opportunity to go out or stay in for a quiet night! Dinner (pizza) for kids and our volunteers will be offered, and there will be times of fellowship, fun, and games for the children.

Pre-registration is REQUIRED – [PNO Registration Form](#)

Contact andrea@cartersvillepres.org with any questions.

Children & Youth Group December Calendar

- Dec. 3 - (Tues) Serve at Friendship Table (4:30-7:15 p.m.)
- Dec. 4 – Hanging of the Green Worship 6p.m.
- Dec. 5 – Cartersville Christmas Parade
- Dec. 8 – Community Youth Group – 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. (Nagel's Bagels)
- Dec. 14 – Parents Night Out
- Dec. 15 - Advent Workshop (Youth & Children, during Sunday School)
- Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Worship – 5 p.m. Family Oriented Service, Nursery Available, 7 p.m. service, both are Communion Services.

Save the Dates – Summer 2025

- High School Youth Montreat – June 8-14
- Worship & Music (Children, Youth, & Adults) – June 22-28
- VBS – July 7-11
- Middle School Youth Montreat – July 16-20
- Triennium – July 28-31



Montreat College Conference January 2-5, 2025

For more Information, visit

<https://montreat.org/events/ccm25>

This conference welcomes all to know and experience God's word more fully, regardless of each person's religious affiliation, area of study, or where they might be on their spiritual journey.

Through the theme "Unimaginable Possibilities: God's Hope in a Weary World," conference participants will explore the ways in which God sees us, has a plan for us, and offers healing, even when we least expect it.

If you are interested in going, or need financial assistance, please contact

andrea@cartersvillepres.org

December Birthdays

5	Laurie McAfee		
7	Ken Thornton	26	Rich Richardson
7	Sarah Craighead	28	Allyson Ireland
9	Suzanne Collins	29	Faye Johnson
10	Joe Noble	30	Molly Collins
10	Marion Panter		
12	Jennifer Nebergall		
13	Joyce Smith		
15	Pat Bivens		
15	Kathy Farnon		
15	Logan Davis		
15	Anne Tatum Johnson		
18	Harry Treadaway		
18	Molly Mendenhall		
20	Emma James		
20	Elise Bares		
21	Anna Rentz		
25	Laura Layne		



In December Pray for Our Church:

Staff: Andrea Roche, Becca Englert (Preschool), Jennifer Graves (Preschool)

Officers: Rich Gaffoglio (Session), Mary Gilreath (Diaconate)

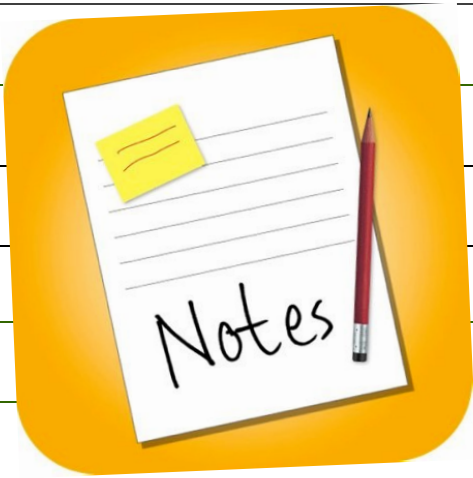
Ministries: Mission & Service Ministry

Families: December 1-7: Mary Barnes, St. Marc Beaubrun, Anne Marie Benton (Jimmy, David), Pat Bivens, Peyton Boulier

December 8-14: Gary and Kay Boulier, Brandon and Elizabeth Bowen (Tom, Katherine), Linda Boynton, Dick and Jenny Brannan, Tonya Branyon (Mallory)

December 15-21: Mark and Sandy Bridges, Phil and Donna Bridges, Sunny Brown, Jerry Brownlow (Skylar, Call), Autumn Bruno

December 22-31: Adam and Jamie Brush (Drake, Jacob), Faith Burke, Rebecca Carr, Cody Carver, Brian and Heather Choate



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First Presbyterian Church

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Contact

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Jim Stanley, choir director

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Becky Ferguson, ministry assistant

becky@cartersvillepres.org

Angie Hood, church administrator

angie@cartersvillepres.org

Jennifer Graves, preschool director

jennifer@cartersvillepres.org

December Calendar

December 1

9:00am - Men's Monthly Breakfast

December 2

7:00pm - Faith Development Meeting

December 3

6:30pm - Properties Committee Meeting

December 4, 11, 18

11:00am-Coffee Cup Theology @ Noble & Main

6:00pm - Hanging of the Green

December 5

10:30am - Women's Bible Study Group

December 8

12:00pm - Inquirers' Group

December 9

6:00pm - Worship Committee Meeting

December 12

7:00pm - Thursday Bible Study/*Romans for Everyone*

December 14

5:00pm - Parents Night Out

December 15

10:00am - Children's Advent Workshop

11:00am - Choir Cantata

12:00pm - Quilt Show

December 16

5:30pm - Stewardship & Finance Meeting

December 17

7:00pm - Session Meeting

December 19

6:00pm - Ladies Night Out @ The City Cellar

December 23 - January 6

Preschool Christmas Holidays - No school

December 24

5:00pm - Christmas Eve Service

7:00pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 25, 26, 31

Christmas Holidays - Church office closed

