

The PRESSbyterian

www.1stpresbyterian.org

December 2019

FROM THE PASTOR



It is hard to imagine, but the calendar page has turned to December. It's Jesus' Birthday! Where does the time go? Of course, that's an age-old question. Maybe another old question we could ask is: What do we do with the time we are given? Are we just destined to fritter and waste it away?

Recently through the efforts of our church we distributed over 130 Thanksgiving boxes full of food. These boxes will provide nourishment and prayerfully encouragement to those most in need. We believe we are to serve one another and those in our community in response to God's work in the world and in our own lives.

We have another opportunity in December to share our many blessings and help provide food for those who otherwise might go hungry this year. Our family is excited to participate, and I hope you will as well.

The idea is a Reverse Advent Calendar, where the focus is on giving to others as we prepare our hearts for God's gift to us. Along with hanging little ornaments on a tree each day, you also place non-perishable food items in a box to be distributed to various agencies within our community. When Advent turns to Christmas, you will have a full box of food to give away. Perhaps a metaphor for a heart filled with God's goodness to be offered for the nourishment of others.

A Reverse Advent Calendar, with daily suggested food items can be picked up at the church or you can also find the information on the church's website. Please contact Kyle or Suzanna Crabb for additional information. This is a new and wonderful opportunity for ministry, as we continue to help meet the needs of our neighbor.

I hope you will enjoy giving and sharing with others this year, but most of all, I hope you enjoy your time. Time spent with family, time reflecting on your blessings, time invested in people and time not frittered or wasted, but redeemed for the purpose of service and ministry.

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!

-Pastor Darren

A CLASSIC AND MODERN CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 15, 2019

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, December 15th, as FIRST Praise, the Chancel Choir, guest singers and musicians, and some of our youth, present "A Classic and Modern Christmas." Offering new twists on old favorites, this dynamic program of worship and music will truly enhance the Advent experience as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Featuring select readings from Max Lucado's book, Because of Bethlehem, "A Classic and Modern Christmas" will certainly appeal to all ages. Make sure to invite your family and friends to join us!



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE

6:00 P.M.



THE CHRISMON TREES

will be placed in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 1, at 1:30 p.m. Volunteers are always welcome!

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

DECEMBER 22, 2019

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received on Sunday, December 22nd. Prayerfully consider supporting this annual PCUSA offering.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2019
6:00 P.M. ❄️ CENTRE
(note location change)



A pancake supper will follow the 6:00 p.m. pageant (there is no charge for the meal). All children three years old through fifth grade are invited to participate. Children of the church, choir children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews are all welcome.

The only practice will be on Sunday, December 8, during children's church and will be in the Centre, so plan to pick up your children from the Centre.

Kaye Borgstedt

DECEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL

BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS

DECEMBER 22, 2019

All ages will meet in the Centre at 9:30 a.m.. for coffee, hot chocolate and juice and a celebration of Jesus' birth.



TEACHERS - DECEMBER

PRESCHOOL

December 1	Kaye Borgstedt
December 8	Catherine and Ava Cuttino
December 15	Jane Jeffords
December 22	Birthday Party for Jesus
December 29	Catherine and Ava Cuttino

2-3 YEAR-OLD CLASS

December 1	Elsie and Ozzie Fogle
December 8	Elsie and Ozzie Fogle
December 15	Leslie Lovelace
December 22	Birthday Party for Jesus
December 29	Leslie Lovelace

ELEMENTARY

December 1	Susan and Jimmy Smoak
December 8	Melissa and Tripp Plummer
December 15	Geni and David Gillespie
December 22	Birthday Party for Jesus
December 29	Jane Holladay

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES 2019

Contribution envelopes for use beginning in January are available for pickup in the Parlor. Please be certain to pick up the correct box, as they are labelled and numbered.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHEDULE

December 1	Hewitt
December 8	Gué
December 15	Burroughs
December 22	Fogle
December 29	Myers

DECEMBER CIRCLE MEETINGS

Circles 2 and 4 will meet with **Circle 1** at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 10, in the Centre.

Circle 3: Monday, December 9 6:00 p.m.

JOHN KNOX
SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS BREAKFAST

December 8 ♦ 9:30 a.m.
Retta and Jimmy Guthrie's home

Please bring a favorite breakfast dish.
New and "old" members are welcome!

PRIMETIMER CHRISTMAS LUNCH

DECEMBER 17 ❄️ NOON

The annual Christmas luncheon furnished by Janet Brailsford and her elves will be on Tuesday, December 17, at noon in the Centre.

Kaye Borgstedt



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CELEBRATING GOD'S LOVE

LIVING FAITHFULLY

ADVENT CHRISTMAS EPIPHANY

How would you define each word? Write your first thought on each line by the word.

ADVENT _____

CHRISTMAS _____

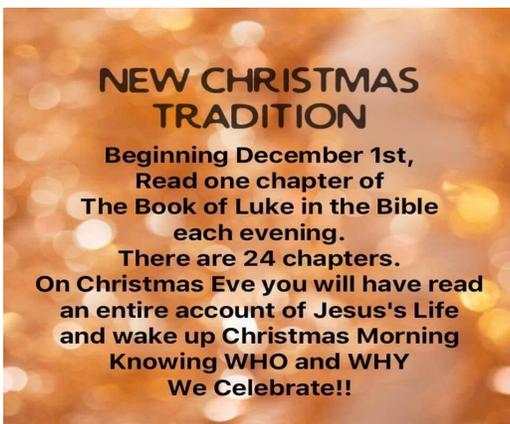
EPIPHANY _____

Sometimes having to write your thoughts down brings some interesting results and may make us stop and think. We all have ideas but sometimes it is not so easy to put them on paper. Was it hard or did you just skip over this part?

To me, **ADVENT** is a time of reflective preparation and participation. Reflective participation is thinking about why Jesus came and why He came as a human. What are the benefits for believers because of His birth, death and resurrection? So preparation to celebrate His birth is one part of Advent. Preparing for His second coming is also a part of Advent.

Participation, to me means preparing myself, helping others prepare and being involved in outreach activities. All of us have Advent/Christmas traditions. Let's look at a few, maybe new ways to prepare and celebrate.

As an individual or as a family, consider



There is something special about every member of our congregation reading the same scripture.

As a family or with children in your family who may not be living with you or even neighborhood children



After reading the books, maybe you could donate them.

Another idea written by Mimi Bullock is entitled *3 Ways to tell the Christmas Story*.

1. "Nativity in a box. Wrap each piece of a nativity set and place in a box. As you read Luke's recounting of the Christmas story, pause and invite children to open the pieces one at a time. Talk about how each piece fits into the narrative. Take your time and don't rush thru the verses. Once the story is over and the nativity scene is set up, give it a place of honor in your home" I would add, involve the children in telling you how the pieces fit.
2. "Tell the Story With Some Songs. ...tell the Christmas story by singing songs. Before singing, give a brief narration from the Nativity. Songs like, Away In A Manager and Come All Ye faithful are great ways to explain how the angels gave the message of Jesus' arrival. Continue on thru the story until We three Kings and talk about the magi who followed the star to find the Lord Jesus."
3. "Tell the Story with Candles. Tape paper images of the key characters on to the front of a candle. (Jar candles work best). As you tell the Nativity, light up the character's candle. When the story is complete, all candles will be lit. Do be sensitive to allergies." I suggest maybe use battery operated candles.

Continued on page 5

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

(Continued from page 4)

All are new ways to tell a familiar story. And First Pres is providing material to help with your preparation.

CHRISTMAS is a celebration of the birth of Christ. For many this includes meals, fellowship and gift giving. From the nativity, we have many examples of giving gifts. God gave the gift of His Son. Mary gave the gift of faith in having the Christ child and Joseph gave the gift of faith and trust in accepting Jesus. The shepherds gave the gift of self, time and dedication in immediately dropping everything and rushing to visit. The angels gave the gift of worship and we all know about the wise men and their gifts. These are examples of gifts of love to each other and gifts of service. NOTE: Our church is making opportunities available for us to participate in Christmas outreach.

EPIPHANY is more than just the wise men or magi visiting Jesus. It took knowledge of the signs and Biblical interpretations. It took preparation for a long and arduous journey. It took knowing when to ask for directions and following the signs again and it took openness to God in going home a different way. All lessons we can learn.

Thought:



Prayer: God, Make us worthy of your sacrificial love. Amen.

Kaye
Christian Education Coordinator

LUNCH WITH THE PASTOR

At *THE OAKS*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4 ♦ 11:30 A.M.

THE OAKS DINING ROOM



To minimize the disruption of residents and guests and insure adequate seating arrangements, reservations must be confirmed by noon on Tuesday, December 3. Call Norma Shaffer (516-6135) if you wish to come. Tickets may be purchased at the Reception Desk in Woodard Commons.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/02	Anna Brake Plummer	12/19	Caroline Bryant
	Hazel Richardson	12/20	John Brailsford
12/03	Warren Albergotti		Amber Hutto
12/04	Frances Lytch		John Dangerfield
12/05	Ashton Gué		Cap Thackston
	Jay Plummer	12/21	Riley Frierson
12/08	Coleman Axson	12/23	David Gillespie
12/10	Jimmy Guthrie	12/29	Carol Farnum
12/12	Taylor Cooper		Josh Nexsen
12/15	Fran Hendren	12/30	Kyle Crabb
	Mark Dudley		Kayla Mims
12/17	Council Burroughs	12/31	Alice Flansburg
12/18	Geni Gillespie		
	Clay Lee		

UNITED IN MARRIAGE

YURI DAVIS

AND

DANIELLE FRANKLIN

OCTOBER 13, 2019

Meet Our Missionaries



Now it's your turn to let our missionaries meet YOU! Please take a moment to write a brief email to all of our missionary families. Tell them about your family and wish them a Merry Christmas!

Thank you so much for taking the time to let them know how important they are to First Presbyterian Church.

Evangelism Unit

Betsy and Ron Manila
betsy@springwater7.org

Sissie and Jeff D'Jernes
sissie_djernes@sil.org

Elizabeth Codington
tudojoy@yahoo.com

Martha and Don Wehmeyer
dwehmeyer2@gmail.com
marojo37@hotmail.com



NOTES OF THANKS

☼ Dear Church Family,

Jack and I want to express how grateful and thankful we are to everyone who has reached out to us since Jack's recent stroke. We feel so blessed to be a part of such a caring and loving church family. Thank you for all of the cards, telephone calls, and delicious food you have so generously provided for us during this difficult time. But most of all, we thank you for your prayers which have meant so much to us. Your loving concern and thoughtfulness have been very much appreciated, not only by Jack and me but also by our entire family.

Thank you again for your loving kindness.

In Christ,
Jack and Dot

☼ Thank you to the wonderful ladies who volunteer in the church office throughout the year. Your patience and friendship in busy times help the office run as smoothly as possible and a "thank you" really is not adequate. For all of the phone calls answered, visitors that come to our door greeted, and all the pieces of paper processed, many blessings to you in the new year.

The Staff



THANKSGIVING BOX DRIVE

Our heartfelt thanks to Gerald and Elise Myers for serving as the chairs of this team and to all who participated.

GENERAL FUND 2019

For month ending October 31, 2019	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
General Fund Income	\$47,934.37	\$404,297.06
General Fund Budgeted Expenses	\$49,641.80	\$398,540.34 **
	(\$ 1,707.43)	\$ 5,756.72

** Includes 1st, 2nd, and 3rd quarter total of \$15,000 transferred to Missions account.

First Presbyterian Church December Calendar

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1



- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Fellowship
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 1:30 p.m. Trees set-up in Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15



- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Fellowship
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service: "A Classic and Modern Christmas"
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship
- 6:00 p.m. Diaconate Meeting

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study: *The Kuckery*
- 1:30 p.m. Prayer Focus
- 6:30 p.m. FIRST Praise Rehearsal

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study: *The Kuckery*
- 12:00 p.m. Primetimer Lunch and Fellowship
- 1:00 p.m. Prayer Focus
- 6:00 p.m. Session Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. FIRST Praise Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

- 8:00 a.m. Jim Turner Men's Bible Study Class
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch with the Pastor at *The Oaks*
- 1:00 p.m. Intercessors Meet for Prayer
- 5:30 p.m. G.T.F. Meal
- 6:15 p.m. G.T.F. Program for Adults
- 6:00 p.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Bible Study
- 7:15 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18



- 8:00 a.m. Jim Turner Men's Bible Study Class
- 6:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Pageant
(Supper follows the pageant.)
- 7:15 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8



- 9:30 a.m. John Knox Class Party
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Fellowship
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service
(Pageant practice during Children's Church)
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Fellowship

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22



- 9:30 a.m. Birthday Party for Jesus: Centre
- 11:00 a.m. Worship

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

- 6:00 p.m. Circle 3

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

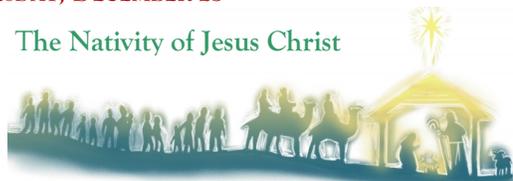


- 6:00 p.m. **Christmas Eve**
Candlelight Communion Service

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study: *The Kuckery*
- 11:30 a.m. Circles 2 and 4, and Circle 1: Centre
- 1:30 p.m. Prayer Focus
- 6:30 p.m. FIRST Praise Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25



Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11



- 8:00 a.m. Jim Turner Men's Bible Study Class
- 1:00 p.m. Intercessors Meet for Prayer
- 5:30 p.m. G.T.F. Meal
- 6:00 p.m. Children's Choir Program
- 7:15 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Fellowship
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

First Presbyterian Church
650 Summers Avenue
Orangeburg, SC 29115
Return Service Requested



DECEMBER 2019

MEMORIALS

IN MEMORY OF

Dr. Henry Frierson
Mrs. Jane Agnew
Mrs. Mary Smith
Mr. Bill Thomas

GIVEN BY

Mrs. Sue Mulkey
Mrs. Frances Lytch
Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Frierson



And she brought forth
her firstborn son,
and wrapped him
in swaddling clothes,
and laid him in a manger;
because there was no room
for them in the inn.

LUKE 2:7, KJV



Merry Christmas from the staff