

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

100 Silver Creek Road
Morganton, North Carolina 28655
828-437-1811
www.fpcmorganton.org

Second Sunday in Advent



A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
Organized Prior to 1797



Reverend Dr. Wanda Neely, Transitional Pastor
Reverend Lynn Webber, Parish Associate
Mr. Robert A. Smith, Director of Music

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Second Sunday in Advent: PEACE

December 9, 2018

*Please stand, in body or in spirit.

Bold-type indicates congregational reading or singing.

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

As We Gather . . . A voice cries out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord." A choir sings in the silence, "Come, Emmanuel." Every valley shall be filled. Every heart shall be made whole, for peace is stronger than turmoil, and love is louder than hate.

Prelude

"Advent Hymn Medley"

Arr. P. Manz

Congregational Meeting

Pastor Nominating Committee

Report from Pastor Nominating Committee: Chris Bergelin; Greg Carpenter; Molly Franklin; Linda McCrary; Mason Streppa; Jean VanNoppen; John Wilson, Chair

Motion to call John Michael Haggmann as Senior Pastor/Head of Staff for First Presbyterian Church, Morganton, NC.

Welcome and Announcements

Please pass the black friendship pad found at the end of the pew, with both guests and members filling in information. Then please pass the pad back to its starting point, noting names and welcoming those near you.

Introit

The Children's Choir leads us in the Introit, as the lighters of the Advent Candle come forward.

"He Came Down"

Words: Cameroon song, alt.

Music: Cameroon melody, arr. J. Bell

Leader: Why did he come?

**All: He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace;
Hallelujah, forevermore. (Repeat)**

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The McQuaid family

He came down that we may have peace.

We come seeking peace on this second Advent Sunday;

Peace within and between ourselves,

Peace for our neighbors, our land, and for the earth;

Peace where there is dissension.

We await the coming of Christ with a light for peace.

(Lighting of Advent Candle)

Prayer for Advent

Lord, shine your light through this gentle flame, bringing quietness, warmth and light. Enable us to be bearers in the world of your light of Peace. **Amen.**

***Opening Hymn of Praise #106**

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Dear Lord, we are trying to straighten out the crookedness of our life this Advent season. We confess we have warped our life with sin. But we cannot straighten out our life without your help. We come to you in repentance, asking you to forgive us. Lead us in a new life with your Son, who was born to free us from our sin. Hear us now, as we continue to confess, in the silence of our hearts . . .

***Time of Silent Prayer**

***Sung Prayer #104**

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You” (Verse 1)

O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart’s delight!
Oh, kindle, Lord most holy, your lamp within my breast
To do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

***Assurance of Pardon**

Every valley is lifted up; every mountain, made low.
Now the glory of the Lord is revealed, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

***Sung Response #104**

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You” (Verse 3)

You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill,
To bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.
In patient expectation we live for that great day
When your renewed creation your glory shall display.

***Passing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Please say “The peace of Christ be with you” to those around you, and then greet everyone, especially those whom you do not know.

WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

Time for Children

Children fifth grade and under are invited to the chancel steps for the Time for Children. Younger children are welcome to bring adults with them. Afterward, children five years old and under will be escorted to Children’s Church, or they may return to sit with their parents.

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Seth Hawkins

Merciful God of peace, your word, spoken by the prophets, restores your people’s life and hope. Fill our hearts with the joy of your saving grace, that we may hold fast to your great goodness. Amen.

Scripture Lesson

Luke 3:1-4

Pew Bible NT, pp. 72-73

#95, “Prepare the Way of the Lord”

Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the salvation of our God. (sing 2x)

**Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the salvation of our God. (sing 2x)**

“The Word of the Lord; thanks be to God!”

Sermon

“Prepare the Way”

Rev. Dr. Wanda Neely

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Invitation to Discipleship

If you would like to speak with someone about becoming a Christian, about church membership, or about a special prayer need, please speak to a pastor or usher.

Service of Giving

Music at the Offering

“Stir Up Thy Power, O Lord”

Words: Trad. Advent Collection

Music: J. Biery

Sung Response #143

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory” (Verse 4)

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

We come this day offering our gifts, O God. Use them to spread the news that Christ comes so that all may dwell in peace. Amen.

WE GO IN GOD’S NAME

***Hymn of Sending #109**

“Blest Be the God of Israel”

***Charge and Blessing**

I Thessalonians 5:16-24

May the God of peace make you holy, and the power of the Spirit sustain you, until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

Isaiah 40:3; Mark 1:3

Prepare the way of the Lord! Amen.

***Benediction Response**

“Veni Emmanuel Amen”

Arr. RASmith

***Postlude**

“Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People”

G. Boehm

Mid and Senior Highs: Meeting This Afternoon

Today! 5:00-8:00 PM—“Bread Sunday” at Terry and Todd Redman’s. Gather your friends and head over to Olivia Redman’s house (107 Woodland Pl., Morganton). Bring your Bible and bring a friend! Hope to see you there!

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

Guests

Welcome! We are delighted you are worshipping with us. Please come to the visitors table located in the narthex Welcome Center and staffed by one of our members. We would love for you to consider becoming a member of our church family. Please feel free to speak with the pastors about this or any other questions.

Sanctuary Shawls

Cold? Keeping temperature regulated in the sanctuary is a challenge. If you find the temperature too cool for you, please pick up a shawl from the stands in the narthex Welcome Center, returning it after the service. These shawls are graciously made and routinely cleaned by the South Mountain Fiber Guild, which meets in our facility.

Nursery

Nursery opens at 9:30 AM and is provided for infants and toddlers during the education hour and the worship service. Please see an usher for directions to the nursery.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 9

9:30 AM Christian Education Hour
10:00 AM Chancel Choir
10:55 AM Worship Service
12:05 PM Children's Choir
5:00 PM Youth Bread Sunday
5:00 PM Morganton Combined Choir
at First Baptist Church

Monday, December 10

10:00 AM Mind, Body, Spirit Class

Tuesday, December 11

7:00 AM Men's Breakfast
9:00 AM BUCM Soup Kitchen

Tuesday, December 11, cont.

1:30 PM Staff Meeting

Wednesday, December 12

4:40 PM Chancel Ringers
5:15 PM Meal
6:30 PM "Silent Night" 200th
Anniversary Program
7:15 PM Chancel Choir

Friday, December 14

8:30 AM Administration Meeting

Saturday, December 15

9:00 AM Chancel Ringers

SUNDAY LEADERS

Sunday, Dec. 9

Bus Driver: Ken Corn
Greeters: Scott and Julie Gosnell
Barry and Lori Stock
Liturgist: Seth Hawkins
Nursery: Amy and Elizabeth Coley
Visitors Table: Shari LeGoullon
Usher Captains: Scott Coley, Hugh Lowe

Next Sunday, Dec. 16

Bus Driver: Lisa Roller
Greeters: Andy and Jan Krouskop
Walter and Joyce Pharr
Liturgist: Nancy Carol McQuaid
Nursery: Maggie McKinney, Happy Nagy
Visitors Table: Shari LeGoullon
Usher Captains: Dick Peck, John Port

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday Night Meals and Programs

5:15 PM: Serving Begins for Meal in the Fellowship Hall

Dec. 12: “Silent Night” 200th Anniversary Program

Adult Meal: country-style steak, creamed potatoes, peas, roll

Kid Meal: cheese quesadilla, potatoes, peas

Dec. 19: Christmas Concert Featuring The Chancel Ringers and Guests

Adult Meal: chicken with cream sauce, confetti rice, sautéed broccoli, roll

Kid Meal: chicken fingers, rice, broccoli, roll

Christmas Memorials and Honoraria

The congregation is invited to give Christmas memorials and/or honoraria, which will be used to purchase poinsettias and wreaths to decorate the church during the Christmas season. If there are more gifts given than decorations purchased, the money will be added to the church's Christmas Eve offering. Poinsettias may be taken home after the **December 30** service. Forms are in the narthex Welcome Center. **Please return the form and your check to the church by Monday, December 10.**

The Christmas season is a wonderful time to invite others to church. Invite your friends and neighbors to FPC. Let us experience God's love together during this meaningful time of the year.

Advent Devotional Books

Now through Advent, we have advent devotional books available on tables located in the narthex Welcome Center.

A Celebration of the 200th Anniversary of “Silent Night”

A Celebration of the 200th Anniversary of “Silent Night” will be held on Wednesday, December 12, at 6:30 PM. This year is the 200th anniversary of the debut of the hymn that has become the best-loved worship moment of many Christians. Something mystical occurs as we light candles and sing the hope of “all is calm, all is bright.” Come, experience this hymn as we celebrate its lyrics and music. Do you have a time when the carol “Silent Night” was especially meaningful for you? Would you share that in a brief writing? Please send to Wanda Neely, wanda@firstpresmorganton.org, by today or tomorrow.

Christmas Caroling on the Church Bus

Christmas Caroling for all ages Sunday, December 16, 6:00-8:00 PM! Join First Presbyterian Church for an evening of caroling to shut-ins and friends of the church. Hot chocolate and treats will be enjoyed together when we return to church.

Church Directory Photo Days

We want to update our church directory with current pictures and information about our members and friends of the church. We have scheduled two photo opportunities: **December 23 and 24.** Please plan for one of these dates with family members. On that day, go to the table outside the chapel thirty minutes before or immediately following the service to have your picture taken and/or update your information.

Joining the church? Go ahead and have your picture taken and submit your information.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Offering

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held on December 24 at 5:30 PM. An offering will be received and distributed as follows: 50% will go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and 50% will go to the House of Refuge, a local homeless shelter.

The Great Cookie Crumble

The Great Cookie Crumble will be on December 30, 9:30-10:45 AM (no Sunday School for children/youth; no Adult Elective Class). All are encouraged to bring their leftover Christmas treats to the fellowship hall to share as we join in a time of fellowship and mission. We will assemble Comfort Kits during this time. Hot chocolate and coffee provided.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Wednesday, December 12

6:30 PM "Silent Night" 200th Anniversary Program

Sunday, December 16: Third Sunday in Advent—JOY

9:30 AM Christian Education Hour

10:55 AM A Service of Lessons and Carols

6:00 PM Christmas Caroling on the Church Bus

Tuesday, December 18

7:00 PM Patton High School Concert

Wednesday, December 19

6:30 PM Christmas Concert Featuring The Chancel Ringers and Guests

Sunday, December 23: Fourth Sunday in Advent—LOVE

9:30 AM Christian Education Hour

10:55 AM Worship Service

Monday, December 24

4:30 PM College Candle Lighters Meet

5:30 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion

Tuesday, December 25-Friday, December 28

Church Office Closed

Sunday, December 30: First Sunday After Christmas

9:30 AM The Great Cookie Crumble and Comfort Kits Mission Project Assembly

10:55 AM Carol Sing Worship

Monday, December 31

8:30 AM-12:00 PM Church Office Open for End-of-Year Giving

Your PNC Unanimously Recommends

John Michael Hagmann

As Senior Pastor, Head of Staff



"I am so humbled and honored to have my name put in nomination to be your Senior Pastor/Head of Staff. I am thrilled to be called to serve alongside you."

"You may be aware that I am seeking my first ordained call. While true, friends, rest assured my calling to join you at FPC Morganton has not come lightly or without years of training and experience. Since 2001, I have served Christ faithfully in and through the context of the local church. In those 17 years of service and ministry, I have gained valuable experiences from inside the

Church and outside. I have served in churches and communities large and small."

"After much discernment and prayer, I answered the call of your PNC saying, 'I'm all in on Morganton.' The brochures in town say, *'There's more in Morganton!'* And I believe that's true. I believe God has much more in store for Morganton. I cannot wait to continue 'growing and going deeper in faith' with you. It's not just a cool mission statement, it's a vision for the future. Friends, God is calling and sending us to reach Morganton and beyond with the good news of Jesus Christ. And, Church, I pray we will answer with an enthusiastic, 'We're all in!'"

Grace and Peace,
John Hagmann



John, LeAnn, Alexander,
Kaitlyn, and Olivia
Hagmann

OUR CONGREGATION CARES

Congregational love and sympathy are extended to Marty Brenneman and family at the death of Marty's sister and Curtis' aunt, Mary Jane Kenison, on December 1, 2018.

Prayer Concerns

Our Prayer Concerns list is dedicated to church members and their families and friends in need of prayer. Names will remain on this list for four weeks unless a new request is made by contacting the church staff.

Home

Bob Benner	Nancy Collett	Lori Conway	Anne Ervin
Shannon Hodges	Eric LeGoullon	Debbie Wellmon	

Grace Ridge Health Care

Marty Brenneman	Mildred Plaster	Eleanor Robb
Betty Sasser	Boyd Smith	Sam Tate

Trinity Ridge

Joan Dickison

Grace Heights

Mary Hewat

Hope Ridge

Betsy Rader

Extended Family and Friends

Bob Ledford, brother of Donna Benner; Sally Riddle, mother of Jim Best; Philip Hatcher, brother of Trey Hatcher; Emily Baldwin, mother of Linda Lindsey; Leslie Jennings Braswell, daughter of LaNelle Jennings; Bill Hall, retired chaplain, friend of Roy and Lynn Garrett; Kathi Powell, sister-in-law of Chuck and Marj Powell, Wilson Fennel, Linda McCrary's great nephew, Mary Scott Robinson, daughter of Revs. Billy and Mary Katherine Robinson, Mary Barnwell, mother of Amy Barnwell Fry; Lawrence Craft, brother-in-law of Linda and Bryant Lindsey

All are invited to sign the "We Care" card, located in the entrance area.

This card will be sent to an individual or family experiencing a special need or pastoral concern.

Prayer Requests

As a church family, it is important to remember each other in prayer during times of need.

If you have a prayer request for the church prayer chain, please email:

Rev. Dr. Wanda Neely (wanda@firstpresmorganton.org) or

If you would like to participate in the prayer chain, contact the church office.

Other options:

Add the below prayer request to the Prayer Concerns list.

I would like the church staff to pray for the below prayer request.

Submitted by: _____

Please place in the offering plate or give to a staff member.