

Fincastle Presbyterian Church



F I N C A S T L E , V I R G I N I A

A Message from David

Back around 1951, Bill Monroe and the Blue Grass Boys sang a song written by Tex Logan, "Christmas Time's A Comin'" (By the way, Tex Logan was a PhD electrical engineer and worked for Bell Labs in research.) Anyway, the refrain of the song captures the longing of many a country boy and girl's heart as Christmas time approaches.

Christmas Time's A-Comin'

Christmas Time's A-Comin'

Christmas Time's A-Comin'

And I know I'm goin' home.

*Can't you hear them bells
ringin', ringin'*

*Joy, joy don't cha hear them
singin'*

When its' snowin', I'll be going'

Back to my country home.

Sadly, this year of 2020 brings a Christmas season where a vast number of people will not be "goin' home for Christmas" for fear of spreading the novel coronavirus to Grandma and Grandpa and other loved ones. Instead, many will choose to remain in their own homes where the risk is greatly reduced. (Patsy and I have chosen such a Christmas: no travel, stay at home, stay safe.)

However, our generation is hardly the first to miss the opportunity to return to the homes of our birth, to Mom and Dad's, or to Grandma and Grandpa's, for the joys and comforts of a family re-union. Every generation of soldiers have known the heartache of being far from home at Christmas. Many foreign-exchange students, and students in general, can not always afford the trip back home. Medical emergencies, urgent business responsibilities, or simply lack of money and time can keep any number of us from that nostalgic "home-going" at Christmas time.

It is important to remember that

even Jesus and his parents, Mary and Joseph, were far from home when Jesus was born. Soon after His birth, at the angel's warning, Joseph and Mary took their infant son, Jesus, and fled from their homeland into Egypt to escape King Herod's murderous plans to kill the baby Jesus. Nevertheless, the first Christmas came. God's grace in the birth of Jesus entered into our broken world with all of its troubles and trials nonetheless.

That same grace of God in the birth, life, death and Resurrection of Christ is still with us and will be with us this Christmas and every moment of every year, regardless of pandemics, or wars, or heated disagreements about politics or religion!

May the Spirit of Christmas and the Good News of Christ's birth be with you and all whom you know and love; and with all people everywhere. Peace David



Season of Advent

This year, the advent candle lighting service will be a little different than previous years — but then it is 2020. Each Advent service will be **Facebook Live**. 1st week will be during the 10:25 service and the rest will be on Thursday at 5 pm. See more info on the next page.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

LYNNE BOLTON, CHAIRMAN

Each Advent Service will have a scripture reading and special music celebrating the upcoming season of the birth of Jesus.

Sunday Nov. 29— Joy despite all the sadness; Matthew 25: 1- 13;
Evelyn Renshaw (our organist)
David and Patsy Dickerson (readers)

Thursday Dec. 3— Hope where despair keeps watch: Luke 7: 28–35;
Isabella and Lydia Boitnott (piano and violins)

Kip and Lyn Burton (readers)

Thursday Dec. 10— Courage to admit you need help; John 3: 22-30;
Marcia Neighbors (piano)
Alan Brenner and family (readers)

Thursday Dec. 17—Keep the dream alive; Luke 1: 13–20;
Robert McRae (vocalist)
Dot Langford and Leigh Anne Martin (readers)

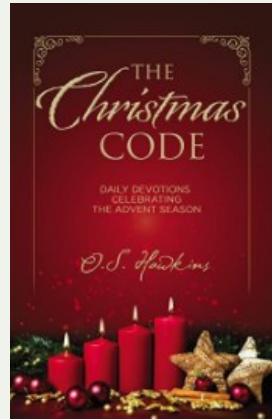
Thursday Dec. 25—The light of grace; Luke 2: 1-14;
Lynne Bolton (vocalist)
Sandy Gates and Jenny Griffin (readers)

CONGREGATION CARE COMMITTEE

CATHY GOAD, CHAIRMAN

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

LYN BURTON, CHAIRMAN



Each household in the church should have received a copy of “*The Christmas CODE*”. This is a daily devotional for the advent season by O.S. Hawkins.

MISSION COMMITTEE

PAUL PHILLIPPE, CHAIRMAN

Remember the opportunities to donate your time and/or talent to a worthy cause:

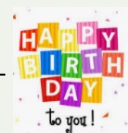
1. Continue to collect your 2 cents a meal offering
2. Donate money to the Angel Tree. Send donations to **Fincastle Presbyterian Church**
PO Box 144, Fincastle, VA 24090
3. Volunteer at the Botetourt Food Pantry:

If you feel you can help at any time, please call Martha Logan at 597-0025 to schedule your time. Call Paul Phillippe (473-1262) or Lyn Burton (239-3185) if you have questions.

Celebrate December Birthdays

12/2— Henry Brenner; 12/5— Hannah Brenner; 12/12—Ty Harris; 12/24— Jim Helms

(If your birthday does not appear on the Birthday List, please send your date to fincastlepresbyterianchurch@gmail.com)





*Advent Celebration will be based on this
poem by Howard Thurman*

As printed in Presbyterians Today—presbyterianmission.org

I will Light Candles This Christmas

*I will Light candles this Christmas,
Candles of joy despite all the sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of Courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all year long.*



Fincastle Presbyterian Church Ready for Christmas
Thank you to Cathy and Mike Goad for the outside decorations and
Lynne Bolton, Peggy Davis and Patsy and David Dickerson for the





Fincastle Presbyterian Church
 PO Box 144
 108 E. Back Street
 Fincastle, VA 24090

Phone: 540-473-2042

Email:
 fincastlepresbyterianchurch@gmail.com

Mission Statement: Striving to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, Growing in God, Through uplifting and inspiring spiritual experiences, and Serving our community in love.

Church Staff

Interim Minister: The Rev. Dr. David Dickerson, D. Min

Treasurer: Becky Downs

Organist and Choir Director: Evelyn Renshaw

Bookkeeper/Secretary: Beth Clark

Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 9am–noon

Other times by Appointment

Session Members

Lynne Bolton Sandy Gates Lyn Burton

Alan Brenner John Griffith Becky Downs

Cathy Goad Paul Phillippe Bo Trumbo

John Kilby, Clerk

Trustees

Bob Omer, Peggy Davis, Garland Jones

Deadlines

Weekly Bulletin— by Wednesday of the week

Monthly Newsletter—by 20th of the month

**UPDATE FROM NOVEMBER
 SESSION MEETING**

- * Thanksgiving Eve Service, Facebook Live—Nov. 25 at 5 pm
- * Christmas Eve Service, Facebook Live—Dec. 25 at 5 pm
- * Classes of session have been extended 1 year (in other words, Class of 2020 is now Class of 2021)
- * The Fellowship Committee encourages everyone to pray for our church and our country

Endowment Donations for 2020

Ram House	\$750
Christian Free Clinic	\$500
Botetourt YMCA	\$1000
Botetourt Food Pantry	\$500
Rescue Mission	\$400
Teen Challenge	\$400
Troutville Baptist Food Pantry	\$500
Presbyterian Children's Home	\$500
LOA-Botetourt	\$200
CHIP	\$300
FCA JR	\$550
Salvation Army	\$400

TOTAL \$6000

Prayer List

Members of FPC:

Clyde and Nathalie Givens
 Kaki Peaslee
 Gwen Griffith
 Phyllis Tenser
 Dianne and John Poynor

Friends and Family of FPC:

Laura Holt McCann
 Jackie Ferrel
 Mary Lee Reese
 Mary Black
 Doug Ross
 Marilyn Koch
 Alexis Porter
 Molly Rose
 Gretchen Greiner
 Lisa Curlee
 Marc Evans
 Rebecca Cook
 Luke Waldrop
 Michael Miracle

The Families of:

Ruth Schaaf
 Janet Woolwine
 Roberta Meredith
 Ann Whitehurst
 All Covid-19 victims