

Call to Prayer

Beloved in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas,
let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning. Let us
Pray

Prayer

Let us hear, in lessons from Holy Scripture,
how the prophets of Israel foretold
that God would visit and redeem the waiting people.

Let us rejoice, in our carols and hymns,
that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled.

Let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
will bring all peoples and all things
into the glory of God's eternal kingdom.

The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk,
the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear,
the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

But first, let us pray for the world that God so loves,
for those who have not heard the good news of God,
or who do not believe it;

for those who walk in darkness and the shadow of death;
and for the Church in this place and everywhere,
that it may be freed from all evil and fear,

and may in pure joy lift up the light of the love of God.

Hear us now as we pray as Christ has taught us:

The Lord's Prayer**Offering****Offertory Anthem**

"Coventry Carol"

Doxology**Prayer of Dedication****Closing Congregational Hymn: #152**

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Benediction

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honor everyone;
love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Sung Response #126 (vs 1)

"O Come, Let Us Adore Him"

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Postlude

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

Sears /Willis

Service for the Lord's Day

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023 — 10:30 am (In Person & Live Streaming)

Lessons and Carols

The hymns will not be announced before singing.

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

"Once in Royal David's City"
Alexander/Gauntlett

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: (Isaiah 40:9)

One: Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!

Many: **Sing to the Lord and bless God's name; tell the good news of salvation from day to day.**

Lighting of the 3rd Advent Candle—Joy Lori Tuner and Danette Heinlein

Prayer of Invocation

Congregational Carol #171

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

1st Lesson: A Great Light in the Darkness

Isaiah 9: 2, 6

Congregational Carol #159

"Sing We Now of Christmas"

Lori Turner—Solo on Verses -
Congregation joins on refrain

2nd Lesson: A Little Child Will Lead Them

Isaiah 11:1-4a

Congregational Carol #149

"Away in a Manger"

3rd Lesson: An Angel Appears to Mary

Luke 1:26-31

Congregation Carol #173

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

4th Lesson: An Angel Appears to Joseph

Matthew 1:18-23

Solo —Lori Turner

"When Love Was Born"

5th Lesson: Mary Gives Birth in Bethlehem

Luke 2:1-7

Congregational Carol #155 (vs 1,2,4)

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

6th Lesson: Angels Announce the Messiah and the Shepherds Go to See the Child

Luke 2:8-16

Congregational Litany Carol Go Tell It On The Mountain

SPOKEN words

(Congregation sings REFRAIN)

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

(SPOKEN) While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

(Congregation sings REFRAIN)

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

(SPOKEN) The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

(Congregation sings REFRAIN)

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

(SPOKEN) Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God
sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

(Congregation sings REFRAIN)

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

7th Lesson: Magi Come From the East

Matthew 2:1-3, 7-11

Solo—Lynne Bolton

"What Child is This?"

Guitar—David Dickerson

8th Lesson: And the Word Became Flesh

John 1-5, 14

Congregational Carol #146

"Joy To the World"

(continued on back page)

Concerns of the Church

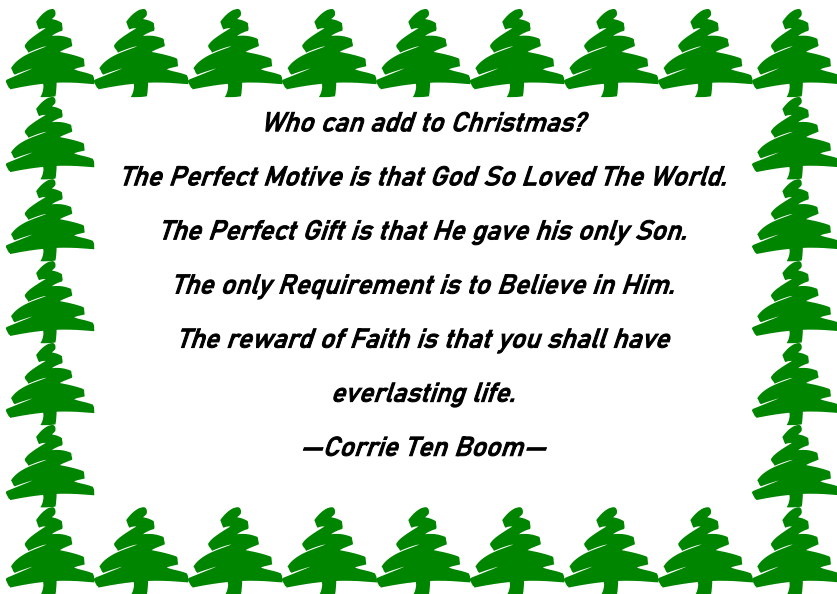
Prayer List:

Members: Nathalie Givens, Jennifer Kincaid, Meg and Bob Omer

Friends and family of FPC: Mary Black, Joyce Bolton Turbyfill (Lynne Bolton's Aunt), Mick Caudill (Danette's daughter's father-in-law), Neil Dunnavant (Pastor at FPC from 1992-2003), Janice Ford (Danette's sister), the family of Andy Haynes (Kip Burton's long-time friend), Tim Heinlein, Lynne Kessler, Sawyer Lucas and Jackson Hetzel (Valerie's grandsons), Laura Holt McCann, Hi Nicely, Mary Lee Reese, Donna Smith (former member), Ray White (Danette's brother-in-law).

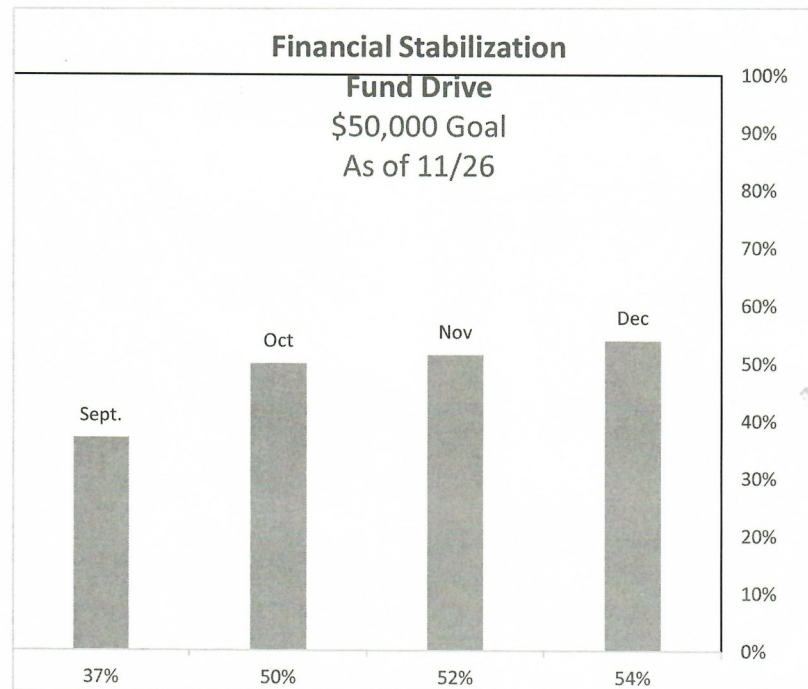
Announcements

- ◆ **Next** Men's breakfast will be January 13 at Greenwood in Troutville, 9:00 AM.
- ◆ The **Christmas Joy Gift Offering** will be at the 12/24 Morning service.
- ◆ The Christmas Eve special offering will go to the Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands (PCHH).
- ◆ Planned office hours for week of 12/17/2023: Monday 12/18—9:00 AM—3:00 PM, Thursday 12/21—12:00 noon to 5:00 PM, Friday, 12/22 —9:00 AM—2:00 PM



From Letter to Congregation, dated: August 29,2023: “The session has recommended and approved for our church to conduct a Financial Stabilization Fund Drive. This is over and beyond what we have pledged, tithed, or given as a free-will offering. This would provide additional operating funds.”

The graph below, shows the status of the fund drive. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this church effort, allowing us to maintain our mission statement “Striving to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, growing in God through uplifting and inspiring spiritual experiences, and serving the community in love.



Calendar of Events:

Sunday, December 17 **3rd Sunday of Advent: Joy Lessons and Carols**
Sunday School, 9:30 am
Worship Service: 10:30
Hand Bell Practice: 12:00 noon
Duty Elders: Jim Porter and Sandy Gates
Fellowship: Patsy D. and Sue P.

Sunday, December 24 **4th Sunday of Advent: Love**
Sunday School, 9:30 am
Worship Service: 10:30
Hand Bell Practice: 12:00 noon
Duty Elders: Jim Porter and Cathy Goad
Fellowship: None
Special Offering: Christmas Joy Gift

Sunday, December 24 **Christmas Eve Service**
7:00 PM
Duty Elders: Cathy Goad & Fred Coots
Special Offering: Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands (PCCH)

Monday, December 25 **Nativity of the Lord / Christmas Day**

Sunday, December 31 **1st Sunday of Christmas**
Sunday School, 9:30 am
Worship Service: 10:30
Duty Elders: Lynne B. and Cathy Goad
Fellowship: None

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### **Clerk of Session: John Kilby**

*Class of 2023:* Lyn Burton, Hal Bailey,  
Sandy Gates

*Class of 2024:* Cathy Goad, Paul Phillippe,  
Bo Trumbo

*Class of 2025:* Fred Coots, Lynne Bolton,  
Jim Porter

*Class of 2026:* Lyn Burton, Hal Bailey,  
Patsy Dickerson

### **The Trustees**

Bob Omer, Garland Jones, Peggy Davis

### **The Church Staff**

*Interim Minister:* The Rev. Dr. David Dickerson

*Treasurer:* Hal Bailey

*Music Director:* Lori Turner

*Secretary/Bookkeeper:* Danette Heinlein

## Session Committees

### **Property: Fred Coots, chairman**

*Jim Porter, Mike Goad, Paul Phillippe, Lyn and Kip Burton, Ed and Verna Shuey, Julia Richardson*

### **Fellowship: Jim Porter, chairman**

*John Kilby, Paul Phillippe, Bob Omer, Fred Coots*

### **Worship: Lynne Bolton, chairman**

*Patsy Dickerson, Betty Painter, Peggy Davis, Danette Heinlein*

### **Christian Education: Lyn Burton, chairman**

*Verna Shuey, Patsy Dickerson*

### **Finance: Hal Bailey, chairman**

*Mardee Kilby, Debbie Coots, Lynne Bolton*

### **Personnel: Bo Trumbo, chairman**

*Lynne Bolton*

### **Mission: Paul Phillippe, chairman**

*Lyn Burton, Debbie Coots*

### **Congregational Care: Cathy Goad, chairman**

*Peggy Davis*

### **Communications: Sandy Gates, chairman**

*Patsy Dickerson, Lynne Bolton, JoAnn Snowden, Peggy Davis*

### **Newsletter: Patsy Dickerson, editor**

*Anyone who has something to contribute*

### **Grant: Patsy Dickerson, chairman**

*Alan Brenner, Paul Phillippe, David Dickerson, Fred Coots, Bo Trumbo*

## *Fincastle Presbyterian Church*

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**The Rev. Dr. David Dickerson, D.Min.**

Thank you to all who have blessed our Sanctuary with the beauty of Poinsettia's this fine Christmas Season:

| <b>Who</b>           | <b>In Honor of:</b> | <b>In Memory of:</b>        |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Burton, Lyn          | Our Family          |                             |
| Heinlein, Danette    | To the Glory of God |                             |
| Coots, Fred & Debbie |                     | Jack & Marie Bailey         |
| Coots, Fred & Debbie |                     | Jean & Fred Coots           |
| Verna Shuey          |                     | Our parents                 |
| Sandy Gates          |                     | Marshall Gates              |
| Sue Porter           | my husband, Jim     |                             |
| Peggy Davis          |                     | Hunter and Viola            |
| Peggy Davis          |                     | Paxton Davis                |
| Garland & Jane Jones | friends & family    |                             |
| Mike & Cathy Goad    |                     | Dewey, Nellie & Ronnie Goad |
| Julia Richardson     | my family           |                             |
| Ed & Betty Holt      |                     | George & Betsy Holt         |
| Ed & Betty Holt      |                     | Jerry & Kaki Peaslee        |
| Patty Vari           |                     | Rick Vari                   |
| Patsy Dickerson      | The FPC family      |                             |
| Lynne Bolton         |                     | Joeanna & Corky Bolton      |
| Alan Brenner         |                     | Carol Brenner               |



# The Legend of the Poinsettia

There is an old Mexican legend about how Poinsettias and Christmas come together, it goes like this:

There was once a poor Mexican girl called Pepita who had no present to give the baby Jesus at the Christmas Eve Services. As Pepita walked to the chapel, sadly, her cousin Pedro tried to cheer her up. 'Pepita', he said "I'm sure that even the smallest gift, given by someone who loves him will make Jesus Happy."

Pepita didn't know what she could give, so she picked a small handful of weeds from the roadside and made them into a small bouquet. She felt embarrassed because she could only give this small present to Jesus. As she walked through the chapel to the altar, she remembered what Pedro had said. She began to feel better, knelt down and put the bouquet at the bottom of the nativity scene. Suddenly, the bouquet of weeds burst into bright red flowers, and everyone who saw them were sure they had seen a miracle. From that day on, the bright red flowers were known as the 'Flores de Noche Buena', or 'Flowers of the Holy Night'.

The shape of the poinsettia flower and leaves are sometimes thought as a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men to Jesus. The red colored leaves symbolize the blood of Christ. The white leaves represent his purity.

First Reading  
A Great Light in the Darkness

Isaiah 9:2,6

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness on them has light shined.

For to us a child is born, To us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Second Reading  
A Little Child Will Lead Them

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, and the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

Third Reading  
An Angel Appears to Mary

Luke 1:26-31

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

Fourth Reading  
An Angel Appears to Joseph

Matthew 1:18-23

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

"Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and his name shall be called Emman'u-el"  
(which means, God with us).

Fifth Reading  
Mary Gives Birth in Bethlehem

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirin'us was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Sixth Reading  
Angels Announce the Messiah and The Shepherds Go To See The Child.

Luke 2:8-16

And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among men  
with whom he is pleased!"

Sixth Reading continued

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger

Seventh Reading  
Magi Come from the East

Matthew 2:1-3, 7-11

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

Eighth Reading  
And The Word Became Flesh

John 1:5, 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.