

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 Dunnivant (Pastor at FPC from 1992-2003), Janice Ford (Danette's sister), the family of Darin Engle (Keith McMurry's son-in-law), Tim Heinlein, Lynne Kessler, Sawyer Lucas and Jackson Hetzel (Valerie's grandsons), Laura Holt McCann, Hi Nicely, Mary Lee Reese, Ray White (Danette's brother-in-law).

Sunday, December 31	News Year's Eve First Sunday of Christmas Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship Service: 10:30 Duty Elders: Cathy Goad & Lynne Bolton Fellowship: No Fellowship today
Friday, January 5 Sunday, January 7	Happy Birthday Carolyn Nicely Baptism of the Lord 2 cents a meal offering Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship Service: 10:30 Duty Elders: Fred Coots & Patsy Dickerson Fellowship: Jane Jones
Friday, January 12 Saturday, January 13	Happy Birthday Julia Richardson Happy Birthday Mike Goad Men's Fellowship Breakfast at the Greenwood
Sunday, January 14	2nd Sunday after Epiphany Sunday School, 9:30 am Worship Service: 10:30 am Duty Elders: Lyn Burton & Patsy Dickerson Fellowship: _____

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The Worshipping Church Hymnal: 1990 Hope Publishing Co. Carol Stream, IL —
Service Music: # 823 Kyrie, #805 Gloria Patri, #809 Doxology.
Hymns: #161—"Once in Royal David's City"; #165—"I Wonder as I Wander"; #185—"We Three Kings"; #159—"Sing We Now of Christmas"

Service Music: Medley of Traditional Christmas Carols: "Good King Wenceslas/O Come, All Ye Faithful" / Arr. D. Gilliam / M. McKaskill "Beautiful Star of Bethlehem"; "Let There Be Peace on Earth"; "O Holy Night"

Fincastle Presbyterian Church

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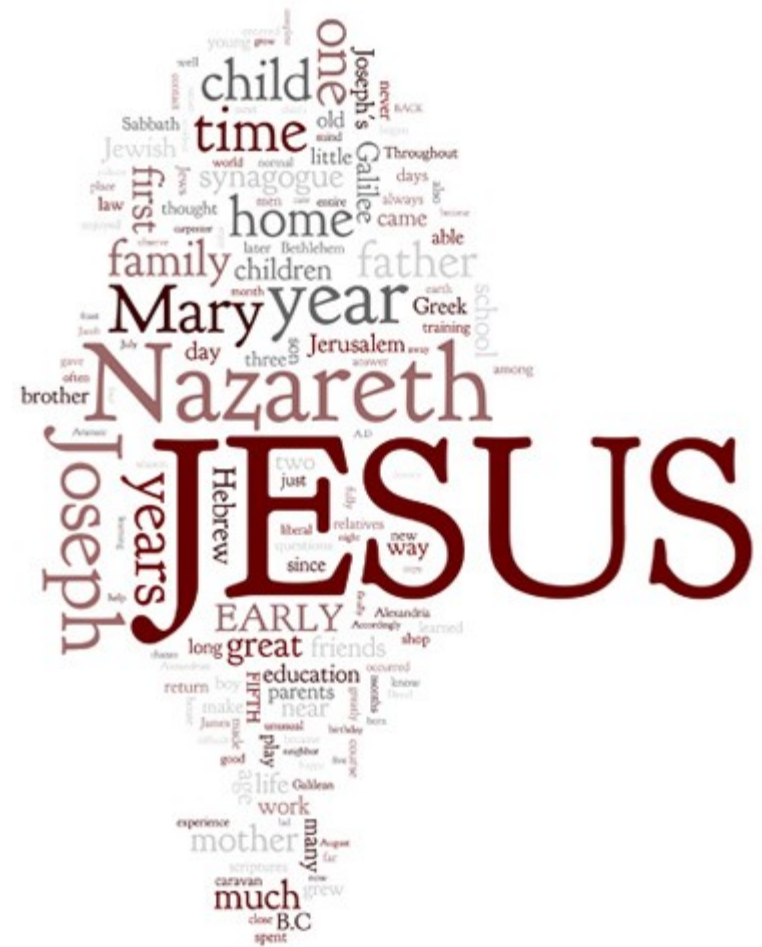
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The Rev. Dr. David Dickerson, D.Min.

Lori Turner, Music Director



Service for the Lord's Day

1st Sunday of Christmas

December 31, 2023 —10:30 am (In Person & Live Streaming)

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

“Christmas Carol Medley”

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: (Isaiah 9:6)

One: Let us worship God.

Many: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

One: and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called

All: “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Prayer of Invocation

Hymn: #161

“Once in Royal David’s City”



Call to Confession:

One: If we claim to be sinless, we are self-deceived and strangers to the truth.

Many: If we confess our sins, God is just, and may be trusted to forgive our sins and cleanse us from every kind of wrong.

All: Let us confess our sins before God.

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

Great God our Father,

You have given us Jesus, light of the world, but we choose darkness and cling to sins that hide the brightness of your love. We are frightened disciples who are slow to speak your gospel. Immersed in ourselves, we have not risen to new life. Baptize us with Holy Spirit, so that, forgiven and renewed, we may preach your word to nations, and tell your glory shining in the face of Jesus Christ, our Lord and our light forever..

Silent Confession: **Amen**

Kyrie: Lord have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us. Lord have mercy upon us. #823

Assurance of Pardon:

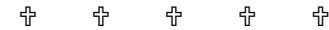
One: Hear the Good News! This statement is completely reliable and should be universally accepted:

Many: Christ Jesus entered the world to rescue sinners.

All: He personally bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might be dead to sin and be alive to all that is good.

Gloria Patri: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen. #805

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer



Offering

Offertory Anthem

“Beautiful Star of Bethlehem”.

Doxology: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; #808
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

Prayer of Dedication



Prayer of Illumination

Old Testament Reading : (Pew bible pg. 641) Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Hymn: #165 “I Wonder as I Wander”

New Testament Reading: (Pew bible pg. 889—890) Luke 2: 22-40

Sermon “The Smallness of It All!”

Moment for Meditation “Let There Be Peace on Earth”



Profession of Faith: #14

Hymn: ##185

Apostles’ Creed

“We Three Kings”

Charge

Sung Response #159, Verse 1

“Sing We Now of Christmas”

Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, sing we here!

Hear our grateful praises to the Babe so dear.

Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!

Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!”.

Benediction

Postlude:

“O Holy Night”



Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my whole being shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots
and as a garden causes what is sown in it
to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

62 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn
and her salvation like a burning torch.

² The nations shall see your vindication
and all the kings your glory,
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

³ You shall be a beautiful crown in the hand of the LORD
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

New Testament Reading

Luke 2: 22-40

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word,

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."

³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too."

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.

#161 Once in Royal David's City

1 Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

2 He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall:
with the poor and meek and lowly
lived on earth our Savior holy.

3 For he is our childhood's pattern,
day by day like us he grew,
he was little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew:
and he feels for all our sadness,
and he shares in all our gladness.

4 And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child, so dear and gentle,
is our Lord in heaven above,
and he leads his children on
to the place where he has gone.

#165 I Wonder as I Wander

1 I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die
for poor ordinary people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

2 When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall,
with wisemen and farmers and shepherds
and all,
but high from God's heaven a star's light
did fall,
the promise of ages it then did recall.

3. If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky or a bird on the wing,
or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing,
he wurely could have it,
'cause he was the King

4 I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die
for poor ordinary people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

#185 We Three Kings

1 We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

Refrain:
O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never
over us all to reign. (Refrain)

3 Frankincense to offer have I,
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising gladly raising,
worshiping God on high. (Refrain)

4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom,
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. (Refrain)

5 Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
sounds thro' the earth and skies. (Refrain)

