

Sermon: "A Struggle of Faith"  
Rev. Dr. David Dickerson

Meditation: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence/I Wonder as I Wander"  
Trad. French 17th c./ Niles

\*Profession of Faith #14 Apostles' Creed

\*Hymn #151 "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

\*Charge:

\*Sung Response: (2x) "Soon and Very Soon"

Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King;  
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King;  
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King;  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King.

\*Benediction

Postlude: "Go Tell It on the Mountain (refrain)"  
Spiritual/J. Work



**Members:** Nathalie Givens, Hi Nicely, Meg and Bob Omer, Julia Richardson



**Prayer Requests**

**Friends and family of FPC:** Grayson Alfano (friend of Sandy Gates), Wyatt Bowman and family, Bill Ferrell (friend of Kip & Lyn Burton), the family of Dana McMurry (Keith McMurry's sister-in-law), Lilly and Alexsis Porter, Mary Rae (organist at FUMC), Loretta Youngman (Kip Burton's cousin).

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**The Worshiping Church Hymnal:** 1990 Hope Publishing Co. Carol Stream, IL —  
**Service Music:** # 823 Kyrie , #805 Gloria Patri, # 808 Doxology

**Hymns:** #155— "O Little Town of Bethlehem"; #140 — "Emmanuel, Emmanuel"; #147 — "Away in a Manager"; #151 "Go Tell It on the Mountain".

**The United Methodist Hymnal:** 1989 The United Methodist Publish House —

**Hymn:** #706 — "Soon and Very Soon"

**Service Music:** "Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming/O Little Town of Bethlehem" — Trad. German 16th C./ Trad. English Melody/arr. R. V. Williams, "The Worshiping Church Hymnal" [Ibid.(163, 154)]. Used by permission of Oxford Univ. Press; "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"—Wesley/Prichard, "The Worshiping Church Hymnal" [Ibid.(135)]; "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" — Latin Hymn, 12th C.; tr. J.M. Neale, 1851/Helmores 1854, , "The Worshiping Church Hymnal" [Ibid.(133)]; "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence & I Wonder as I Wander" — Trad. French 17th c./ Niles, "The Worshiping Church Hymnal" [Ibid. (167,165)], © 1990 Hope Publish Company.

# Service for the Lord's Day

December 14, 2025: 10:20 am Live Streaming & Gathering Music begin  
10:30 am Chiming of the Hour for Worship

## 3rd Sunday of Advent

Prelude *"Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming Medley"*  
Trad. German 16th C./ Williams

Welcome and Announcements



Call to Worship: (responsive) (Isaiah 35:3-4, adapted)

One: Let us worship God.  
Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

**Many: Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear!"**

One: "Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense."

**Many: "He will come and save you."**

One: Praise the Lord!

**Many: The Lord's name be praised!**

Prayer of Invocation

\*Hymn: #155 *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

Lighting of the third Advent Candle—Joy Cathy and Mike Goad

\*Advent Wreath Sung Response #140 (2x) *"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"*

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.  
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.



Call to Confession: (Responsive)

One: The proof of God's amazing love is this: while we were sinners Christ died for us.

**Many: Because we have faith in him, we dare with confidence to approach God.**

**All: Let us ask God to forgive us.**

Prayer of Confession: (Unison)

**O Lord,  
You call us to keep awake and to be alert, to watch for your kingdom to come. Yet we have struggled in our faith, and we have**

**failed to be an expectant and hopeful people. Inspire in us, by your Holy Spirit, that great hope born on the first Christmas day, which will be fulfilled when your Son comes again. Fill us with joy that we might greet Him when He comes, and give Him praise, with You, and with the Holy Spirit.**

Silent Confession: Amen

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

Assurance of Pardon: (Unison)

**Mighty and most merciful God,  
By your gracious Spirit in Christ, You have forgiven our sins and made it possible for us now to serve You by our grateful obedience. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and goodwill to all! Amen.**

\*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

Children's Time *"Sunshine and the Very First Christmas"*

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer



Offering:

Regular Offering  
Offertory *"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"*  
Wesley/Prichard

\*Doxology:

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

\*Prayer of Dedication



Special Music *"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"*  
Solo: Lynne Bolton Latin hymn, 12th C.; tr J.M. Neal/T. Helmore

Prayer of Illumination

Old Testament Reading: (pew bible pg. 545) Psalm 146:1-10

Hymn: #147 *"Away in a Manger"*

New Testament Reading: (pew bible pgs. 844) Matthew 11:2-11



# DECEMBER

## Announcements

### December 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

- ◆ **Welcome as a new member Ellie (Eleanor) Rowland.** Ellie lives at the Glebe and has been attending services here since July.
- ◆ The **Botetourt Food Pantry** is in need of more help. There is a new sign-up sheet in the hallway with additional dates. If you can spare a couple of hours once a month, it would be a big help.
- ◆ As we come to the close of 2025, we would like to take a moment and thank **Lynne Bolton, Fred Coots, and Jim Porter** for their years of service as duty elders. Blessings to each of them.
- ◆ **Look at the calendar** downstairs by the kitchen and sign up for after Sunday Service fellowship! January's calendar has been added.
- ◆ Our calendar is **Very Busy** for the next two months. If you or your organization is planning on using any space at the church, please check with Danette to verify that it is available!
- ◆ Our **Wholeness and Healing Service** is scheduled for Wednesday, December 17 at 5:00 pm in the Sanctuary, with a light supper immediately following in the Fellowship Hall.
- ◆ **David Austin & Friends** will be performing a Christmas Concert today at 4:00 pm at Buchanan Presbyterian Church, 19559 Main St.
- ◆ All are invited to the Celebration of life for **Steve Bailey**, Hal's brother, at the Bailey home, 3564 Catawba Road, Troutville on Friday, December 19, 6:00 to 8:00pm.
- ◆ There is a new Duty Elder Sign up sheet on the Bulletin Board in the side hallway for first half of 2026.
- ◆ **QR Code for an E-Giving option:**



Please note that there are special buttons on the e-giving page for the special options of the season!

Planned office hours for the week of December 14 are:

**Monday: 10:00—4:00pm, Tuesday 10:00-2:00  
Wednesday, Thursday and Friday: 10:00—3:00pm**

- Sunday, Dec. 14** **3rd Sunday of Advent—Joy**  
**Sunday School: 9:30 am, Logan Room**  
**Worship Service: 10:30 am**  
Duty Elders: Patsy D. & Patty V.  
Fellowship: **Potluck, after worship service**
- Tues., Dec. 16 Women's Bible Study, 2:00 pm at the Burton home.
- Wed., Dec. 17 Joyful Singers practice, 3:00 pm Sanctuary
- Wed., Dec. 17** **Wholeness and Healing**  
5:00 pm, Sanctuary, light supper immediately following in Fellowship Hall.
- Sunday, Dec. 21** **4th Sunday of Advent—Love**  
**Sunday School: 9:30 am, Logan Room**  
**Worship Service: 10:30 am**  
**Lessons and Carols Service**  
Duty Elders: Goad & \_\_\_\_\_  
Fellowship: **A Group of Ladies**  
**Christmas Joy Offering**
- Wed., Dec. 24** **Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 pm, Sanctuary**  
Duty Elders: Goad & Burton  
**Special Offering: PCHH**
- Thurs., Dec. 25 Nativity of the Lord/Christmas Day!
- Sunday, Dec. 28** **First Sunday of Christmas**  
**Sunday School: 9:30 am, Logan Room**  
**Worship Service: 10:30 am**  
**Lessons and Carols Service**  
Duty Elders: Goad & Bolton  
Fellowship: \_\_\_\_\_
- Thursday, Jan.. 1 New Year's Day.



# *Fincastle Presbyterian Church*

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## **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.

*Clerk of Session: John Kilby*

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

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

*Class of 2027: Cathy Goad, Patty Vari, Teri Walker*

### 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

The new *Class of 2028 will be:*  
David Kincaid, Jennifer Kincaid and  
Paul Phillippe

**Save The DATE**

**DAVID AUSTIN  
& FRIENDS**

a concert of Christmas music

**Sunday, December 14th  
4:00 p.m.**

**@ Buchanan Presbyterian Church**

"A smile. a hug. a helping hand.  
Spreading joy across the land.  
In every heart. let kindness grow.  
This is the magic we all can show!  
Together we shine. like stars so bright!"

— Unknown

# Old Testament Reading

## Psalm 146:1-10

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord!  
Praise the Lord, O my soul!  
<sup>2</sup> I will praise the Lord as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God while I have being.  
<sup>3</sup> Put not your trust in princes,  
in a son of man, in whom there is no help.  
<sup>4</sup> When his breath departs he returns to his earth;  
on that very day his plans perish.  
<sup>5</sup> Happy is he whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Lord his God,  
<sup>6</sup> who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them;  
who keeps faith for ever;  
<sup>7</sup> who executes justice for the oppressed;  
who gives food to the hungry.  
The Lord sets the prisoners free;  
<sup>8</sup> the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.  
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the Lord loves the righteous.  
<sup>9</sup> The Lord watches over the sojourners,  
he upholds the widow and the fatherless;  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.  
<sup>10</sup> The Lord will reign for ever,  
thy God, O Zion, to all generations.  
Praise the Lord!



# New Testament Reading

## Matthew 11:2-11

<sup>2</sup> Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, "Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?" <sup>4</sup> And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is he who takes no offense at me."

<sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to behold? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> Why then did you go out? To see a man clothed in soft raiment? Behold, those who wear soft raiment are in kings' houses. <sup>9</sup> Why then did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is he of whom it is written,

'Behold, I send my messenger before thy face,  
who shall prepare thy way before thee.'

<sup>11</sup> Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has risen no one greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

"Are you the one who is to come,  
or are we to wait for another?"  
Matthew 11:3, NRSV



## #155 O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting Light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary,  
and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth.

3 How silently, how silently  
the wondrous Gift is given;  
so God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven!  
No ear may hear his coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him still  
the dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in;  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel.



## # 147 Away in a Manger

1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

## # 151 Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain:

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

1 While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. [Refrain]

2 The shepherds feared and trembled  
when, lo! above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]

3 Down in a lowly manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]

Thank you for the blessings you have provided in decorating our sanctuary this Christmas Season.

Who	In Honor of:	In Memory of:
Alan Brenner		Carol
Kip and Lyn Burton	Our Family	
Fred & Debbie Coots		Jack & Marie Bailey
Fred & Debbie Coots		Jean & Fred Coots
Patsy & David Dickerson	All our Family	Willie Simmons
Sandy Gates		Marshall Gates
Mike & Cathy Goad		Dewey, Nellie & Ronnie Goad
Tim & Danette Heinlein	Our daughters and their families	Gail & Marianne Heinlein and- Walter and Ruby Ford
Garland & Jane Jones		Our parents
John and Mardee Kilby		J.L. & Elva Kilby and Francis & Martha Hoge
David & Jennifer Kincaid	Kincaid / Dogan family	Angela Kay Dogan
Bob Omer	Meg	
Ellie Rowland		Gene Rowland
Ed & Verna Shuey		Our parents
Lori Turner	Joyful Singers & Back Street Ringers	
Patty Vari		Rick Vari



# 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.