



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rocky Mount

## *First Pres News*

**December 2020**

153 N. Church Street  
Rocky Mount, NC 27804  
[www.fpcrm.org](http://www.fpcrm.org)  
252-446-9121

Dear Friends,

We will be looking at dreams this Advent. This isn't dream interpretation; rather it is the earnest longings in the depth of our souls. What is God's dream for humanity? What are our dreams for our life and faith? Where do they intersect? Where do they diverge? We'll look at questions like these over the course of Advent as we wait and prepare for celebrating the gift of the Messiah.

Hannah and I have read through your feedback from the surveys and prayed over every response and responder- named and unnamed. We hope that our different Christmas Eve worship opportunities match your hopes for celebrating as you feel led. We have also added an intergenerational, congregation wide, in-person or Zoom opportunity for faith development and fellowship. During Advent, we'll meet on Monday's at 7pm in the sanctuary and on zoom for this time together.

The entire staff is working diligently to provide safe and welcoming opportunities to worship over the Christmas holiday, and we are beginning to dream about what church and ministry will hold in the year to come. Things can't look "normal" yet, but we are excited about the multiplicity of ways that God is at work through this church and the promise of a return to a new and wonderful normal in the year to come.

There are 3 specific ways that you can help us in our Advent preparation, Christmas celebration, and springing forward into the New Year.

- **Pray.** I don't mean this in any trite way. We are ministering to victims of abuse and neglect, members struggling with spoken and unspoken crises, and there are countless other issues that are still unknown to us. We value every prayer for our church!
- **Pledge.** The finance committee is trying to finalize a budget for 2021, and they need to know our financial commitment to do their work.
- **Participate.** Join us virtually or in-person for worship, study, Christmas Eve, delivering goodies, and/or sharing your joys and concerns. You are the church. The collective congregation is the body of Christ. Together, in participation in fulfilling God's dreams, we will see miracles abound.

Most importantly, I pray that each and every one of you have a blessed, safe, and wonderful Christmas as you celebrate God's greatest gift- Jesus the Christ.

With love and gratitude,

*Matt*

Pastor: The Rev. Matthew Baker    Community Pastor: The Rev. Hannah Trawick    Parish Associate: The Rev. Dr. Preston Smith  
Church Ministry Coordinator: Dionne Seale    Financial Secretary: Jeanne T. Shannon  
Director of Music: Jim Smith    Organist: Virginia Vance

## A NOTE FROM HANNAH:

Dear Church,

One of my favorite Advent hymns is *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*. The first verse goes like this:

*Come thou long expected Jesus  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins releases us,  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.*

In this verse, I think, rests the whole message of Advent: a time to pause, to engage in hopeful-expectation of our long-awaited Messiah; a time to find rest, a rest firmly planted in the hope of a baby, a king. It is a time to once again plant both feet in the promise-filled joy of our savior's birth, a birth that spreads peace over the whole earth, a birth that purports an all-encompassing love for everything that lives and moves and has its being.

Pause for a moment and reflect: what a radical gift is our messiah? How drastically does he change the world? How would your life be different—how would the world be different—if we were not formed and guided by his vision of peace, justice, hope, and love? How vastly different is his vision of the world he birthed by being born from the world we find around us?

Those of us who have grown up in the church can lose sight of how absolutely radical, how absolutely wonderful, how absolutely healing Christ's birth was and is for us still.

I challenge you this advent season to find a minute to pause daily, to engage in hopeful expectation, and to hear as if for the first time, the story of Christ's birth. As you do this, reflect on what this miraculously wonderful Christmas story asks of you in your life, asks of this church in our life, and asks of the world as it shifts toward God's ever unfolding kingdom.

For what does Jesus's birth cause you to dream?

Be well this Advent, Church. I'm hoping, waiting, loving, and dreaming with you.

Peace,  
Hannah

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE NOVEMBER SESSION MEETING

The Session met on Tuesday, November 17, 2020.

- The Session approved Matt and Hannah's plan for three Christmas services, including a 5:30 p.m. service on December 23, and 11:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. services on December 24th. There will also be an opportunity to gather in the Courtyard for prayer and music at 8:00 p.m. on the 23rd and the 24th.
- The Session approved a Congregational Meeting to be held December 6 via Zoom (or call in) to vote on a proposed slate of Church officers for the Class of 2023.



*Submitted by Randy Adams, Clerk of Session*



The Session has called for there to be a congregational meeting on December 6, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of electing elders and deacons for the class of 2023. An email link for those joining by Zoom will be sent. If you need to call in due to no Internet, please call 1-312-626-6799.

## MAKES CENTS

Please review the below church income and expense data for the month shown. The prior month is not available as of the newsletter print date. Please call or email Jeanne Shannon in the church office with any questions.

### Pledges and Loose Offering through October, 2020

Month – to – date	\$ 83,255.01
Year – to – date	\$577,027.29

### Expenses through October, 2020

Month – to – date	\$ 83,528.82
Year – to – date	\$521,150.75



Stewardship season is upon us! Each pledge is a blessing to the church as we seek to be faithful stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us. First Presbyterian Church offers the below options for making your contribution:

- Bank draft – This is a safe and steady way to consistently support First Presbyterian Church. It can be selected on your pledge card and attaching a voided check. The monthly bank draft occurs on the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. If the 25<sup>th</sup> falls on a weekend or holiday, it is drafted on the next business day. If you currently have a bank draft and want to continue, this can be indicated on your pledge card. The draft for your 2021 contribution would begin January 25<sup>th</sup> 2021. If you choose the bank draft, you can also stop it by contacting Jeanne Shannon in the church office 2 weeks before the 25<sup>th</sup> of any month.
- Envelopes – these can be ordered by marking this option on your pledge card
- Sale of stock – **Schwab online does not include the church member name in the trade details. If using this method, please contact Jeanne Shannon with the details or ask your broker to contact Jeanne in the church office. The stock sale process should begin in early November to allow time for the process (two weeks from initial trade date to receiving the check) and to make the 12/31 deadline due to holidays.**
- Loose checks in the Sunday collection or checks placed in Jeanne Shannon's mailbox - All checks will be applied to your pledge unless indicated otherwise in the 'memo' line.
- Online giving – Sow the seeds for the future with online giving today! This is an easy and convenient way to give your tithes using a debit or credit card or electronic funds transfer. The service through PayPal is easily accessed through the church website. You can rest easy knowing that the transaction is safe and secure, and your gift will be available to our ministry immediately, with no waiting periods. Visit [www.fpcrm.org](http://www.fpcrm.org) using the 'Online Payment' link in the top right corner to see for yourself how easy it is to give online.

Church office phone—252.446.9121, option 5; Jeanne's email: [jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org](mailto:jeanne.shannon@fpcrm.org)

Jeanne's office hours are Monday thru Thursday from 8:30-2:30 p.m.



*Pledge  
envelopes  
are here!*

If you indicated you wanted to order pledge envelopes for 2021 for either yourself or your child(ren), they are located in alphabetical order for pick up from the church narthex vestibule! If attending worship on Sundays please be sure to take your box or if you can stop by the church during office hours to pick them up that would be helpful! It is **very costly** to mail these to folks so please make every effort to pick them up if able!



*The church office will be  
closed December 28 and  
29 for the Christmas  
holidays.*

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE



### Pre-K Kids

Pastors Matt and Hannah are leading a Bible Stories and Coloring Zoom session for our littlest members on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. The Pre-K families will receive their own link for this and do not need to pre-register like the Adult Zoom classes.

### Elementary Age Kids

We have selected a new curriculum called "Celebrate Wonder" and each family received a notebook with a weekly lesson and a family activity book.. A short video is available for the families to access and watch on their own schedule. Winter curriculum is available for pickup!

### Middle School

Our Middle School youth meet from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the church on Sunday evenings throughout the school year to engage in the process of Confirmation with Pastors Matt and Hannah. All youth are invited for a shared dinner at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall on the first and third Sundays of each month.

### High School

Our High School youth gather on the first and third Sundays of each month from 6-7:00 p.m. for Faith and the Front Page—an informal discussion series around questions raised about learning to live out one's faith in the "real" world. All youth are invited for a shared dinner at 5:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall on the first and third Sundays of each month.

### An Invitation

Any congregation-led Bible studies such as *Present Word* and *PEP (Presbyterians Educating Presbyterians)* as well as any additional small groups are invited to resume in-person meetings after our 9 a.m. outdoor worship service on Sunday mornings.

### Brown Bag Bible Study—will take a break in December and resume in January!

Brown Bag Bible Study participants meet Mondays at noon with a pastor for a time of biblical discussion. This group gathers (socially distanced) **in the church parlor** at noon.



### SUNDAY YOUTH SCHEDULE:

Sunday, Dec. 6     4:30pm     Confirmation Class

Sunday, Dec. 13     4:30pm     Confirmation Class

5:30pm     Shared Meal (Barnhill & Honey Families to provide)

6:00pm     High School Youth

Sunday, Dec. 20     Break—No activities planned

Sunday, Dec. 27     Break—No activities planned



### **Mondays at 7:00: Faith of Advent Series**

Click Here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84436667674>

Meeting ID: 844 3666 7674

Members of all ages are invited to join Matt and Hannah for this intergenerational time of growing and sharing in faith formation. This series begins November 30 and ends December 21.



### **Tuesdays @ 2: Mindfulness and Wholeness**

Click Here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8755612727>

Meeting ID: 875 561 2727

Facilitated by Dionne Seale, this is a thirty-minute reprieve from your week to learn tools to fight stress and explore the topic of being a mindful Christian. It's also a time to connect with one another and support each other from afar.

### **Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.: Coloring and Bible Story with a Pastor for Pre-K kids!**

Let Matt or Hannah know if you need a link to join the fun on Wednesday mornings!



### **TROOP 7 UPDATE**

We were finally able to celebrate an Eagle Court of Honor for our recent Eagle rank scouts on November 8, 2020. Unfortunately due to Covid restrictions we were unable to invite the rest of the troop to participate.

Below are their project summaries. Combined these scouts raised over \$33,352 and had volunteers to contribute over 1,057 man hours to our community. Congratulations Eagle Scouts!

**Ellis Daughtridge** – City of Rocky Mount /Parks and Rec – Removed fencing, rocks and debris from City football field. Adding lighting to flag

**Graham Turnage** – Rocky Mount Academy – put in two awnings to cover bleachers for tennis courts

**Charlie Warner** – Sleep in Heavenly Peace – raised money to fund and build beds for local children in need

**Matthew Davis** – Good Shepard Church Daycare – purchased sensory toys and installed a large canopy for shade on the playground

**Hunter Nealey** – First Presbyterian Church – Raised money and organized packing day to build meal kits shipped around the world to places in need

**Christian Sawyer** – Middlesex Middle school – Purchased a variety of playground equipment for special needs children at this school. In addition, planted trees and shrubs to beautify the playground area.

**Harrison Vaughn** – Covenant Homes – Removed bushes from the front on complex and replaced with flowering plants and bushes. Added solar lighting to main entrance sign.

**Tar River Academy:** Snacks, water bottles and beverages were delivered to teachers and staff October 1. Laura and Tempie met with Principal Willie Howard to discuss best communication needs for TRA and FPC during COVID. He conveyed his appreciation for a strong bond with Matt Baker and FPC and for our continued support. The Treasure Chest Children's Sale, directed by Mary Beth Dilday, donated 5 large boxes of infant/toddler garments and care products to TRA student parents and their children. Teachers were surprised with Halloween treats during the week of October 26th. Thanksgiving food bags will be prepared and delivered by FPC to 85 TRA families.



**Handcraft Ministry:** Ten fidget blankets and 8 wheelchair lap blankets were delivered to Bryant Aldridge Rehab. Margaret Dudley made 86 knitted scarves. Evelyn Reese made canvas crosses for fidget blankets.

**Peacemakers:** FPC sold 25 tickets for the Belk Fundraiser event. From this fundraiser ticket purchasers received a discount on sales and Peacemakers received \$125.00.

**Covenant Homes:** HUD has approved the Activity Building for Covenant Homes. Monies from grants and FPC will be used to build this new building for the residents. Due to COVID, the residents have requested no Thanksgiving nor Christmas meals. They have asked to have meals later when they can all celebrate together. Margaret Dudley has made 86 scarves for the ladies as a Christmas gift and the Circle of J.O.Y. will make gift bags for the men. Maria Melvin of Covenant Homes wrote a thank you note expressing her gratitude to the women of FPC for calling them on a regular basis and for sending such sweet thinking-of-you notes.

**Wesleyan College:** In December, FPC usually provides a dinner to celebrate the graduating international students at Wesleyan. This year, COVID encouraged us to revise this celebration. Nine students are graduating, seven who currently attend NCWC and 2 who attend remotely from their home countries. Each of the nine graduates will receive a personalized graduation card from FPC. The seven students on campus will also get a beautifully wrapped Handcraft Ministry blanket.

#### 4TH ANNUAL



Koats for Kids is an annual coat drive that collects new coats, hats, scarves and mittens in Nash/Edgecombe Counties.

Deadline extended to December 7!



#### 1. DONATE A NEW COAT TO THE KOATS FOR KIDS

Donations can be made by dropping them off at The Rocky Mount Area Chamber of Commerce located in the Historic Train Station on the 2nd floor (100 Coastline Street in Rocky Mount). The **cutoff date for dropping off coats will be November 30, 2020. Please make sure this is for kids age 1-12.**



#### 2. DONATE FUNDS TO PURCHASE A COAT

We are accepting donations to purchase new coats. Donations are tax deductible and a check can be made out to the Community Development Foundation of Rocky Mount. \*Please be advised that the Rocky Mount Area Chamber of Commerce is the only location that can receive donations.



Fourteen units of blood were collected at our October 30th blood drive and FPC received the above recognition for the two drives hosted during the pandemic. Our next Blood Drive will be held February 2, 2021.

## DEACONS

### Meeting Schedule for 2021

- The Deacons will not meet in December.
- Meetings for 2021 will be held on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.
- The Deacons will not meet during the summer months of June, July and August.
- Tentative dates for 2021 are January 12, February 9, March 9, April 13 and May 11.
- Meetings will resume on September 14, October 12, and November 9.

We wish to thank our outgoing Deacons for their loyal service:

Rob Barnhill, Ellis Daughtridge, Laura Dudley, Pam Gragg and Tim Hathaway

We look forward to welcoming our new Deacons once elected on December 6!

### *Greetings from Ghana*

Season Greetings to my First family. I must tell you, I am truly in another world and I love it. Ghana is nothing like I had imagined it would be. I could very easily live here the rest of my life. I understand much better some of the things I feel and how I think. I have some African blood and culture in me. An example: I have always felt the need to speak to persons I met on the street. That is a practice here, young and old alike will address you with a "good day" or they will hold up both hands greeting you.

My work is a little slow because of the virus. The last report indicated there were 50,376 cases and 323 deaths in the entire country of Ghana.

I attend worship at the Shepard Senior Center for older adults. This photo below shows some of the members dancing during worship. Our service start at 7:00 A.M. and is over at 9:00 A.M. I also conduct a Bible Study with them on Thursday afternoon. We have Bible study, games and visiting community leaders come in and talk to them. I preach once a month to the seniors. I am not working with the children as school is not in session at this time. I attend morning devotion each day, preach twice a month and fill in when someone is absent.

This will be the second Christmas in my whole life I will be without family and friends. I wish each one a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I still need your prayers and financial support. Love you all.

*John Etheredge*



Above, outdoor shopping in Ghana





## Presbyterian Women Update

The Presbyterian Women continue to nurture their faith through prayer, Bible study, and service. Attendance for both Circles is steady and participation in all PW projects is outstanding. Thank you for being such a generous and caring community! We are reminded that when we stand together, our strength multiplies.

In this ever-changing world we now live in, it was decided that the PWCT forgo its annual Thanksgiving and Christmas Meal Projects for Covenant Homes. Instead, we will look forward to a post-pandemic celebration with the residents. The Together in Service Committee will present a new and exciting plan at the appropriate time. Meanwhile, the PWCT has maintained its tradition of adopting a family from My Sister's House. Items will be thoughtfully purchased, wrapped, and delivered before December 11th.

The Circle of JOY arranged a successful fall service project to benefit the residents of R.M. Wilson Apartments for the Elderly. The Circle will continue to assist the residents during the Christmas season. The Circle of Friends will be assisting with gifts for the residents of Covenant Homes.

Both Circles are encouraged to contribute to the Peacemakers Christmas Toy Store by bringing a new unwrapped toy to the December Circle meeting.

PWCT will meet Monday, December 7th at 10:00 in the church parlor

The Joint Circle Meeting is Tuesday December 8th at 10:30 in the Sanctuary—Roslyn Gragg will serve as leader

\*\*note, we will omit lesson four in the study book

### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN COORDINATING TEAM 2020-21

Janice Smith, Moderator

Stephanie Hayworth, Vice-Moderator

Gaye Moore, Secretary

Frances Guerry, Historian

Nancy Richardson, Together in Service

Myra Richardson, Circle of Friends Leader

Julia Brown, Treasurer

Laura Durham, Spiritual Nurture

Martha Tesoro, Together in Service

Tempie Fuller, Circle of J.O.Y. Leader



### STAINED GLASS HISTORY

Church member Pam Gragg is working on a history of the stained glass windows at First Presbyterian. She would love to hear any anecdotes or special memories you might have of the windows during sermons, weddings, baptisms and other services. She is especially interested in recollections and photographs of the windows from inside the church prior to the renovation in 1979. If you have any information to share, please contact her directly or notify the church office so she can be in touch!



The Circle of Friends recently met and created food boxes for three families in need.



## CHRISTMAS CD UPDATE

Earlier this year, Jim and Jennie correctly predicted that the music of Christmas would not be the same as usual. In response to that prediction, we have recorded a Christmas CD titled, "All is Calm; All is Bright". In gratitude for your continued support of the music program at FPC, every family will receive a copy of the CD for your personal Christmas devotion and celebration in mid-December (more info to come)! Additional copies will be available at that time for you to send to family and friends near and far. We are asking for a \$10 donation per additional copy. We hope that this special gift will help you celebrate the birth of the Christ child with the songs of the season recorded in our beautiful sanctuary.

*(July recording session at right)*



## Scenes from First Presbyterian Life!



Above, we celebrated Jim and Hannah's birthdays during a staff meeting in November thanks to a delicious cake made by Jennie Vance.



Below, 16 FPC youth helped pack Holiday meal bags for TRA families. Thank you to Annie, Lige and Ellis Daughtridge for their assistance!



At left, PW helped transport donated toys to Peacemakers for their Christmas Toy Store

# Keeping in touch...

FOLLOW  
US!

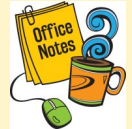


First Presbyterian Rocky Mount



fpc\_rockymount

**Contact Information Updates:** Kindly notify Dionne Seale in the church office at 252-446-9121, ext. 21 or [dionne.seale@fpcrm.org](mailto:dionne.seale@fpcrm.org) of any email, address, or phone number changes so we can keep our database up to date.



**The church building is now accessible to visitors Monday—Thursday from 9:00-4:00 p.m.**

We are so excited about all that is going on, but we are still realistic about the dangers posed by the coronavirus. Please wear a mask when you are at the church. Please remain outside individual staff offices. Please keep 6 feet of distance whenever possible. Please use hand sanitizer. PLEASE refrain from coming if you are feeling sick or have been directly exposed. Finally, please understand that plans are changing rapidly, and we may need to respond to situations and change plans quickly.

*Many thanks for the calls, cards, visits and delicious food during my recent illness! I really do appreciate your thoughts and prayers.*

Love,  
Nancy Richardson

*Thanking all my beautiful Presbyterian friends for your love, support and prayers. Since February 2018, I have been fighting Venus Insufficiency for a while. Through your prayers, my daughter found just the surgeon in Wilmington, and after two surgeries, my blood is now flowing in the right direction, praise the Lord. I love my church family. Bless you all!*

Bobbi Weeks

*I just wanted to say thank you for the college finals goodie bag! It was very sweet and will definitely be used! Thanks again! Scarlett Schrimper*

*Maria Melvin of Covenant Homes called to thank the ladies of FPC who make phone calls and leave nice notes for the residents!*

Dear Blood Program Leader,

Thank you very much for your ongoing dedication to the American Red Cross. Every day, I am deeply moved by the kindness and generosity of spirit you bring to our vital mission. But it's times like these – times of great uncertainty – that I am truly in awe of your unwavering commitment.

As thousands of blood drives around the nation were cancelled due to the impact of COVID-19, please know that your drive protected the health and well-being of the most vulnerable among us – including accident victims, cancer patients, those suffering from chronic illnesses and many others.

**From the bottom of my heart, thank you for stepping up to help collect and donate lifesaving blood, even as the circumstances of the coronavirus outbreak often made it difficult to do so.**

To express my deepest gratitude for your tremendous service to the Red Cross and to our country, please accept this **Certificate of Outstanding Service** and an **honorary badge** for your social media profiles.

On behalf of those we serve, thank you once again for your tremendous efforts to strengthen and advance our Red Cross mission during this uniquely challenging time. We look forward to better times ahead, and to our continued partnership to save lives.

Sincerely,

Gail McGovern

President and CEO

*Dear Friends at First Presbyterian, Hodge was thrilled with the surprise vase of beautiful flowers from our sanctuary! We remarked about the gorgeous arrangement of fall colors as we worshipped in person last Sunday.*

*We will miss his sweet mother and were blessed that she lived to be 98!*

Love,  
Jean and Hodge Kitchin



- Our love and sympathy is extended to Hodge Kitchin upon the death of his mother, Anne Lovelace Kitchin, of Scotland Neck, NC on October 28, 2020. Anne was also the aunt of member Diane Dixon.
- We extend our congregational love as well to Jack Perry upon the death of his uncle, James "Jay" Duncan Little, Jr. of Monroe, NC on November 3, 2020.
- The love and sympathy of the congregation is extended to Angela Griffin and her son Thomas upon the death of Angela's mother Joyce Davis (Matthews) Page on November 26, 2020.



Congratulations to Marie Kem on the birth of her grandson, Theodore Albert DiStefano, on November 8, 2020. He was born to Marie's daughter Erica and husband Ryan of Poughkeepsie, NY.

### **Communications Deadlines**

- We publish the "First Pres" newsletter monthly. The newsletter is either emailed or a hard copy can be mailed to those without email. The deadline to submit information is the third Thursday of each month.
- The weekly email update is sent out via Constant Contact on Wednesday afternoon. The deadline for information is noon on Wednesday.



*our thoughts and prayers are with...*

### **THE FOUNTAINS AT THE ALBEMARLE— Tarboro**

- ▶ Tom Dill
- ▶ Pat Blanchard

### **CARDINAL AT NORTH HILLS—Raleigh**

- ▶ Dick Fountain

### **BROOKDALE—Rocky Mount**

- ▶ Betsy Boddie

### **ADDITIONAL CONCERNS**

L.M. and Margaret Barnes  
 Mike Braswell  
 Augusta Daniel  
 Geraldine Donnell (sister of Janice Smith)  
 Herman Ferguson  
 Earl and Phyllis Goodwin  
 Nancy Liipfert  
 John McInnis (Jack Perry's brother-in-law)  
 Char Mather  
 Georgia Mixon  
 Gerry Niece (friend of the church)  
 Phyllis Parker  
 Jack Perry  
 Anne Wilgus Podesta  
 Evelyn Reese  
 Edie Reeves  
 Peggy Rogers (mother of Winslow Rogers)  
 Cora Rowe (granddaughter of Jean Kitchin)  
 Jean Rowe (Steve Rowe's mother)  
 Polly Rowlett (Leigh Skeen's mother)  
 Maida Sessoms  
 Preston Smith  
 Scott Solether  
 Willette Williams  
 Susan Yenney



## *Staying connected during the Advent Season...*



**Faith of Advent**—We will join for an intergenerational time of growing and sharing in faith formation. This 4 week series will be Monday nights at 7pm, beginning November 30th and ending December 21st. You can join us in person in the sanctuary or via zoom! Together, we'll look at the hope, peace, joy, and love of the Advent season alongside how that message resonates for people of different ages and life experiences. We hope to see you there or on the computer screen. See page 5 for the Zoom link info!

We still have a few extra **Advent Wreath Kits** for use at home. Notify the church office if interested in a free Advent Wreath kit and devotional!



### **Wednesday, December 23**

- \* 5:30 p.m. **Indoor** Evening worship service with string quartet (limit of 18 family units)
- \* 8:00 p.m. **Outdoor** Carols and Candles service with hot cocoa to go (weather permitting)

### **Thursday, December 24**

- \* 11:00 a.m. **Indoor** worship service with string quartet (limit of 18 family units)
- \* 5:30 p.m. **Indoor** Evening worship service with string quartet (limit of 18 family units)
- \* 7:00 p.m. **Online** premiere of recorded indoor service
- \* 8:00 p.m. **Outdoor** Carols and Candles service (weather permitting—pajamas welcome!)

There is enough capacity for 54 families to worship indoors over the course of 3 services between December 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, and we are limited to 18 families at each indoor service. We recognize that the 5:30 Christmas Eve service is the preference to many who want to worship indoors, and we are grateful to those who are excited and willing to worship at the other times. We will do our best to accommodate worship requests. In order to be both fair and equitable, we will do a lottery system for these worship services if needed. The lottery will be held on Monday December 7<sup>th</sup>. Families will be notified later that day about the results.

**Here is what we need from you by noon on Monday, December 7, 2020:**

Please email [office@fpcrm.org](mailto:office@fpcrm.org) or call 252-446-9121 (press 2) with 3 items: your name, how many people will be attending the service, and which services you are willing/able to attend with 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and/or 3<sup>rd</sup> choice marked next to it. For example:

Baker Family (4 members)  
1<sup>st</sup> choice: 12/23 5:30  
2<sup>nd</sup> choice: 12/24 5:30

Trawick Family (2 members)  
1<sup>st</sup> choice: 12/24 5:30  
2<sup>nd</sup> choice: 12/24 11:00  
3<sup>rd</sup> choice: 12/23 5:30