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"Serving God, Honoring Creation, Embracing Differences"

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THE PRESBYTERIAN PIPELINE

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Issue Twelve

Ready for Christmas?

We begin a new liturgical year on November 29th with the first Sunday of Advent. This is the season of waiting in joyful hope for the peaceful reign of God. We display nativity scenes with shepherds, angels, magi, camels and an assortment of barnyard animals. At the center of it all is the tiny figure of a baby, representing Jesus. Everyone looks in awe. In worship we pass the light of Christ symbolically from candle to candle, until each tiny light fills the room with a warm glow. We reach out to family and friends we may not see regularly. We eat special meals and fix old favorites. We practice giving habits to share with those who have less. Some of our traditions will be exercised differently, but they will be honored, somehow.

All of us gather at the feet of the baby Jesus. God takes flesh to live among us and we ponder, as Mary did, and we celebrate in wonder. The One who is so marvelous dared to enter our world as a fragile and needy infant. The son of God is born to a human family.

Behind all the fancy wrapping, it is the connections between ourselves and our friends and loved ones that matter. It is the way we take in the peace of Christ and return it to others that makes Christmas special. If that means Christmas has to happen over the phone, or through a handful of video-chats, by way of virtual mealtime and coordinated coffee hours, then embrace that. If Christmas dinner is on the lawn for extra fresh air, or decking the halls becomes decking the porch, do so gleefully.

The first Christmas was God's way of breaking the barrier between heaven and earth. God came crashing in as an infant mewling in the night. The timing was awful for Mary and Joseph, they were traveling, barely wed, and there was hardly a place for them to get off the street. This was not the birth plan they had ordered!

But this is the nature of God, to show up at unexpected places. Just when we least expect it, God's unanticipated arrival comes with marvelous news for the people of the world.

So we might not be celebrating the way we normally would – plan A is off the table. But perhaps plan B or C will come with a glimpse of God that we would not have otherwise seen.

Peace to you, and good will to all,

Rev Michele

Because Individualism is Destructive

Individualism is destructive. Send greed and selfishness away.
That learned refusal to acknowledge your own need for help – let it be gone as well.

When possible, counter all impulses towards privatized survival with acts of love – collective and expansive – with caring for other and accepting care.

Remember we need each other.
Remember the needs of your neighbors (literal and metaphorical).
Remember the vulnerable.
Remember, we are in this together, even when we don't act like it.

People depend on your choices – you depend on the choices of others.
This, a Sacred and terrible truth woven into our flesh.

So, let this time be an opening to all the sources of connection we have lost in this era of
pushing-down, pushing-through, pushing-away, and pushing-the-peace.

Let all that is soft, all that is slow, all that is gentle, all that is kind, all that is care-ful, be welcome home in each of us. We have such creative, powerful, generous and brave capacities within us. We can choose to do things differently.

Rev. M Barclay, enfleshed

November 29 - December 20, 2020

Christmas Joy

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.



Holiday Notes from Fellowship:

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our **Share the Bread** Zoom social. It was so nice to eat together.

We will not have a Christmas luncheon this year, but we will have a special gift for each of you in December as we continue to social distance.

The **Fellowship Team** wishes you joy, peace, and good health this Christmas!



Your **Worship Team** would like to take a moment to wish you a very Merry Christmas! During this season, we will be celebrating Hope, Peace, Love and Joy; we pray that all four of these will fill your life in every way this Christmas and beyond. We are grateful to God! This Christmas, as in all previous years, we celebrate "Immanuel" (God with Us'). Without Christ's presence among us we would be lost, Through God's presence working within us we are being healed, transformed, reconciled and made whole. Have a fantastic Christmas!



From our bubble to your bubble,
wishing everyone peace and happiness
in this Christmas Season.

Communications Team

Kathy, Claudia, and Weldon



Warmest wishes for a
Christmas of peace
and love

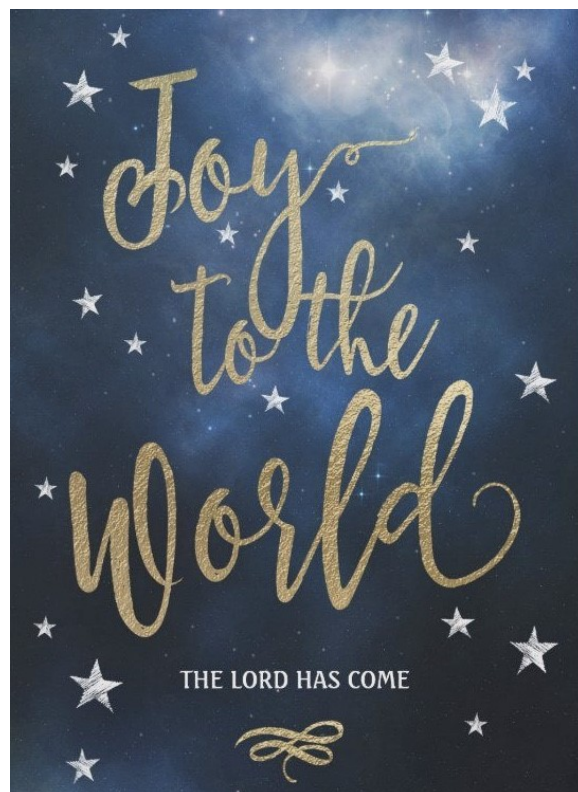
The Personnel Team

Claudia, Lynn, Kelly, and Kathy

Peace and joy
to you and yours this
Christmas Season

The Building and Grounds Team

*Claudia, Steve, Weldon, Scott,
Michael D., John T., Kathy P*



Stay-At Home for Christmas (Virtual Concert)

Join us on Facebook Live, Wednesday, December 9 at 6PM, for "Stay-At Home for Christmas." Joshua, along with Stefen, will host this special virtual concert live from the sanctuary. You will enjoy hearing many holiday favorites, and you'll have a chance to request some of your favorites in the comments as well! The concert will be streamed live on Facebook.com/JoshuaThePianoMan



Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols

On Christmas Eve, we will gather virtually for Christmas Eve service of Lessons and Carols. This special service will be pre-recorded and will premiere live on Facebook on Christmas Eve. Join Rev. Michele, the choir, and other members of our congregation, as we read scripture and sing the story of the Savior's birth.

"Images of Advent" Three Week Zoom Study on Sunday Evenings

If you've been doing any retail shopping recently you may have noticed wreaths, wrapping paper and the reminder to start your shopping early. Before we know it the Christmas season will be upon us. Running November 29th, December 6th, and December 13th from 6pm-7, we will meet via Zoom to discuss art and images related to following Sunday's lectionary texts. On 11/29 we will discuss the readings for Advent 2. The slide shows and texts can be found here. <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>

Email or call Rev. Goff and Jimmy Chapman for information and the Zoom link!



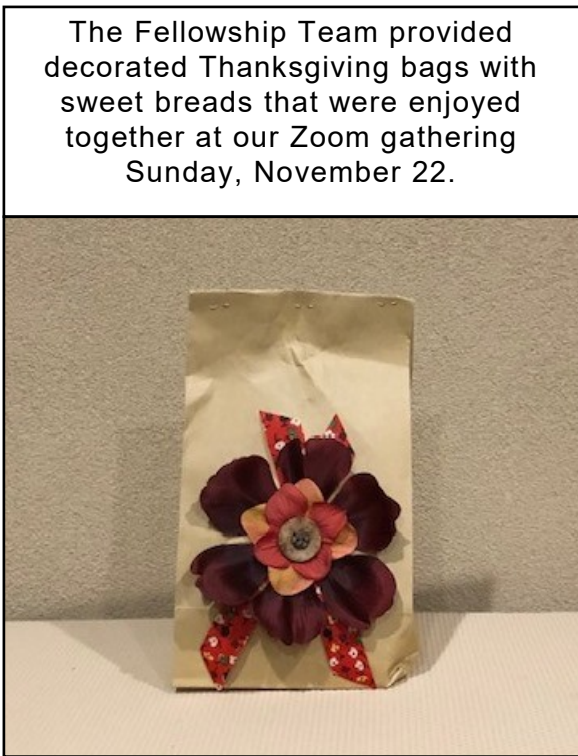
We, at FPC, are blessed to be a blessing for Henderson Interchurch Ministry.

Building & Grounds team worked hard to get the steps of the church refreshed with a new look.



BEFORE

AFTER



The Fellowship Team provided decorated Thanksgiving bags with sweet breads that were enjoyed together at our Zoom gathering Sunday, November 22.



We wish you a very Merry Christmas.

We pray that you will receive and celebrate hope, peace, love and joy.

May God continue to abundantly bless you.

Your Finance/Stewardship Committee

Kelly, Kathy, Carol, Tammy and Tom

May everyone have a safe, happy, and very "green" Christmastime!

Remember to recycle all the cardboard and Christmas wrappings!

The CE Green Team

Steve, Kathy, Claudia, Jimmy, and Michele



A wish that this Christmas touches every corner of your world with love

The Outreach Team

Claudia, Katie, Jimmy, Scott, Jan, John, Lynn, Kathy



Member Care

Good news from heaven the angels bring;

Glad tidings to the earth they sing;

To us this day a child is given;

To crown us with the joy of heaven.

May the miracle of Christmas fill your heart

with warmth and love!



**Please keep these dear ones
in your prayers:**

- ⇒ *Our members: Sue W, Kay W., Judy A, Bob & Cindy R.*
- ⇒ *For those who are ill and at risk for the Flu and Coronavirus*
- ⇒ *For healthcare and essential workers who are working during this pandemic*
- ⇒ *Our country as we prepare to transition into new leadership.*
- ⇒ *For our FPC friend, Lane C.*

December Duty Elder

Steve Lowe

December Liturgists

Dec 6: Claudia MG.

Dec 13: Carol S.

Dec 20: Jan P.

Dec 27: River E.

Council Actions

November 19, 2020

- ◆ Prayed and worshiped together
- ◆ Shared concerns and joys
- ◆ Reviewed the church membership roll
- ◆ Approved raise for administrative assistant and pastor
- ◆ Discussed various means of streaming worship
- ◆ Approved the Annual Financial Review
- ◆ Approved report from Church Nominating Committee
- ◆ Reviewed actions to be taken at Annual Congregational meeting on Dec. 13th



*Memorials were received during the month
of November in memory of:*

Jan Mims

Save the Dates

December 2:

CE Meeting—10am

December 10:

Virtual Communion—5:30pm

December 6 & 13:

Images of Advent Study—6pm

December 17:

Session 6pm

December 24:

Facebook Virtual Christmas Eve Service—3:30pm

December 25:

Christmas Day

December 28:

Pipeline Deadline



2, *Bill Boren*

6, *Scott Hurst*

8, *James Nicholson*

19, *Syble DeLoach*

30, *Doris Madkins*

31, *Carol Scoggins*



DECEMBER 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>~ ~ ~ Reminder ~ ~ ~</p> <p>Please bring H.I.M. donations to office between 9 AM and 2 PM on the First Monday of each month.</p>		1	2 CE Meeting—10am	3	4 Meals on Wheels	5
6 11am Service & Facebook Virtual <i>Images of Advent 6pm</i>	7 Meals on Wheels	8	9 <i>Stay-At Home for Christmas (Virtual Concert) - 3:30pm</i>	10 Virtual Communion Facebook—5:30pm	11 Meals on Wheels	12
13 11am Service & Facebook Virtual <i>Images of Advent 6pm</i>	14 Meals on Wheels	15	16	17 Session—6pm	18 Meals on Wheels	19
20 11am Service & Facebook Virtual <i>Joy Gift Offering</i>	21 Meals on Wheels	22	23	24 <i>Facebook Virtual Christmas Eve Service—3:30pm</i>	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i>	26
27 11am Service & Facebook Virtual <i>1st Sunday of Christmas</i>	28 Meals on Wheels <i>Pipeline Deadline</i>	29	30	31	<p>Please note: The church office will be closed on the following holidays: Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Years Day</p>	