

First Presbyterian Press

Volume 24, Issue 12, December 2024

Dear Friends at First Presbyterian Church Goldsboro,

We are entering into the season of Advent, which is the waiting upon the birth of Jesus and waiting on His Second Coming.

What joyous ministries we have here at FPC by the grace of God. I celebrate with you the Advent Devotional booklet that was edited by Rosalyn, Lynn, and Kathryn. Our staff members Paige, Matthew and Jessica also helped with this beautiful project. Thank you to all writers who have contributed with inspiring messages and thank you to all artists for the paintings and drawings.

I am looking forward to the Children's play: *Shepherds, Sheep, and a Savior* this Sunday December 8 during our worship service.

Also, how excited we are about the Christmas service of *Nine Lessons & Carols* on Sunday, December 15 at 5 p.m., directed by our own Matthew Moore, Chancel Choir, guest singers, chancel bells, guest organists and string quintet.

It is also exciting to have the Christmas Joy project to help families in need to have a joyful Christmas.

The Latino group is also hosting a Latino Christmas Party on Saturday, December 21, 5-7 p.m. in the gym with dinner and music. And the Blackburn family is hosting the Presbyterian Social at their home on Sunday, December 22 at 5 p.m.

Then we have our Family Christmas Eve Worship on December 24 at 5:30 p.m. and the Candlelight Communion Worship service at 8 p.m. To God be the glory for all of these ministries.

May we find some time to reflect on the birth of Jesus and the hope He brings into our lives, but also, may we prepare our hearts for His Second Coming and God's promise to restore his creation by making it into the new heaven and new earth.

Merry Christmas and Feliz Navidad.

Sincerely,

Pastor Noé

Officer Duties

	Elders	Deacons	Co-Deacons
Dec. 01	Tim Haithcock	Marilyn Bateman	Sally Bardin
Dec. 08	Teresa Smith	Carol Branch	Sally Bardin
Dec. 15	Emily Byrd	Jo Barrow	Charles York
Dec. 22	Meredith Gurley	Brownie Doss	Charles York
Dec. 29	Tim Haithcock	John Parker	Will Spicer

Back Door Monitors

Dec. 01	Deacon	Carol Branch
Dec. 08	Elder	Emily Byrd
Dec. 15	Deacon	John Walston
Dec. 22	Elder	Meredith Gurley
Dec. 29	Deacon	Will Spicer



For the month of December

Shelby Benton, Neal Benton, Dave Evans

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON DECEMBER 25 AND 26.
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE STAFF!**



December Birthdays!

02 Suzanne Corbin
03 Cody Corbett
03 Malcolm Shearin
06 Charlie Gaylor III
07 Jo Barrow
08 Mark Metzler
09 Jackie Bateman
09 Michael Jordan
10 Thomas Suddarth III
10 Graham Lewis
11 Jane Walston

14 David Carlyle
14 Patricia LeVau
18 Pam Jennette
20 Brownie Doss
22 Kim Brogden
23 Sally Bardin
23 Blain Crocker
23 Pamela Brunson-Judkins
24 Rebekah Perez
25 Jimmy Huffman
27 Jane Franklin
29 Hettie Grisette

CHRISTMAS
at FPC Goldsboro

DECEMBER 8	CHILDREN'S PLAY	10:00 AM
DECEMBER 8	PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BAKE SALE	11:00 AM
DECEMBER 13	GRINCH DINNER (K-12)	6-9 PM
DECEMBER 15	NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS	5:00 PM
DECEMBER 15	CHRISTMAS JOY GIFTS DUE	ALL DAY
DECEMBER 22	PRESBYTERIAN SOCIAL (BLACKBURNS)	5-7 PM
DECEMBER 24	FAMILY SERVICE	5:30 PM
DECEMBER 24	CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE	8:00PM

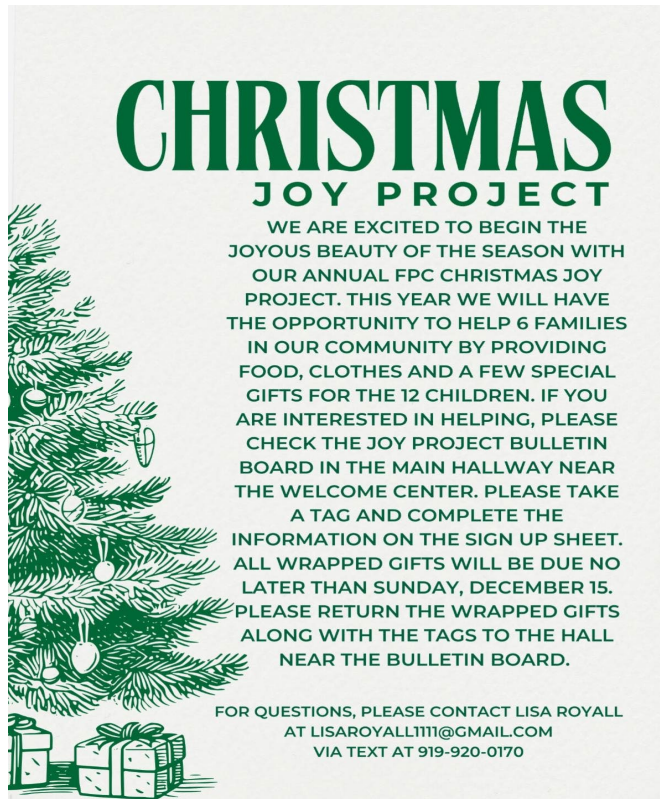
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Presbyterian Social!!!

Mark your calendar for December 22 from 5- 7 p.m. Hope you can work our Christmas Presbyterian Social into your busy Christmas activities. We are in for a treat as Ali and Jason Blackburn are hosting us for the second Christmas Social in two years. It will be a great opportunity to enjoy fellowship with your ADULT Presbyterian members and friends and enhance your Christmas spirit. Appetizers and beverages will be plentiful. Ali is known for her decorating skills, especially for Christmas. The Blackburn's address is 202 Leafwood Drive in the Walnut Hill subdivision just off Lake Wackena Road. Take Hwy. 70 East and Lake Wackena Road is a right turn just past Village Green (a group of businesses in white frame houses). The entrance to Walnut Hill is a right turn about a mile off Hwy. 70. Soon after you enter the subdivision, you will turn left and follow that street to near its end. Their house is on the left, and we hope to see you there!

From the Mission Committee

The next 5th Sunday offering will be December 29, 2024. This offering will be designated for Habitat for Humanity in honor of FPC's 170th Anniversary. Please consider contributing to this local mission opportunity. You may use the bright blue envelopes in the backs of the pews to contribute to this offering between now and Dec. 29. It's as easy as placing your offering in the envelope, sealing it and putting it in the offering plate. There are only 2 things you need to remember...First, if you are writing a check please state "5th Sunday Missions" on the memo line. And remember that if you don't use the envelope or write "5th Sunday Missions" on your check that the contribution will not be counted for the Missions Offering. Thank you for your contributions to this local mission that is providing a much needed service in our community!

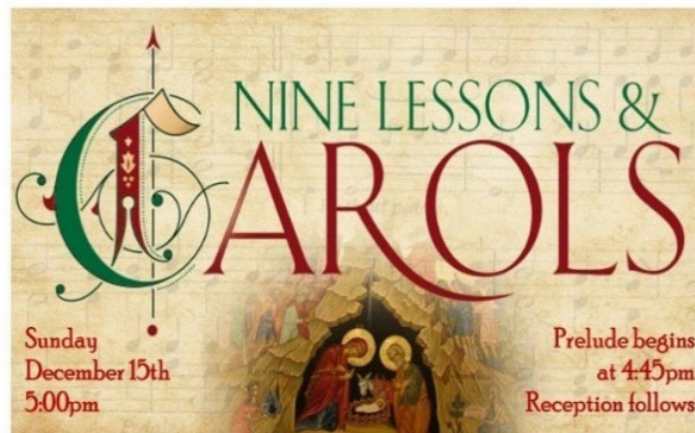


Christmas Joy Project Special Request:

This year, we have a family of four teenagers who have recently lost their Xbox series X. We would love to find a used Xbox X for them to have for Christmas this year. If you have one that you do not mind parting with, or if you know someone who does, please let Lisa Royall know. It does not have to be brand new but should be in good enough shape to be played. We would love to make this Christmas extra special for these teens!



Nine Lessons and Carols: December 15, 5:00 p.m.
with Chancel Choir, guest singers, Chancel Bells, guest organists,
and string quintet under the direction of Matthew Moore. Prelude
begins at 4:45 p.m. Reception follows concert.



Come & hear our own Chancel Choir plus guest singers,
our Chancel Bells, guest organists, and string quintet
in this beautiful worship service for the Christmas season.

Just a friendly reminder that bringing food or drink (especially coffee) into the church/sanctuary is strongly discouraged at all times. Please help us keep our church neat and clean and free of crumbs and spills or stains. Thank you for respecting the Lord's house in this way!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women will meet on Monday evening, December 2 at 7:00 p.m. and on Tuesday morning, December 3 at 10:00 a.m. The programs is the same for both meetings, so come to either one. Lynn Branch is presenting a program on Water Justice as part of our series *Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation*. Attendees are invited to bring a gallon of homemade vegetable beef soup or vegetarian soup to the meeting. Following the Tuesday morning meeting, volunteers will organize the donations and freeze them in preparation of our bake sale on Sunday, December 8.

Bake Sale

Following the children's musical at our worship service on December 8, the Presbyterian Women will hold a bake sale in the gym. In addition to delicious baked goods, we will also be selling homemade soup, jellies and other goodies. Come and get some holiday treats. All proceeds go to our charitable causes. We appreciate your support!

The Presbyterian Women also have vegetable soup for sale! There are **quarts for \$10** and **Pints for \$5!** If you would like to purchase some, it is in the freezer in the big kitchen. You can **pay Jessica** in the office and pick it up at any time. The **Presbyterian Women's bake sale will take place on December 8** following the Children's presentation of "*Shepherds, Sheep and a Savior*". All proceeds from the soup and bake sale will support local missions!

*Shepherds, Sheep
and a Savior*
Created by Ed Kee



**CHILDREN'S
CHRISTMAS PLAY**
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8
10:00 A.M.
DURING WORSHIP
BAKE SALE TO FOLLOW

GRINCH
Dinner and Pajama Party
Friday, December 13
6:00p.m.-9:00p.m.
Kindergarten-High School
Special dinner and movie viewing, gift
exchange, and games!



Please RSVP
to Paige
Corbett by
Sunday,
December 8

CONGREGATIONAL BOOK CLUB

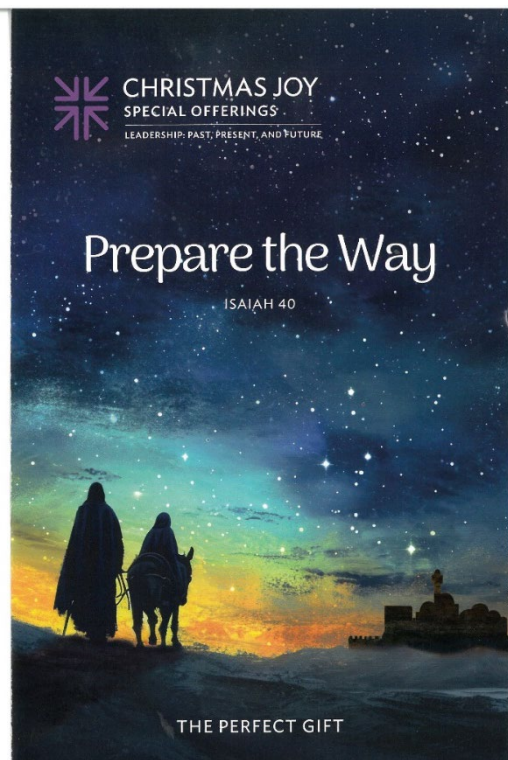
The Congregational Nurture Committee (CNC) invites everyone to join the Congregational Book Club.

December Book: *All The Colors Of The Dark* by Chris Whitaker

Leader: Mrs. Lynn Branch

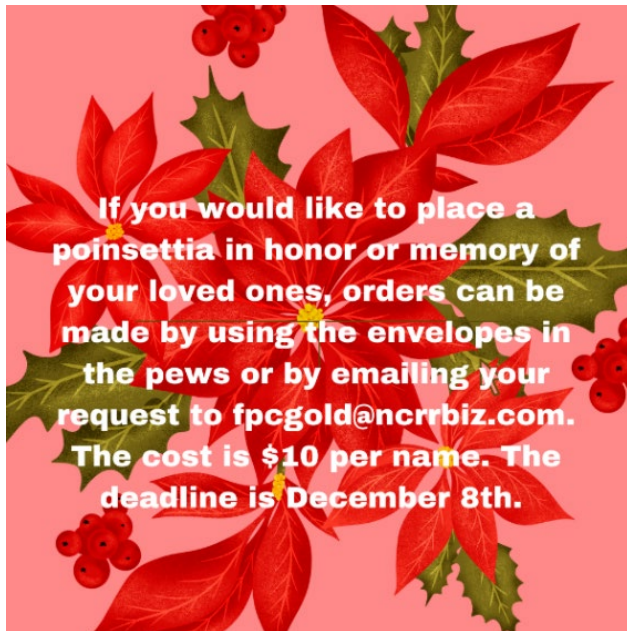
The in-person discussion is scheduled for Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Location: FPC, McChesney Hall. Childcare will be provided upon prior request.



The Christmas Joy Offering will be received **Sunday, December 22**. This offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need, and develops future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges. Envelopes will be available in the pew racks beginning Dec. 8 for your contribution. Please make check payable to First Presbyterian Church.





STEWARDSHIP REMINDERS

The Finance Committee, Treasurer, and Financial Administrator are in the process of preparing the 2025 Operating Budget Projections with the goal of finalizing the budget by the end of December. This week we will be mailing out a reminder letter, pledge card and postage-paid envelope regarding missing pledges for 2025. To accurately calculate the budget, we are asking that if you are able to pledge for 2025, please submit your pledge card as soon as possible. Furthermore, if you do not intend to pledge, return your card indicating “no pledge” on the card. This will help expedite the process of completing our 2025 Budget.

Also, the end of 2024 is less than a month away and we would like to remind everyone to fulfill their pledge for this year if they have not already done so. We appreciate all that you have done to help support the ministries of our church.

We want to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to the future in the life and ministry of our church in 2025.

Holy God, all-glorious giver of grace, you are light, shining in darkness; you are life, the life of all people. Fill us with the light and life of Christ, through whom all things were made, so that we may be faithful disciples, bearing witness to your grace and truth; through Christ, your Word made flesh. John 1:1-14

Advent, and Christmas Services Schedule

Sunday, December 1

1st Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Sunday, December 8

2nd Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship Service (Moment for Mission)

10:00 a.m. Children's Christmas Musical

11:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women's Bake Sale

Sunday, December 15

3rd Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

5:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols (*Reception follows*)

Sunday, December 22

4th Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship Service (Christmas Joy Offering)

5 p.m. – 7 pm. Presbyterian Social

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve

5:30 p.m. Family Candlelight Service

8:00 p.m. Candlelight with Holy Communion

Sunday, December 29

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship Service (5th Sunday Offering)