

**First Presbyterian Church
Goldsboro, North Carolina**

**November, 2020
Volume 22, Issue 11**

Dear Church,

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come!” I love those lyrics that call out in that classic hymn. It reminds us that in a world full of chaos, pain, and frustration, when life feels out of our control, we can still be thankful. As people of faith, we know there is a way to cope and that there is a source of comfort and peace, and it is to pray and to put our trust in God.

More often than not our prayers are about asking God to meet some need in our lives. But especially in these days of uncertainty and confusion, now more than ever our prayers should include giving thanks to God.

While we can't expect the political quagmire of our country to be healed by an election, or for the COVID-19 virus to go away any quicker, or for society to suddenly realize that racism exists and that all lives matter, yet we each can pray and find something to be thankful for. Indeed, prayer does change things. But even if it does not immediately change existing circumstances, it can give us a sense of hope and promise. For me, that sense comes from realizing how much there is to be thankful and to praise God for.

In this month of November, I am reminded to be thankful for friends and family who keep in touch with me, even those whom I haven't seen in person for months. I am thankful for a wonderful church community and the care and warmth that they have shared with me and my loved ones. I am thankful for a beautiful state and town where I spend my days, let alone endure a seemingly never-ending quarantine. I'm thankful for healthcare and those who are dedicated to research and working to abate COVID-19 and so many other diseases. I am thankful that I live in a country where I am free to vote and where dissenting political views can be welcomed. I am thankful for people from both political parties for standing up for what they believe and genuinely wanting to make our country better. I am thankful for my wife who loves me, encourages me, forgives me, and stands by me. I am thankful for my dog's tender affection. And I am thankful that I move and live and have my being in a God who loves me and gave His life for me.

For these things and a cornucopia of so much more, I am thankful. I realize God has blessed me in countless ways and He is my source of hope, strength, and joy now, however hard and difficult and unsure life may be.

Let us be thankful and believe in God's eternal goodness and kindness and love. ***“In every thing give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”***
(1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Thankful in Christ,
Pastor Lonnie +





The Pumpkin Story



What's it like to be a Christian?

It's like being a pumpkin. God picks you up from the patch, brings you in and washes all the dirt off of you. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate and greed. Then He gives you a new smiling face and puts His light inside you to shine for the entire world to see.

Matthew 5:16 & II Corinthians 4:6

November 29	Officer training after Worship*
December 6	Officer training after Worship*
December 13	Officer training after Worship* *11:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided
December 15	Combined Session & Diaconate
January 10	Ordination and Installation



Necessary Caution:

Each of us must do our part to promote our own safety and the well-being of others. The number of COVID-19 cases still threaten, so if you are not well or feel you may be at some risk, you are encouraged to stay home and not attend sanctuary services until you are ready.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

November 1	On-line
November 8	On-line
November 15	Rev. Lonnie Darnell
November 22	Rev. Lonnie Darnell
November 29	Rev. Lonnie Darnell

ELDERS

John Dees
Harold Rose
Kathryn Spicer
Bill Stanley
Suzanne Corbin

DEACONS

Teresa Smith
Pam Jennette
Jason Blackburn
Ellen Jordan
Katherine Parker

USHERS

Jack and Ellen Best



CHANCEL GUILD

Sue Blackshear
Barbara Ann Vinson





- 1 Eleanor Metzler
- Mrs. Janis Dees
- Mrs. Beth Kannan
- Mrs. Emily Byrd
- 2 Mr. Elbert Brown
- Mr. Gilbert Brown
- 4 Mrs. Anna Best Lee
- Mrs. Sue Wooten
- 5 Mrs. Melissa Warren
- 6 Ashley Jordan
- Mrs. Betty Rose Sutton
- 8 Mr. Tim Haithcock
- 9 Mrs. Eva Bruder
- 11 Mrs. Lisa Royall



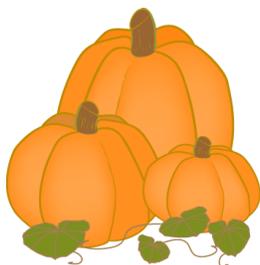
- 12 Mrs. Madelyn Percise
- 12 Mr. Richard Kruer
- 18 Mrs. Elizabeth Spicer
- 19 Ms. Carol Branch
- 20 William Doss
- 21 Beatrice Byrd
- 22 Mrs. Teresa Smith
- 23 Mrs. Georgia Dees
- Dr. Bill Fidler
- Mrs. Susie Sumner
- 24 Mr. Frank Best
- Mr. Eddie Radford



Please continue to pray for our PNC as they search for a new pastor for our church.



Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held Wednesday, **November 25** at 7:00 p.m. in **Black Chapel**. During the worship service we will receive our annual offering of canned goods for United Church Ministries food pantry. You may bring your non-perishable items anytime during November.



The Church office will be closed Thursday & Friday in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday





Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization. Their mission is to provide local partners around the world with shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items and school supplies as a means of reaching out to children in their own communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ. We ship these simple gifts outside the United States to children affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease; and to children living on Native American reservations in the U.S. Please help make some child's Christmas happier by picking up your box(s) and filling it with goodies the children will enjoy. The deadline to turn them in is **November 15th** at "Shoebox Dedication Sunday."



Cherub Choir meets every Sunday after Worship in the Activity Center. (2 years old through third grade)



Youth Group (Middle and High School)
First and third Sunday of the month
5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Meet in the Activity Center.

The Music of Christmas

Sunday Evening, December 13th at 7:00 p.m.



Our churches have been devoid of all singing during this pandemic. The sounds of human voices raising their songs to God have been muted by masks. The Christmas season is almost here and First Presbyterian Church is going to give this church and the surrounding community the sounds of Christmas to one and all.

On the night of December 13th at 7:00 p.m. our soloists from the Chancel Choir, guest soloists, strings, harp, organ, and harpsichord will join together to present **The Music of Christmas**—a service of Christmas music and inspirational readings. This service will be open to the public as our gift to the community. Seating will be limited because of social distancing and masks will be required but we hope that the Sanctuary will be filled.

What a wonderful way to bring in the Christmas season and lift the spirits of one and all who have been silent for so many months. Make special plans to attend this service of wor-



More Ringers are Needed!



Our handbell choir needs seven more ringers to make a complete ensemble to ring our handbells. If you can read a little music, count from "one" to "four" with a steady beat, and want to have the fun and enjoyment of being with people who love to be together and ring bells for the Lord, please come to our next rehearsal on Wednesday evening at 6:15 p.m. in the Handbell Room. You will have a good time and learn everything you need to know to ring the bells. Please come and help us! We need YOU!!

We apologize for the tardiness of this Newsletter which is due to COVID. Trust you enjoy the articles and information. May God bless each of you.