



December 5, 2022



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SANFORD

# First Word

*“To live by faith, to be known by love, and to be a voice of hope.”*

## From the Pastor...

Dear First Presbyterian Church;

As we move through Advent, I invite you to use these days of preparation as an opportunity to reflect on your Christian journey, asking, “Does my life reflect the faith, hope, and love that Christ calls all believers to show?” Throughout our lives, God provides us with choices to make and the wonderful truth about this gift of “free will” is that, with each day, we can select the more faithful paths to travel. My prayer for all of us is that, as God guides us with the example of the Lord of Bethlehem before us, our church will grow more and more to become the loving neighborhood we are called to become.

As a faithful community, one of the most important characteristics we are called to reflect is, “humility.” The words, “humility” and “humble,” are used over 100 times in Scripture. Time after time, we are told to show humility and, yet, so often, neighbors compete with each other to be the “best” and, in every area of our lives, there are individuals who are “puffed-up” with ego and pride. Interestingly, in the game of Chess, though there are many powerful pieces (e.g. the Queen, Bishop, and Rook), one of the least powerful pieces is the King himself. The King can only move one space at a time and is always in a position of being protected. Humbly, the King simply lives to prevent the other side from becoming the winner. Which chess piece do you prefer to become? Along with the King, perhaps, the humblest player is the Pawn who only moves one space in one direction and serves as the “front-line” in whatever strategy is developed.

Let us strive to serve humbly, remembering that, from God, not us, all blessings come. The person next to us is no less a child of God than you and I and that’s a truth that will help us to be humbler.

May God continue to bless you with the joy and hope of the Thanksgiving and Advent seasons.

Peace and Love, Brad

“For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” (Luke 14:11)  
“Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 18:4)  
“Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.” (Philippians 2:3)





**12/7: Rhonda Lemon, 12/11: Harold James**

Giving Envelopes for 2023 are available on the table in the Colonnade. If you would like to request a box, please contact the church office.



**We still have 7 Salvation Army Angels.** Select yours, write your name and phone number next to your angel's number on the sign-out sheet, and help make the holidays brighter for a deserving child in Lee County. **Angel gifts need to be returned no later than December 7th to the Upper School Room in the Harper Center.** Please don't wrap your gifts, and make sure the angel tree tag is secured to the bags provided for your gifts.



**If your calling is to be a child or adult Sunday School teacher, we need you!** Please contact Sally Chapin at 919-353-8437 or [schapinfnp@gmail.com](mailto:schapinfnp@gmail.com). We are also in need of a nursery staff person every other Sunday. Please let Sally know if you have an interest.

**There will be no nursery provided on Sunday, December 25th.**

The new Handbell group will begin on Monday Jan 9th at 7:15pm in the Handbell room behind the sanctuary. The first few weeks will be a basic learning of Handbell technique and will play some simpler songs. Please come if you are interested. It will take practice, willingness to learn, teamwork and a sense of humor. For questions or concerns contact Wanda Wazenegger, (H) 919-774-3775 or (C) 919-777-3855, or email at [waziesouth@windstream.net](mailto:waziesouth@windstream.net). We will enjoy learning together.

**December walking track volunteers:**

12/5-Joan Bland, 12/6-Gary Walker, 12/7-Nancy Kimble, 12/8-Carol Varga, 12/9-Don Wazenegger

**OUR PRAYER LIST**

**Parkview:** Irma Autrey, Paul Kelly, Rexine Lloyd

**Universal Health Care/Lillington:** Betty Lou Bristow

**Home or with family:** Sonny Talbot; Jean Perry; Cathy Johnson; Don Suddarth; Bruce Benton; Ann Barkley

**Our Friends & Family:** Tiffany Scott Heron (Donna McClune's niece); Michael McClune (Donna McClune's son); James Cox; Billy Boaz; Jamey Allen (Harold James' sister); Phyllis Moore; Carolyn Herring (Bunny Paderick's niece); Greg Horrell (Bunny Paderick's brother-in-law); Richard Angel (Pat Angel's husband); Marci Hudzik; Dennis Parnell (friend of David Vann); Emily Heeseman (Samantha Morgan's friend and college roommate); Heather Wicker; Carla Bailey; Joanna Dempsey; Michelle Hendley Leonhardt (Daughter of Mike and Peggy Hendley); Flora Harrington

**This Weeks Calendar**

**The week of December 5th the Salvation Army will be in the Harper Center setting up and distributing Angel Tree gifts.**

**Walking Track Upstairs Only**

**Monday 12/5:**

**9AM-12PM:** Walking Track

**5:30 PM:** Contemporary Choir Rehearsal

**6:30 PM:** Traditional Choir Rehearsal

**Tuesday 12/6:**

**9AM-12PM:** Walking Track

**10AM:** Bible Study

**6PM:** Yoga in the Harper Center

**Wednesday 12/7: Deadline for Angel Tree Gifts**

**9AM-12PM:** Walking Track

**10AM:** CDC Devotion

**7PM:** Prayer Group

**Thursday 12/8:**

**9AM-12PM:** Walking Track

**1PM:** Christian Education Committee 2023 Youth Calendar Meeting in the Conference Room

**Friday 12/9: Deadline for Poinsettia Orders**

**9AM-12PM:** Walking Track

**Sunday 12/11: 3rd Sunday of Advent Deadline for Bake Sale Items**

**9AM:** Contemporary Service

**11AM:** Traditional Service

**4-5PM:** Santa visits in the Harper Center

**5-6:30PM:** Youth Christmas Party

**Offering Counters Schedule - December 2022**

Week 1 (12/4) John Garris and Daryl Perry, Week 2 (12/11) Samantha Jeffries and Don Wazenegger, Week 3 (12/18) Rhonda and David Miller, Week 4 (12/25) Joan Bland and Julie Lemon

**The Lay Readers for December** are Ronnie and Julie Lemon for the 9am service and David Vann for the 11:00 am service.

## FPC Youth News

### Fall/Winter Youth Schedule

11<sup>th</sup> – Youth Christmas Party/ Help after Santa 5-6:30pm

18<sup>th</sup> – Bake Sale items available after both services in the Harper Center/No Youth

25<sup>th</sup> – No Youth (Christmas)

*\*If anyone needs a ride to any of our Youth Meetings, please let Michele know, 919-935-2089.*

### *FPC Youth Christmas Caroling at Parkview*



Family Advent Calendars, along with Bake Sale and Poinsettia Order Forms are located on the table in the Colonnade as well as McIver Hall. *Thank you!*

You are invited, once again, to participate in the collection for **Staff Christmas Bonuses**. Simply make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church and write *Christmas Staff Bonus* on the memo line. Your generosity is always very much appreciated!

**-First Presbyterian Church Session**



On Sunday, December 25th, and Sunday, January 1st, there will be one service in the Sanctuary at 11am. The Worship Committee will not meet in December, but will resume meetings on January 22nd at 1:30pm.



There will be a First Presbyterian Church Adult Christmas Social on December 10, 2022 from 2-4pm in the Harper Center. Come enjoy Christmas sweets and special fellowship. Please wear holiday attire and childcare will be provided.

On Sunday, December 11th, from 4-5pm Santa will be at First Presbyterian Church in the Harper Center!!! Come visit with Saint Nicholas, then stay for a reading of "The Christmas Story", make a fun craft, and enjoy light refreshments. We can't wait to see you! Ho! Ho! Ho!



The Holidays are approaching fast. Let the FPC Youth help you make life a little easier by ordering baked goods to have on hand for friends and family visiting this year! Please see below the items we are offering this year and make your selection. Items may be picked up on Sunday, December 18th after each worship service, just in time to be enjoyed by all! Thank you in advance for your support, and Merry Christmas!!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Nana Bland's Chocolate Pie, \$12

\_\_\_\_\_ Lisa Kimble's Cinnamon Bread, \$12

\_\_\_\_\_ Michele's Butter Pecan Fudge, \$12/8 pieces

\_\_\_\_\_ Katrina's Russian Tea Mix, \$6/jar

\_\_\_\_\_ Cheese Straws, \$10/24

\_\_\_\_\_ Grindle Sour Cream Coconut Cake, \$25 (Limit of 10 sales)

**Deadline for orders is Monday, December 11th.**



It's that time of year again...time to order your poinsettias! Just fill out and return the form to the church office, or place in the offering plate during worship service. Poinsettias are \$13 a piece.

**The deadline to order is Friday, December 9th.**

In Honor/Memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
(Circle one)

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

Number of poinsettias \_\_\_\_\_

An illustration of five lit candles in circular frames, arranged in a semi-circle. The central candle is white, and the four outer ones are purple. They are surrounded by green pine branches and brown, textured ornaments.

# *Advent Schedule*

*Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>-2-4pm Adult Christmas Social in the Harper Center*

*Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>-9am and 11am Christmas Chorus, Order cut-off for Youth Bake Sale, 4-5pm Santa Visits, 5-6:30pm Youth Christmas Party/Help with Santa Visit in the Harper Center*

*Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>-4-7pm Salvation Army Bell Ringing at Tramway Food Lion*

*Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>-Bake Sale Pick-Up after both services*

*Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>-12-2pm Staff Christmas Lunch (Church Office will be closed)*

*Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>-5pm Christmas Eve Service/Lessons and Carols in the Sanctuary/Luminaries*

*Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>-11am Christmas Service in the Sanctuary*



Second Week of Advent

PEACE

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. . . . Do not let your hearts be troubled,” said Jesus in John 14:27. “Peace! Be still!” said Jesus to the sea when a frightening storm arose (Mark 4:39). Was he also talking to his disciples, giving them peace instead of panic?

I was surprised this week at how many of the Prophets’ passages about Hope include Peace. The description of the “Peaceful Kingdom” is found in Isaiah 11. All animals, both predator and prey, and children will live, eat, and rest together. “They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain.” (v.9) I think Isaiah includes people in the word “they.” In Isaiah 2 the Future House of God is described, and v. 4 says “they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.” Wow! We still have that to hope for!

While we are waiting for this peace, what are we doing to help bring peace?

In the meantime, we do have access to the personal Peace Jesus gives us. He told his disciples that he was the vine and they were the branches. Are not also modern-day disciples’ branches? If we stay connected to the vine, through prayer, that Peace will enter us. Paul in Galatians 5 lists Peace as one of the Fruits of the Spirit. If we listen to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, that peace will be ours. If we call on God when we feel panicky, we may hear the words: “Peace! Be still!”

After emphasizing the importance of prayer to obtain Peace, Henri Nouwen (a 20<sup>th</sup> Century writer who was more articulate than I am) says: “It is so important for people around you to see that peace of Christ reflected in your eyes, your hands, and your words. There is more power in that than in all your teaching and organizing.”

As the Apostle Paul might say, May the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you now and always. Shalom.  
Joyce Kelly