

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, P.C.A.

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DECEMBER 2021

THE SESSION'S MESSAGE

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. Luke 2: 11-14

Behind the decree of Caesar Augustus was the will and purpose of our sovereign God. Centuries before, Bethlehem had been named as the birthplace of the Promised One. To Bethlehem, therefore, Joseph and Mary came. Ostensibly because the emperor so ordered, but more truly because God so willed. Does it seem strange that the God who pressed a proud Roman into His service did not also arrange for Mary's son to be born in dignity and comfort? The splendid titles of Gabriel's announcement – Son of the Highest, Son of God – suggested circumstances far different from a manger and a bed of straw. Yet so it was, and so God willed. For the child of Christmas is everyone's Savior. He came in lowliness that He might meet our deepest needs and lift us up to heaven's fullest height.

At whose bidding do we keep Christmas this year? At the bidding of retail shops who for weeks have been titillating our eyes with lavish displays of Christmas gifts and goods? At the bidding of the calendar that demands we observe this day among a dozen other anniversaries? At the bidding of our friends whose thoughtful greetings have kept our mailbox cluttered day after day? Or do we keep this Christmas at the bidding of our adoring hearts?

Could we but turn back time and place ourselves among the startled shepherds to whom the angels' proclamation came, this day would overflow with wondering joy. For this is no ordinary day. This is the day when God came down to humanity to reveal to them His yearning love. No wonder angels sang! May our hearts take up their song.

Remember the gift that was given to us, the gift of Jesus Christ. We could not keep the law, and there was no way that we could bring a sacrifice that could atone for our sins. John 3:16 says it all. *"For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

God bless you all this Christmas,
Dennis



Let us praise God together for His wonderful and faithful blessings upon our church in meeting all of our needs.

We welcome Dr. Josh Carmichael and his family as the newest addition to our church family. Join us on December 5th when Josh will begin his ministry with us; his Installation Service will be held on December 12th at 6:00 pm with a reception to follow.



DECEMBER 2021



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3 B-day: Nadine Coddington	4
5 2nd Sunday of Advent Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom) B-day: Beth Lashley	6 Game/Fellowship Time: 9:30am B-day: Jimmy Dukes	7 B-day: Dennis Davidson	8	9	10	11 B-day: Laura Katherine Morgan B-day: Thomas Johnson
12 3rd Sunday of Advent Deacon Meeting Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom) Joint Officer Meeting WM Christmas Party: 2-4pm Installation Service: 6pm	13 Game/Fellowship Time: 9:30am	14 Session Meeting: 9am	15 Family Christmas Potluck Party: 6pm Angel Tree: Deadline to submit gifts	16	17 B-day: Alice Symon	18 Christmas Caroling: 1pm
19 4th Sunday of Advent Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom) Candlelight Communion Service: 6pm	20	21 B-day: Austin Griffith	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day Christmas Morning Service: 10am
26 Sunday School: 9:30am Worship: 11am (in the sanctuary and via Zoom)	27	28 Anniv: Phil & Joyce Huizinga	29	30 B-day: Nick Symon B-day: Trey Griffith	31	



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR DECEMBER

DEACONS OF THE MONTH: Trey Griffith and Joel Coddington

FOOD MINISTRY LEADER OF THE MONTH: Andrea Ward

RECURRING WEEKLY EVENTS:

- Sunday School at 9:30 am.
- Sunday Worship at 11:00 am, in the sanctuary and via Zoom.
- Game/Fellowship Time, Mondays at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.
- Choir Practice, 7:00 pm.

DEACONS CLASS OF 2022: Glenn Basinger and Trey Griffith

DEACONS CLASS OF 2023: David Coddington and Mike Cork

DEACONS CLASS OF 2024: Ray Evans and Joel Coddington

OCTOBER AVERAGE ATTENDANCE: 32

<u>2021</u>	<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>2021 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 11,665.00	\$ 83,217.00
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 7,427.46	\$ 64,256.33
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 4,237.54	\$ 18,960.67
<u>2020</u>	<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>2020 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 6,695.00	\$ 81,610.86
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 6,361.55	\$ 72,964.68
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 333.45	\$ 8,646.18

DECEMBER EVENTS

December 5:

- Second Sunday of Advent
- Dr. Josh Carmichael begins his ministry with our congregation.
- Women’s Ministry Christmas Party, 2:00— 4:00 pm.

December 12:

- Third Sunday of Advent
- Deacon Meeting.
- Joint Officer Meeting.
- Installation Service, 6:00 pm with a reception to follow.

December 14: Session Meeting, 9:00 am.

December 15:

- Family Christmas Potluck Party, 6:00 pm.
- Deadline to submit Angel Tree gifts.

December 18: Christmas Caroling, 1:00 pm.

December 19:

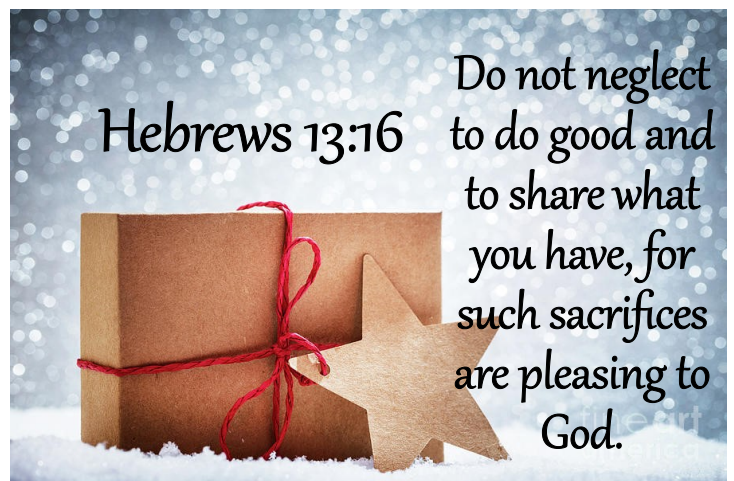
- Fourth Sunday of Advent
- Candlelight Communion Service, 6:00 pm.

December 25: Christmas Morning Worship Service 10:00 am.

Christmas Cards for the Troops

Thank you to all who participated and supplied Christmas Cards for the Troops.

Angel Tree Giving. This year’s Angel Tree project will be to supply gifts to the children of the RTS (Reformed Theology Seminary) international students. In addition we will gather items for the patients at the West Alabama Mental Health Group Home. The deadline to deliver packages to the church will be Wednesday, December 15th. For more information, please contact Melanie Evans or Patty Kirkpatrick.



HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD TODAY?

DECEMBER 2021

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FAITH PROMISE MISSIONARIES

Robert & Lisa Stewart	Mission to the World — Japan
Andy & Bev Warren	Mission to the World — Ethiopia
Doug McNutt	Trinity Center for World Missions — Central Africa Evangelist
Aaron & Leticia Zapata	Mission to North America — Mexico
Chaplain Ministry	Mission to North America
Jimmy & Nadia Dukes	Reformed Evangelistic Fellowship — Peru
Beth Acton	Wycliffe Bible Translators — Papua New Guinea
Joy Ayabe	Wycliffe Bible Translators — Papua New Guinea
Clete Hux	Apologetics Resource Center — Birmingham, AL
Jonah & Jennifer	Frontiers — Undisclosed Muslim Country
General Support	The Lighthouse Women's Center — Demopolis, AL
General Support	Palmer Home for Children — Hernando, MS

HOOKED ON PRAYER (HOP):

Acton, Beth	Hoggle, Judy
Allinder, Kate	Hooks, Chesnee
Bazuin, Caiden	Huizenga, Fran
Beale, Amy	Hux, Karen
Beard, Ken	Ivy, Kendall
Beard, Ronnie	Jennifer (Missionary)
Beeler, Peggy	Kelly, Dale
Belcher, Samuel	Lane, Barbara
Brantley, Maggie	Lawson, Connie
Brooker, Chrissy	Lewis, Kathy
Brooker, Jan	Ligon, Brandon
Busby, Rhae	Mackin, Jimmy
Bynum, Linda	McIntier, Jodie
Cannon, Mary	Mize, Bethany
Chastang, Kristye	Morgan, Laura
Coker, Jean	Mutisya, Cecilia
Craig, Noah	Parr, Higley
Curry, Walter	Plummer, Kaegan
Davidson, Karen	Reynolds, Christy
DeWitt, Robert	Sakon, Ethan
Duncan, Conner	Sall, Terry
Dyer, Doug	Sharp, Chris
Emerson, Sandra	Sims, Anna Katherine
Espy, Emily	Sims, Sarah
Finley, Betty	Thornton, Alaina
Foshee, Barbara	Tipton, Carolyn
Griffith, Michelle	VanderMolen, Popko
Hall, Jimmy	Witherspoon, Mary Stewart
Hart, Sarah Elizabeth	Womble, Caleb
Haubert, Chloe Belle	Zimmerman, Steve
Hayes, Betsy	
Hocker, Jeannie	

If you know anyone who needs to be added or taken off any of these lists, please provide Ann Resto with the information to keep the prayer lists current.

If you have a heart to pray for the critically, chronically or terminally ill, HOP needs you.

**Can you pray?
WE NEED YOU!**

**Can you knit or crochet?
WE NEED YOU!**

**Can you write note cards?
WE NEED YOU!**

HOP is a prayer shawl ministry. We give shawls, throws, or blankets to the critically, chronically, or terminally ill to let them know we are praying for them. You do not need to know how to knit or crochet to be involved.

Any monetary gifts or donations of supplies, yarn, note cards and/or postage is greatly appreciated.

Please contact Eloise Harris or Joy Mackin for more information on how you can get involved.



OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS

Cancer:

Luke (Jonah's son)
Scott Kirkpatrick
Jimmy Mackin
Rick Wilson
Kendall Ivy
Jimmy Hall
Kristye Chastang
Bethany Mize

Illness:

Laura Morgan
Neal Bules
David Headley

Special Needs:

Liz Bond
Frank Ramey
The Hutton Family
Sharon Farst

Military Personnel:

Chaplain William Broderick
Sam Brasfield
Steven Mackin
Victor Resto
Joseph Wilson
Josh Tyson
Blake Ivy

Pregnancies:

Lyndsay Symon (due 1/22)
Katie Gill (due 6/22)