



# Ye Fourth Creek Journal

The Monthly Publication of  
the First Presbyterian Church in Statesville

December  
2023

## The Pastor's Pen

Other than "Christmastime is Here" by Vince Guaraldi, few songs make me as happy at this time of year than one that we typically reserve for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: "O, Holy Night."

It was first composed in French as "Le Cantique de Noël." In this month of Advent and Christmas to come, I feel its words reveal so much theological importance about what it is that we hold as Christians to speak about our faith (not to mention it being simply a beautiful tune). Yet many of us may not be familiar with its original, perhaps even more profound message.

I would like to offer a literal translation of the original poem from which our beloved hymn comes, which says more in English says more than ever I could. May these verses give you joy as we approach this most solemn and holy night, and may their truth be yours every day of this month and life ahead:

May we kneel to, bow before, and sing forever of Christ,

Midnight, Christians, is the solemn hour, when  
God as man descended unto us  
to erase the stain of original sin and to end the  
wrath of His Father. The entire world trembles  
with hope on this night that gives it a Savior.

People kneel down; wait for your deliverance.  
Christmas, Christmas, here is the Redeemer,  
Christmas, Christmas, here is the Redeemer!

May the ardent light of our Faith guide us all to  
the cradle of the infant, as in ancient times a  
brilliant star guided the Oriental kings there.  
The King of Kings was born in a humble  
manger; O mighty ones of today, proud of your  
greatness, it is to your pride that God preaches.

Bow your heads before the Redeemer!  
Bow your heads before the Redeemer!  
The Redeemer has broken every bond:

The Earth is free, and Heaven is open. He sees a  
brother where there was only a slave,  
Love unites those that iron had chained. who  
will tell Him of our gratitude,  
For all of us He is born, He suffers and dies.

People stand up! Sing of your deliverance,  
Christmas, Christmas, sing of the Redeemer,  
Christmas, Christmas, sing of the Redeemer!

## Our Congregational Leadership

### Session Class of 2024

<b>Catherine Baker</b>	Christian Education
<b>Scarlett Chapman</b>	Missions
<b>Robert Dearman</b>	Worship
<b>Joanne Dodick</b>	Congregational Life: Cong. Care
<b>Robin Downs</b>	Congregational Life: F&F
<b>Scott Stevenson</b>	Property: 4CBG

### Session Class of 2025

<b>Matt Austin</b>	Administration: Personnel
<b>Alan Carpenter</b>	Administration: Communications
<b>John Childress</b>	Missions
<b>Sherry Harris</b>	Worship
<b>Clay Speaks</b>	Missions
<b>Dycie Walton</b>	Christian Education

### Session Class of 2026

<b>Jan Ambrose</b>	Congregational Life: F&F
<b>Sloan Goforth</b>	Finance & Stewardship
<b>Katie Long</b>	Christian Education
<b>Nate McElwee</b>	Congregational Life: Cong. Care
<b>Jim Pickett</b>	Safety
<b>Rev. Jeremy Cannada</b>	Pastor jeremy@fpcstatesville.org M-W: 9am - 5pm    Th: by appt.
<b>Dr. Hanna Lee</b>	Director of Music Ministries hannah@fpcstatesville.org M-W: 9am - 12pm, W: 3 - 9pm (choir); Th: by appt. Sun: 3 - 5pm
<b>Mrs. Falon Speaks</b>	Director of the FPC Preschool preschool@fpcstatesville.org M-F: 8:30am - 12:30pm
<b>Mrs. Clare Robinson</b>	Office Manager office@fpcstatesville.org M-W: 9am - 3pm
<b>Ms. LeighAnn Perkins</b>	Financial Secretary leighann@fpcstatesville.org W: 9am - 5pm (appts. encouraged)
<b>Rev. Grant Sharp</b>	Pastor <i>emeritus</i>
<b>Mrs. Harriet Gilbert</b>	Christian Educator <i>emerita</i>

## December Birthdays

1	Becky Dickerson
	Jason Petree
2	Annette Roark
3	Matthew McBane
4	Clare Robinson
5	Richard Boyd
	Kathy Carpenter
	Fielding Deaton
	Sara Lucas
	Dick Rankin
8	Scott Zanotti
9	Michelle Dodick
	Kathy Lambert (LiF)
10	Roy West
11	James Goforth
	Susie Goforth
12	George Caudle
14	Vicki Bowser (LiF)
	Cate Tuck
15	Nate McElwee
	Sarah Pittman
16	Jim Tarman
17	Randy Caudle
	Mary Neely
26	Anna Campbell
28	Emily Sipprell
30	Addie Oliphant
31	Tim Wasik

## Worship Notes

3 December 2023

**Acolyte** Ben Stone  
**Communion** Robin Downs, Jim Pickett,  
Clay Speaks, Scott Stevenson,  
Dycie Walton, & Jeremy Cannada  
**Ushers.** Team 2 (Dick Sears - Captain)  
**Scripture** Isaiah 61.10-62.3; Luke 2.22-40  
**Flowers** FPC Poinsettia

10 December 2023

**Acolyte** Durgin Baker  
**Ushers** Team 3 (Matt Austin - Captain)  
**Scripture** Isaiah 40.1-11; Mark 1.1-8  
**Flowers** FPC Poinsettia

17 December 2023

**Acolyte** Merritt Tuck  
**Ushers** Team 6 (Katie Long - Captain)  
**Scripture** Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11; Luke 1.46b-55  
**Flowers** FPC Poinsettia

24 December 2023 (11:00am)

**Acolyte** TBD  
**Ushers** Team TBA (Volunteer Team)  
**Scripture** Isaiah 9.2-7  
**Flowers** FPC Poinsettia

31 December 2023

**Acolyte** Sophia Martinez  
**Ushers** Team 1 (Jim Tarman - Captain)  
**Scripture** The Rev. Rob Lee, pulpit supply  
**Flowers**

Weekly Livestream: [fpcstatesville.org/worship](https://fpcstatesville.org/worship)

If you are a member-at-home and wish to have home communion provided to you, please contact Nate McElwee with Congregational Care.

## 2023 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

We welcome you to attend this year's Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, which will feature a string quartet along with special music to enhance our worship to God for the gift of Emmanuel. During that worship, an offering will not be collected, but plates will be available at the entry and exits for any contributions that may come in. The Sacrament of Communion will be celebrated during service, and (weather permitting) we will conclude our worship by singing together on the front steps of this most venerable building, to represent bringing Christ's light into the world. We will take a "Family Picture" at the conclusion of our worship together. Please plan to attend on Sunday, 24 December at 6:00pm.

## FPC Office Closure

The FPC Church Office will be closed the week after Christmas in observance of the holiday and to give the staff a much needed break. It will reopen in the new year on Tuesday, 2 January 2024. Please thank Dr. Lee, Clare, and LeighAnn for the many ways they help make the ministries of our congregation to be successful and sound.

## Wonderful Wednesdays

We hope that you will consider joining us on Wednesday evenings for a meal and fellowship, followed by Bible study and choir practice.

Serving time is from 5:00 - 6:00 pm.

Our menus for the month of December will be:

- 6 December - Country Style Steak, Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes, Roll, & Dessert
- 13 December - Smoked BBQ, Baked Beans, Mac & Cheese, Green Beans, & Dessert

The revised suggested donations are as follows: \$10 adult, \$5 children, Family Max \$30

Wonderful Wednesdays! are for everyone to enjoy and we hope you will plan to attend!

## Clinkers Update

Clinkers will meet on Thursday, 21 December at 6:30pm at the home of Billy & Lourdes Winters. More information will come as we approach this date.

## OWLS

The OWLS will hold their next luncheon on Tuesday, 5 December at 12:30pm in the Fourth Creek Meeting Hall. RSVP to Martha Rothwell at 704.450.7169 or Sarah Davis at 704.902.1937.

## Church Lost & Found

The Church Office has a few items in its "Lost & Found." If you locate something around the church without its owner, please drop them to the office where we can hold them until the item(s) is/are reunited with their owner. Thank you.

## PW Circle 3

Circle 3 will meet Tuesday, 19 December at the home of Shelly McElwee, 404 West End Avenue. This will be our annual Christmas Social.

Members will receive an email closer to date with a link to Sign Up Genius. This will be to sign up to bring food and refreshments. The email will also name a Christmas Charity and explain how to participate in giving.

If you are interested in joining Circle 3, please email Cate Tuck and ask her to add you to the email list. - tinsley.catherine@yahoo.com. We welcome all women of all ages to join Circle 3.

## Advent Book Study

Having begun on Wednesday, 29 November, we invite you to attend the weekly book study throughout Advent. We will read *Experiencing Christmas: Christ in the Sights and Sounds of Advent* by Matt Rawls. Our time together begins each Wednesday at 6:30pm. We will take a break in January and return together in February, 2024.

## Christmas Card-a-thon

Following one of our new traditions, the Congregational Care Ministry invites you to participate in this year's Christmas Card-a-thon.

Continuing until Sunday, 10 December, we welcome you to bring your cards as an expression of Christmas joy for our family and friends. Thank you, as always, for continuing and participating in this tradition.

## Missions Partner

We would like to thank you all for your contributions to the Missions Partner program we have held for a year and a half. The bins have been relocated to the Basement Hallway, where they are primarily used by the Yoga Class and Fall Prevention Group. If you have items you would like to contribute to them from your pantry, we always welcome those inclusions.

The Missions Committee is exploring new avenues by which our congregation can continue to contribute into the lives of our community members, so please continue to offer your suggestions to the members of the committee (its Chairperson is Caroline Ciampanella).

## The Angel Tree

A Special Thank You for those whom have taken Angels from our Angel Tree this year. To date, all Angels have been taken. Gifts should be brought to the Church no later than 15 December. Again, thank you.

## Inclement Weather Update

As Winter approaches, we wish to remind you:

If there is a need for the church to be closed (either for worship or any day of the week) due to inclement weather, such a determination will be made by the Pastor in consultation with the Clerk of Session and/or the Chairperson of Property. If a determination is made to close the building, we will communicate to you through congregational email and social media, as well as local news and radio agencies. Thank you.

## Notes of Thanks

A Note of Thanks has been received from Grant and Carolyn Sharp:

Dear Friends,

We have learned anew how wonderful it is to be a part of a loving Church family. From day one you have showered us with blessing upon blessing— with meals, phone calls, making our home more accessible, visits, and a raft of beautiful, encouraging thoughts on cards and letters. At this Thanksgiving season, our cup is overflowing with gratitude for healing and for you church friends who take seriously your call to join Jeremy in ministry. Our thankfulness for you will never cease. With much love, Grant and Carolyn

*Camp Grier*

Dear First Presbyterian,

Thank you for your recent donation to Camp Grier. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by all of us at Camp, as we prepare to minister to our youth at Summer Camp.

## A Note of Appreciation

We would like to thank Dr. Jim and Mrs. Jane Cartner for this year's Chrismon Tree. Our Sanctuary always looks so lovely with its liturgical and seasonal decoration; please express to them your appreciation, too.

On Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup> our four-year-old classes participated in our annual Thanksgiving Turkey Parade. We welcomed all our families to watch our special parade. We also heard from each child about what they are most thankful for this holiday season as they added their turkey feathers to our preschool turkey. We were incredibly happy to be able to celebrate this special holiday with our preschool families.



FPC Preschool's Annual

## Mitten Tree

To continue the spirit of giving and helping others, we will be collecting winter mittens, gloves, hats and scarves this month for different ministries in our community.

Please help us by marking your calendars now to donate something to hang on our "Mitten Tree" at preschool. We will be collecting now through December 14th.

*Thank you for your support and Merry Christmas!*



FPC Preschool

## Christmas Program

Thursday, December 14th  
6:00 PM

*First Presbyterian Church of Statesville  
Sanctuary*

# December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:45AM Sunday School</li> <li>11:00AM Sunday Worship (Sanc)</li> <li>5:00PM Youth Choir (MR)</li> <li>6:00PM Youth Group (YR)</li> </ul>	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30AM Kindermusik (KM)</li> <li>12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LIF)</li> </ul>	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00AM Chair Yoga (4CMH)</li> <li>11:30AM Preschool Staff Meeting</li> <li>12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LIF)</li> <li>6:00PM Missions Grant Commission Meeting</li> </ul>	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00AM FPC Preschool</li> <li>10:30AM Fall Prevention Examinations</li> <li>12:00PM Daytime Care</li> <li>4:00PM Children's Choir</li> <li>5:00PM Wonderful</li> <li>6:00PM Handbell Choir</li> <li>6:30PM Bible / Book</li> <li>7:00PM Sanctuary Choir</li> </ul>	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:15AM SP Committee on Examinations</li> <li>9:30AM Kindermusik</li> <li>12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LIF)</li> </ul>	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LIF)</li> </ul>	<p>2</p>
<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:45AM Sunday School</li> <li>10:40AM Session: Communion Meeting (Chap)</li> <li>11:00AM Sunday Worship (Sanc)</li> <li>2:30PM Congregational</li> <li>5:00PM Youth Choir (MR)</li> <li>6:00PM Youth Group (YR)</li> </ul>	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30AM Kindermusik (KM)</li> <li>12:00PM Session Information Due</li> <li>12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LIF)</li> <li>4:30PM Phil. Edu. Organization (4CMH)</li> </ul>	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00AM Chair Yoga (4CMH)</li> <li>12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LIF)</li> <li>12:30PM OWLS (4CMH)</li> </ul>	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00AM FPC Preschool</li> <li>10:30AM Fall Prevention</li> <li>12:00PM Daytime Care</li> <li>4:00PM Children's Choir</li> <li>5:00PM Wonderful</li> <li>6:00PM Handbell Choir</li> <li>6:30PM Bible / Book</li> <li>7:00PM Sanctuary Choir</li> </ul>	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30AM Kindermusik</li> <li>12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LIF)</li> <li>6:00PM Girl Scouts (4CMH)</li> </ul>	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LIF)</li> </ul>	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4:00PM Phoenix Martial Arts Christmas Party (4CMH)</li> </ul>
<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:45AM Sunday School</li> <li>11:00AM Sunday Worship (Sanc)</li> <li>4:00PM Christian Education (FR)</li> <li>5:00PM Youth Christmas Progressive Dinner</li> </ul>	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30AM Kindermusik (KM)</li> <li>9:30AM Preschool Christmas Program Rehearsal</li> <li>12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LIF)</li> </ul>	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30AM Preschool Christmas Program Rehearsal</li> <li>10:00AM Chair Yoga (4CMH)</li> <li>12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LIF)</li> </ul>	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:15AM Preschool</li> <li>10:00AM FPC Preschool</li> <li>10:30AM Fall Prevention</li> <li>12:00PM Daytime Care</li> <li>12:15PM FPC Preschool</li> <li>4:00PM Children's Choir</li> <li>5:00PM Wonderful</li> </ul>	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30AM Kindermusik</li> <li>12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LIF)</li> <li>6:00PM Girl Scouts (4CMH)</li> <li>6:00PM FPC Preschool Christmas Program (Sanc)</li> </ul>	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FPC Preschool Teacher Workday</li> <li>11:00AM Kindermusik with Grandfriends</li> <li>12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LIF)</li> </ul>	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:00AM Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal (Sanc)</li> <li>11:30AM Kutteh Christmas Tradition (Chap)</li> </ul>
<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:45AM Sunday School</li> <li>11:00AM Pennies for Hunger Collection</li> <li>11:00AM Sunday Worship (Sanc)</li> <li>3:00PM Christmas Concert Call (Sanc)</li> <li>6:00PM Christmas Concert</li> </ul>	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FPC Preschool Holiday</li> <li>9:30AM Kindermusik (KM)</li> <li>12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LIF)</li> <li>7:00PM Session Meeting (HR)</li> </ul>	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FPC Preschool Holiday</li> <li>10:00AM Chair Yoga (4CMH)</li> <li>12:00PM FCJ Newsletter Deadline</li> <li>12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LIF)</li> <li>6:00PM Circle3 Christmas</li> </ul>	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FPC Preschool Holiday</li> <li>10:30AM Fall Prevention</li> <li>12:00PM Daytime Care</li> <li>4:00PM Children's Choir</li> <li>5:00PM Wonderful</li> <li>6:00PM Handbell Choir</li> <li>6:30PM Bible / Book</li> <li>7:00PM Sanctuary Choir</li> </ul>	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FPC Preschool Holiday</li> <li>12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LIF)</li> <li>5:00PM Girl Scouts Christmas Party (4CMH)</li> <li>6:30PM Clinkers</li> </ul>	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FPC Preschool Holiday</li> <li>12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LIF)</li> </ul>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:45AM Sunday School</li> <li>11:00AM Sunday Worship (Sanc)</li> <li>7:00PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Sanc)</li> </ul>	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FPC Office Closed</li> <li>FPC Preschool Holiday</li> <li>12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LIF)</li> </ul>	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FPC Office Closed</li> <li>FPC Preschool Holiday</li> <li>10:00AM Chair Yoga (4CMH)</li> <li>12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LIF)</li> </ul>	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FPC Office Closed</li> <li>FPC Preschool Holiday</li> <li>10:30AM Fall Prevention</li> <li>12:00PM Daytime Care</li> <li>4:00PM Children's Choir</li> <li>6:00PM Handbell Choir</li> <li>7:00PM Sanctuary Choir</li> </ul>	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FPC Office Closed</li> <li>FPC Preschool Holiday</li> <li>12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LIF)</li> </ul>	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FPC Office Closed</li> <li>FPC Preschool Holiday</li> <li>12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LIF)</li> </ul>	<p>30</p>
<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:45AM Sunday School</li> <li>11:00AM Guest Minister Sunday (The Rev. Rob Lee)</li> <li>11:00AM Sunday Worship (Sanc)</li> </ul>	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FPC Office Closed</li> <li>FPC Preschool Holiday</li> <li>12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LIF)</li> </ul>	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FPC Preschool Holiday</li> <li>10:00AM Chair Yoga (4CMH)</li> <li>12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LIF)</li> <li>12:30PM OWLS (4CMH)</li> </ul>	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FPC Preschool Teacher Workday</li> <li>10:30AM Fall Prevention Class (4CMH)</li> <li>12:00PM Daytime Care</li> <li>4:00PM Children's Choir</li> <li>6:00PM Handbell Choir</li> <li>6:30PM Bible / Book</li> <li>7:00PM Sanctuary Choir</li> </ul>	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:30AM Kindermusik</li> <li>12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LIF)</li> <li>6:00PM Girl Scouts (4CMH)</li> </ul>	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FPC Preschool Early Registration</li> <li>12:00PM Daytime Care Group (LIF)</li> </ul>	<p>6</p>

The First Presbyterian Church  
125 North Meeting Street  
Statesville, North Carolina 28677  
(Return Service Requested)

The deadline for the Fourth Creek Journal is 12:00pm  
of every third Tuesday of each month.  
**The January issue deadline is 19 December 2023.**

The calendar insert (print version) is current as of the time of publishing.  
For the most up-to-date calendar, go to [fpcstatesville.org/calendar](http://fpcstatesville.org/calendar)