

Morning Worship

December 18, 2016—The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Please sign the Fellowship Pad and pass it to your neighbor. *Please stand if able. It is our custom to sing, “Amen,” after hymns.

Lessons and Carols

An Early American Service of Lessons and Carols created and arranged by Tim Sharp

PRELUDE As Shepherds in Jewry String Quartet

How Splendid Shines the Morning Star

Glory to God on High

Oh, Come, Little Children

Chancel Choir

Jackson Weller

INTROIT

BIDDING PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

The Saviour’s Universal Prayer

Jarrold Brown, solo

BLESSING The almighty God, bless us with divine grace: Christ give us the joys of everlasting life:

and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.

CAROL 24

Away in a Manger

Choir (congregation on last verse)

FIRST LESSON Genesis 3:8-15

Trevor Brown

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent’s head.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty and everlasting God, You are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and more wont to give than either we desire or deserve; pour down upon us the abundance of Thy mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and grant us that newness of life that will lead us to praise You with a clean heart and right spirit. Hear our prayer as we continue in silence.

SILENT CONFESSION

CAROL 44

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Choir (congregation on last verse)

SECOND LESSON Genesis 22:1-8

Jackson Weller

The sacrifice of Christ is prefigured in Abraham’s testing.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God so loved the world.

People: *He gave His only begotten Son.*

Leader: Whosoever believes in Him should not perish.

People: *But have eternal life!*

Leader: Friends, believe in the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

People: *Thanks be to God!*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE “Joy” Paige and Frank Wiseman, Randall and Clint Carty

Leader: Last Sunday we lit the Candle of Love. We light it, and the candles of Hope and Peace again as we remember that Jesus, born in Bethlehem, will come again to fulfill all of God’s promises and bring us everlasting peace and joy. *(The Candles of Hope & Peace and Love are lit)*

Today we light the Fourth Candle of Advent, the Candle of Joy. When the angel Gabriel told Mary that a special child would be born to her she was filled with joy. She sang a song that began with the words: “My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.” Just as the birth of Jesus gave great joy to his mother, so his presence in the world gave joy to those who had none before. He healed them and gave them hope and peace when they believed in him. From hope, peace, and love grows joy. We light the Candle of Joy to remind us that when Jesus is born in us we have joy and that through him there will be everlasting joy on earth. *(The Fourth Candle is lit, the Candle of Joy)*

Joy is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the joy we find in Jesus Christ. Let us pray: Thank you, God, for the joy you give us. We ask that as we wait for all your promises to come true and for Christ to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us today and every day to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your joy with each other. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.

Children will be excused at this time to attend Sunday School.

ANTHEM

Followers of the Lamb

Chancel Choir

THIRD LESSON Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Nathan Brown

Christ’s birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

OFFERING

ANTHEM/OFFERTORY

Thou Child Divine

Chancel Choir

FOURTH LESSON Micah 5:2-5

Nancy Schomer

The peace that Christ will bring us is foreshown.

CAROL

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day (Insert)

Choir and congregation

FIFTH LESSON Luke 1:26-35, 38

David Perryman

The angel Gabriel salutes the blessed Virgin Mary.

CAROL

A Virgin Unspotted

Chancel Choir

SIXTH LESSON Matthew 1:18-21

Brenna Takata

Joseph accepts his role as Jesus’ earthly father.

CAROL

What Child Is This?

Chancel Choir

SEVENTH LESSON Luke 2:8-20

Tom Gillespie

The shepherds go to the manger.

CAROL

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow

Chancel Choir

EIGHTH LESSON Matthew 2:1-11

Jarrold Brown

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

CAROL 66

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Choir (congregation on last verse)

Mack Williams, solo

Rev. Allen Thompson

NINTH LESSON John 1:1-14

Saint John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.

HOMILY

Rev. Thompson

ANTHEM

Shout Ye Heavens

Chancel Choir

PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

Nancy Schomer

And with your spirit.

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, Child of Bethlehem, who in love made humankind, create in us love so pure and perfect that whosoever our heart loves may be after Thy will, in Thy name, and for Thy sake. Amen.

CAROL 29

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Choir and congregation

BENEDICTION

Rev. Thompson

Leader: May the One Who by His incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and good will; and the blessing of God, the love of Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit remain with you always. Go forth in peace and joy.

People: *Thanks be to God! Alleluia!*

POSTLUDE

A Virgin Unspotted

String Quartet

ANNOUNCEMENTS


We provide **nursery care** from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM and **Sunday School** for grades K-5 after Time for Young Disciples.

PASTORAL CONCERNS—Kevin Bailey, Anne Banks, Chuck Bolt, Pat Bolt, Alice & Randy Bradshaw, Beth Brown, Bill Brown, Claire Campbell, Nelson R. Clark, Ruby Crowell, Maude Dalton, Rev. Cecil Eanes, R. L. Clifton, Clarence Edmunds, Bill Erwin, Sarah Fisher (Sally Clark's Mother), Betty Fitzgerald, Anne Grier, Fred Gunn, Lois Hayes, Christina Hermetz (Kelsey Thompson's sister), Tim Hooker, Kathy Huggins, Kay Huggins (son-in-law of Thomas and Alice Saunders), Conner Jones, Jana Keen and family, Angela Langford, Ruth Lawton, Malcolm Mallery, Larry Mann, Carol Ingram McGee, Thelma Meadors, Carolyn Miles, Larry Miller, A. B. Motley, Debbie Perrin Neal, Lee Norman, Greg Nunley, Ken Obye, Ella Ryan, Ethel Sakellaris, Alice Saunders, Lynn Saunders, Linda Terriberly, Hampton Wilkins, Nultie Wiseman.

ON THE MEND—(Praise & Gratitude for improved condition) Ann Banks, Kelvin Gunn, Paul Johnson, Grace Litzenberg, Thomas Peyton Mahaffey, Mary Ann Shelton, Russell Vandiver, Jean White

The flowers that enhance our worship are given in loving memory of the deceased members of the Wiseman Family by Nultie, Paige, and Frank Wiseman.

Thank you to the Chancel choir, readers, soloists and members of the string quartet for your contribution to the service and for encouraging the true spirit of Christmas. Special thanks to our instrumentalists Matvey Lapin, Staley Lyle, Meredith Meissner, and Grayson Chattin, for joining us today.



Praise God for Last Sunday:	Sunday School Attendance	98
	Worship Attendance	109
	Tithes & Offerings	\$9637.49

Serving Today	
Nursery/Sunday School	Kim Clifton, Diane Shelton
Children's Sunday School	Whitney and Catie Clarke, Laura Jones, Erin Parris
Elders at Front Door	Jay Hayes
Friendship Period	Susan Mathena, Gene Hayes
Deacon to Receive Offering	David Swann
Officers to Count Offering	Kile/Barrett
Church School Superintendent	Gail Davis
Liturgist	Marissa Meadors
Time for Young Disciples	Kathy Dolianitis
Sound System	Edward Blount
Ushers	Team 3
Flower Ministry	Elders
Saturday Lunch Ministry Dec. 24	Kathy Dolianitis, Dave Zook

Christmas Eve Services:
5 p.m. and 11 p.m.

Christmas Day Service:
10:30 a.m.




THE COLUMNS OF THE First Presbyterian Church

937 Main Street, Danville, Virginia
434-792-7822
To know Christ and make Him known



<u>THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN</u>	<u>FRIDAY, December 23</u> All Day Church Office Closed
<u>MONDAY, December 19</u> 9 a.m. Day School 9:15 a.m. Prayer Group 10 a.m. Staff Meeting	<u>SATURDAY, December 24—Christmas Eve</u> 10:45 a.m. Lunch Min. Bible Study 11:15 a.m. Lunch Ministry 5 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Service (Childcare Provided) 11 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
<u>TUESDAY, December 20</u> 9 a.m. Day School 10:30 a.m. Day School Christmas Program and Brunch 6:15 p.m. Handbells	<u>SUNDAY, December 25—Christmas Day</u> 10:30 a.m. Christmas Day Worship
<u>WEDNESDAY, December 21</u> 12:15 p.m. Mid-Week Chapel Service 6 p.m. Youth Christmas Party	
<u>THURSDAY, December 22</u> 12 noon Church Office Closed 5:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	