



Between the Columns

December 2022

Bible Study and Sermon Series on the Gospel of John

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

As we prepare to enter the liturgical season of Advent and our world grows darker with the winter time change, our Bible Studies and Sermon Series will turn to the Gospel of John.

John's gospel is set apart in many ways – there is no birth narrative – no baby in the manger. Instead John starts with the familiar words of John 1:1

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word

was with God, and the Word was God."

Here, in John, we find the everlasting God.

Woven into the narrative of this gospel – we are lifted above the mundane and into the realm of the sacred. We find John expounding on the doctrinal foundation of Paul in a way that opens the door for intimate relationship. In John, we find the connection between the truth of the Word and the Spirit of the Word that fights against a type of "spiritual boredom" while firmly rooting our faith in the work of Christ.

Join us on Thursdays beginning on Dec. 1 at 10:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. to learn of "the light that shines in the darkness".

We begin a sermon series on the Gospel of John during Advent and will proceed with a lectio continua focus on the Gospel of John through Pentecost Sunday.

Church Events

- Nov. 27 –Advent Begins
- Dec. 1 – Study on John
- Dec. 5 – Circle Meetings
- Dec. 7—Advent Dinner
- Dec. 11—Caroling
- Dec. 14—Advent Dinner
- Dec. 17—Men's Breakfast
- Dec. 17—Angel Tree Party
- Dec. 17—Pastor's Open House
- Dec. 24 – Lessons and Carols and Candlelighting
- Dec. 25 – Communion

A Note from Ashley ...

Welcome to the season of Advent! Amid the hustle and bustle of the world, we Christians receive God's gifts of time and waiting. We can redeem a few moments from the busyness of the season to contemplate God's sacrificial love realized through Jesus becoming fully human. Waiting is something we humans try to avoid. We will do just about anything to get what we want, when we want it. Our disdain for waiting is baked into our vernacular language, "Oh, I just can't wait until..."



In reality, we must wait until... whatever it is we are waiting for arrives or occurs. It is humbling to realize even as adults, we have no choice but to wait. We wait for an upcoming promotion, graduation, birthday party, wedding, home renovation, retirement, big vacation, and so on. Even in the everyday, we wait at the grocery store, post office, bank, doctors' offices (They have a whole room dedicated to spending time waiting!). Rather than seeing this as a negative experience "wasting time," let us endeavor to reflect on the gift of waiting. Waiting means we have a purpose, whether in the tangible sense of buying groceries, or in the spiritual sense of celebrating the birth of Christ at Christmas. It also means we have a shared purpose with other people. The experience of waiting together prepares us to set aside time to celebrate together. Scripture illustrates waiting, "But if we hope for what we do not see, through perseverance we wait eagerly for it." (Romans 8:25) Waiting combines time with purpose to produce hope in the human heart. Thank God for Advent! Thank God for time to wait together!

As we wait patiently yet exuberantly for the coming of our Lord, here are several music performances and worship services taking place in Danville.

Thursday, December 1st

Averett Celebrates Christmas, 7 p.m. in the Frith Center

Wednesday, December 7th

Advent Worship Service at First Presbyterian, following Wednesday night supper at 6 p.m.

Saturday, December 10th

Lapin and Chism Violin Studio Recital, First Presbyterian, 2 p.m.

This recital will feature local children in elementary and middle school playing violin solos.

Saturday, December 10th

Danville Symphony Orchestra presents "Born in Bethlehem," joined by Danville Area Choral Arts Society (DACAS), George Washington High School auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 14th

Advent Worship Service at First Presbyterian, following Wednesday night supper at 6 p.m.

Saturday, December 24th

Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols, 5 p.m. in the sanctuary.



Dec. 5	Frank Wiseman
Dec. 7	Charlotte Garrett
Dec. 9	Kathleen Harris
Dec. 12	David Swann
Dec. 15	Edward Blount
Dec. 16	Lisa Bolt
Dec. 18	Elaine Lea
Dec. 21	Bob Whitt
Dec. 23	Chuck Bolt
Dec. 27	Sharon Whitt Ellen Thomas
Dec. 28	Robert Clifton
Dec. 29	Carol Ellis Martha Bell
Jan. 3	Dick Stoakley
Jan. 5	Carter Meadors
Jan. 7	Barry Cutright
Jan. 10	George Snead
Jan. 11	Gail Ramey
Jan. 13	Bob Willeford Kim Meadows
Jan. 14	Madeline Parris
Jan. 15	Barbara Newnam
Jan. 16	Lia Argyrakis
Jan. 19	Whitney Pritchett
Jan. 20	Grace Litzenberg
Jan. 22	David Parris

News from the Mission Committee

Center for Mission Mobilization

Ian, Stephanie, and their son, Thaddeus, reside in Arkansas working on the International headquarters of the Center for Mission Mobilization.

Currently, 80 percent of the world's Christians live in Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America, but they send only 20 percent of the world's missionaries. The CMM plants teams of mobilizers in countries like Peru, Kenya, and China to help start mission movements in the global church. Almost 3 billion people are unreached—they don't know anyone who knows anything about Jesus—and the CMM is focused on mobilizing the unsent, those who know and love Jesus but aren't engaged in missions, to share the gospel with them.

The CMM engages with students, families and leaders worldwide to point their hearts towards God's Great Commission: go into the world and raise up disciples. Pray for the Lord of the Harvest to raise up more laborers!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Prison Fellowship Angel Tree

We are busy working on the Angel Tree Prison Fellowship program for this Christmas. We are excited to have 46 angels this year so we will need lots of our members to participate. You may participate by choosing an angel on Sunday, November 27 and Sunday, December 4.

The angels will be displayed in Dunglison-Roberts Fellowship/Juice Room on the Christmas table. Please record your name on the Angel Tree sheet, purchase and wrap a gift for your angel and return the gift by December 11 to "The Juice Room". The cost of the gift is limited to \$25.00.

If you are interested in helping at the Angel Tree Christmas Party for the children on December 17 or would like to deliver gifts that are not picked up, please sign up in the Juice Room, contact the church office or contact Harriet Beale.

Circle Meetings

The Day Circle meets Monday, Dec. 5 at 12:30 in the Westminster Room.

The Evening Circle will meet Monday, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. at the home of Karan Johnson, 320 Hawthorne Dr.

Caroling

Those interested in Christmas Caroling can meet at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 11 at the Sutherlin entrance to the church.

Thank You

Pastor Beth and First Presbyterian Family:

Words cannot express my appreciation for the many prayers, cards, text messages, uber rides, wellness basket and meals over the past two months. Your collective support has given me both spiritual and physical strength through my recent series of both anticipated and unexpected challenges. Presbyterians are innately self-sufficient, myself included. That said, this time was different. Please know that your prayers were heard. Martha and I are both now on the road to recovery and slightly ahead of schedule. Your outreach reminds us why we are blessed to be members of the First Presbyterian church family.

Yours in Christ,

Barry and Martha

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

You are invited to a Christmas Open House at Pastor Beth's home on Saturday, Dec. 17 from 5 to 7 p.m.

The evening includes a meal, desserts, and a time of sharing in the joys of Christmas.





The December Flower Ministry

December 4 - Today the flowers are given in memory of my loving Dad, Donald Rochford, by Jackie Rochford.

December 11 - The flowers today are given in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Guy T. Fowlkes and Mr. and Mrs. WD Kirk by the family.

December 18 - The flowers that enhance our worship service are given in loving memory of the deceased members of the Wiseman family by Paige and Frank Wiseman.

December 25 - The flowers today are given in loving memory of our beloved in Marie Louise Crane by Her Church Sisters.

Youth Activities

December 7 & 14 6—7:30 p.m.

December 9-10 Lock-In
8 p.m. —8 a.m.

December 11 Caroling at 2 p.m.

December 17 Angel Tree Party
1-2 p.m.

December 21 Youth Christmas
Party 6:30-8 p.m.

December 24 Lunch Ministry

***No Youth Group on
December 28**

Christmas Joy Offering

God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need. Please plan to give generously on Sunday, Dec. 18.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - DANVILLE

Founded in 1826, we were the first organized congregation in Danville.

Our sanctuary and offices are located at 937 Main St, next door to the Sutherlin Mansion and Museum and a few blocks west of downtown.

You can reach us at

(434) 792-7822 or

admin@fpcdanville.com



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