

ADVENT 2022 AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



be to
sure see

Week one – Light

Week two – Possibility

Week three – Healing

Week four – Messengers

a little advent music + thursday worship
do it for Dolly Hot Dish Christmas tree
Advent wreaths journey to the manger
yoco Christmas gathering memorial
and honor gifts pajama church school
chrismons honor cards nativity service
candlelight + communion

HEAR

the word in worship and music



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27 – BE SURE TO SEE THE LIGHT

Isaiah 2:1-5 and Matthew 24:36-44

9 am Rejoice! in Mullin Life Center and 11 am Sanctuary

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

For those experiencing loss or grief during the season.

Noon - 1 pm, Sanctuary.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 – BE SURE TO SEE POSSIBILITY

Isaiah 11:1-10 and Matthew 3:1-12

Communion Sunday, 9 am Rejoice! in Mullin Life Center and 11 am Sanctuary

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 – BE SURE TO SEE HEALING

Isaiah 35:1-10 and Matthew 11:2-11

9 am Rejoice! in Mullin Life Center and 11 am Sanctuary

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 – BE SURE TO SEE THE MESSENGERS

Isaiah 7:10-16 and Matthew 1:18-25

9 am Rejoice! in Mullin Life Center and 11 am Sanctuary

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE

10 am Family Nativity Service

5:30 and 11 pm Candlelight Communion Services

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY

One service, 10 am

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1 – NEW YEAR'S DAY

One service, 10 am



SUNDAYS AT 5 PM

DECEMBER 4

Messiah Sing-a-long.

If you would like to rehearse beforehand come at 4 pm.

DECEMBER 11

A Night of Folk Carols

DECEMBER 18

A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols

Handbell prelude, 4:30 pm



a little advent worship

In December join our Hot Dish & Hope guests for dinner beginning 4:45 pm on Thursdays in the Life Center, followed by a simple service of candles and prayer at 6 pm. No RSVPs, donations accepted. Or just come for the service!

Be Sure to See



JILL DUFFIELD

Senior Pastor

I've noticed that we throw around words like "awesome" and "amazing" in a way that might dull our senses to the truly awesome and amazing all around us. I am guilty of being distracted or oblivious on a regular basis. Multitasking, my ever-present cell phone, a full schedule, all conspire to bring about a numbness to beauty and goodness that I don't think is pleasing to God. As we enter this holiday season at break-neck speed, the day after Thanksgiving like a start gun to the run up to Christmas, what do we fail to notice? Who do we miss? How might we slow down and refocus on the awesome and amazing in our midst?

Gretchen Ziegenhals at Duke Faith and Leadership wrote an article for Advent last year that I've kept close at hand ever since I read it. She writes about the use of Advent calendars as a means of marking time in a way that is intentional and thoughtful. She writes how even that simple practice helps us to behold. She says: "'Behold' is a word used by heavenly messengers during in-breaking moments in the Christian narratives. It signals an explosion of the sacred into our lives and a radical reframing of meaning." Literally translated the word is "Look!" Usually, it is preceded by the word "and." And look! See here! Pay attention! Notice what happens next!

And look, an angel appeared to Mary...

And look, a leper came to him...

And look, all the city came out to meet Jesus...

There is a sense of anticipation as we lean in to see what God is about to do and that, in essence, is what we do during Advent. Behold! God is at work, do you perceive it? And look! The Holy One is here, do you perceive the awesome presence of the Lord? Be sure and see what amazing things God is doing in our time, in our lives, in the world. There is about to be an explosion of the sacred and a radical reframing of meaning and while we can't ever really be ready, we can pray to be receptive.

This Advent we will be using the gospel lectionary passages to refocus, to behold, to be sure to see the light, to be sure to see possibilities and to be sure to see God's messengers. I pray that in all the to-do lists and barrage of events, in both the stress and fun, the togetherness or the isolation, you will be sure to see the movement of the Spirit, rest in the divine presence and behold the sacred explosion of Advent and Christmas.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

REFLECT

on the message to come



Look at art through the eyes of faith, encounter a hymn devotionally, hear what scripture says to you, and reflect on what members and staff are sharing in our Advent devotional this year. Available beginning November 27 on campus and online. Additional devotionals for children & youth.



With reflections from members Lisa Anderson, Jerry Beavers, Chip Bristol, Mary Eagle, Lisa Ganem, Kelly Harrill, Jean Pinckard, Lane Ridenhour, Jill Amidon Strickland, and Sam Turner, and staff Anne Albert, Donna Chase, Deborah Conner, Jill Duffield, and Lisa Witherspoon.



Regular classes and groups continue but might adjust their schedules over the holidays. Please check the Monday enews, bulletin inserts and your group leaders for information.

SERVE

the good tidings to others

A Hot Dish & Hope Advent



There are different kinds of gifts, but the same spirit is the source of them all.
© Corbis Out 12.4

JOIN OUR GUESTS

for dinner and A Little Advent Worship on Thursdays in December. Dinner starts at 4:45 pm; no reservation needed and donations accepted. At 6 pm we will share a simple service with prayer and candles. It all happens in Mullin Life Center.

FILL A GIFT BAG

A tree will be placed in the Welcome Center after Thanksgiving. Take a card and a gift bag and fill with the items listed. We'll add handmade hats and scarves from the Community Service Group and give them out at the Hot Dish Christmas party.

HONOR CARDS

are available at the reception desk. \$5 each. Also StepUp Greensboro cards!

LET'S



*Do It
for
Dolly*

AGAIN!

Last year a record 4,500+ pounds was donated at the Food Drive-By in memory of the joyful and generous spirit of Rev. Dolly Jacobs! This year the elves will be running the show on December 14 from 10 am to 2 pm in front of Redhead Hall. Get with your small groups and friends and LET'S DO IT AGAIN!



**Americans throw out an extra
25 million tons of garbage
during the holidays.**

As an Earth Care Congregation, let's all set family goals to reduce our trash this season!

- Use gift bags and save for next year.
 - Save ribbon and bows too!
 - Use recycled paper.
 - Send e-cards
- Recycle everything you can – take glass and Styrofoam to our Shetler parking deck!

CREATE

moments of joy in fellowship

Children's advent activities



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

- Family Advent wreaths and gingerbread church – Parents and children are invited to gather in the back of the Life Center at 10 am to make an Advent wreath and help decorate the gingerbread church!
- Kids Disciple Club – Third- through fifth-graders look for joy in scripture, share joy by decorating Christmas cards for pastors to take on hospital visits, and play Christmas games! Life Center, 3-4:30 pm.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

Join us for a Journey to the Manger at 10 am! From the Life Center we will travel around the church reading scripture, singing carols, and collecting our life-sized nativity figures. We'll end by assembling the full nativity scene and enjoying some Christmas cookies!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

Come to church in your pajamas! Children & youth will enjoy a Christmas movie and popcorn at 10 am in the BibleMax Theater (Corl 305) while parents gather in the Life Center for coffee, breakfast treats, and fellowship.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

Family Nativity Service will be at 10 am.

No children's activities or nursery November 27, December 25 & January 1.

Youth Advent activities

THURSDAYS IN DECEMBER

High school youth are invited to help with Hot Dish & Hope – serving, refilling drinks, greeting, and cleaning up. Arrive 4:30-4:45 pm. Sign up with Lisa Witherspoon, LWITHERSPOON@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

- Prepare items for Hot Dish & Hope gift bags, 10 am in Memorial 303.
- High School Service Project: Sort Christmas gifts for Faith Action (lunch provided!). 12:15-2 pm at the church.
- Dinner & small groups, 6-7:30 Wear "ugly Christmas sweaters" for holiday fun!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

Prepare items for Hot Dish & Hope gift bags, 10 am in Memorial 303.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

- Come to church in your pajamas! Children & youth will enjoy a Christmas movie and popcorn at 10 am in the BibleMax Theater (Corl 305) while parents gather in the Life Center for coffee, breakfast treats, and fellowship.
- YoCo Christmas Party at Westminster Presbyterian, 6-7:30 pm.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, CHRISTMAS EVE

Youth are invited to participate in 11 pm service. Sign up by November 30 with Lisa Witherspoon, LWITHERSPOON@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

No youth activities November 27, December 25 & January 1.

Regular activities such as small groups and dinner, breakfasts and pizza lunch continue. Check the weekly youth email, Monday enews and bulletin inserts for details.

Christmas Memorial & Honor Gifts



Honor family and friends this season with a contribution to Hot Dish & Hope or a poinsettia plant in our Sanctuary on December 18, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day. Memorial and honor

gifts will be acknowledged in a booklet at worship December 18 which will also be available online.

PCUSA has designated us a Hunger Action Congregation, and our varied hunger ministries nourish body and spirit as we share God's love.

Poinsettias donated as honor or memorial gifts will make our worship space warm and bright throughout the Advent season, beginning with the worship services and the Service of Lessons and Carols on December 18. Poinsettias are \$15 each and may be picked up after the 11 pm Candlelight and Communion service on Christmas Eve or after the 11 am worship service on Christmas Day.

Deadline is Monday, December 5.

Payment must accompany forms. Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and designate Hot Dish & Hope or Poinsettia. *Please make a separate check for each fund.* Do not include your pledge in the same check; funds must be accounted for separately.

Mail to:

First Presbyterian Church
Attn: Christmas Memorials
617 N. Elm St.
Greensboro, NC 27401.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Hot Dish & Hope Poinsettia

The acknowledgement of my gift to appear in the December 18 booklet should read: *(please print)*

Given by: _____

In Memory of: _____

Hot Dish & Hope Poinsettia

The acknowledgement of my gift to appear in the December 18 booklet should read: *(please print)*

Given by: _____

In Memory of: _____

HONOR GIFTS

Hot Dish & Hope Poinsettia

The acknowledgement of my gift to appear in the December 18 booklet should read: *(please print)*

Given by: _____

In Honor of: _____

Hot Dish & Hope Poinsettia

The acknowledgement of my gift to appear in the December 18 booklet should read: *(please print)*

Given by: _____

In Honor of: _____

COMING IN 2023

What will be **NEW** about **YOU?**

Determined to take better care of body and soul? If your temple of the Lord hit the sweets too much during the holidays, remember we have an exercise class for senior men & women Tuesday & Thursday mornings. And for your soul, join us for worship and find another interesting way to connect!

ADULT RETREATS



Prayer, presence and discernment. With Anne Galliher from White Memorial Presbyterian in Raleigh. 9 am-3 pm.

REGISTER at [FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP](https://fpcgreensboro.org/signup).

GOT KIDS? Child care available with an advance registration. Contact Lisa Witherspoon, LWITHERSPOON@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG, before January 18.



Members Alex Maultsby, an attorney, and Bill Osteen, a judge, will talk about *Faith and Law*. 8 -10 am, Life Center.



Artists

Interpret Scripture

ADULT SERIES: Rev. Jerry Beavers leads a new art and faith series, Sundays at 10 am: *January 22*, The Face of Jesus; *January 29*, Saint Matthew; *February 5*, The Transfiguration.

MILESTONES IN THE FAITH

for children will begin January 8 and run through February 26, Sundays at 10 am. *Preschool*, Bible Superheroes; *Kindergarten & First Grade*, Bible Basics; *Second Grade*, Communion Education; *Third Grade*, Worship Education; *Fourth Grade*, Bible Skills; *Fifth Grade*, Catechism. For information contact Lisa Witherspoon, LWITHERSPOON@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.

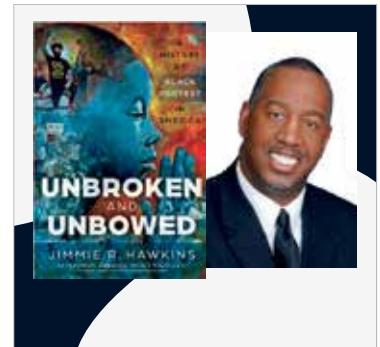
SOUPERBOWL OF CARING

Youth will be dishing up the soup on February 12 at 12:15 pm (following worship). Donations will be accepted and all proceeds will go toward FPC Youth Missions.



PCUSA LEADER AND AUTHOR VISIT

Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, Director of the PCUSA Office of Public Witness, and Presbyterian Mission to the U.N., will be here February 26 & 27 to talk about his new book *Unbroken and Unbowed: A History of Black Protest in America*.



ASH WEDNESDAY

February 22

DUPRÉ'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS

John Alexander on the Létourneau organs. Palm Sunday, April 2, at 5 pm.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

617 North Elm Street Greensboro, NC 27401 336-373-0445

Web, fpcgreensboro.org Facebook, [fpcgsnc](https://www.facebook.com/fpcgsnc) YouTube, [fpcgreensboro](https://www.youtube.com/fpcgreensboro) Instagram, [1stpresgso](https://www.instagram.com/1stpresgso)