

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 19, 2023

11:00 a.m.

BAPTISM SUNDAY
COMMITMENT SUNDAY

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Let us prepare our hearts and minds to worship God.

VOLUNTARY: Praeludium in EDietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)
John Alexander, organ

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Jill Duffield

CELEBRATING OUR MINISTRIES.....John Atkinson

* CALL TO WORSHIP Newton Cowan

Leader: The Spirit and the Church say, "Come."

All: **The people of the Word say, "Come."**

Leader: Praise the Lord.

All: **The Lord's name be praised!**

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN: No. 612 – We Praise You, O God..... KREMSER

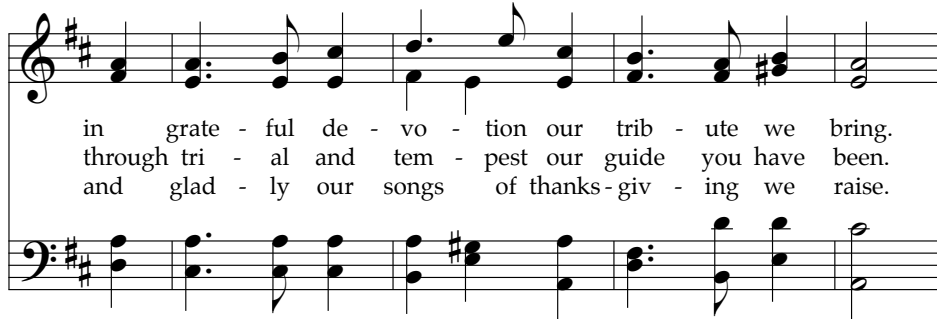


We Praise You, O God

612




1 We praise you, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
 2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers and moth - ers;
 3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer



in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
 through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been.
 and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;
 When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,
 With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.



we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.
 and with your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
 To you, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

The author wrote this text when only nineteen years old in response to a request from the organist of the Brick Presbyterian Church in New York City, who wanted another Thanksgiving text to sing to this Dutch tune. He regarded the usual text (see no. 336) as too full of conflict.

* CALL TO CONFESSION *and* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: Cleanse us from all offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.

A brief period of silence is observed for personal confession.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* THE PEACE

Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

* RESPONSE TO THE PEACE: May Our God Be Known..... Wendell Kimbrough

May our God be known for his grace; may the
earth re-joice in his bless - ing. May our God be known for his
love, and the smile that shines from His face. May Your
way be known on the earth so that all the na - tions will
sing and re - joice in know-ing the God of grace!

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

THE WORD READ: *Psalm 90:1-8, 12-17* Taylor Stroud

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

You turn us back to dust, and say, “Turn back, you mortals.”

For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.

You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed.

You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

Turn, O LORD! How long? Have compassion on your servants!

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us, and as many years as we have seen evil.

Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands— O prosper the work of our hands!

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.



SERVICE OF BAPTISM FOR JOHN COLEMAN GILBERT JR.

Jill Duffield and Newton Cowan

PRESENTATION

PROFESSION OF FAITH

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

THE BAPTISM

PRAYER OVER THE BAPTIZED

ANTHEM: Gather Your Children, Dear Savior, In Peace Carl Schalk (b. 1929)

Chancel Choir

Canticle Choir

Gather your children, dear Savior, in peace,
And draw us to you with your passionate pleas;
Still seek us and call us to come and be blessed,
To find in your arms, Lord, safety, comfort, and rest.

Knowing you, loving you, naming you Lord,
We cluster around you, and grow by your Word,
One day to remember these moments so rare,
Of caring and closeness, because you are there.

Love be our banner, forgiveness our theme,
Compassion our nature, your vision our dream;
Who knows what the Spirit of God can yet do,
What joy may be tasted, or what promise come true?

Host at our table in our house and yours,
Here bind us together with love that endures;
Like parents, like children, let this be our fame:
That, blest, we bless many, to the praise of your name.



THE WORD READ: *Matthew 25:14-30*

“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED: *Faith in Action*Jill Duffield

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* HYMN OF RESPONSE: All Glory Be to Christ..... Dustin Kensrue
Traditional Scottish Folk Tune

**Should nothing of our efforts stand
No legacy survive
Unless the Lord does raise the house
In vain its builders strive**

**To you who boast tomorrow's gain
Tell me what is your life
A mist that vanishes at dawn
All glory be to Christ!**

[Chorus]:

**All glory be to Christ our king!
All glory be to Christ!
His rule and reign will ever sing
All glory be to Christ!**

**His will be done
His kingdom come
On earth as is above
Who is Himself our daily bread**

**Praise Him the Lord of love
Let living water satisfy
The thirsty without price
We'll take a cup of kindness yet
All glory be to Christ!**

[Chorus]

**When on the day the great I Am
The faithful and the true
The Lamb who was for sinners slain
Is making all things new**

**Behold our God shall live with us
And be our steadfast light
And we shall ere his people be
All glory be to Christ!**

[Chorus]

* LITANY FOR COMMITMENT SUNDAY Matt Bussell

Leader: Gracious God, you have made a world for us and given us incomparable gifts: air and water, family and friends, your steadfast love and forgiveness, and your son Jesus the Christ. For all the gifts and wonders you have bestowed on us.

All: We thank you and worship you with renewed gratitude.

Leader: O God, you created us to love one another as Christ has loved us. We are concerned about all your children, those who live near us, and those who live far away. We are eager to participate in the work of the whole church and to further the ministry and service of this congregation.

All: We are called to be your stewards. We thoughtfully shoulder our personal share of responsibility, and we pledge to witness to the good news of Christ with our hearts and hands and voices

Leader: We are confident in your love and care for us.

All: We gladly give back to our Gracious God our whole lives, our time, our talents, and our financial resources.

Leader: O God, throughout the ages you have challenged your people to step out in faith and follow you. You have put purpose and direction in the lives of your people. We have before us a new direction and a new purpose. We have set our feet on the pathway. Be our guide. Whisper in our ears when we need to make decisions. Hold us up if we start to stumble. May your Holy Spirit lead us in joyful song and fill us with eager anticipation. You are our vision, O God; lead us on our journey.

All: Amen.



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

concluding with the Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

*We invite you to place your 2024 pledge card in the offering plate.
There are extra pledge cards available on the end of each pew
and at the entrances to the sanctuary.*

*You may also participate in the offering using the QR code on the back page
of this bulletin. Information for giving by other options, including
text, app, and regular mail, can be found there as well.*

OFFERTORY: Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me City Alight
*Rejoice! Ensemble
Chancel Choir*

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to His
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing, "All is mine"
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side, the Saviour He will stay
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need, His power is displayed

To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley He will lead
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven
 The future sure, the price it has been paid
 For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
 And He was raised to overthrow the grave

To this I hold, my sin has been defeated
 Jesus now and ever is my plea
 Oh the chains are released, I can sing, "I am free"
 Yet not I, but through Christ in me

With every breath I long to follow Jesus
 For He has said that He will bring me home
 And day by day I know He will renew me
 Until I stand with joy before the throne

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
 All the glory evermore to Him
 When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat
 Yet not I, but through Christ in me

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
 All the glory evermore to Him
 When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat
 Yet not I, but through Christ in me

When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat
 Yet not I, but through Christ in me
 Yet not I, but through Christ in me
 Yet not I, but through Christ in me

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: There Is Enough Kerri Meyer



There is e-nough, there is e-nough,



there is e-nough, E - nough and some to share!

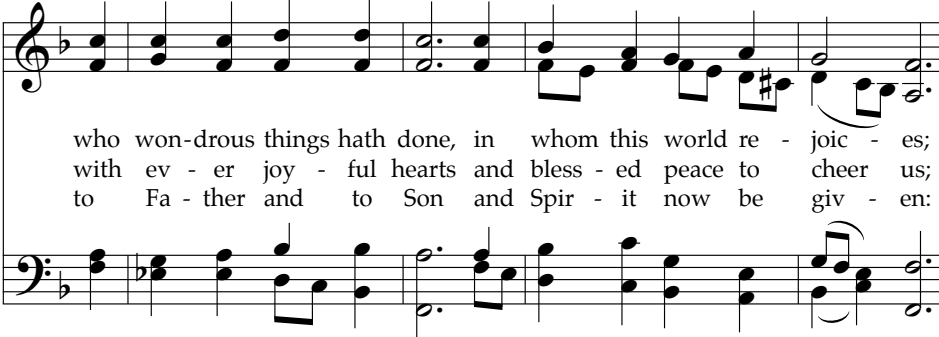
* PRAYER OF DEDICATION..... Matt Bussell

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTIONJill Duffield

643 Now Thank We All Our God



1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voice,
 2 O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,



who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
 with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
 to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:



who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
 and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed,
 the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,



with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

Although this hymn is often used on large and festive occasions, its first two stanzas had much humbler beginnings: they originated as a family table prayer during the Thirty Years' War (1618–1648). These words have been associated with this tune since the mid-17th century.

* RECESSIONAL HYMN: No. 643 – Now Thank We All Our God NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

VOLUNTARY: Final.....César Franck (1822-1890)

John Alexander, organ



TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Jill Duffield, *Senior Pastor*

Newton Cowan, *Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care*

Matt Bussell, *Associate Pastor for Outreach and Mission*

Lisa Witherspoon, *Director of Children's Ministry and Interim Youth Director*

Allison Morrisette, *Elder*

Taylor Stroud, *Lay Reader*

De'Nique Byron and Emerson Jones, *Acolytes*

John Alexander, *Director of Music and Principal Organist*

Robert Wells, *Director of Chancel Choir*

Will Edwards, *Director of Music for Rejoice!*

Chancel Choir

Canticle Choir

Rejoice! Ensemble

"We Praise You, O God" Text: Julia C. Cory; Music: *Neder-landtsch Gedenck-Clanck*.

"May Our God Be Known" Text and music: Wendell Kimbrough

"All Glory Be to Christ" Text: Dustin Kensrue; Music: Traditional Scottish folk tune

"There Is Enough" Text and music: Kerri Meyer

"Now Thank We All Our God" Text: Martin Rinkart; Music: Johann Crüger.

* Let us rise in body or spirit.

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Rooted and reaching in Christ's love, we will
serve God as Spirit-led changemakers for good.

Our vision is to be a caring, compassionate, and inclusive faith
community welcoming those who seek

an abundant relationship with Jesus Christ
meaningful worship
authentic connections
lifelong learning
transformative service

We are continually growing and evolving, even as we remain strongly
rooted in the Greensboro community and the Presbyterian tradition.

Come as you are and prepare to be transformed by God's love.

WE WELCOME YOU to the worship of God and to our community of faith.
We are a church of growing disciples believing that worship
is at the center of all we are and do as Christians.

We seek to be God's changemakers for good in the world.
FPC is a Matthew 25 church, and our creation care and hunger
ministries have been recognized by the Presbyterian Church USA.



TAKING ATTENDANCE: The QR code, left, directs you to an online form; just open your smartphone camera, hold it over the code, and follow the prompts.



If you do not have a smartphone, you can pick up a physical copy of an attendance card as you enter the Life Center or Sanctuary. If using the paper form, place it in the offering at the end of the service. On the back of the card is a prayer request form. Your submitted prayers will be prayed for by staff members and kept in strict confidence.

NURSERY CARE IS PROVIDED for infants through age 4 on the first floor of Mullin Life Center. Our Child Protection Policy helps ensure our care is safe, loving and appropriate.

WHAT TO DO – UNWELLNESS AND MEDICAL

EMERGENCIES: If during the service you or someone who is with you begins to feel unwell, or is having a medical emergency; or if you notice someone else having a medical event; please contact the closest usher, who can assist in the situation.

FALL AND FLU & COVID SEASON IS HERE! Let's take care of each other by staying home or masking and maintaining a safe distance if we have any symptoms. Many thanks!



PASTOR ON CALL: When church offices are closed and you have an emergency, call 336.908.8615. Leave a message with your phone number and the pastor on call will be in touch with you.

THE LITURGICAL COLOR GREEN seen through the parament on the lectern and the pastors' stoles signifies the season of "Ordinary Time." This season is a time of spiritual growth when the scriptures about Jesus' preaching, teaching and healings are read and proclaimed.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: The Sacrament of Baptism will be administered today during the 11 a.m. Sanctuary service to John Coleman Gilbert Jr., son of Coleman and Amy Gilbert.

ABOUT TODAY'S FLOWERS: The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of our wedding anniversary by John and Carole Simms.

USHERS AND ACOLYTES NEEDED: Contact Anne Albert, aalbert@fpcgreensboro.org or 336.478.4711.

WAYS TO GIVE: In addition to the in-person offering, you may also give by mail, web, app, or text. Scan the QR code (right) to give online. You can also go to fpcgreensboro.org/give/web-app-text to download the FellowshipOne Giving mobile app (Apple  or Android ) and for instructions for giving via text. You may also mail your gift to the church at 617 N. Elm St., Greensboro, NC 27401. Go to fpcgreensboro.org/give for more ways to give.



FOR MORE INFO ON CHURCH SCHOOL, UPCOMING SERVICES, AND OTHER EVENTS • Check out the "Coming Up" insert in your bulletin • Subscribe to our e-news and Sunday preview emails at fpcgreensboro.org/connect • Visit fpcgreensboro.org/events.

IN MEMORIAM

Thomas Richard Beard

October 2, 1932—September 21, 2023

“Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us. So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind, and the blessings of God who made us, who loves us and who travels with us, be with us now and forever.”

– *Christ School blessing*

Tom Beard was a devoted servant leader, an industrious businessman, a loving husband to Nancy for 65 years and a cherished father, grandfather and great-grandfather. His favorite hobby was people; he never met a stranger.

A Greensboro native, Tom was baptized at First Presbyterian Church in 1933 by Dr. Charles Myers. Over many years he faithfully served the church as a deacon and an elder. He took great pleasure lending his tenor voice to the choir for more than three decades. The Beard family donated the limestone floor in the chancel of the sanctuary, enhancing both beauty and sound.

Tom was a generous supporter of Christ School in Arden, N.C., where he attended high school and which he credits for developing his love of music and work ethic. He served many years on the school's Board of Trustees. He was a proud Davidson College graduate who served in the U.S. Army in France and was honorably discharged.

Returning home from the Army, he joined his father in the hardwood lumber business and created one of the most respected hardwood lumber wholesale companies in the world and a top U.S. exporter to Asia. He was a pioneer in introducing Tulip Poplar to the export market in the late 1970s.

Tom loved Greensboro and was committed to helping make it a better place for generations to come, giving back to his hometown in his service through community organizations including the Kiwanis Club and Presbyterian Homes, Inc.

Like many other people, Tom had difficulties, living with Crohn's Disease for more than 40 years, losing both parents 10 days apart and being predeceased by all three of his brothers, but through it all his faith sustained him.

In a letter to church confirmands in 1978, Tom wrote, in part: “Life is not meant to be easy ... With the help of Christianity and your friends, you will find your goals easier to fulfill with love, joy and success ... Make Christ the center of your life.”

That was wonderful advice for young people from one who practiced what he preached.

The Session gives thanks to God for Tom's life and offers its deepest condolences to his family and friends. It requests that a copy of this memorial be placed in its minutes and a copy sent to his family.

– *The Session of First Presbyterian Church*

COMING UP

A T F I R S T P R E S B Y T E R I A N

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 19, 2023 • FPCGREENSBORO.ORG

THIS MORNING

ADVENT & ALTERNATIVE GIVING FAIR,
9:30 am to 12:30 pm in the Life Center. Prepare for Advent by exploring gifts that give more!

- *Gift items* from our ministry partners, including Sister2Sister, Peacehaven Farm and Backpack Beginnings.
- *Hot Dish & Hope* and *StepUp* honor cards, \$5 each.
- *Sponsor a child's Christmas* with Faith Action International.
- FPC t-shirts (\$10), water bottles (\$5), puzzles (\$10) and Christmas ornaments (\$5).
- Advent reading: *Holy Disruption*, our churchwide Advent study (\$10); Jill Duffield's *Advent in Plain Sight* (\$10); and a devotional guide for the gospel of Mark (free).

AND LATER TODAY

- **HARVEST HOME CONCERT** presented by UNCG University Choirs, 5 pm.
- **MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP**, 5-6:30 pm in Mullin Life Center.
- **HIGH SCHOOL CONNECTIONS**, dinner & discussion, 6-7:30 pm in member home. Led by Rachel Fitch, RFITCH@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.



MEMORIAL & HONOR GIFTS will be acknowledged in a booklet available at December 17 worship services including Lessons & Carols. *Deadline: December 5. Look for forms around campus today.*



We think of faith as the evidence of things not seen, but our faith *can* be seen in the actions we take. From simple acts of outreach (like Neil's Meals) to fellowship (like Young Adult Simple Suppers) to community affirmation (like our Fisher Park work days), our actions shape our faith into tangible things. Our actions become evidence of the hope and trust of we have in Jesus Christ.

For the past few weeks, we've prayed and reflected on the actions we take as a body and as individuals, and how we can best steward our time, talent, and treasure. This morning, we come together as one worshipping community to dedicate our pledges, and to transform our faith into action for 2024.

You can also scan the QR code, right, to make your pledge online.



THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

WEDNESDAY

• FOOD DRIVE-BY:

Drop off cans for Urban Ministry 10 am-2 pm in front of Redhead Hall. Greeters needed – sign up at FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP.

THURSDAY & FRIDAY

• **CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED**



THE FIRST KIDS CONSIGNMENT SALE is returning in March! *Sign up now* to be a consignor or a volunteer. Go to FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/CONSIGNMENT for more info. The sale benefits the Weekday Preschool Center.

IN THE WEEKS AHEAD

NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

- **TWO WORSHIP SERVICES:** Rachel Fitch preaches, 9 am Rejoice! and 11 am Sanctuary.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

- **BISCUITS & BIBLE:** Food & fellowship and reading & discussing scripture together in the Welcome Center, 7:45-8:30 am. Newton Cowan leads. Info: Donna Chase, DCHASE@

FPCGREENSBORO.ORG

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

- **YOUNG ADULT & YOUNG FAMILY SIMPLE SUPPERS:** We'll fellowship around a simple meal and reflect on faith and life. 5:30-6:30 pm in the Garden Room and Welcome Center area. Let us know if you will be able to attend and if you will need childcare. Info: Rachel Fitch, RFITCH@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG.



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30

- **MIDWEEK INFORMAL SERVICE** with Hot Dish & Hope guests. Second & fourth Thursdays in Mullin Life Center. Music, 5-5:30 pm, followed by prayer and a message of care. *Also December 14.*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

- **COMMUNION SUNDAY & FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT:** 9 am and 11 am worship.
- **A LITTLE ADVENT MUSIC:** *Messiah* Sing-along with orchestra & soloists, 5-6 pm.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

- **FORK & FAITH** monthly women's fellowship, noon in the Life Center, \$10. Menu: chicken casserole. RSVP: Dolly Jennings, DJ6871202@GMAIL.COM or 336-854-2663, by Friday, December 1.
- **DO IT FOR DOLLY AT FOOD DRIVE-BY:** 10 am-2 pm in front of Redhead Hall. Plan to drop off extra canned & non-perishable food donations for Urban Ministry, in loving memory of our friend and Associate Pastor Dolly Jacobs.



The Tour de Pres has ended and six entrants were chosen at random to win a pizza dinner with the pastors! Congrats to **Laura Allred, Betsy Farmer, Susan Giraldo, Brenda Keys, Carol Stevens and John Sullivan!** *Pictured above; Patty Edmonds, organizer, and Rev. Newton Cowan with the winning booklets.*

SIGN UP NOW FOR SUMMER TRIPS

*Scan the QR codes for costs,
registration and more info*



**High School Mission
Trip – June 17-23 –
RHINO (New Orleans)**

**Montreat Youth
Conference for High
School – July 21-27**



**Passport Kids Camp
@ Brevard College –
June 18-21**

**Montreat MIDDLE
SCHOOL Conference
at Maryville College –
July 17-20**

