

In Touch

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ROANOKE RAPIDS NC

First Presbyterian Church seeks to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ by expressing our love for Him and our neighbors through worship, discipleship, stewardship, fellowship, congregational care, and mission.



Sharing Our Gifts

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A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I have some news that I think you will appreciate. First, I want to tell you that the repair work on the Loy Building has finally started. Having worked in construction, I can tell you that the tradesmen involved are doing very good work. I don't have any idea as to when it will all be completed, but I suspect that the interior will be done sooner than the exterior brick work.

"How is this being paid for?" you may ask. Well, we first made a claim on the insurance of the person who was responsible for the damage (I will talk about that person later). Unfortunately, that insurance company and the contractor we were planning on using couldn't come to an agreement on the cost of the repairs. So we then made a claim with our own insurance. The insurance adjuster contacted our contractor (whose name is Bennie Garner) and they soon came to a mutually agreeable cost to effect the repairs. We were not charged a deductible for making a claim and received the claim check a few weeks ago. Our insurance will approach the insurance company of the vehicle owner to get compensated for the claim payment. If you want to know more details I will be glad to share them in a phone call or after worship one Sunday.

The person responsible for the accident is a friend of the church. Her name is Nancy Floyd. She lives across Roanoke Avenue from the church. The accident was a result of her getting out of her car in her driveway and not getting the transmission all the way into "Park." The vehicle (a Suburban) rolled down her driveway across Roanoke Avenue at about 5:15 pm, jumped the curb, avoided a tree and struck the Loy Building about three feet to the left of the doorway. I don't think there has been a time when I called her about where things were with the claim that she hasn't apologized over and over again for what happened. I think the best thing we can do for Nancy is reach out to her and assure her that none of us bear any bad will towards her.

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Another bit of news is that I have just completed my first semester on my Master's degree at UNC-Greensboro. I only took one class, which was Intermediate Statistics. In the spring I intend to take the next level of that course, which is geared towards designing experiments in the field of education. I am hopeful that sometime in the future, maybe the fall of next year, I will be able to take 2 or 3 classes. I love school but I also have some plans to use this degree too!

I also want to tell you that it is quite possible that we will be putting new roofs on at least two of our buildings. It is too early to tell you all the details because they are not quite firm, but I can tell you that we will be getting some help from an insurance claim we made. The claim involves some wind damage we have sustained.

The best news that I have is that we are now in Advent! It is that special time of the year that we plan for the coming of Christ, not as a baby (He has already done that), but as our king who will come to claim this world for his kingdom. This calls for us to prepare and wait. Preparing means thinking that he will arrive soon. Waiting means staying vigilant for his arrival even when he doesn't come when we expect. What should we do to prepare? Come to worship the next four Sundays and I'll bet you'll come away with some ideas.

In the meantime, I wish you every happiness this Advent and Christmas season. It will be a special time for me because I get to share it with you!

God bless,

Joe



HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY

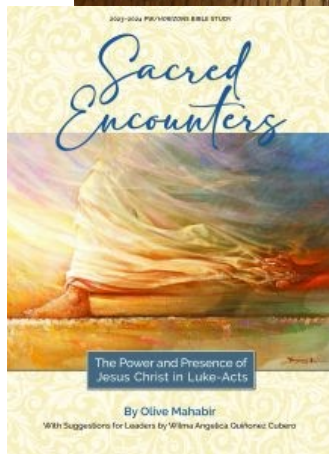
Chris Brewer—1

Tom Wingfield—16

Pet Spears—20

Marie Anderson—30

Taylor Clifton Wheat—31



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Will meet on Tuesday, December 5th, in the Loy Building. Join us! Morning Circle meets at 9:30 am and Afternoon Circle meets at 1:30 pm. There will be a discussion of Lesson #4.

**Prayers for Healing of Friends &
Families of the Church**

Priscilla Ricks
Glenn & Gayle Garner, @ Meals on Wheels
Sandy Sandoval
G.C. Warren
B.T. Brown
Nancy Elias
Grace Fishel
Sheryl O'Neil
Rev. Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Debbie Allen

Bill Graham

Doug Hayes

Linda Ray

Ellie Parker

Doug Thompson

Tony Martin, Jr.

Roger Fuester

Lee Cranford

Frank Lonesky

Bev Hummel

Kenny Phipps, Jr.

Matt Savage

Michael Shelby

Kim Owens (Noreen's sister)

Betty Keyes

Carolyn Crawford

Carol Crawford

James Spragins

Orlanda Ocampo

Bill and Jeanie White

Ken and Carol Whetzel

Matt Savage

Stephanie Rivers

WORLD CONCERNS

Victims of the war in Ukraine/Israel/Palestine

The Homeless

Victims of senseless gun violence

Those effected by fires in Maui

*Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Mark
Sundbom who was killed in a car accident on November 28th.*

**If you have someone that needs to be on the prayer list or
someone that needs to come off, please contact Susan Gaylor
at sdgaylor@outlook.com or call 678-4228.**

JOIN US FOR LUNCH BUNCH!!!

Join us each month at 12:30 pm (on a Wednesday) at a different restaurant in town to dine and have fellowship together. Everyone is welcome to join us for this “Dutch” affair.

We will meet at CARINI’S on Wednesday, December 13, 12:30 pm.



MOVIE NIGHTS ARE HERE!



Join us for Movie Night on Friday, December 8 at 7:00 pm in the Loy Building with popcorn and drinks provided!

The movie this month is:

White Christmas



FLOWERS

Flowers arrangements are needed for the Sanctuary on Sundays. These are the dates available for anyone interested:

**January 7, 21, 28 and
February 4, 11, 18, 25**

**Please contact Mary Small at
movingmom@charter.net or
541-1265.**



Please include your name, date of placing flowers and your phone number. Thanks! If you would like them in honor or memory of someone, please let Tammy know at firstpresbyterianchurchrr@gmail.com or 537-4018 by the Tuesday before your Sunday.



We're searching for a picture of David McDonald during the time he was the minister at First Presbyterian Church. The picture can be of him alone or with others (we can crop them out). If anyone has one we can have or have a copy made, please bring it by the office.



WITNESS COMMITTEE NEWS

Hello to all. It has been my privilege to have served as the moderator of our witness committee for the past three years. I must admit that there have been times when this work has been a chore for me since Jim died last year. Hopefully, I have lived up to your expectations. We have a wonderful group of Christians who serve on this committee, and I thank them all for their faith, wisdom, and discernment especially during this past year. Thanks also to you, our congregation, for your consistent support for everything we do as a committee. Peace of Christ to you all.

Our Christmas Shoeboxes for John3:16 are due Sunday, December 3rd. Please place them under or near the Communion table. If you need someone to pick yours up, you can call me at 252-308-3117 and I'll be glad to come and get your contribution.

The Christmas Joy offering will be collected on December 17. These funds will be used to financially assist church leaders and to support leadership development for communities of color.

A member of our committee has provided Advent devotional booklets for each of us. They are available in the Narthex, the Avenue entrance or in the Administration Building. This year the devotions are relating present times, and our lives with carols, some ancient, some familiar and some not so familiar. I'm looking forward to reading and learning more about the work of Frontier Fellowship during this Advent season.

Also available in the same locations are the Presbyterian Giving Catalogs, which provide gift ideas in any price range to honor friends and family members with the gift of support for our neighbors throughout the world who are less fortunate than those of us from developed countries. We are so blessed with more than we need. These little catalogs provide us a chance to help make a difference in the lives of those who are in need.

Again, thank you for your support.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone.

Bev Hummel reporting

JOIN US FOR

Longfellow's
Christmas
Christmas Pageant



Sunday, December 17
11:00 am Worship Service

**EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN US FOR A
CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION RECEPTION
IN THE LOY BUILDING
FOLLOWING THE SERVICE**

DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Coffee Fellowship
11:00 am Worship
2:00-4:00 pm Sandoval Open House

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

9:30 am PW Morning Circle
12:30 pm Prayer Meeting
1:30 pm PW Afternoon Circle

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

7:00 pm Choir

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

7:00 pm Movie Night

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Coffee Fellowship
11:00 am Worship

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

12:30 pm Lunch Bunch @ Carini's
3:30 pm Witness Committee
7:00 pm Choir

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

12:00 Noon Finance & Personnel Committee

DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Coffee

11:00 am Christmas Program—Joy Offering

12:00 pm Christmas Celebration Reception

6:00 pm Session

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

6:00 pm PW Christmas Dinner

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

7:00 pm Choir

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Coffee

11:00 Worship

5:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25



**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
DECEMBER 25 THROUGH JANUARY 1**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

7:00 pm Choir

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Coffee

11:00 am Worship



*The Sandoval's
invite you to join us
for a
Christmas Open House
December 3
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm,
11 Longstreet Road in
Weldon*





**ATTENTION:
LADIES**

*All women are invited to
join us for the annual
Presbyterian Women's
Christmas Dinner on
Tuesday, December 19 @
6:00 pm in the Loy Bldg.
The cost is \$20 per person
and you must register by
December 13 with Tammy.
We will receive an offering
for the Children's Hope
Alliance. Join us for fun,
fellowship and food.*

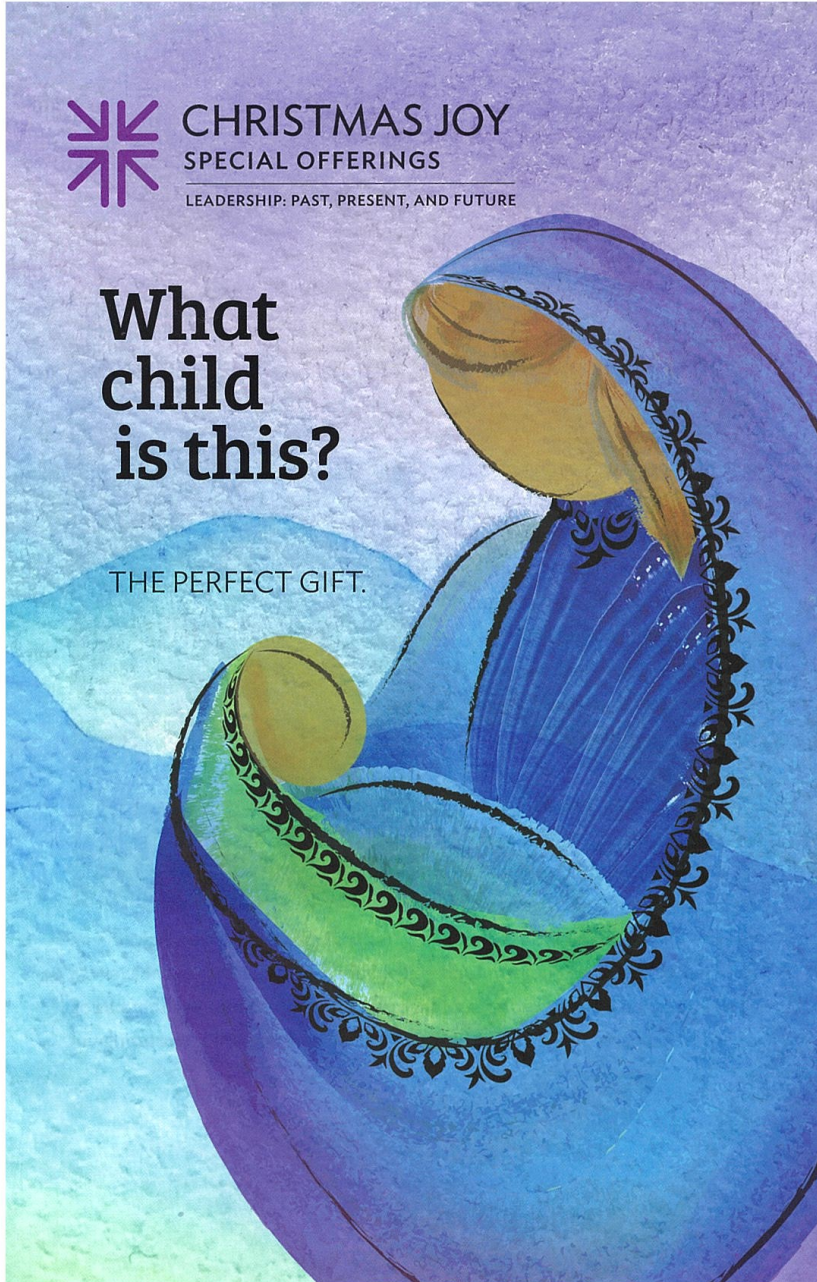


CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

What
child
is this?

THE PERFECT GIFT.





Minute for Mission What Child Is This? Why is the Christmas carol “What Child Is This” so meaningful to us? Yes, it links a beautiful tune with inspiring words. But it is more than that. It is in the vision behind and beyond the tune and text where we find the deeper truths. When we sing “What Child Is This,” we sing of a flesh-and-blood human, born under the most vulnerable of conditions. We sing of Emmanuel, “God with us.” When we sing “What Child Is This,” we are reminded of infants born in our own life stories, our congregational communities and beyond, down the street and around the world. The words “so bring him incense, gold and myrrh” remind us not only of the gifts the Magi offered to the baby Jesus — the perfect gift — but also how we can support those whom God loves with our own gifts. With the words “the babe, the Son of Mary,” we sing of all those who are vulnerable and in need, which includes those who receive support from the Christmas Joy Offering. Emergency and health assistance and educational opportunities are real, human needs — needs that we can help meet. The Christmas Joy Offering supports retired ministers and church workers and their families through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions as they face medical and emergency costs. The Offering also supports students in Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color, as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts in service to the church and world. Thank you for your generous gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering, and your ongoing prayers for all those it supports. Your gifts make a difference, and bring praise to the babe, the son of Mary.

Let us pray~ Loving God, we thank you for the good news of Christmas, and Jesus, the perfect gift. As we hasten to “bring him laud” with loving hearts, bless our gifts and bless our giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, that needs may be met, and that all may know your love.

Amen.

**We will receive the Christmas Joy Offering on
Sunday, December 17th. Make checks payable to First
Presbyterian Church with *Joy Offering* on the memo line.**

**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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DECEMBER 2023

IN TOUCH

