

# First Presbyterian Church

Whiteville,  
North Carolina

“To be a light in our  
community reflecting  
Christ’s love and  
compassion...”

*Fourth Sunday of  
Advent*  
December 23, 2018



Rev. Dr. Joseph D.  
Washburn

## *Gathering Around the Word*

Prelude

*The Humphreys*

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Behold! God is good and has set a star in the heavens to guide us to the truth.

**We follow it with joy, knowing that God will give us strength to climb the hills, and sight to conquer the darkness.**

Behold! God is good, and has promised us a Savior to lead us to righteousness.

**We await the Savior’s coming with gladness and with expectation that in the holy birth our lives may be renewed.**

\*Hymn of Praise

97

“Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”

Lighting of the Advent Candles

*The Burney Family*

\*Congregational Response

O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

\*Call to Confession

\*Prayer of Confession

**As followers of Christ, we are always on a journey. On our pilgrimage there is no time when we can afford to stop growing in love, in strength, and in knowledge of God. So, it is that when we gather to worship, we must confess those places in which we need to grow. In preparation for the coming of the Christ, let us confess our need for growth, in silence before God:  
(*Silent prayer of confession*).**

\*Song of Assurance

92

“While We Are Waiting, Come”

\*Words of Assurance

Hear the good news of Jesus Christ.

**When we face ourselves and God with the awareness of our need, we are given grace to grow, and courage to continue the journey. Amen.**

\*Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

35

**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.**

\*Passing of the Peace

### *Proclaiming the Word*

Time with the Children

Choral Anthem

"Hark, the Glad Sound!"

*Purifoy*

Prayer for Understanding

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

This is the Word of the Lord;

**Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Joseph D. Washburn

"Faces at the Manger...the Magi"

### *Responding to the Word*

Call for the Offering

Giving Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

"We Three Kings"

151

\*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him, above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving

\*Hymn of Commitment

"People, Look East"

105

\*Charge and Benediction

\* Benediction Response

"Christmas Isn't Christmas"

*Choir and Congregation*

Christmas isn't Christmas 'til it happens in your heart,  
Somewhere deep inside you is where Christmas really starts;  
So, give your heart to Jesus, you'll discover when you do  
That it's Christmas, really Christmas for you.

Music in Preparation for Service to the World

*\*Please stand if you are able.*

Next Week:

Rev. Jeremy Simmons preaching



***A Message from  
The Session:***

If you would like to give a gift to our staff members, Pastor Joe, Doug Spivey, or Karen Ware, you may give a gift directly or write a check to "First Presbyterian Church" with "staff gifts" in the memo; all monies collected by **December 24<sup>th</sup>** will be split evenly between them.

*Thank you!*

***Reminder:  
2018 Pledges***



***Must be finalized by  
December 31, 2018***

All money given after this date will be applied towards 2019 totals.

Please contact the church office at 642-2253 if you have any questions or concerns.

**Church Office Closed**

- Tuesday, December 25
- Wednesday, December 26
- Tuesday, January 1, 2019

*Have a safe and Merry Christmas  
And a Happy New Year!*

**WELCOME!** We welcome you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! May today's worship open you to God. *Your entire family is welcome*, but we do offer a nursery for children birth to 3 years of age located in the education building behind the sanctuary.

**Prayer Concerns:** Geraldine Becker; Kathryn Clark; John Hall; Dolores Harris; Bob High; Rita & R. L. Lewis; Miriam Marks; Grace Palmer; Sally Smith; Walter Strickland; Nancy Thurston.

**Assisted Care:** Arlene Blaha; Anna Jane Collier; Charlene Hinnant; Kenneth Smith; Ellen Thurston.

**Friends:** Pat Allen; Sara and Rob Armstrong; Annette Caldwell; Billie Joe Conrad; Shari Dutton; Betty Faircloth; Rick Hedgecock; Shelby Hodge; Barry Housend; Fred Meekins, Sr.; Daphne McLeod; Jerome McPherson; Gail Moye; Angie Pinkston; **Dottie Robinson**; Hollis Salyer; Barbara Shepherd; Ken Smith; Tori Tarro; Ronnie Thayer; Gail Townsend; Melba Ward.

**Please notify the office when names can be removed.**

- *Sympathy is extended to Miriam Marks and her family upon the death of her brother, Arthur Sweum, who died Sunday, December 16, 2018.*

Nursery Team:	December 23: Kaye Pope	December 30: Sarah and Coke Gray
Sound Team:	December 23: Jonathan Medford	December 30: Fuller Royal
Backpack Ministry:	December 23: MVE Committee	December 30: Young Adult Sunday School
Head Usher:	December: Sara Cartrette	January: Coke Gray III

#### CHURCH CALENDAR:

Monday, December 24:

**Christmas Eve Service, Sanctuary - 5:00 pm**

Al-Anon, Reformed Rebels Classroom - 7:00 pm

Alcoholics Anonymous, Community Room - 8:00 pm

Tuesday, December 25:

**Merry Christmas!** - Office Closed

Wednesday, December 26:

**Office Closed**

Alcoholics Anonymous, Community Room - 8:00 pm

Thursday, December 27:

Alcoholics Anonymous, Community Room - 8:00 pm

Sunday, December 30:

**Centsability Offering**

Guest Minister Jeremy Simmons

Contact the church office: 910-642-2253

OFFICE HOURS: 8:30 am - 1:30 pm, M-F

Pastor Joe: [pastorjoe@fpcwhiteville.org](mailto:pastorjoe@fpcwhiteville.org)

Karen: [karen@fpcwhiteville.org](mailto:karen@fpcwhiteville.org)

Cell: 910-625-8023

Website: [www.fpcwhiteville.org](http://www.fpcwhiteville.org)

Live-Stream of Service: [www.facebook.com/fpcwhiteville](http://www.facebook.com/fpcwhiteville) or Channel 1304 (Spectrum)

Check us out on Twitter @FPCWhiteville or Facebook @fpcwhiteville



Have you checked the Lost and Found lately?

Check today!

(In the hall just outside of the church office)

**ALL UNCLAIMED ITEMS WILL BE DONATED AT THE END OF THE YEAR!**