



First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro  
January 19, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.  
**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

*We invite you to light a candle as you enter the worship space  
to prepare your heart and mind for worship.*

Gathering Music: Hymn No. 317 – *In Christ There Is No East or West*

**In Christ there is no east or west,  
in him no south or north,  
but one great fellowship of love  
throughout the whole wide earth.**

**In Christ shall true hearts everywhere  
their high communion find;  
his service is the golden cord  
close-binding humankind.**

**Join hands, disciples of the faith,  
whate'er your race may be.  
All children of the living God  
are surely kin to me.**

**In Christ now meet both east and west;  
in him meet south and north.  
All Christly souls are one in him  
throughout the whole wide earth.**

Welcome & Announcements

Jill Duffield

\* Call to Worship

Newton Cowan

Leader: Siblings in Christ, rejoice!  
We live sustained by God's presence and love.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Leader: As we mourn the wounds of God's children,

**All: God weeps with us.**

Leader: As we give thanks for siblings who have lived in faith,

**All: God gives thanks with us.**

Leader: As we struggle for justice,

**All: God struggles with us.**

Call to Worship *continues, over*

Leader: As we strive for peace,

**All: God strives with us.**

Leader: As we work to build the beloved community,

**All: God works with us.**

Leader: As we offer our gifts to all,

**All: God blesses us.**

Leader: Siblings in Christ, rejoice!

**All: Sustained by God's presence and love we worship God.**

\* Song of Praise: Hymn No. 754 – *Help Us Accept Each Other*

**Help us accept each other  
as Christ accepted us;  
teach us as sister, brother,  
each person to embrace.  
Be present, Lord, among us  
and bring us to believe  
we are ourselves accepted,  
and meant to love and live.**

**Teach us, O Lord, your lessons,  
as in our daily life  
we struggle to be human  
and search for hope and faith.  
Teach us to care for people,  
for all, not just for some,  
to love them as we find them,  
or as they may become.**

**Let your acceptance change us,  
so that we may be moved  
in living situations  
to do the truth in love;  
to practice your acceptance  
until we know by heart  
the table of forgiveness,  
and laughter's healing art.**

**Lord, for today's encounters  
with all who are in need,  
who hunger for acceptance,  
for justice and for bread,  
we need new eyes for seeing,  
new hands for holding on:  
renew us with your Spirit;  
Lord, free us; make us one!**

## THE CONFESSION OF SIN

\* Call to Confession *and* Prayer of Confession

Newton Cowan

**God of Grace, we have harmed your children whom you love. Because we do not understand them, we segregate them, we reject them, we demonize them, and we hurt them. Forgive us, in your infinite love, and teach us to welcome all of your children until our hospitality is as wide as your mercy. Help us to understand others as we wish to be understood. Guide us to love one another as you love us. 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: Hymn No. 582 – *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

## THE WORD OF GOD

The Word Read: *Leviticus 19:33-34*

Jane Andrews Brantley

“When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the native-born among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

A Moment for Children of All Ages

Phaedra Smith

The Word Read: *Galatians 3:26-28*

... for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

The Word Proclaimed: *One in Christ*

Matt Bussell

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Affirmation of Faith

Jill Duffield

**We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another; that unity is both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity, and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted.**

**We believe that the church must stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amen.**

*– The Confession of Belhar*

Prayers of the People

*followed by 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

*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: Hymn No. 761 – *Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

**Called as partners in Christ's service,  
called to ministries of grace,  
we respond with deep commitment  
fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
May we learn the art of sharing,  
side by side and friend with friend,  
equal partners in our caring  
to fulfill God's chosen end.**

**Christ's example, Christ's inspiring,  
Christ's clear call to work and worth,  
let us follow, never faltering,  
reconciling folk on earth.  
Men and women, richer, poorer,  
all God's people, young and old,  
blending human skills together  
gracious gifts from God unfold.**

**Thus new patterns for Christ's mission,  
in a small or global sense,  
help us bear each other's burdens,  
breaking down each wall or fence.  
Words of comfort, words of vision,  
words of challenge, said with care,  
bring new power and strength for action,  
make us colleagues, free and fair.**

**So God grant us for tomorrow  
ways to order human life  
that surround each person's sorrow  
with a calm that conquers strife.  
Make us partners in our living,  
our compassion to increase,  
messengers of faith, thus giving  
hope and confidence and peace.**

Song of Response: *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Sing praises, Alleluia.  
Praise God Creator, God the Son,  
Praise God the Spirit three in one.  
Sing praises, sing praises,  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

\* Prayer of Dedication

Jill Duffield

\* Song of Sending: Hymn No. 339 – *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

**Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,  
ring with the harmonies of liberty.  
Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies;  
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
let us march on, till victory is won.**

**Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,  
felt in the days when hope unborn had died.  
Yet, with a steady beat, have not our weary feet  
come to the place for which our parents sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;  
we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,  
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last  
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.**

**God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,  
keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;  
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;  
shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand,  
true to our God, true to our native land.**

\* Benediction

Matt Bussell



"In Christ There Is No East or West" Text: John Oxenham; Music: Alexander Robert Reinagle.  
"Help Us Accept Each Other" Text: Fred Kaan; Music: Doreen Potter.  
"Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me" Text: Trad. liturgical text; Music: Paul M. Vasile.  
"Called as Partners in Christ's Service" Text: Jane Parker Huber; Music: John Zundel.  
"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" Text: Thomas Ken; Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*.  
"Lift Every Voice and Sing" Text: James Wheldon Johnson; Music: J. Rosamond Johnson.

*\* Let us rise in body or spirit*

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# Today's Worship Leaders

Jill Duffield, Senior Pastor

Newton Cowan, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

Matt Bussell, Associate Pastor for Outreach and Mission

Phaedra Smith, Associate Director of Children & Youth Ministry

Jane Andrews Brantley, Lay Reader

Will Edwards, Director of Music for Rejoice! | Rejoice! Ensemble

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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.

**USHERS AND ACOLYTES NEEDED:** Contact Anne Albert, [aalbert@fpcgreensboro.org](mailto:aalbert@fpcgreensboro.org) or 336.478.4711.

**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](http://fpcgreensboro.org/connect) • Visit [fpcgreensboro.org/events](http://fpcgreensboro.org/events).

**ABOUT THIS MORNING'S ROSEBUDS** – The rosebuds in Rejoice! and in the sanctuary celebrate the birth of Webb Fletcher Holderness. Born December 20, 2024, Webb is the son of Murphy & Ally Holderness and joins sibling Grier. The family resides at 2 Lake Forest Ct., Greensboro, NC 27408.

**PARKING MINISTRY:** This ministry helps members with mobility issues get from their cars to the sanctuary for the 11 am service on Sundays. Two volunteers work on Greene Street 10:30-11:15 am. Passengers may be dropped off at the Greene Street door and will be escorted into the sanctuary. Drivers will be directed to a reserved space as needed. One volunteer is needed after the service until 12:15 pm. *Want to help?* Choose a Sunday at [fpcgreensboro.org/signup](http://fpcgreensboro.org/signup).

**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](http://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](http://fpcgreensboro.org/give) for more ways to give.



**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.

## IN MEMORIAM

Ann Pender Snyder

Having once been mistaken for the queen while touring Buckingham Palace, Ann Snyder might have had an uncanny resemblance in style and demeanor. But Ann was very much a product of the North Carolina roots and Southern culture she valued and served. Family, friends, this church, and the wider community lost a valued soul when Ann died peacefully, Thursday, October 31, 2024.

Ann Pender Snyder was born in Wilson, North Carolina, April 28, 1930. She graduated from Fayetteville Senior High School and Women's College (UNCG) in Greensboro, and after graduation married William David Snyder, Jr., in 1953. Together they made a warm and welcoming home in Greensboro and raised two girls, Pamela and Frances.

Homemaking and a period of working in the law offices of Major L. P. McLendon did not preclude Ann from community volunteerism in a variety of areas. Ann was deeply involved in Preservation Greensboro and Blandwood Museum, served on the boards of Preservation North Carolina and the North Carolina Museum of History, and was a dedicated volunteer at the Greensboro History Museum.

Politics was another interest. She was an important contributor to the campaign efforts of John F. Kennedy and subsequently was invited by Governor Hodges of North Carolina to meet Kennedy prior to his election. It was an extraordinary moment for Ann, making a lifelong cherished memory and one she thoroughly enjoyed sharing throughout her life.

She volunteered in the Intensive Care Unit at Cone Hospital for thirty years. She was active at West Market Street United Methodist Church and later at First Presbyterian, where she shared her leadership skills as an elder. She was a founding member of the Greensboro Opera Company and was social chairman of the Sedgefield Hunt. She was a member of the Wall Street Wizards investment club. Her love of reading, history, and the rich culture of the area led Ann to serve as member, then president and head trustee of the Historical Book Club of North Carolina.

Those who love Christmas gravitate to Christmas at Blandwood, and Ann was no exception. She loved creating Christmas stockings, playing tennis, traveling with her husband Bill, spending summers at Long Beach, cooking, knitting, seeing friends. She enjoyed enormously time spent with her grandchildren. Ann had a quick intelligence, a warm smile and a joyful greeting for all with whom she came in contact. Ann was much loved by all she met.

Ann's husband William Snyder predeceased her in 2015; she is survived by daughters Pamela Snyder Sessoms and husband Keith Valaer Sessoms; Frances Snyder Jones and husband Roland Manning Jones Jr.; and grandchildren Keith Valaer Sessoms Jr., Richard Carlton Parrish, Ann Pender Sessoms, Kyle Marie Novak and Roland Manning Jones, as well as many nieces and nephews. To them, Ann leaves a legacy of warmth, family values, and fond memories.

The Session of First Presbyterian Church offers expression of appreciation for the life well lived of Ann Pender Snyder. It offers deep condolences to her family and asks that this tribute be placed in its minutes.

*– The Session of First Presbyterian Church*





# COMING UP

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

WEEK OF JANUARY 19-25 | See our full calendar at [FPCGREENSBORO.ORG](http://FPCGREENSBORO.ORG)

TODAY

IS THE LAST DAY members will have priority to register for the Weekday Preschool Center for the 2025-2026 school year. WPC serves infants (2 months) through age 5, operating 9 am to 1 pm Monday through Friday, with early care at 8 and after care until 2. More info: Lana Burske, director, [LBURSKE@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG](mailto:LBURSKE@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG) or 336-478-4770. Look for registration forms at [FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP](http://FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP).

## THIS WEEK

**MONDAY, JANUARY 20:**  
CAMPUS CLOSED FOR MLK HOLIDAY

Many groups and classes were canceled due to weather concerns last week: Check with your group leaders for make-up dates and other questions.

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 21

- DISCIPLESHIP STUDY OF *THE GOSPEL OF JOHN*, noon-1 pm in the Garden Room. Tuesdays until March 25. Contact Yolanda Baxter, [YBAXTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG](mailto:YBAXTER@FPCGREENSBORO.ORG).

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22

- COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUP: 10 am-noon, Garden Room. Make receiving blankets, baby hats, small quilts, etc. distributed through social workers and missionaries.
- FOOD DRIVE-BY, 11 am-1 pm in front of Redhead Hall. Bring canned goods for Greensboro Urban Ministry! Sign up for a volunteer greeter shift at [FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP](http://FPCGREENSBORO.ORG/SIGNUP).

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 23

- YOGA, 4:25-5:30 pm, Virginia Gilmer Room. For all levels, bring water, mat, strap & a block if you have one. Led by Virginia Wood, [REVVIRGINIAWOOD@GMAIL.COM](mailto:REVVIRGINIAWOOD@GMAIL.COM).



### SATURDAY, JANUARY 25

- WOMEN'S RETREAT 2025 at Grandover Resort, for pre-registered attendees. Keep them in prayer as they refresh and reflect on *Ruth*, *Naomi* and *Us*.

## NEXT SUNDAY IN CHURCH SCHOOL, 10 AM

- *Thrivers: The Surprising Reasons Why Some Kids Struggle and Others Shine.* Faithful Families class, Memorial 304. Through February. Copies available for purchase (\$10), Welcome Center.
- *The Disciples of Jesus.* Sandie Gravett series in YMBC & Agape classes,

- Redhead Hall. This study explores what we know about the named disciples, and what their lives say about being dedicated to the work of Christ.
- Barbara Brown Taylor's book *Always a Guest* in the Commitment Class, Blair Hagan Room.
  - *Gospel of John* in the

- Seekers class, Main 125.
- Youth will meet for *3D - Doughnuts, Dialogue and Devotions*. Memorial 303.
  - *Confirmation*: Youth in Memorial 300,
  - *Milestones of Faith*: continue for preschool-elementary age children, Corl Building.

## BACKPACK BEGINNINGS WORKDAY

### JANUARY 26, TWO SESSIONS:

- 10 am-noon for parents with children (*GCS teacher workday*). This group will sort food & assemble food bags for children and families experiencing food insecurity. Children 5+ can participate (*under 16 with an adult*).
- 1:30-3:30 pm for adults only. This group will likely sort donations, hang clothes & assemble comfort backpacks.

*If you can't come, please donate these items, leave in the Welcome Center:* New boys underwear in sizes 6, 8, and 10; canned fruit in pop-top cans; and breakfast items such as full-sized oatmeal and cereal boxes, oatmeal packets, and granola bars.

### SIGN UP HERE



### SIGN UP NOW FOR LENTEN RETREAT SATURDAY, MARCH 8

REGISTRATION IS OPEN for our Lenten Retreat, *Meeting God in the Longings of our Hearts*, being held Saturday, March 8, 9 am-3 pm at the church. Join author Jeff Crosby and Rev. Grier Booker to deepen our understanding of ourselves and cultivate a more profound connection with our spirituality. Worship leaders will be Jill Duffield, Anne Albert & Will Edwards. Donna Chase and the Adult Formation Committee will guide activities. Registration including catered lunch is \$50. Books can be purchased at the Welcome Center reception desk. *RSVP by Monday, March 3.*



## MEALS ON WHEELS TEAM

**HAS OPENINGS:** *FPC delivers a hot meal to those in need on the third Wednesday of each month and the fifth Monday of each quarter. We need 1-2 people for a third Wednesday route and 3-4 volunteers to substitute when a regular driver is unavailable. Routes only require about 1.5-2 hours of your time. Contact Linda Allen, LKWALLEN70@GMAIL.COM or 336-549-3367.*

## REGISTER NOW

### SUMMER CAMPS FOR ELEMENTARY & YOUTH –

*Signup deadline is January 31.*

#### PASSPORT KIDS CAMP

for completed grades 3-6, takes place July 7-10.



MASSANETTA SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFERENCE, takes place July 15-18.



HIGH SCHOOL MONTREAT YOUTH CONFERENCE, takes place July 20-26. *Trying to get more housing & chaperones!*



## FEBRUARY 2

- **KIDS DISCIPLE CLUB** for grades 3-5, 3-4:30 pm, Life Center
- Our next **SUNDAY FUNDAY** for youth. *More info to come!*

# California Wildfires



*God will cover you  
with their feathers,  
and under their wings  
you will find refuge;  
God's faithfulness will be  
your shield and rampart.*

Psalm 91:4

CAL FIRE

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) urges your support in response to the devastating fires in California, which authorities are calling a historic and deadly wildfire event. PDA has already released emergency grants to meet the urgent needs of the communities and to provide immediate care. The magnitude of this event will require the development of long-term projects and assistance, both for the physical and emotional long-lasting effects.

**Years of recovery lie ahead,** and your commitment will help PDA extend the hands of Christ. Will you stand in the "GAP" for the people affected by these catastrophic wildfires? — **Give. Act. Pray.**

**GIVE:** Gifts can be made **online** at [pcusa.org/CAfires25](http://pcusa.org/CAfires25), by **phone** at 800-728-7228, ext. 5885, or by **check** made payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with "PDA-CF25-BI" written on the memo line and mailed to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.



**ACT:** Assemble Gift of the Heart kits for survivors in the affected areas. For more information, go to [pcusa.org/GOHkits](http://pcusa.org/GOHkits).

**PRAY:** *God, our refuge and strength, you are an ever-present help in trouble. You see the devastation caused by the California wildfires. You hear the cries of loss and know the exhaustion of those waiting and helping. For those forced to flee, grant rest. For those fighting fires, grant strength. For those mourning, grant comfort. For those still in danger, grant protection. May your Church be a presence of hope. In Christ's name, Amen.*

\$500    \$125    \$50    \$25    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Congregation/PIN \_\_\_\_\_

Please detach the reply form and return it with your gift to your church, or mail with your check to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.



OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE