

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

(Click [here](#) to connect to today's live worship.)

GATHERING MUSIC

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Adolphus Hailstork

Guest organist, Robert Parkins

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Weicher

PRELUDE

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

J.S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

John Weicher

Leader: The power of dreams lies in waking up.
For when we close our eyes,

All: **We can see a better world.**

Leader: When we close our eyes,

All: **We can dream a better dream.**

Leader: But when we open our eyes,

All: **We begin the work of faith.**

Leader: The power of worship is the same.

When we enter this space,

All: **We can see a better world.**

Leader: When we enter this space,

All: **We dream a better dream.**

Leader: But when we leave this space,

All: **We begin the work of faith.**

Leader: So come in. Dream your dream.

All: **Find hope here.**

Leader: For in an hour,

All: **We will begin the work of faith.**

Leader: Let it be so.

ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

Anna Kasibhatla and Sydney Curtis

HYMN No. 85 (verse 1)

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

Tif in Veldele

Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let light banish darkness.

He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Original Dreamer,

**over and over again in scripture,
we hear your dream for a beautiful world.**

We hear your dream for peace and reconciliation.

We hear your dream for harmony and togetherness.

We hear your dream for community and hope.

We hear your dreams, and yet we do not open our eyes.

**We continue to live with the curtains drawn,
the covers pulled tightly, eyes shut to the realities of the world.**

Forgive us.

Kindle a hope in us that will burn through the darkest nights.

Give us the strength and the will to keep awake in this sleeping world.

With hope we pray.

Silent Confession

Declaration of Forgiveness

Response Hymn No. 82

Hyfrydol

***Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.***

***Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Torrell and Vanessa Armstrong

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **O Great Dreamer,**

**you dreamed up the stars in the sky.
You dreamed up that magic baby smell
and the way cream sinks into coffee.
You dreamed up the crunch of fall leaves and jazz music.
You dreamed up wisteria and evergreen
and the pure magic that is a six-foot tall sunflower.
And in the midst of all that,
you dreamed up a dream for your people –
a dream of hope and justice,
a dream for eyes wide open,
to both the world's suffering and the world's beauty.
So today, as we read scripture,
we ask that you would plant that same dream in us.**

**Pour out your Spirit on our hearts and minds
so that we may see what you see,
and dream what you dream.
Gratefully we pray. Amen.**

EPISTLE READING 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Torrell and Vanessa Armstrong

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL READING Mark 13:24-37 John Weicher

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON "Day Dreaming" John Weicher

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH John Weicher

Leader: We believe in God.

All: **We believe that God has dreams for humanity.**

Leader: We believe in the Holy Spirit.

All: **We believe that the Holy Spirit comforts us when our dreams turn to nightmares.**

Leader: We believe in Jesus.

All: **We believe that Jesus walked this world to wake us up,
inviting us to be the church in the world.**

Leader: We believe in dreams.

All: **We believe in the power that dreams have to show us a new way.**

Leader: So in this Advent season, we are those who dream and those who wake up.

All: **May it be so. Amen.**

HYMN No. 97 (verses 1-2) *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night* Aberystwyth

Watchman, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are.

Traveler, what a wondrous sight: see that glory-beaming star.

Watchman, does its beauteous ray news of joy or hope foretell?

Traveler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel.

Watchman, tell us of the night; higher yet that star ascends.

Traveler, blessedness and light, peace and truth its course portends.

Watchman, will its beams alone gild the spot that gave them birth?

Traveler, ages are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN Lenore Champion

INVITATION TO GIVE AND DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING Susan Dunlap

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS Susan Dunlap

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

HYMN No. 97 (verses 1,3) *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night* *Aberystwyth*
Watchman, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are.
Traveler, what a wondrous sight: see that glory-beaming star.
Watchman, does its beauteous ray news of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel.
Watchman, tell us of the night, for the morning seems to dawn.
Traveler, shadows take their flight; doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, you may go your way; hasten to your quiet home.
Traveler, we rejoice today, for Emmanuel has come!

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

John Weicher

POSTLUDE *Rejoice / O Come, O Come Emmanuel for bells and piano* Cathy Moglebus
(Gordon Campbell, bells)

First Presbyterian Church welcomes all who worship with us. We honor and celebrate the human diversity and unity that God gives us in Christ. We welcome individuals of every age, race, nationality, gender, ability, sexual orientation, and economic circumstance to participate fully in the life of the church. On November 22, 100 households tuned in to the 11:00 a.m. live-streamed broadcast of worship.

Music Notes:

Special **thanks** to Duke University organist, **Robert Parkins**, for providing the gathering music for us today. This is a performance of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" by Adolphus Hailstork. Hailstork is one of the most noted African American composers of our time and received his training in composition at Howard University, the Manhattan School of Music and Michigan State University. He also studied at The American Institute at Fontainebleau with Nadia Boulanger.

We also thank **Sydney Curtis** and **Lesley Curtis** for sharing their vocal gifts with us this Sunday during worship.

Portions of **today's worship text** are taken from Sanctified Art Those Who Dream Words for Worship. **Hymn texts and music** are reprinted from *Glory to God* under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

Many thanks to **Jody Maxwell, Pat Dillon, Keith Rokoske, and Jay Klinck** for their “behind the scenes” technical assistance with our live broadcasts of worship each Sunday morning. We are also grateful to **Jennie Alwood** for the powerful images accompanying our online worship today.

Celebrating the holidays: Click [here](#) to read a message from the pastor about celebrating holidays during this pandemic.

~ Our Joys and Concerns ~

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT: Congratulations to **Jenna Kneepken-Susen and Matt Susen** on the birth of their first child. **Hailey Rae** was born November 19th. Mom and baby are home and doing well.

CONDOLENCES: The love and concern of the congregation are extended to:

- **Lea Bingham** and **Rob Dilworth, Gwendolyn** and **Eleanor**, on the death of Rob’s mother, **Marcella Aldridge**, on November 22;
- **Christy and Jim Gudaitis** on the death of Christy’s father, **Frank Myers**, on November 23.

CONCERNS:

- ❖ **Harold Dunlap**
- ❖ **Kerry Holbrook**
- ❖ **Jane Rourk**
- ❖ **Carol Wills**
- ❖ **Walter Chambliss**, father of Will Chambliss, preparing for surgery
- ❖ **Maureen Darcey**, friend of Brianna Bennett, received a diagnosis of brain cancer
- ❖ **Ann Loebrich**, mother of Bruce Loebrich, in Ohio with COVID-19
- ❖ **Joe Rudigier**, brother of Jeanne Hervey, suffering with complications from a stroke
- ❖ **Holly**, friend of the Klinck family
- ❖ **The many households impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic**
- ❖ **Those who are grieving during this holiday season**

Care Communities:

Brookdale Durham: **Julian Boswell, Becky Crockett**

Croasdaile Pavilion: **Bob Rankin**

Dubose Center at The Cedars, Chapel Hill: **Arthur Clark**

Durham Regent: **John Kerr, Ann Prospero**

Durham Ridge: **Phillip Herndon**

Emerald Pond: **Paul Cornsweet**

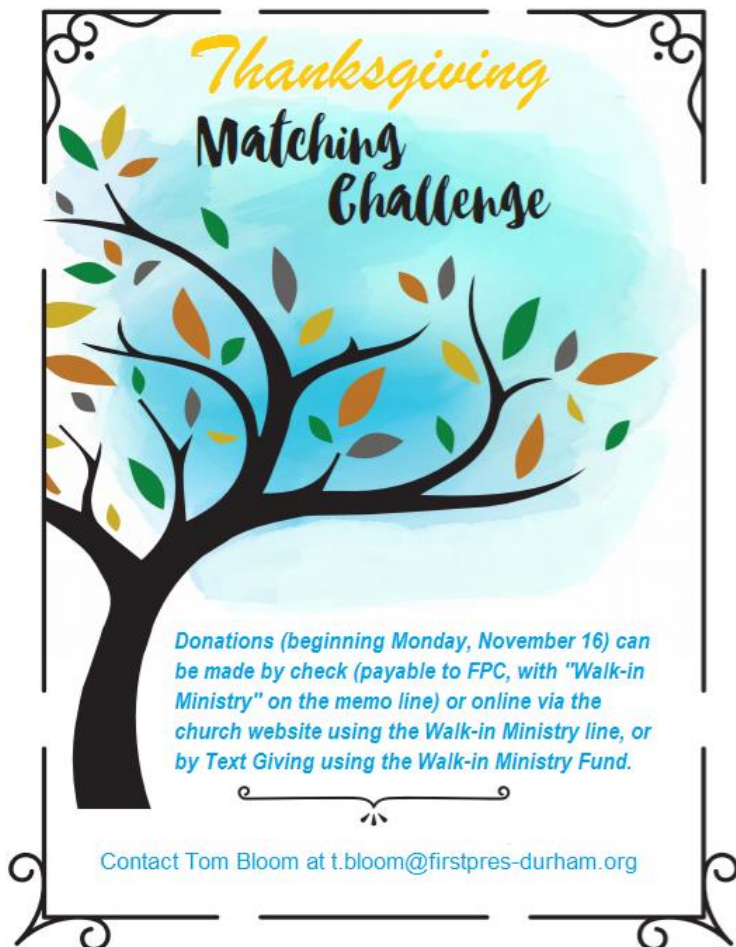
Hillcrest Convalescent Center: **Walter Chambliss**, father of Will Chambliss

The Forest at Duke: **Fran Bryant**

Family and Friends of the Congregation:

- ❖ **Brendan Bequette**, family friend of Margaret & Miguel Rubiera
- ❖ **Peggy Boulden**, mother of Dick Boulden
- ❖ **Linda Capers**, friend of Li-Chen Chin
- ❖ **Meg Courtney**, daughter of Bob and Mary Lee Clark, active friends of the congregation
- ❖ **Phil Goss**, friend of the congregation

- ❖ **Peggy Mordecai**, mother of Beth Eisenson
- ❖ **Ellen O'Brien**, mother-in-law of Mindy Douglas
- ❖ **Shannon Putman**, daughter of Mary Putman
- ❖ **Robert Reaves**, husband of Floalice Reaves, friend of the congregation



FINAL CALL FOR DONATIONS!

A member of our congregation has **offered to match all gifts to the Walk-in Ministry through tomorrow, November 30, 2020, up to \$25,000**. As of Friday, November 27, we had received **\$17,030** toward this challenge.

Donations can be given in any of the following ways:

- Mail a check (postmarked by November 30) to the church, payable to FPC, with "Walk-in Ministry" on the memo line;
- **Online** via the church's [website](#) using the Walk-in Ministry line;
- **Text Giving** (Text *WalkInMinistry* to 917-373-3254)

Please contact Business Administrator **Tom Bloom** at 919-682-5511 or by [email](#) if you have any questions about giving to the challenge.



CHRISTMAS ANGELS NEEDED

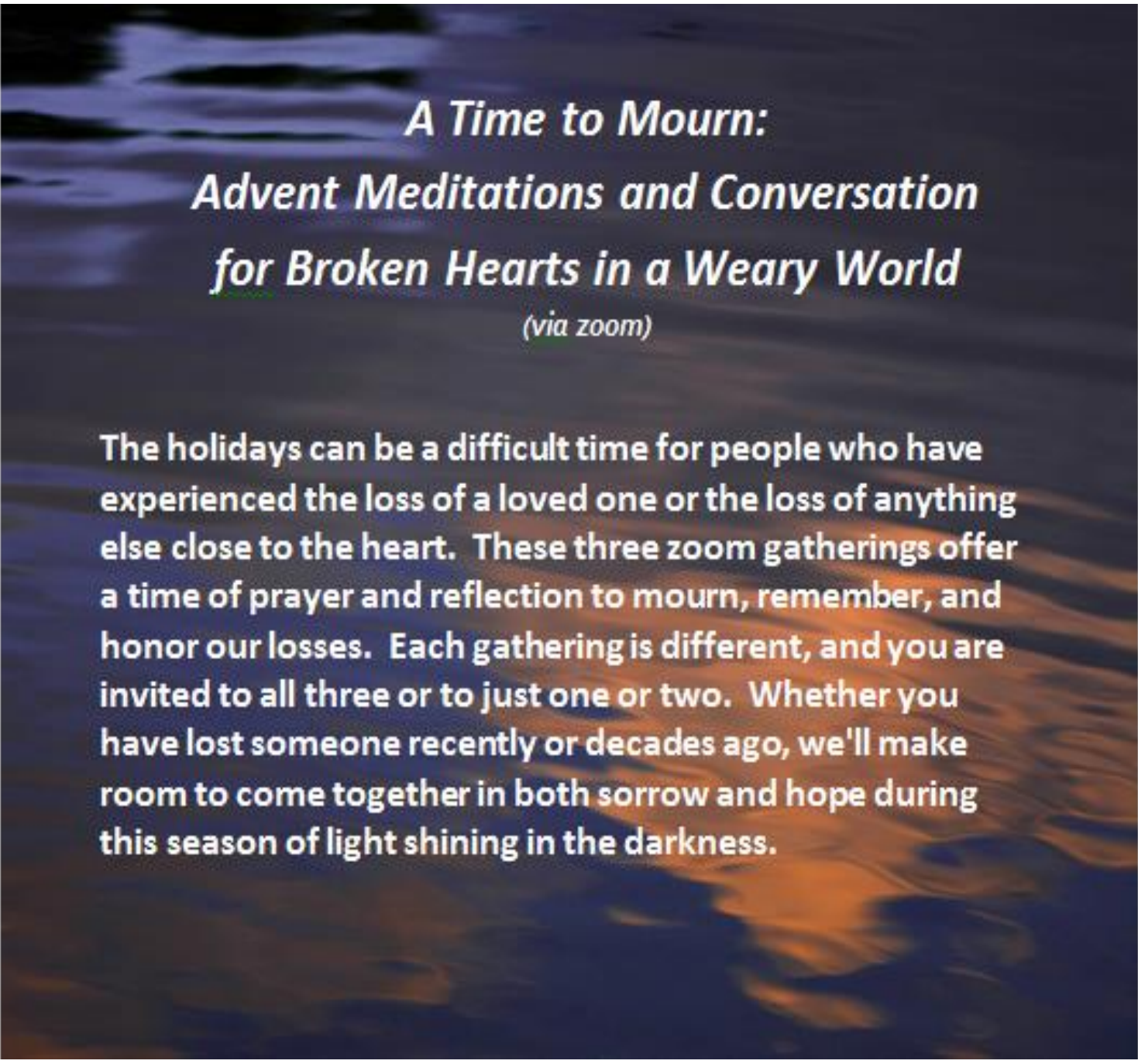
It will be a Christmas like no other. Family gatherings, if they happen, will be smaller, parties may be virtual; many will feel the pain of loneliness and isolation. We need each other now more than ever. You are invited to share some hope this season by signing up to be a Christmas angel for someone in the FPC community. [Sign up here](#) and by **December 6th**, you'll receive a name as well as a short list of contact-less, easy ideas for sharing a little hope and extending the love of Christ this Christmas.



During the Advent Festival Drive-Thru on December 6, we ask that you drop off donations for Durham Congregations in Action's hygiene and cleaning supplies drive. They are asking for the following items:

- CDC-approved disinfectant wipes or sprays (Lysol, Scrubbing Bubbles, Clorox)
- hand sanitizer
- empty spray bottles
- paper towels
- toilet paper
- feminine hygiene products
- hand and body soap

These donations will be given to local food pantries for Durham families in need. This drive is a continuation of DCIA's hygiene drive which was launched this summer. Thanks for your support.



*A Time to Mourn:
Advent Meditations and Conversation
for Broken Hearts in a Weary World
(via zoom)*

The holidays can be a difficult time for people who have experienced the loss of a loved one or the loss of anything else close to the heart. These three zoom gatherings offer a time of prayer and reflection to mourn, remember, and honor our losses. Each gathering is different, and you are invited to all three or to just one or two. Whether you have lost someone recently or decades ago, we'll make room to come together in both sorrow and hope during this season of light shining in the darkness.

**LEADERS: Mitzi Leshner-Thomas
Susan Dunlap**

TIME: Sundays in December, 4-5pm. (Dec. 6, 13, 20)

ZOOM LINK: <https://zoom.us/j/99260154711>

YOU can be in this year's Christmas Eve Pageant Video



We are closing in on our due date for photos and music for our **Christmas Eve Pageant video**.

We need all photos and videos by December 12th in order to complete video editing on time.

Please spread the word!

Everyone can participate.

Click [here](#) to sign up for a part/scene in the pageant.

Contact [Lenore Champion](#) at 919-616-2360 for more information.

Robert Daye is Retiring!

Our own Robert Daye will be retiring at the end of 2020 with over 43 years of service as sexton of our church. Let's thank him!

- We need your stories and pictures now. Please scan and email them to Celia. We want as many visuals as we can collect.
- Soon, we will ask for a shower of cards to Robert, thanking him.
- The Session has also approved a Love Offering collection for Robert. **Please send your donation to Tom Bloom at the church office by December 10th**. Make check payable to FPC. Memo: Robert's Retirement.

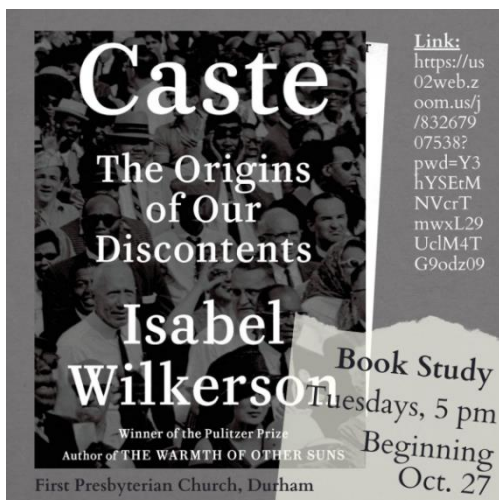
We are looking forward to our congregational thanks to Robert for his many years of service.

From the committee for Robert's retirement,
Celia Dickerson Beth Stringfield
Kate Busa Barbara Buckley

Do we have your nominees for Officers - Class of 2024?

As we look ahead to next year, the **Nominating Committee** is beginning their work of gathering suggestions from the congregation for the new slate of ruling elders, deacons, and the next Nominating Committee. Ruling elders and deacons serve for three year terms and the Nominating Committee serves for one year. Ruling elders, deacons, and Nominating Committee members may serve a consecutive term. We normally receive paper nominations over the course of a few weeks that are placed in the offering plate during worship. Since we can't do that this year, we are calling for nominations via a Google form: [click here](#) **OR** you may contact **Mary Ann Compton** by [email](#) **OR** call her at 919-452-6500 to submit your nominations. Especially in these unusual times, we look forward to hearing your suggestions of who should lead us as we work out how to continue being the church to each other and to the world around us. Thank you for your help.

Dawn Shelton and Mary Ann Compton,
Co-chairs of the Nominating Committee



Link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83267907538?pwd=Y3hYSEtMNlVrTmwxL29UclM4TG9odz09>

FALL BOOK STUDY

**We will resume our study
this Tuesday, December 1 at 5:00 p.m.**

Mindy Douglas is leading the book study.
Click [here](#) for ways to access the class.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, DURHAM

EVENING PRAYERS



THURSDAYS, 8 PM

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FIRSTPRESDURHAM/](https://www.facebook.com/firstpresdurham/)

HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS . . .



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has been in communication with our partners and is responding to the urgent needs in Central America following Hurricanes Eta and Iota. Iota made landfall one week after Eta and hit many of the same regions. The double impact of these storms has resulted in over 100 lives lost and significant damage from flooding and mudslides; mass evacuations are further complicated by COVID-19. Priorities for the response include WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), food security, shelter and livelihood restoration. PDA needs our help to ensure that it can continue providing emergency response and long-term recovery support. **Give online: [DR000194](#).**

Provide a Meal for Families Moving Forward

A small group of faithful First Presbyterian volunteers prepares meals and provides childcare for Families Moving Forward (FMF) throughout the year, but, in the current situation, FMF has asked us to prepare a meal for *all* the families sheltering there on **Monday, December 7**, about 60 people. So we need your help! If you are willing to prepare part of this meal, please sign up using this [link](#).

Instructions: You will bring your meal contribution to FMF (300 N. Queen St.) at **5:30 p.m. on December 7**, and, for the safety of residents and volunteers alike, just leave it on the picnic table outside.

Looking for other ways to help Families Moving Forward?

- Assist with FMF's Study Buddies program. They need volunteers to help virtually one day a week to help kids with homework E-mail Courtney@fmfnc.com.
- Provide support for FMF's annual holiday NEST by adopting a family for the holiday toy donation program. Contact caylin@fmfnc.org.
- Donate NEW twin and full comforters and sheet sets for our families to enjoy when they move in. They could also use donations of laundry detergent, cleaning supplies and other essential household items. Contact Katy@fmfnc.com if you have a donation to drop off.

Questions? Please contact [Lea Bingham](#) at 919-358-1774.

Supporting the Food Pantry at Iglesia Emanuel

This Christmas holiday season is going to be different for all of us, but we can still find wonderful, practical ways to share God's love with our neighbors. The Food Pantry at Iglesia Emanuel continues to provide large boxes of healthy food to almost 500 families a week, thanks to the dedicated help and generous donations from our community. We would welcome your participation or contributions at any time! Here are a couple of easy ways to be part of this special ministry:

1. Bag rice or beans from home. For instructions and to sign up, simply click this [link](#). Put on music, sing and have fun while you fill those bags!
2. To help in person at Iglesia Emanuel, grab your trusty mask, and come join with others in a safe environment to help organize donated food, fill bags and boxes in preparation for the Wednesday food pantry. You will work hard, but leave after your 2-hour shift knowing you have made a big difference in the lives of many families. For more information, and to sign up, click here: [Iglesia Emanuel COVID-19 Food Bank Signup Genius](#)
3. Your financial support is always welcome, and will help us purchase more food. Online: emanueldurham.org, or mail your check to Iglesia Presbiteriana Emanuel, 2504 N Roxboro, Durham 27704.

CHURCH STAFF

Tom Bloom, Business Administrator
Lenore Champion, Children's Ministry Director
Robert Daye, Sexton
Mindy Douglas, Pastor/Head of Staff
Susan Dunlap, Parish Associate



Sybil King, Administrative Assistant
Mitzi Lesher-Thomas, Associate Pastor
Valerie McMillian, Parish Administrator
Kathy Parkins, Minister of Music
John Weicher, Associate Pastor

For more information about First Presbyterian Church, email the church office:
info@firstpres-durham.org or visit our website: <https://firstpres-durham.org>.

305 EAST MAIN STREET

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27701

919.682.5511

Light One Candle to Watch 85 for Messiah



1 Light one can - dle to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the
2 Light two can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the
3 Light three can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the
4 Light four can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the



light ban - ish dark - ness. He shall bring sal -
light ban - ish dark - ness. He shall feed the
light ban - ish dark - ness. Lift your heads and
light ban - ish dark - ness. He is com - ing;



va - tion to Is - rael, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
tell the glad ti - dings. Let your light be shin - ing.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82


1 Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.



Watchman, Tell Us of the Night 97





1 Watch-man, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom-ise are.
2 Watch-man, tell us of the night; high-er yet that star as-cends.
3 Watch-man, tell us of the night, for the morn-ing seems to dawn.



Trav-eler, what a won-drous sight: see that glo-ry-beam-ing star.
Trav-eler, bless-ed-ness and light, peace and truth its course por-tends.
Trav-eler, shad-ows take their flight; doubt and ter-ror are with-drawn.



Watch-man, does its beau-teous ray news of joy or hope fore-tell?
Watch-man, will its beams a-lone gild the spot that gave them birth?
Watch-man, you may go your way; has-ten to your qui-et home.



Trav-eler, yes; it brings the day, prom-ised day of Is-ra-el.
Trav-eler, a-ges are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.
Trav-eler, we re-joice to-day, for Em-man-u-el has come!

