



Birthdays in December



- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1- Vera Simpson | 14- Emily Sue Lee |
| 2- Joe Tillman | Michael Teachey |
| Cameron Lee | 17- Tommy Newkirk |
| Christy Johnson | 20- Windsor Farrior |
| 3- Chason Johnson | Katherine L. Hall |
| 4- Colby Phaneuf | 21- Jim Sills |
| Lauren Parks | 23- Sandra DiDomenico |
| Rick Batchelor | 28- Garrett Bullard |
| 6- Anna Kathryn Feeley | 30- Lori Newkirk |
| Corey McNamara | Bud Newkirk |
| 11- Mark Henderson | 31- Lane Philip Rouse |
| 13- Jackson Gladden | |



NEWSLETTER

WALLACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Dr. Philip K. Gladden, Minister

DECEMBER 2020

Cheryl Brinkley, Editor



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION WORSHIP SERVICE

Virtual Service Only

Thursday, December 24

Due to the increasing number of Covid-19 cases, we will not have an in person Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion worship service on Thursday, December 24.

However, the Worship & Music Ministry Team and the Worship Team (Karla, Vera, Bill, and Phil) will pre-record our Christmas Eve service and will include all of the familiar elements that make the service so meaningful. The service will be available on December 24 and following and can be accessed on our church website (www.wallacepresbyterian.com), YouTube, and Facebook.

We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper during the Christmas Eve worship service. You are encouraged to prepare the elements of bread and cup and participate in the communion at the appropriate time. While it is true that we might not all be breaking bread and drinking from the cup at the exact same time, we trust that we will be in communion with one another and with our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by the power and through the grace of God.

You are also encouraged to have candles ready at the end of the service as we light candles from the Christ candle and sing "Silent Night, Holy Night."

This is a most unusual Christmas season but, through the wonders of modern technology, we are able to worship God and celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Dear Friends,

Here is a Christmas writing from Howard Thurman, 20th century American theologian, educator, and civil rights leader. It is called "I Will Light Candles This Christmas."

*I will light candles this Christmas,
Candles of joy despite all the sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all year long.*

Those words are taken from Thurman's 1953 collection of meditations and prayers called Meditations of the Heart. The book blurb on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) notes that "within this collection are words that sustain, elevate, and inspire. Thurman addresses those moments of trial and uncertainty and offers a message of hope and endurance for people of all faiths."

Sixty-seven years later, Thurman's words about lighting candles this Christmas sounds as if he could have written them especially for Christmas 2020. This challenging year has been full of sadness, despair, fear, tempest-tossed days, and heavy burdens for everyone. And yet, Christmas still comes, with the promise of joy, hope, courage, peace, grace, and love.

It is no coincidence that we celebrate the coming of the Light of the world when our world is at its darkest, literally as the days are short and metaphorically as the days are challenging. As the release of a Covid-19 vaccine sounds more and more promising, we hear talk of "the light at the end of the tunnel." Nevertheless, even with an effective vaccine, we know the tunnel is going to be very long. Our personal burdens and cares, coupled with our concerns for fellow church members, community, nation, and world, threaten to overwhelm us with darkness. And yet, Christmas still comes, with the light of Christ breaking into and overcoming the darkness.

It is also no coincidence that candlelight is such an important symbol during the Advent and Christmas seasons. From the prophet Isaiah we hear

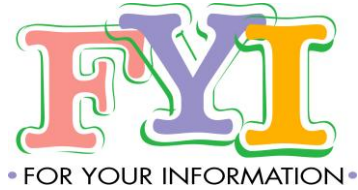
ACTIONS OF THE SESSION

At the Tuesday, November 17, 2020 meeting of the session, the elders and minister:

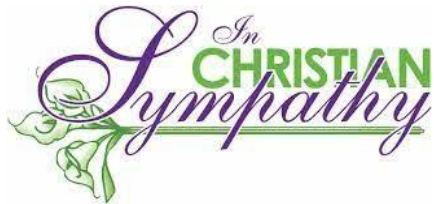
- * met via Zoom teleconference;
- * conducted the meeting as a worship service;
- * read the Word of God in Romans 3:21-31 and Ephesians 2:1-10 and discussed an article "Do you need a heaping dose of big, generous grace today?";
- * approved the minutes of the session meeting on October 20, 2020;
- * approved a request from Payton Johnson and Nick Westbrook to use the sanctuary and church facilities for wedding rehearsal and wedding on Friday - Saturday, October 29-30, 2021;
- * reviewed in person worship following Covid-19 precautions and agreed to continue as is;
- * reviewed plans for lighting of Advent wreath and Advent worship services;
- * received a report from the Outreach Ministry Team about the St. Nicholas Project;
- * discussed how to communicate the 2021 budget to the congregation;
- * shared prayer concerns from the congregation and community;
- * prayed the Lord's Prayer together.



**We will celebrate the
sacrament of the Lord's
Supper during our
Christmas Eve Candlelight
Service online only on
Thursday, December 24
You are invited to join us
from home.**



- * **We will receive** our quarterly P.A.T.H. (Presbyterian Answer to Hunger) offering on Sunday, December 6.
- * **Advent worship services** will be available online at our church website (www.wallacepresbyterian.com), YouTube, and Facebook each Thursday, December 3, 10, & 17.
- * **The session** will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m. If you have any concerns or business for the session to consider, please speak to one of the elders or the minister.
- * **We will receive** our annual Christmas Joy Offering on Sunday, December 20.
- * **Our Christmas Eve worship service** will be virtual this year. You may watch it online at our church website (www.wallacepresbyterian.com), YouTube, and Facebook.
- * **Philip Gladden** will be on vacation Saturday, December 26 – Friday, January 1. Please contact Clerk of Session Hope Turnbull (910-284-2813) in an emergency.
- * **Cheryl Brinkley**, church secretary, will be on vacation Thursday, December 24-Monday, January 4.
- * **Ruling Elder Jay Bender** from the Pollocksville Presbyterian Church will be our preacher on Sunday, December 27.



We extend our Christian love and sympathy to:

Bill and Kelli Norris on the deaths of Bill's mother, Hilda Norris, and Kelli's aunt, Pat Hulen
James Mills and family on the death of Judy Mills
Gloria Wells and family on the death of her father, Donald Buckner
Mary Carone and family on the death of her brother, Andrew DeNatale, Sr.



Hospital & at home:
Cathy Wells (Fayetteville)
Judy Robinson (home)

Verlie Wells (The Gardens)
Bruce Lyon (Dayspring)
Dan & Eva McLaughlin (The Gardens)

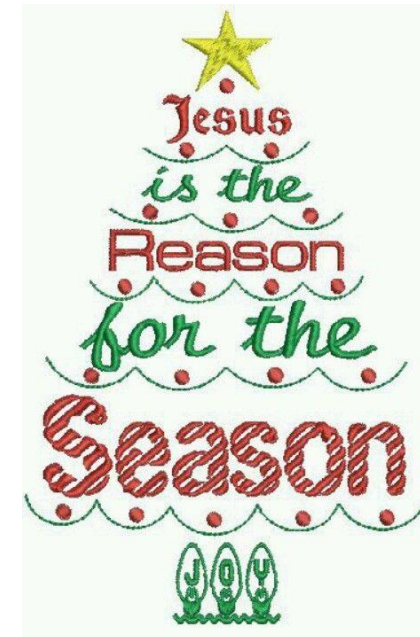
these words of hope and encouragement, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. . . For a child has been born for us, a son given to us." (Isaiah 9:2, 6a) The gospel of John, although it does not include a "traditional" Christmas story, begins with these magnificent words, "What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. . . The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world." (John 1:3b-5, 9)

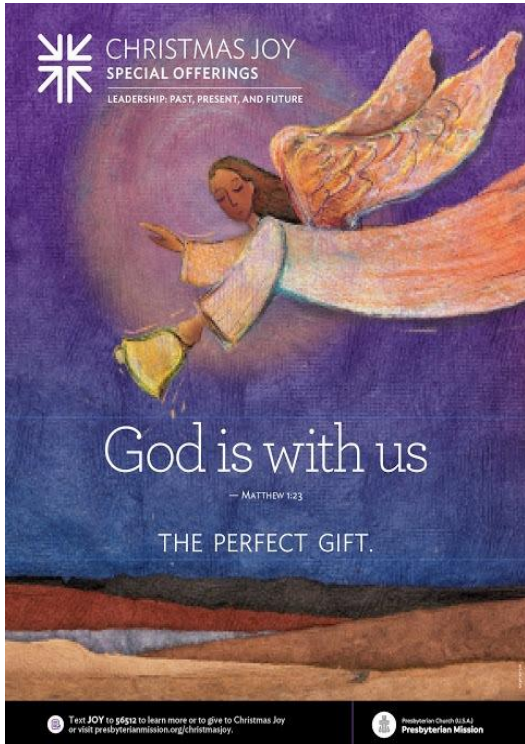
I particularly like the last line in Thurman's meditation about Christmas candles, "Candles that will burn all year long." In a world that is quick to move on from Christmas as soon as the sun goes down on December 25, it is important for us to keep the candles of joy, hope, courage, peace, grace, and love burning all year long. After all, the Light of the world has told us, "You are the light of the world . . . let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:14, 16)

May's Christ's light of joy, hope, courage, peace, grace, and love shine on you and through you this Christmas and all year long.

Merry Christmas!

Phil





CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING Sunday, December 20

We will receive our annual Christmas Joy Offering on Sunday, December 20. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The envelopes will be in your bulletins. Just drop them in the offering plate on your way out of the church.

For more information about the Christmas Joy Offering, go to www.specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/christmas-joy.

Lighting the Advent Wreath



During Sunday worship in Advent 2020 different families in the congregation will share homemade videos of lighting the candles in the Advent wreath.

DATE

December 6
December 13
December 20
December 24

CANDLE

Peace
Joy
Love
The Christ Candle

FAMILY

The Skidmores
The Halls
The Johnsons
The Rouses



Advent Wreaths

If you would like to purchase an Advent Wreath in honor of, or in memory of a friend or loved one, fill out the envelope provided in your bulletin and put it in the offering plate on your way out of church on Sunday, December 6. Those watching online can call the church office and give Cheryl the information. A list with the names of those honored will be in the Bulletin on December 13 and December 20.

Thank you!





P.A.T.H. OFFERING
Presbyterian Answer to Hunger
Sunday, December 6, 2020

We will receive our quarterly P.A.T.H. (Presbyterian Answer to Hunger) offering during worship on Sunday, December 6. This offering supports the Hunger Program of the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina. The Hunger Program supplies funding for feeding programs for children in Haiti and Malawi and grants for congregational food ministries within our presbytery, including our own Helping Hands Food Pantry. Thank you for your generous contributions!



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS PREACHING

SUNDAY	TEXT	THEME
December 6	Mark 1:1-8	Prepare the Way of the Lord
December 13	John 1:1-18	A Cosmic Christmas
December 20	Luke 1:26-38	The Birth Announcement
December 24	Luke 2:1-20	Good News of Great Joy

These scripture lessons are provided for you ahead of time so you can read and pray about them as you prepare your hearts for Advent and Christmas worship. Please pray for our congregation and Dr. Phil as we read, proclaim, and hear God's Word during Advent and Christmas.

RULING ELDER JAY BENDER TO PREACH
Sunday, December 27



Ruling Elder Jay Bender of the Pollocksville Presbyterian Church will be our preacher on Sunday, December 27. Jay serves as Clerk of Session and is also the mayor of Pollocksville. Jay is very active in the work of the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina.



Merry Christmas

**From Our House
To Your House...
The staff at
Wallace Presbyterian
Church
Wish you a Very
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year!**

*Phil Gladden
Cheryl Brinkley
Karla Casteen
Wayne Casteen
Vera Simpson*



Advent Worship Services “Celebrating Advent During a Pandemic”

Unfortunately, due to the increasing threat of Covid-19 and the necessary precautions to keep our community safe, the session has decided we will not have our annual in person Advent worship services and luncheons this year. As disappointing as this is, we will not be without Advent worship. Our worship team (Karla, Vera, Bill, Phil, and Dr. Dan) have planned three Advent worship services with speakers and special music. The services will be pre-recorded and made available on our church website (www.wallacepresbyterian.com), YouTube, and Facebook.

DATE	SPEAKER	MUSIC
December 3	Jim Sills	Vera Simpson, Randy Bittner
December 10	Dr. Alan and Debbie Brown, Dillon Brown	Vera Simpson, Joell Parker
December 17	Philip Gladden	Piano Music



ST. NICHOLAS PROJECT



For many years the St. Nicholas Project has been a mission of Wallace Presbyterian Church. The Outreach Committee has received families from our community for this year. St. Nicholas Project family and gift information will be emailed to church members. Information on how to sign up to purchase a gift for the families will be in the email. Due to Covid-19 “Sign-up Genius” will be used for church members to sign up online to purchase a gift this year. The link to “Sign-up Genius” is on the church website and was also emailed to you. If you would like to purchase a gift and need assistance with the sign-up, please call the church office.

Thank you for participating in this wonderful ministry and sharing the love of Christ with others.

To participate by buying a gift:

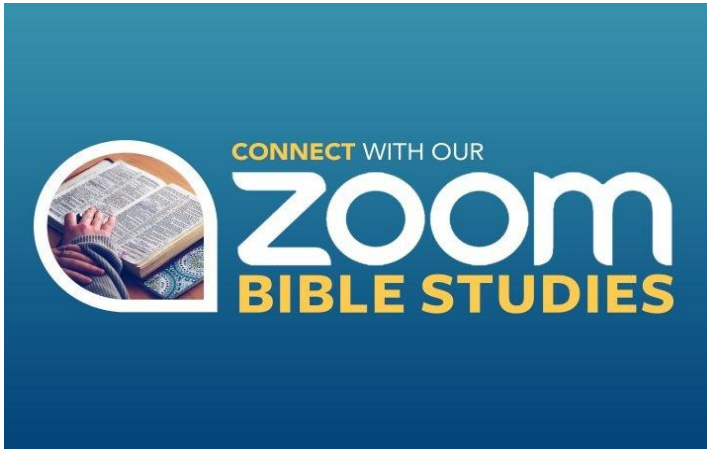
- Follow the instructions in the email from the church and sign up to purchase a specific gift
- Wrap the gift
- Label the wrapped gift with the **family # and person it is for.**
- Bring the wrapped and labeled gift to the church during church office hours.
- **Deadline to bring gifts to the church- Thursday, December 17.**

If you would like to make a donation to the St. Nicholas Fund:

- Please send a donation designated for “St. Nicholas Fund”.

Please bring gifts to the church or make donations by **Thursday, December 17.**

Merry Christmas



ZOOM BIBLE STUDIES CONTINUE

Monday night (7:00 – 8:00 p.m.) and Wednesday morning (10:00 – 11:00 a.m.)

Zoom Bible studies will continue during December.

Join us for good fellowship and discussion of the sermon text for the following Sunday.

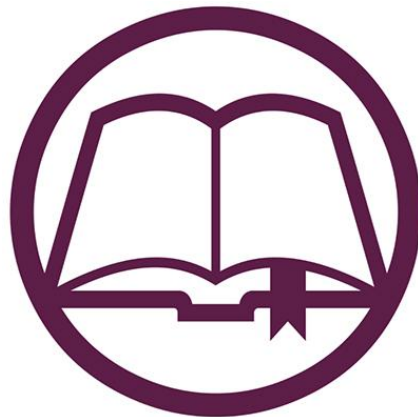
Check your email each week for the Zoom invitation/links to the Bible studies. Here is the schedule for December:

Monday, November 30 & Wednesday, December 2: Mark 1:1-8

Monday, December 7 & Wednesday, December 9: John 1:1-18

Monday, December 14 & Wednesday, December 16: Luke 1:26-38

Monday, December 21 & Wednesday, December 23: Luke 2:1-20



Congregational Meeting

In person and via Zoom

Sunday, December 6

11:55 a.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to hear a report from the 2020 Nominating Committee, to elect three Ruling Elders to the session's Class of 2023, receive the 2021 budget as information, and conduct the annual meeting of the corporation.

The meeting will be held in person (for those who are worshipping in the sanctuary) and via Zoom teleconference (for those worshipping at home).

Check your email and U.S. mail during the week of November 30 – December 6 for more information and instructions about how to participate in the December 6 congregational meeting.



December 2020

- Home
- WPC Calendar
- cheryl@wallacepresbyterian.com
- cheryl@wallacepresbyterian.com



November 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 First Sunday Of Advent 10:00 AM Zoom Sunday School Classes 11:00 AM Worship in-person and live-stream/ P.A.T.H Offering	30 7:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	1	2 10:00 AM Zoom Bible Study	3 Advent Wors...Bittner, music	4	5
6 2nd Sunday of Advent: Peace 10:00 AM Zoom Sunday School Classes 11:00 AM Worship (in-person and live-stream)	7 10:30 AM Circle #1: Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	8 10:30 AM Circle #3: Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Circle #4: Zoom meeting	9 10:00 AM Zoom Bible Study	10 Advent Wors...Parker, music	11	12
13 3rd Sunday of Advent: Joy 10:00 AM Zoom Sunday School Classes 11:00 AM Worship (in-person and live-stream)	14 7:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	15 6:00 PM Session Meeting, Zoom	16 10:00 AM Zoom Bible Study	17 Advent Wors...asteen, music 8:00 AM Deadline for re-turning St. Nicholas Project gifts	18	19
20 4th Sunday of Advent: Love 10:00 AM Zoom Sunday School Classes 11:00 AM Worship (in-person and live-stream) Christmas Joy Offering 3:00 PM Distribution of St. Nicholas Gifts	21 7:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	22	23 10:00 AM Zoom Bible Study	24 Cheryl Brinkley on Vacation Candlelight...available Online Christmas Eve	25 Church Office Closed Merry Christmas!	26 Minister on Vacation
27 Cheryl Brinkley on Vacation Minister on Vacation 10:00 AM Zoom Sunday School Classes 11:00 AM Worship (in-person and live-stream)Ruling Elder Jay Bender, preacher	28 7:00 PM No Zoom Bible Study	29	30 10:00 AM No Zoom Bible Study	31	1	2