

HEALTH CONCERNS

Iola Cannedy (recuperating at daughter’s home after cracking ribs from a fall)
Donna Carmichael (Vertigo)
Deryel Clark (heart issues—resident at Spring Arbor of Greensboro)
Lucy Dillon (health issues)
Faye Hodges (resident at Kerner Ridge, Phone No. 336-817-5989)
Bernie Krecklow (resident at Brookdale Lawndale Park, 336-286-3432)
Kae Mattingly (hospitalized at Forsyth Medical Center in Winston-Salem)
Judy Maxwell (health issues)
Mike Polinsky (home recuperating from knee replacement surg. on 11/21/2023)
Stan Stigall (health issues)
Millie Vernon (health issues)
Rodgers White (health issues)

Bolen Tony Rupard (recuperating from a kidney infections); Anna Rupard (parkinsons); Steve Crutchfield (brain lesions); Steve Martin (recurrence of cancer); Ron Smith (cancer); Carmen Spoon (dementia); Lila Bolen (cancer); Amy Ikerd (health issues); Marie Tuttle (breast cancer); Cindy Strickland (diabetes & health issues); Carol Carroll (health issues)
Bowman Stephanie Piraino (daughter—cancerous thyroid removed and undergoing treatment)
Budkey **Becca Tate** (friend—breast cancer); **Linda Spencer** (Joy’s neighbor—hospitalized at Forsyth Medical Center with health issues); Killean Phillipp (surgery on 11/9 for right leg injury from a hit-and-run motorcycle accident—leg completely turned around and knee will have to be rebuilt); Richard Hedgecock (bone cancer)
Butler Mary & Rodney Robinson (very sick with COVID); Dan Payne (cancer)
Downing Steve Miller (Shari’s brother—cancer)
Kerr Roger Kerr (Kerry’s cousin—health issues)
Mattingly Lisa Tuttle (stage 4 emphysema)
Polinsky Chad Amond (nephew—primary progressive aphasia)
Roudabush Tim Roudabush (Dottie’s son—was hospitalized with seizures—now home but still being monitored for seizures); Dottie’s daughter-in-law’s mother (bladder cancer)
G. Sharp Brenda Johnson (former choir director—assisted living in Walnut Cove); Larry Mabe (neighbor—cancer); Joyce Wyramon (neighbor—cancer)
S. Sharp Maria Gomes (friend of Spence & Paulo)
Tincher **Bernice Tincher** (Rich’s mom—health issues); JoAngie Semonco (breast cancer—surg. 12/19)
Unknown Kara S. (cancer treatment—healing)
Watts Chandler Stewart (cousin—metastatic kidney cancer)

SPECIAL CONCERNS

Bolen Catherine Bolen (diagnosed with ALS)
Vernon Prayers for family members
Watts Kent Watts (Ellen’s son—travelling mercies—travelling a lot for his job)

PRAYER OF PRAISE

G. Sharp Rabbi & Shari Mann (safe in Jerusalem)

SYMPATHIES EXTENDED TO

Smith The family of Shirley Smith (who passed away on Friday, 11/17/2023)



First Presbyterian Church

Telephone: (336) 993-7358 • Fax: (336) 993-5526 • www.fpckernersville.org

Rev. John Pruitt, Pastor

Jane Johnson, Secretary

Stan Stigall, Music Director

December 3, 2023—First Sunday of Advent

SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

GATHERING

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Linda Volcek & Nancy Bolen

One: As the season of Advent begins we celebrate hope.

All: We know that through the birth of a tiny and helpless child, God is coming to save the world.

One: While we watch and wait for Jesus to arrive, we join in God’s mission by bringing grace and mercy to those who need it most.

All: We engage the poor and the poor in spirit, letting Christ’s light shine through us.

One: We speak words of comfort and love to a world in need of healing as we share our stories of God’s transforming Spirit.

All: Together, we are a sign of God’s hope for the world.

(The lighting of the Advent Candle will now take place.)

One: Let us pray:

All: God of surprising grace, when we least expect it you bring fresh new life; and where we feel that all is lost, you bring redemption. Give us courage as we share all you have done, all you are doing, and all you will accomplish through Jesus Christ. Amen.

*HYMN NO. 82

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

HYFRYDOL

*You may stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Awesome God, we confess the sin of our separation from you. We have blamed you for hiding from us, rather than admitting we have failed to see you in the thousands of ways you are revealing yourself every day. We have not called on you, and we have not listened for your call to us. Without you, we have become tiny islands of self-concern. Our links with the rest of your children are stretched and broken. O God, we long for that loving community in which your reign is acknowledged and your purposes are served. Move us to that place, we pray.

(The prayer continues in a time of silent, personal confession.)

Amen.

RESPONSE

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: God's grace has come to us in Jesus Christ. God restores us to a right relationship with the eternal, that we might rightfully value ourselves and all persons. Spiritual gifts are ours to claim. God is faithful and will strengthen us to face all circumstances. Friends, believe the good news...

All: *In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.*

*GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: *And also with you.*

(Please share a sign of peace with others.)

ANTHEM

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Isaiah 64:1-9

Mark 13:24-37

SERMON

"Hope"

Rev. John Pruitt

SENDING

*HYMN NO. 88

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verses 1-4)

VENI EMMANUEL

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

"The Apostles' Creed"

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

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.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*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. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN NO. 93

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

TRURO

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Serving Today (Dec 3)

Greeters/Ushers: Priscilla Henderson, Rusty Sudderth

Serving Next Sunday (Dec 10)

Greeters/Ushers: Priscilla Henderson, Rusty Sudderth
Element Prep: Linda Volcek, Nancy Bolen
Assisting Elders: Linda Volcek, Ellen Watts,
Kerry Kerr, Tom Parker

*You may stand in body or spirit.

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