

**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); 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**

Budkey Linda Spencer (Joy's neighbor—home from hospital—doing well); Killean Phillipp (had 2nd surgery—home recuperating—supposed to walk around Christmas)  
G. Sharp Rabbi & Shari Mann (safe in Jerusalem)



# First Presbyterian Church

Telephone: (336) 993-7358 • Fax: (336) 993-5526 • [www.fpckernersville.org](http://www.fpckernersville.org)

Rev. John Pruitt, Pastor

Jane Johnson, Secretary

Stan Stigall, Music Director

December 17, 2023—Third Sunday of Advent

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PROCESSION** “Angels from the Realms of Glory” (verses 1, 2 & 5) **CHOIR**

### GATHERING

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Norman and Lynda Self

One: In this season of Advent, we celebrate God's joy.

**All: Knowing that Christ is coming, to bring healing and wholeness to the world, is a source of genuine delight!**

One: When we gather for worship it is a celebration, an opportunity to rejoice in all that God is doing among us and beyond us.

**All: Our lives are marked by laughter and friendship, as we love our neighbors with wide smiles and open arms.**

One: Even when we face difficulty and trouble we sing a song of faith, confident that Jesus is able to redeem our suffering world.

**All: Together, we are a sign of God's joy for the world.**

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

One: Let us pray:

**All: God of transformation, we rejoice that you lift up the lowly and fill the hungry with good things. We marvel at your power to change hearts and lives. Fill us with your Spirit this season so that your Good News is not an old story but a fresh truth lived out every day through the power of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**HYMN NO. 147** “The First Noel” (verses 1 & 4)

**CHOIR**

**HYMN NO. 122** “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (verses 1 & 4)

**CHOIR**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of glory, we confess that we have not recognized you in our midst nor listened for your voice. Our faith is fragile, and our iniquity goes unrecognized amid our self-concern. We have lived as if we have no need to account for the life we have been given. We are focused more on our own survival than on our mission in the world. We come to you today with sincere repentance for our neglect. We have failed to prepare the way for Christ’s entry into our everyday environment. Pardon and change us, 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 speaks tenderly to us and assures us that our debt has been paid, our sins forgiven, our paths made straight. God’s glory is waiting to burst into the midst of all who accept the good news. Surely our salvation is at hand. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. 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**

*“O Holy Night”*

KEN HAYNES, SOLOIST

**THE WORD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Isaiah 61:1-3

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Luke 1:46-55

**SERMON IN SONG**

*“I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”* (all verses)

CHOIR

*“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”* (verses 1 & 2)

CHOIR

*“Silent Night”* (verses 1, 2, 3 & 4)

CHOIR

\*You may stand in body or spirit.

**SENDING**

**\*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. 136**

*“Go Tell It On the Mountain”* (all verses)

ALL

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

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**Serving Today (Dec 17)**

Greeters/Ushers: Lynda Self, Darcy Polinsky

**Serving Next Sunday (Dec 24)**

Greeters/Ushers: Nancy Bolen, Darcy Polinsky

Element Prep: Linda Volcek, Nancy Bolen

Assisting Elders: Shari Downing, Rich Tincher, Nancy Bolen, Lynda Self

\*You may stand in body or spirit.