



GOOD NEWS

LETTER

*Forest Presbyterian Church
Living God's Heart, Hands, & Voice*

Newsletter for Forest Presbyterian Church, Forest, Virginia

December 2019

Gifts For The King

“And there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” - Matthew 2:9-11

The Magi had walked and ridden many miles on their trip to see Jesus. They had read the prophecies of the Old Testament. They had stood before Herod seeking the new king. Now they knelt before him, giving gifts fit for a king. They knelt before him, paying homage, giving themselves.

Christmas is the season for giving gifts to others. We remember the birth of the king by sharing generously with others. God gave the ultimate gift in Jesus. Jesus is the revelation of God with us. He is the gift of salvation, the hope of all the ages.

Our Advent theme this year is “Gifts for the King.” During the weeks of Advent, we will learn about and reflect on the gifts that God has given us. Like the Magi in the story, we seek the king every day. We stand before the Lord, we give gifts to the king. We give gifts fit for a king. We kneel before the Lord, and offer ourselves.

This Advent, Forest Presbyterian Church celebrates our gifts to the King with our Stewardship Program “Gifts for the King.” During Advent, we will deepen our commitment to the Lord and pray for what Immanuel is doing among us. On December 15, we will offer our the gifts of our finances, our time, and our talents together in worship. Be here as we give gifts together to celebrate the birth of Jesus the Prince of Peace.

Yours in Faith,

MORGAN

Angel Tree

Angel Tree for Local Families

The Missions Ministry Team needs your help to bring a little holiday cheer to some of the elderly and disabled families in the Bedford County area. Through the Bedford County Department of Social Services, we as a church family are helping those families enjoy some wonderful smiles on Christmas morning! Please help by selecting an angel from our tree.

What a wonderful opportunity for FPC to help those less fortunate and show how we are
Living God's Heart, Hands and Voice!

Angel gifts are to be selected, wrapped and returned with the angel attached to the gift by
Sunday, December 15.



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**Forest
Youth
Reaching
Everyone**

**HO! HO! HO!
FYRE
Christmas Lock-in!**

All FYRE Youth grades 6-12 are invited to join our lock-in on Friday, December 6, 7 pm - December 7, 9 am. Snacks will be served on Friday and breakfast will be served on Saturday morning. Come for fellowship, food, and fun! Friends are invited - bring them!

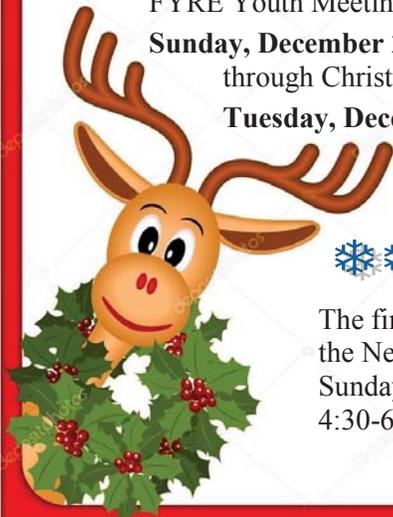
December FYRE Meetings:

Sunday, December 1, 8 NO FYRE Youth Group

Sunday, December 15, 22 and 29 4:30-6 pm - Regular FYRE Youth Meeting

Sunday, December 22, 4:30 pm - Walk through Christmas Eve Program

Tuesday, December 24, 4:15 pm
Meet for Christmas Eve Program



The first FYRE Meeting of the New Year will be on Sunday, January 12, 2020 4:30-6:00 pm.

**Chimes/Handbells
(Ding-A-Lings)**



Chimes/Handbells (Ding-A-Lings) -

There will be NO regular rehearsals December 22, 25, 29 and January 1. Special rehearsal on December 22 immediately following worship for Christmas Eve ringers.

NOTE: We still have openings for ringers in the Sunday Ding-A-Ling group. Come and join in the fun!

Kids Music Program

We have had a lot of fun the last couple of months learning eighth notes, quarter notes, half notes, and whole notes. All of the children have written their own rhythms for the class to play on various percussion instruments (including those that are with them all the time). In December, we will start learning about the notes in the treble clef. We meet in the Sunday School area the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month from 2:15-2:45. This program is open to all children in the community from K-5th grade. If you have friends that you think would enjoy being part of this program, be sure to invite them. All are welcome!



Christian Education

A Word from CE



The angel said, “Don’t be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you-wonderful, joyous news for all people.” -Luke 2:10

What an exciting time of year! We will be learning about Mary’s story, Joseph’s story, and the birth of Jesus. Each Sunday, we read the bible story, do puzzles, games, crafts, and watch a video about the lesson. When you see us after class ask us what we have learned. We have a great time! Come join us this Sunday and bring a friend!

The children at FPC are so much fun to teach and spend time with! Please consider volunteering to teach in Church school, lead children's chapel or help in the nursery. If you feel God is calling you to help in anyway, please talk to Meghann Cope, Angie Francis, or Stephanie Lane to learn more.

Adult Church School

All adults are encouraged to join us each Sunday morning 9:30 am as Pastor Morgan begins his new study in **The Present Word - Honoring God.**

The winter quarter explores ways of honoring God through worship. This study of King David, King Solomon and King Jesus will lead you to incline your heart to our God, who is compassionate, faithful, and gracious. **YOU** do not want to miss any part of this amazing study on honoring God through worship!

December events

- Chimes/Handbells - Sunday’s 3pm
- Chimes/Handbells - Wednesday’s 6pm
- Choir Practice - Wednesday’s 7am
- TOPS - Thursday’s 9am
- Book Club - Tuesday, December 3
Christmas Party
- Disciples in ChristCare - Tuesday,
December 3 & 17, 10am
- Session - Tuesday, December 3, 7pm
- Deacons - Thursday, December 5, 6pm
- Children’s Music - Sunday, December 8 &
22, 2:15pm
- Newsletter Deadline - Monday, December 9
- FPC Lunch Club - Thursday, December 12
11:30am
- Christmas Eve Services - Tuesday,
December 24, 5pm (Family Service)
11pm (Communion Service)
- Christmas Day - Wednesday,
December 25
- Two-Cents-A-Meal - Sunday,
December 29
- New Years Eve - Tuesday, December 31



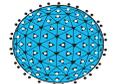
Walking Group!

In mid-October, we left our retracing of the Appalachian Trail into Vermont and walked a few miles across that state to be able to reach the trail head of North Country Scenic Trail (NCT for short) which starts in Crown Point, NY and ends 4,600 miles later at Lake Sakakawea in North Dakota. Since then we have walked 1,272 of the NCT, crossing New York state, the northwestern part of



Pennsylvania and have entered Ohio. The NCT joins the Buckeye Trail which takes us to the Michigan border 919 miles away. Join us as we travel from state to state on these long distance trails, call or email Ginny Lenz.

DECEMBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 1st Sunday of Advent Hanging of the Greens Communion	2	3 10a Disciples in ChristCare 7p Session Book Club Christmas Party	4 6p Chimes 7p Adult Choir 	5 9a TOPS 6p Deacons	6 7 FYRE Youth Lock-In - Friday 7 pm - Saturday 9 am	
8 2nd Sunday of Advent 2:15p Kids Music 3p Chimes/Handbells	9 Newsletter Deadline 	10	11 6p Chimes 7p Adult Choir  Choir Rehearsal	12 9a TOPS 11:30a FPC Lunch Club	13	14
15 3rd Sunday of Advent 3p Chimes/Handbells 4:30p FYRE Youth Group	16	17 10a Disciples in ChristCare	18 6p Chimes 7p Adult Choir	19 9a TOPS	20	21 
22 4th Sunday of Advent 11:30a Chimes/Handbells 2:15a Kids Music 4:30p FYRE Youth Group	23	34 Christmas Eve 5p Family Service 11p Communion Service	25 Christmas Day 	26	27	28
29 2 Cents-A-Meal	30	31 New Year's Eve  <i>New Year's Eve</i>				

ABBREVIATIONS

a - am
 p - pm
 MT - Ministry Team
 CC - ChristCare
 BS - Bible Study

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:30am - Church School
 10:30 am - Worship Service



WHAT: FPC Retreat
Retreat-time away together!

WHEN: March 20-21
2020

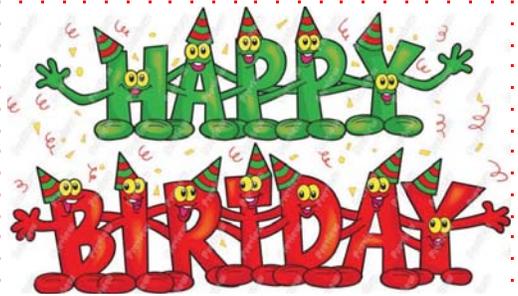
WHERE: WE Skelton 4H Center at Smith Mountain Lake

WHO: YOU! Forest Presbyterian Church - All are Welcome!

Please save and mark your calendar now - watch for more details to come soon!

December Birthdays

- 4 Sarah Lawson Harrison
- 11 Rob Dowdle
- 15 Ellen Gilliam
- 16 Nancy Glover
- 16 Kelli Klingenfus
- 17 Amelia Cope
- 19 Donnie Nugent
- 24 Mary Catherine Harrison
- 25 Meghann Cope
- 28 Lisa Klingenfus
- 29 Patricia Schafer
- 29 Matthew Farley



Deacon notes

It is our tradition at Forest Presbyterian Church to celebrate communion as a congregation during our worship service the first Sunday of every month. Most of us are able to attend church on a regular basis and participate in



communion when it is offered. However, we do have members and friends of the church who are homebound,

in a hospital or other care facility, or in other circumstances that prevent them from attending church. One of the many things that they miss out on is communion.

Did you know that the deacons take communion to many of these individuals one Sunday a month? While the Sunday has varied over time, we are currently offering this the first Sunday of each month. If you know someone that would be interested in communion outside of church, please let one the deacons know so we can add them to our homebound list.

Choir Notes

The Choir is working on special Christmas music and is looking forward to presenting the music to the congregation. All are welcome to join us as we lift our voices to celebrate the birth of our Lord! Come join us as we rehearse on Wednesday evening in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm.



MISSIONS



Angel Tree - NOVEMBER 24 - DECEMBER 15: Please pick an angel from the tree to shop for, then wrap the gift, place the angel on the top of the package and place back under the tree by December 15. We have 40 angels that consist of Elderly and/or Disabled Bedford County Residents. There are a few children on the tree if they are being raised by the adults mention above. If you have any question please contact Denise Kennedy-Sims.

Shepherds Table Volunteer: Help needed December 20 and January 17. Meet at the Shepherd's Tale by 8:30 am. We will prepare a hot meal and serve 11-1 pm. Need all skill sets from cooking to servicing to cleaning up. Contact Denise Kennedy-Sims to sign up (540-871-0494).

For Your Advent Planning...



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR



EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX AT HOME. ON CHRISTMAS EVE BRING THE CONTENTS OF YOUR BOX TO FPC FOOD BANK AND PLACE THE BOX UNDER THE TABLE IN THE COMMONS.

December 1	Box of cereal	December 13	canned spam or treet
December 2	peanut butter	December 14	nutria-grain bars
December 3	stuffing mix	December 15	canned salmon
December 4	chicken noodle soup	December 16	package of oatmeal
December 5	macaroni and cheese	December 17	package pasta
December 6	canned fruit	December 18	spaghetti sauce
December 7	canned Vienna's	December 19	toilet paper
December 8	canned tuna or canned chicken	December 20	tomato soup
December 9	cake mixes	December 21	can corn
December 10	applesauce	December 22	can mixed vegetables
December 11	paper towels	December 23	can carrots
December 12	sugar	December 24	can green beans



Prepare for the Holidays

The holiday season is here! Here are a few simple things that you can do to get yourself ready.

If you're heading out to visit family or friends, pack a few extra things like a first aid kit, a flashlight, some extra snacks and a spare charger for your phones or tablets. Let the family know your travel plans. Those could come in quite handy in case of any kind of weather or delay in travel.

Cooking for the holidays? Unattended cooking is the leading factor in home cooking fires. Keep your eye on the stove while cooking. Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove so no one can bump them or pull them over. In case of an oven fire, turn off the oven and keep the door closed until it's cool. Is your fire extinguisher up to date? Check it to be sure.

Nearly 60% of home candle fires occurred when some form of combustible material was left or came too close to the candle. Keep candles 12 inches away from things that can burn throughout the holiday season. Consider using flameless candles during Kwanzaa or Hanukkah celebrations. Make sure to have working smoke alarms close to where anyone may be sleeping. Turn your holiday lights off before leaving home or going to bed. Remember, don't overload extension cords

Have fun over the holidays, but remember to be mindful that disaster can come in many ways and can happen at any time.

Treasurer's note

Sunday, December 29 is the last Sunday to contribute to Forest Presbyterian Church for 2019. If you mail your donation, to be included in the 2019 contributions, it **must** be postmarked by Tuesday, December 31. **All** vouchers from the ministry teams for 2019 reimbursements, or bills must be in the mailbox by Tuesday, December 31. If you have any questions about your pledge or giving to date, please contact Catherine Justis.

2020 Contribution Envelopes

If you had envelopes for 2019 or you requested to receive envelopes for 2020, they will be available to pick up, by or before December 29. They will be located on the table in the Commons outside the church office.

We have a few boxes of envelopes open/available. If you would like to be added to receive 2020 envelopes please contact Catherine Justis (cjustis1@gmail.com or 434-546-7534)..



Poinsettia



Help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas by donating \$15 towards the purchase of Poinsettia Plants, Hanging of the Greens and Wreaths. Please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office by **Sunday, December 8**. Please enclose your payment with your order. If you have questions, please contact Bill Andrews (andrewsrw@lcsedu.net or 540-894-1527).

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE:

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given By: _____

ADVENT

“Advent” means “coming” or “arrival.” During the season of Advent, we celebrate Christ’s coming into the world and watch with expectant hope for his coming again. In its historical origins, the season of Advent was patterned after the season of Lent, a six-week period of penitence and preparation for Easter. Similarly, the four weeks of Advent present an opportunity for communal discernment and personal examination, as the church prepares to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord and looks with hope for Christ’s return.

In Advent we expectantly wait for the One who has already come. We anticipate the promised justice of God’s new world, yet we praise God who raised the “righteous branch” to rule with justice and righteousness. We hope for the restoration of the afflicted, the tormented, and the grieving, yet we delight that healing has come in Christ. We long for the beating of swords into plowshares, yet we rejoice that the Prince of Peace has appeared. We yearn for the barren deserts of our inner cities to flourish, yet we laud the desert Rose that has bloomed. We dream of the land where lions and lambs live in harmony, yet we acclaim the child born to lead us into the promised land.

Christ has come! Christ is risen! Christ will come again! In Advent, we are living between the first and the second coming of the Lord. The dialectical tension of *maranatha* [alternately translated “Come, our Lord!” or “Our Lord has come”] — placing us between memory and hope, past and future — may strengthen our Advent liturgies. Perhaps we need to cling to the ancient cry of *maranatha!* and its paradoxical meanings so we may freely embrace “the new thing” prophesied by Isaiah (Isaiah 43:19) that

God is doing among us right now. The tension and paradox we find in Advent shapes our celebrations during the season.



1st Sunday in Advent-December 1
9:30 am - Church School
10:30am - Worship - Hanging
of the Greens -
Communion



2nd Sunday in Advent-December 8
9:30 am - Church School
10:30am - Worship



3rd Sunday in Advent-December 15
9:30 am - Church School
10:30am - Worship



4th Sunday in Advent-December 22
9:30 am - Church School
10:30am - Worship



Christmas Eve Service-December 24
5:00pm - Family Service
11:00 pm - Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service

