



GOOD NEWS

LETTER

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

Newsletter for Forest Presbyterian Church, Forest, Virginia

December 2023

Expectation

“But, in according with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.” 2 Peter 3:13

We think of Advent as a time to wait on the arrival of the celebration of the birth of Jesus in the church year. December 25th observes Jesus’ birthday (even though he was most likely born some other day of the year). Advent is a time of expectation and hope.

Advent is also a time of expectation and hope for the future. The promises of the past are also the promises of today and tomorrow. Jesus’ birth was not an end to the fulfillment of the kingdom, it was its most certain seal, a guarantee that God is with us, Immanuel from the Hebrew.

There is hope for the future. Just as Jesus was born in the darkness of the Roman Empire, Jesus is also the light in the darkness of our present world. Jesus is the hope of the end of war, the end of hunger, the end of violence, and a new reign of “peace on earth”, just as the angels promised at Jesus birth.

Use this season of Advent as a season of expectation. Pray for the arrival of the kingdom and the growth of righteousness in the world. Pray that all will come to know God is with us. Wait for Jesus, but don’t wait to share the good news, in word and deed!

Yours in the Hope of Christ,

PASTOR MORGAN



Angel Tree

**2023 CHRISTMAS ANGELS
FOREST PRESBYTERIAN
LIVING GOD’S HEART,
HANDS AND VOICE!**

**CHOOSE YOUR ANGEL
FROM THE ANGEL TREE
AND BRING SOME CHEER
TO THOSE IN NEED!**

OR

Contact Denise Kennedy to request an angel (540-871-0494). All angels need to be returned, wrapped (with angel attached) no later than Sunday, December 10th.



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**Forest
Youth
Reaching
Everyone**



December **FYRE** Meetings:

Sunday, December 3 - Christmas Cookie Baking

- Meet at church - 1-4 pm
- Bring pre-mixed cookie dough for baking (icing provided)

December 4 - Christmas Cookie Deliveries
Deliver Cookies to shut-ins (Time to TBD)

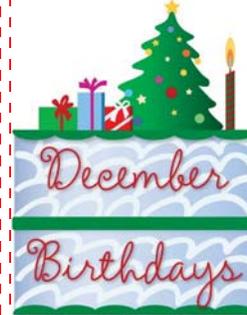
December 17 - Christmas Party
Meet at Laurie's house
3-6 pm
Bring wrapped gift
(cost \$5 or less) for gift exchange game.



The first FYRE Meeting of the New Year will be on Sunday, January 7, 2024 4:00-5:30 pm.

December Birthdays

- 4 Sarah Lawson Harrison
- 5 DaShay Glover
- 11 Rob Dowdle
- 15 Beverly Lutz
- 16 Kelli Klingenfus
- 16 Nancy Glover
- 17 Amelia Cope
- 24 Mary Catherine Harrison
- 25 Christine Jezionski
- 25 Meghann Cope
- 28 Lisa Klingenfus



HO! HO! HO! FYRE Christmas Info!

The Christmas season is when we celebrate all that God has given us in Christ and focus on those we can serve. Our annual cookie baking - delivering them to shut-ins along with the help of the Deacons is a special time to share with some seniors of our church. Our annual Christmas party (12/17) with the always popular Christmas story gift exchange. (See above information.)

Ringin' - Ringin'

**Wednesday Ding-A-Lings
(Handbells)**

- December 6: 6:00 pm rehearsal
- December 13: 6:00 pm rehearsal
- December 20: 6:00 pm rehearsal
- December 27: NO rehearsal



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

The K-5 children are still enjoying their time rotating each Sunday between children’s music ministry, writing cards for our senior members, and learning more about communion. For December we will be continuing the music ministry, working on cards for homebound members for the Christmas holiday, and beginning our Advent study. All are welcome and encouraged to come join us each Sunday morning for Church School 9:30-10:15 am.

Needed - We could still use an adult to assist with our high school class one Sunday a month. Please contact Denise Kennedy if you are available. There is a place for everyone and something for everyone to do! You can help!

Adult Church School

All adults are encouraged to join us each Sunday morning 9:30 am as Pastor Morgan will continue his study **Feasting on the Word**

MISSIONS

2023 Angel Tree -

You can pick an angel from the tree. Or if you are unable to attend any church service at this time, you may still participate in purchasing an angel gift. You can contact Denise Kennedy at (540-871-0494) to request an angel to shop for. The angels will consist of Bedford



County Residents that are either elderly or disabled and any children that live in those households. Please return your wrapped gifts (with the angel attached) under the tree by **December 10.**

Food Pantry -

We continue to supply the food pantry for Bedford Christian Ministries. Please bring in food for BCM food distribution! **Food needed for the holidays:**

Canned meats, vegetables, soups and fruit, breakfast foods, spaghetti noodles and sauce, instant mashed potatoes, Ramon noodles, and toiletry items are needed. All donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Winter Warming Shelter -

BCM Winter Warming Shelter will resume this winter. The shelter will run from December 23-March 20, 2024. Each Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 7pm - 7am at 112 Center Street, Bedford. Volunteers are needed! Point of contact: Tim Brooke (copinbedford@gmail.com)

Shepherd’s Table -

Desserts are needed 3rd Friday of the month. These can be homemade, store prepared, or packaged items. Shepherd’s Table can always use extra pairs of hands to pass out food on the 3rd Friday of every month.

NEEDED - December 15th - 10:30 -12:30 indoors - 5 volunteers!

DECEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 	2 10a Decorate Church
3 1st Sunday of Advent Communion 1-4p FYRE Youth	4 Youth deliver Christmas Cookies	5 5p Book Club at Heideman's	6 6p Handbells 7p Choir practice 	7	8 	9
10 2nd Sunday of Advent JFHS Choir Angel Tree gifts returned Session 7:15a	11	12 Newsletter Deadline 7p Session 	13 6p Handbells 7p Choir practice 	14 11:30a FPC Lunch Club	15	16 
17 3rd Sunday of Advent 3-6p FYRE youth Party	18 	19	20 6p Handbells 7p Choir practice  Choir Rehearsal	21	22	23
24 4th Sunday of Advent Christmas Eve 5p Family Service 11p Candle-light/ Communion	25 Christmas Day 	26	27	28	29 	30
31 2-Cents-A-Meal NO FYRE  <i>New Year's Eve</i>	ABBREVIATIONS a - am P - pm		SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE 9:30 am - Church School 10:30 am - Worship Service			

A Word From... Worship

Celebrate Advent and Christmas Services at Forest Presbyterian Church.

You are invited to join our church family for special services throughout December! *There is a place for YOU this Christmas at Forest Presbyterian Church.*

DECEMBER 2 - 10:00 AM

Decorating the Christmas Tree

Sign up in the Commons and join us for this joyous fellowship.



DECEMBER 3 - 10:30 AM

First Sunday of Advent - Greening of the Church

Help us prepare our Church for Advent and Christmas!



DECEMBER 10 - 10:30 AM

Festival of Music - Enjoy Christmas from the Jefferson Forest Advanced Choir and Forest Presbyterian Handbell and Adult Choirs.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to make or buy cookies for this event - Sign up sheet in the Commons. We will have cookies, hot apple cider, wassil, coffee and lemonade. Come join us for this church family fellowship!

DECEMBER 24 - 10:30 AM

Christmas Eve Morning Worship Service

DECEMBER 24 - 5:00 PM

Family Christmas Service

Celebrate with your family during this brief service especially for children!

DECEMBER 24 - 11:00 PM

Christmas Eve Evening Service by candlelight

Ring in Christmas Day during this beautiful and moving Communion and candlelight service.



Poinsettia



Help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas by donating \$12 towards the purchase of Poinsettia Plants. Please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office by **Sunday, December 10**. Please enclose your payment with your order. If you have questions, please contact Ginny Fiddler (540-588-2301).

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE BELOW:

In Memory of: _____

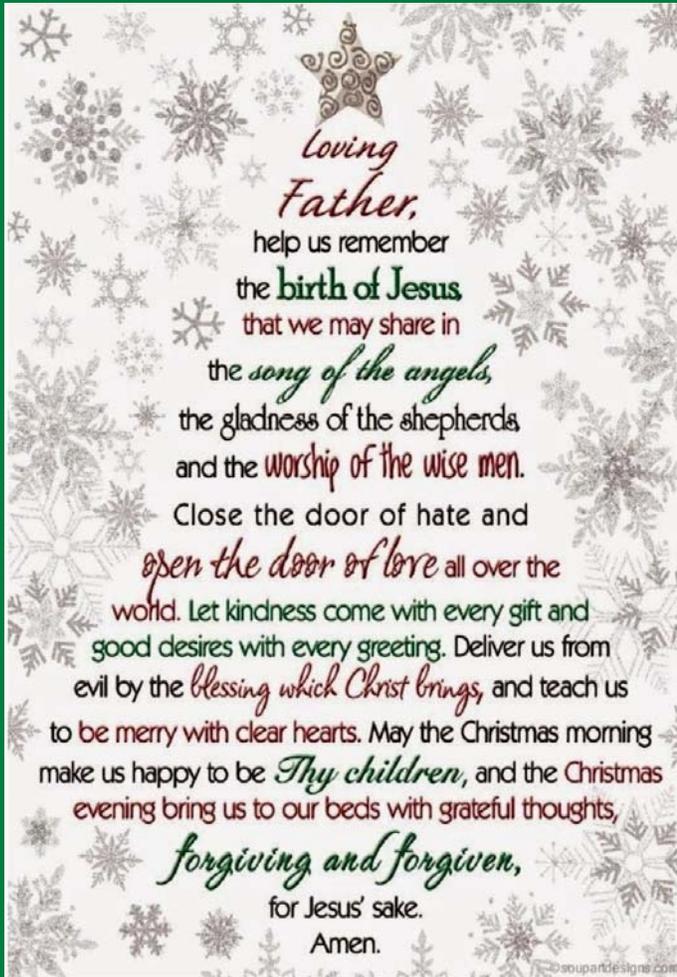
In Honor of: _____

Given By: _____

DEACON NOTES

Merry Christmas

We wish that your heart be lifted in praise this Christmas for the wonderful gift of Jesus and the joy He brings to our lives. May this magnificent time of giving to others and spending time with family and friends bring you great pleasure that lasts throughout the year.



Choir Notes

ENJOY THE MUSIC OF CHRISTMAS!

One of the most joyful things about Christmas is the wonderful music, and we invite YOU to be a part! The choir is rehearsing Christmas music now, and there is a spot for you. Just join us any Wednesday evening at 7 pm in the Sanctuary - we would love to have you!



Also, please mark your calendars now for Sunday, December 10 for a very musical worship service at 10:30 am! The service will be devoted to Christmas music, with special music provided by the Jefferson Forest Advanced Choir under the direction of DaShay Glover. This will be a great service to invite your neighbors and friends to attend, as it will be filled with the glorious sounds of the season - don't miss it!



Sounds of the Season

Walking Group!

During October the group reached two more state capitals. In the middle of September we left Bismark, ND for Columbus, Ohio, a distance of 1,007 miles, and then we headed to Oklahoma City, OK, a further 852 miles, reaching there the very end of October. Our next goal is Salem, Oregon and then it is back east to Harrisburg, PA, clear across the continent. Because the holidays are coming up we may not get to see these routes as we walk them because special decorations are being put up. However, our progress will be brought up to date after the first of the year for all to see. Keep walking!



December events

- ☉ **Adult Choir** - Every Wednesday, 7pm
- ☉ **Handbells** - Every Wednesday, 6pm
- ☉ **FYRE Youth** - December 3 - 1-4pm
- ☉ **Book Club** - December 5 - 5pm Heideman's
- ☉ **JFHS Choral** - December 10, 10:30am
- ☉ **Newsletter Deadline** - Tuesday, December 12
- ☉ **FPC Lunch Club** - December 14-11:30am
- ☉ **FYRE Party** - Sunday, December 17
- ☉ **JFHS Choral** - December 11, 10:30am
- ☉ **Christmas Eve Service** - December 24
5:00pm - Family Service
11pm - Candle Light/Communion
- ☉ **Christmas Day** - December 25,
- ☉ **Two-Cents-A-Meal** - Sunday, December 31
- ☉ **New Year's Eve** - Sunday, December 31



Treasurer's note

Sunday, December 31 is the **last Sunday** for contributions to Forest Presbyterian Church for 2023. If you send your donation by direct deposit or by mail to be included in the 2023 contributions, it **MUST** be postmarked by Sunday, December 31. **All** vouchers from any ministry team for 2023 reimbursements, or bills must be in the church mailbox by Sunday, December 31. If you have any questions regarding your pledge or giving to date, please contact Catherine Justis.

2024 Contribution Envelopes

If you had envelopes in 2023 or you requested to receive envelopes for 2024, they will be available to pick up by or before December 31. They will be located on the table in the Commons. If you have any questions, please contact Catherine Justis for more information.

Stewardship

Thank you to everyone who has made their pledge for 2024. As Doug Brownson noted in his budget presentation, God has blessed this congregation. Your pledge keeps FPC afloat. You may still submit your pledge card in the offering plate each week. Don't delay! Or you can make giving easy, scan the QR code below or set up bill pay with your bank to PO Box 311, Forest, VA 24551.

We are nearly half-way into the Capital Campaign. We have raised enough money to have the AED machine updated and the elevator repaired. Repairs should be completed soon!



Advent Schedule



1st Sunday in Advent-December 3
9:30am - Church School
10:30am - Worship - Hanging of the Greens - adding Chrismons to Christmas Tree



2nd Sunday in Advent-December 10
9:30am - Church School
10:30am - Jefferson Forest HS Choral Group - Director DaShay Glover - Christmas Hymns Celebration



3rd Sunday in Advent-December 17
9:30am - Church School
10:30am - Worship



4th Sunday in Advent-December 24
9:30am - Church School
10:30am - Worship



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



Christmas Day - December 25
MERRY CHRISTMAS