



DECEMBER 2019

### PASTOR'S ARTICLE

By Tom Dendy

*Join Us in the Advent Journey  
as We Prepare Our Lives  
to Receive Jesus Christ the King of Kings*



#### ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**ADVENT I – December 1—11:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion**  
Family-Friendly Worship preparing our hearts for Christmas  
Advent Wreath Lighting—The Kathy O'Halloran and  
Jeffrey Waltemeyer Family

**ADVENT II – December 8 —11:00 AM Worship**  
Family-Friendly Worship preparing our hearts for Christmas  
Advent Wreath Lighting—The Tiani Family

**ADVENT III – December 15 —11:00 AM Worship**  
Family-Friendly Worship preparing our hearts for Christmas  
Cantata — Everlasting Light The Promise of Christmas  
Advent Wreath Lighting —The Sinnet Family

**ADVENT IV—December 22—11:00 AM Worship**  
Family-Friendly Worship preparing our hearts for Christmas  
Advent Wreath Lighting—The Tomlin Family

**CHRISTMAS EVE, December 24 —5:00 PM**  
Family-Friendly Worship  
Holy Scripture, Carols, Communion and Candlelight  
\*Special Music beginning at 4:45 PM  
Christ Candle Lighting—The Burrows Family

**1st Sunday After Christmas—December 29– 11:00 AM**  
\*Family-Friendly—Final Worship of 2019

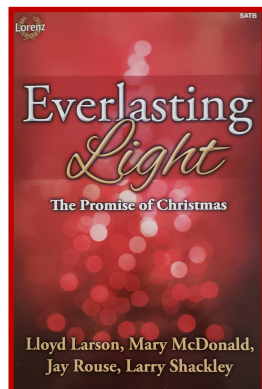


Pastor Tom Dendy

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## EVERLASTING LIGHT, *THE PROMISE OF CHRISTMAS*



### Celebration Choir will present the Christmas Cantata *Everlasting Light, The Promise of Christmas* on Sunday, December 15, during the morning worship.

Light is synonymous with the Christmas season. As we gaze upon the decorated homes and trees, we see symbols of hope that light will battle darkness, heal, and restore. It is only light that can counter that darkness. The lights on homes and trees are eventually taken down and packed away until next year, but the meaning of those lights lasts throughout the year. The birth of one Child brought a light that does not fade; a light that was desperately needed in a world of darkness, pain, and loss. A light that would live on eternally... an Everlasting Light.

This work, carefully crafted by the collaborative creative efforts of Lloyd Larson, Mary McDonald, Jay Rouse, and Larry Shackley, aims to profoundly present the significance of the light of Christ come to earth. Rose Aspinall's insightful narration beautifully ties the work together with a combination of scripture reading and personal reflection. Mary McDonald's celebratory opener, *Everlasting Light*, weaves through carols in an exciting instrumental overture before developing into a powerful original song that functions as the cornerstone theme of the work. Next, Larry Shackley's *Longing for the Light* beautifully portrays the feeling of expectation and the yearning for restoration as opportunities for readings are accompanied by a pensive underscore. Jay Rouse continues with a stirring original musical setting with words inspired by Mary's Song of Praise found in Luke 1:44-56. Lloyd Larson's energetic and rhythmic *Shepherds and Angels* depicts the telling of Christ's birth with scripture-based text while incorporating familiar carol melodies. The work concludes with a celebratory medley of carols arranged by Jay Rouse that ultimately concludes by revisiting the opening song, *Everlasting Light*.

*"He is the Light, Everlasting Light; born a Savior, born this night. He is the One, the Everlasting Son; Child of heaven, He is the Light!"*

Advent Devotions can be found on the web at [d365.org](http://d365.org). You can subscribe to this website and receive a daily email with a devotion for that day. This website is not only for the Advent season, but all year round.



## LADYBUG LUNCHEON

By Carol Butler

Our November luncheon had us eating at Capriccio's Italian Restaurant. Haven't been there in quite a while. Needless to say, there were lots of pasta dishes and pizza to go around and many take home boxes of leftovers.....Delish!!! As always, the friendship, camaraderie and laughter makes for a fun outing.

There were 15 Ladybugs in attendance. We all signed a card for Carol (#3) Mitchell's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. Carol Lagassee will be heading north in a couple of weeks and will be attending her birthday party. We collected \$80.00 in donations which will be added to the \$120.00 already in the kitty.

This month there wasn't a Ladybug luncheon because we celebrated the month with our annual Ladies Christmas Luncheon.

Since the first Thursday in January is the day after New Year's Day, some of you may still be experiencing post-Holiday effects..... Our next luncheon, therefore, will be Thursday, January 9 at noon. We will be dining at the Carolina Ale House which is located on the corner of Hwy 17 bypass and Hollywood Drive and across the street from Broadway at the Beach. If you plan to attend, the sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex. Let me know if you need a ride. All Ladybugs, their friends and family (female of course) are invited.....hope to see you there. Come join a bunch of fun Ladybugs!

## AS THE ADVENT SEASON IS UPON US, LET US REFLECT ON THE MEANING OF HOPE AND WONDER

By Terry Pettijohn

Looking back and forward: Advent's significance of hope from *Presbyterians Today* October 20, 2019. By David Gambrell, associate for worship in the Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Theology & Worship:

Think about the first and last words of Scripture. The book of Genesis opens with "In the beginning ..." (Gen. 1:1). The book of Revelation closes with "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" (Rev. 22:20). The season of Advent brings together both ends of the Bible.

On the one hand, we may think of Advent as a beginning -- the start of the new liturgical year, a fresh opportunity to immerse ourselves in the great story of our salvation through Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem. On the other hand, Advent points to an ending -- the consummation of all things when Christ will return in glory to bring righteousness, justice and peace. How does the season of Advent balance at this threshold of time?

It all depends on the double significance of Advent as "coming" or "arrival." We begin the season of Advent with our eyes on the horizon: watching and waiting for Christ's coming again. There are visions of the prophets about the coming day of the Lord, letters from the apostles about the imminent return of the Lord Jesus, and teachings from Jesus himself about the unexpected hour of judgment.

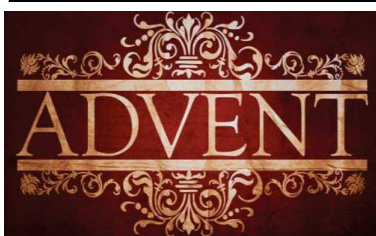
As the weeks of Advent progress and the candles burn more brightly, the focus of Advent shifts to another arrival. We prepare to celebrate the light that has already come into the world at the birth of Jesus Christ, God's Word made flesh, our Emmanuel. The lectionary readings lead us to Bethlehem, where the message of the apostles draws its first breath and the hope of the prophets is finally fulfilled.

It is vital that we hold both meanings of Advent together. We believe that God is with us in Jesus. A new day has already dawned. This is the year of the Lord's favor. The time of salvation is now. This is indeed a cause for celebration, good news of great joy for all. But we also believe that Christ will come again. Creation is still crying out for redemption. Captives are still struggling for freedom. Communities are still yearning for peace. And these are reasons for vigilance and renewed discipleship, hard work and fervent prayer. The season of Advent teaches us to live in this tension.

Advent is an annual refresher course on the nature of Christian hope. We look back across the long arc of history to understand and remember who God is and how God works in the world -- mighty and merciful; ever-faithful and abounding in love; creating, redeeming, sustaining all that is. We look forward, too, straining to see the new thing God is doing -- a river flowing in the desert, a fresh shoot growing from an old stump, weapons of war turned into instruments of peace. Thus, we learn to proclaim the gospel with confidence, trusting that the Spirit will work wonders, the promises of God will come to pass, and Jesus will continue to lead the way.

This Christian hope has a countercultural dimension. It requires a faith in that which is not yet seen -- and the patience of the saints in the meantime. It resists easy answers and instant gratification. It rewards the poor and powerless and rebukes the privileged and proud. Especially in the cultural and commercial season of Christmas, the spirit of Advent seems to strike a discordant tone -- like hearing "Jingle Bells" in a minor key. Indeed, it is difficult for congregations to sustain "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" while "Here Comes Santa Claus" is spilling out of the nearby mall.

An emphasis on the promise of God's new Creation and the future coming of the Lord gives us an opportunity to testify to the hope that is in us before the countdown of shopping days until Christmas begins. As we "prepare the way of the Lord," may these ancient patterns of the Christian year reform and transform us, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to live out our faith in Jesus -- the Alpha and Omega.



## 5th Sunday Offering

The 5th Sunday Special Offering will be received on December 29, 2019. This offering allows for the care, upkeep and improvement of our property.

## SESSION REPORT

By Cecilia Evans

The session meeting was opened in devotion by reminding us of the many things we have to be thankful for in our personal lives as well as in the church.

Our generative time was spent around an article discussing whether we were leading in fear or in faith. How do we utilize Biblical promises and praise to help us to lead in faith with the Spirit and embrace the Kingdom work Celebration has been called to do.

The financial report for the end of October was strong with \$7,000 in net income. The increase over September was due to the success of Fall On Broadway, preschool being back in session, and the continuing generosity of the church family to support the mission and ministry of the church.

A meeting was held Thursday, November 14, with Gavin Meek, Transitional Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk for The Presbytery of New Harmony, to discuss the mortgage on the church and ideas for growth and furthering Celebration's ministry. Gavin shared that over the life of Celebration, the Presbytery has provided \$1.7 million in support. Our Session knowing that the mortgage will revert back to a larger payment in September 2020, shared in discussion around a 2020 Capital Campaign for debt reduction with our mortgage or a possible payoff of the mortgage by the Presbytery of New Harmony with presbytery serving as our lender and extending a new loan to us for 20 years.

A motion was approved at the November stated session meeting to ask The Presbytery of New Harmony to pay off the mortgage from PILP and finance the a 20 year loan for Celebration at the current market interest rate. A letter will be drafted and sent with this proposal to the Presbytery.

A motion was approved to pay Per Capita to New Harmony Presbytery of \$1,977.62 for 2020. The per capita is requested by the Presbytery for the overall operational support provided to each church in the denomination.

A motion was approved to participate along with Pastor Tom, in the Healthy Pastor, Healthy Congregation program of the PCUSA Board of Pensions with a one-time gift to the B.O.P. of \$100.

In our 11/14 meeting with Gavin Meek, he offered some membership growth suggestions around 24 hour follow-up with visitors and making them feel welcome with radical hospitality each time they visit Celebration. A brief Sunday afternoon door-step visit, where you do not go into the home but welcome them from the doorstep—practicing the 3 Bs—Be Positive, Be Brief, Be Gone.

There are many exciting things happening in the life of the church.

The joint Thanksgiving service with Trinity PCUSA Surfside was well received. We look forward to coordinating future joint ministry opportunities with Trinity/Surfside.

The Women's Christmas Luncheon will be at Pine Lakes Country Club on December 7 at 12pm. \$25 to Jeanne B. by December 1.

Movie Night in December is *A Christmas Tree Miracle* and will be held on December 10, at 6pm.

**S'Mores with the Preschool** will be hosted by church members on December 16, for all morning and afternoon preschool classes. This is a wonderful time for the church members to interact with the preschool. Volunteers are needed to help with the making and clean up of the s'mores with the children.

**Christmas Eve Family Worship Service will be held at 5pm.** Cookie and milk/coffee will be served after worship.

An orientation meeting for the Vital Congregations PCUSA Program was held at FPC, Myrtle Beach. This program will kick off in January to provide guidance for participating congregations working through the 7 Marks of a Vital Congregation. Upcoming Events:

- February 2—Annual Congregational Meeting to provide update on the 2020 Stewardship Campaign /Church Programs
- February 8—Strategic Planning Session
- February 26—Drive Thru Ashes

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 The Ladies Christmas Luncheon is coming up on December 7 at the Pine Lakes Country Club. Please turn in your money to Linda Berry in the church office or to Jeanne Bredbeck in worship. Remember to bring a toy for the Salvation Army toy drive.  
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## THE SHEPHERD'S TABLE 2019

By Cecilia Evans

Team A	Team B	Team C	Team D	Team E
Nancy Torcivia Dom Torcivia Margaret Reeder Beth Bruton Marsha Meek Steve Meek	Roy Andrews Laurie Andrews Nancy Thornburgh Rick Thornburgh Doug Larson	Kathy Wechter Carol Butler Anthony Tiani Lois Storms Pat Himes	Anne Brallier Sara Bamrick Donna Woodard Gerri Byrne Ken Krenzer Sharon Mook	Leslie Eckert Mike Kotora Joann Piazza Rosie Rashid Jerry Rashid Paul Youngblood Patty Youngblood
January 10	February 14	March 21	January 17	February 21
April 11	May 9	June 20	April 18	May 16
July 11	August 8	September 19	July 18	August 15
October 10	November 14	December 19	October 17	November 21

Sub: Cindy Smith

*If you cannot serve on your assigned day, please contact Cindy Smith to see if she is available and let Linda know in the office. Thank you!*



## ADULT BIBLE STUDY

By Ken Krenzer

Beginning December 8, we will begin an Advent study that will explore the Advent through the book *Names of the Messiah*. Books are available, see Ken Krenzer. We meet at 9:15am on Sunday mornings. All are welcome!

## BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY

Take a moment to wish those who have a birthday this month birthday wishes.

If your birthday is not listed, please let Linda Berry in the office know.

Dec 4—Daniel Watson  
Dec 13—Margaret Reeder  
Dec 14—Bob Stepanek  
Dec 15—Nicklaus McIlrath  
Dec 21—Frances Mehalick  
Dec 21—Nancy Resnick  
Dec 26—Jesse Wallace  
Dec 29—Jeanne Bredbeck  
Dec 30—Connor Walsh

Jan 2—Carol Butler  
Jan 3—Billy Moore  
Jan 9—Jackie Sinnet  
Jan 10—Jade Bender  
Jan 12—Myra Burrows  
Jan 18—Priscilla Mulligan  
Jan 20—Kathy O'Halloran





## MOVIE NIGHT

By Priscilla Mulligan

The movie *A Christmas Tree Miracle* will be shown on Tuesday, December 10, 6pm. A dysfunctional family loses everything when David, the father, loses his job. They are taken in by an old Christmas tree farmer and, by sticking together, manage to overcome all of the obstacles in their path. All are welcome and there is a sign up sheet in the Narthex.



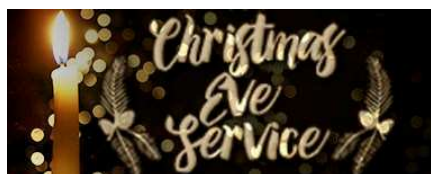
## SNEAKERS FOR SANTA

Thank you for your response to our Sneakers for Santa. The sneakers will be taken to the Salvation Army with the socks the first week of December.

If you haven't gotten around to bringing yours in the time is getting close. We need to work hard to reach 100 pairs as we have 62 pairs as of Sunday.

## BLOOD DRIVE JANUARY 15, 2020

Our next American Red Cross Blood Drive will be held at the church on Wednesday, January 15, 2020. If you have not donated since November 15, please consider coming on January 15 to give blood to help those in our community.



## Join us for Christmas Eve Family Worship, Tuesday, December 24, 5pm.

An evening of Christmas scriptures, carols, communion and candlelight. The service will be followed by a cookie and coffee/milk fellowship. All are welcome!



## PRESCHOOL

By Susan Spraker

Happy December everyone! The preschool has been business as usual. All of the children have settled into a great routine and are learning new things every day. This month will go by very fast due to the shortened month. We will be going to the Christmas on Ice show December 18 at 10:00 in the circus tent on Hwy. 501. This show is very special to me because my daughter Erin is one of the dancers in the cast. I have already seen it and it is a very fun, upbeat show for both children and adults. If you are looking to get in the Christmas spirit this show is sure to help. We are also having our holiday parties on December 19 and 20 at the preschool. This is always a fun time for everyone.

Our preschool family extends a warm wish for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The Preschool will be closed December 23- January 3. School resumes on January 6, 2020.

See you all next year!!!!



# DECEMBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1 ADVENT I</b> NO Adult Bible Study Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Fellowship 10:15 <b>Worship 11am</b> Children's Church Nursery <b>Communion</b>	2	3  Daisy Girl Scouts meet here at 5pm	4  Choir Rehearsal 7pm	5	6	7  Ladies Christmas Luncheon 12noon
<b>8 ADVENT II</b> Adult Bible Study 9:15  Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Fellowship 10:15 <b>Worship 11am</b> Children's Church Nursery	9	10  Quilters 10:00 am	11  Choir Rehearsal 7pm	12	13	14
<b>15 ADVENT III</b> Adult Bible Study 9:15 Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Fellowship 10:15 <b>Worship 11am</b> Cantata Children's Church Nursery <b>Stated Session Meeting 12:30pm</b>	16	17  Quilters 10:00 am  Daisy Girl Scouts meet here at 5pm	18  Choir Rehearsal 7pm	19  Team C cooks at The Shepherd's Table 1pm	20  Breakfast Buddies Cracker Barrel 9am	21
<b>22 ADVENT IV</b> Adult Bible Study 9:15 Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Fellowship 10:15 <b>Worship 11am</b> Children's Church Nursery	23	24  <b>Christmas Eve Service 5pm Family Worship Service</b>	25  <b>CHRISTMAS</b>  <b>Church Offices Closed</b>	26	27	28
<b>29</b> Fellowship 10:15 <b>Worship 11am</b> Children's Church Nursery <b>5th Sunday Offering</b>	30	31				



2300 Carolina Forest Boulevard  
 Myrtle Beach, SC 29579  
 Phone: 843-903-0308  
 Fax: 843-903-0345  
 celebrationpresbyterianmb@gmail.com  
 www.celebrationpresbyterianchurch.org  
 Facebook—  
 Celebration Presbyterian Church  
 Dr Tom Dendy—Pastor  
 Sarah Abushakra—Music Director  
 Linda Berry—Office Administrator



## CELEBRATION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OUR IDENTITY STATEMENT

*We are Christ followers who are open, accepting, loving and welcoming to all!*

## VOLUNTEERS SERVING THIS MONTH

### Elder of the Week

Dec 1—Ken Krenzer  
 Dec 8—Kathy Wechter  
 Dec 15—Myra Burrows  
 Dec 22—Terry Pettijohn  
 Dec 29—Jeanne Bredbeck

### Liturgist

Dec 1—Anne Brallier  
 Dec 8—Sara Bamrick  
 Dec 15—Nancy Thornburgh  
 Dec 22—Carla Baker  
 Dec 29—Anthony Tiani

### Visitors Table/Greeter

Dec 1—Priscilla Mulligan  
 Dec 8—Nanette Kelly  
 Dec 15—Priscilla Mulligan  
 Dec 22—Barbara Barranco  
 Dec 29—Margaret Reeder

### Nursery

Dec 1—Leslie Eckert  
 Dec 8—Donna Woodard  
 Dec 15—Vicki Jacobs  
 Dec 22—Vicki Simon  
 Dec 29—Donna Woodard

### Media Shout

Dec 1—Katrena White  
 Dec 8—Bernadine Lamar  
 Dec 15—Katrena White  
 Dec 22—Bernadine Lamar  
 Dec 29—Katrena White

### Sound Booth

Dec 1—Bernadine Lamar  
 Dec 8—Carol Butler  
 Dec 15—Bernadine Lamar  
 Dec 22—Carol Butler  
 Dec 29—Carol Butler

### Ushers for the month

Dec 1—Corey Jacobs, Cindy Smith, Beth Bruton, Terry Baker  
 Dec 8—Dec 29—Corey Jacobs, Kathy Wechter, Beth Bruton, Terry Baker

### Communion Elders

**Ken Krenzer**, Bob Miller, Cecilia Evans, Kathy Wechter, Carol Butler

### Chimes

Dec 1—Sharon Mook/Janet Rouseff  
 Dec 8—Cindy Smith/Kathy O'Halloran  
 Dec 15—Kathy O'Halloran/Sharon Mook  
 Dec 22—Janet Rouseff/Cindy Smith  
 Dec 29—Cindy Smith, Kathy O'Halloran

*If you cannot serve on your Sunday, please change with someone and let Linda know in the office. Thank you!*

