

## *The First Sunday of Advent*

*November 29, 2020*

### *Order of Worship*

#### **GATHERING AROUND THE WORD**

GATHERING MUSIC *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* Michael Burkhardt  
*Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending* Jacob B. Weber  
*Prepare the Royal Highway* BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

PRELUDE *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

The power of dreams lies in waking up. For when we close our eyes, we can see a better world. We can close our eyes, we can dream a better dream. But when we open our eyes, we begin the work of faith. The power of worship is the same. When we enter this space, we can see a better world. When we enter this space, we can dream a better dream. But when we leave this space, we begin the work of faith. So come in. Dream your dream. Find hope here. For in an hour, we will begin the work of faith. Let it be so.

CANDLE LIGHTING: The Candle of Hope

Jay and Buncie Lanners, Allie Hay

HYMN 105 People, Look East

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Original Dreamer,  
Over and over again in scripture, we hear your dream for a beautiful world. We hear your dream for peace and reconciliation. We hear your dream for harmony and togetherness. We hear your dream of community and hope. We hear your dreams, and yet we do not open our eyes. We continue to live with the curtains drawn, the covers pulled tight, eyes shut to the realities of the world. Forgive us. Kindle a hope in us that will burn through the darkest nights. Give us the strength and the will to keep awake in this sleeping world. With hope we pray, amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE      *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*      WINCHESTER NEW  
*On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh; awake  
and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings! Then cleansed  
be every life from sin; make straight the way for God within, and let us all  
our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

## ***PROCLAIMING THE WORD***

THE WORD WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Kimmy Briggs

ANTHEM

John Whitehead, Gene McFadden, and Victor Carstarphen  
*Wake Up Everybody*      Krista Firkus, solo

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 13:24-37

SERMON      *Those Who Dream: Keep Awake*

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane

## ***RESPONDING TO THE WORD***

HYMN 97 (stanzas 1 & 3) *Watchmen, Tell Us of the Night*

ABERYSTWYTH

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God.

We believe that God has dreams for humanity.

We believe in the Holy Spirit.

We believe that the Holy Spirit comforts us when our dreams turn to  
nightmares.

We believe in Jesus.

We believe that Jesus walked the world to wake us up, inviting us to be the  
church in the world.

We believe in dreams.

We believe in the power that dreams have to show us a new way.

So in this Advent season,

We are those who dream and those who wake up. May it be so. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

RESPONSE (Hymn 104)

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

*O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

*You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill, to bring an end to  
sadness and bid our fears be still. In patient expectation we live for that  
great day when your renewed creation your glory shall display.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God,

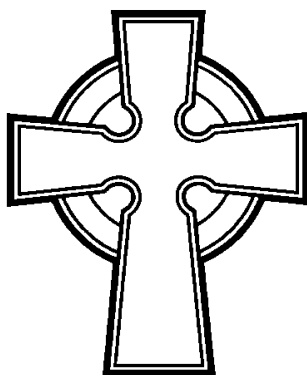
Help us to be your Advent people. Keep us awake. Make us ever watchful  
for your kingdom before us so that we do not fall asleep to the realities of  
the world. Prompt us in our giving to pay attention to your dream for all cre-  
ation! May Christ be born to us anew this day!

## ***BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD***

HYMN 88 (stanzas 1 & 6) *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL  
CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Savior of the Nations, Come* Jacob B. Weber

Thank you for worshipping with us today. Announcements, prayer concerns and ways to give are on the following pages.



Tonight at 7:00 PM,

**Alice Walker and Becky Ramsey**

will present a

Duet Recital of traditional Advent/Christmas Carols

The recital will be available at the

**Covington First Presbyterian Church** website: **FPCCOV.org**

(beginning November 29 and continuing through the Christmas season)

Please mark your calendar and share this  
email invitation with your family and friends!

The Concert will be available on Facebook at 7:00pm and  
there will be a Zoom Watch Party at 7:00pm.

Here's the Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82759452991>

### **Bible Study and Discussion Groups on Anti-Racism**

#### **"Entering the Conversation: Naming Our Story of Race."**

**The Anti-Racism Team and Christian Education Team** of First Presbyterian Church presents new opportunities for us as the Body of Christ to study, consider, and name our role in systemic racism. You are invited to join us this fall in "Entering the Conversation: Naming Our Story of Race."

#### **A Monthly Bible Study:** (We will start on Zoom)

The Woman at the Well Dec. 9 6:00pm-7:00pm Facilitator: Neeley Lane  
Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87618791122>  
Meeting ID: 876 1879 1122

## We thank you for your continued support of First Presbyterian Church of Covington!

You are invited to "Text to Give"  
your offering: Text to: 73256  
Enter FPCCOV as your message, click  
to send

**Giving by Text:** Send to: **73256** Text message should say **FPCCOV** (then press send) to give using your text messaging. If you made a pledge for 2020, choose "2020 Pledge" as the fund. Then the system will walk you through entering your bank or credit card information. If you did not make a pledge you can choose another fund such as "Non-pledge"; or "Thornwell" "Love Gift", etc. There is a drop-down menu you can scroll through to choose a fund.

### *In Our Thoughts and Prayers*

- ◆Phyllis Pruner-upcoming eye surgery
- ◆Melissa & Jim Perry and Julie & John Stevens-Covid 19 (nieces & nephews of Judy Davis)
- ◆McKenna Grace Boston (newborn daughter) and Paige Boston - hospitalized with COVID-19 (Paige grew up at FPC)
- ◆Mitchell Wheeler-cancer (nephew of Jack & Miriam Wheeler)
- ◆Martha Young-home recovering from Covid-19 (grandmother of Cotton Young)
- ◆Greta Haug, David Hopper, Bob Haug-Greta & David-Covid-19; (Greta is Peni Kehoe's daughter)
- ◆Guy McGiboney-Merryvale
- ◆David Hunter-stage 4 cancer, prayers for his wife Martha, and daughters, Grace and Hannah (Jonny Atkin's uncle)
- ◆Betty Lunsford-hospital in Athens
- ◆Roger Tingler-surgery on hip incision
- ◆Betsy MgGehee-Covid-19 (mother of an Oxford Student)
- ◆Sarita Pope-breast cancer (mother-in-law of Elizabeth Martin Pope)
- ◆Trey and Cathy Davis - COVID-19 (nephew of Anne & Mac Cranford)
- ◆Nancy Smith-cancer treatments (daughter of Sandy & Betsy Morehouse)
- ◆Bill Cobham-ongoing health issues
- ◆Ginny Elliott-rehab following fall (step-mother of Aubrey Evans)
- ◆Chris Zimmerman-recovering at home (Karla Ensminger's fiancé; Karla is Perri Walden's sister)
- ◆Beverly Maddox-caring for husband who has leukemia (friend of Jean Elder)
- ◆Gena McLendon-chemotherapy (friend of Doug & Sherri Bolton)
- ◆Sharon Walton-cancer surgery (friend of Patti Lanford)
- ◆Karen Moss-breast cancer
- ◆Carter Mackenzie-neck injury (son of Julie & Jeff Mackenzie)
- ◆Karen Lein Kaasa-home health care (sister-in-law of Julie Mackenzie)
- ◆Tom Bass-cancer treatment & dialysis (friend of Beth & Danny Vining)
- ◆Wilford Reed-health issues (friend of Jeff Mackenzie)
- ◆Denise Vining-recovering from kidney transplant (she is Danny & Beth Vining's niece)
- ◆Bob Darby-kidney problems (friend of Jeff Mackenzie)

- ◆Joyce Williams-Alzheimer's, breast cancer treatment (sister of Danny Vining)
- ◆Peter Milner-cancer surgery (nephew of Day & Larry Kennon)
- ◆Angela Gregory-cancer treatment, in Scotland (sister of Dave Gregory)
- ◆Brandon Massey-blood cancer (grandson of Chuck and Sherry Brasher)
- ◆Carol Baynes-cancer (friend of Phyllis Yoder)
- ◆Sophia Hawley-cystic fibrosis

#### **Independent and Assisted Living**

- ◆Travis Moss-Pruitt Healthcare
- ◆Penny Blakeney-home
- ◆Julia Brubaker-Benton House
- ◆Jean Elder-currently in Florida with her daughter (address available from church office)
- ◆Dot Fincher-Merryvale
- ◆Guy McGiboney-Merryvale
- ◆Betty Robinson-Merryvale
- ◆Louise White-Merryvale
- ◆Jerry McGaffney-Merryvale

#### **Military Service**

- ◆Koen Ardis-Navy



#### **Condolences**

We extend our prayers to Martha Hunter and her daughters, Grace and Hannah, in the death of her husband, **David Hunter**, who died on November 21st. David was the uncle of **Jonny Atkins**.

#### **Praises!**

For Miriam Wheeler who prepared the lovely Advent Wreath!  
For all who helped at and donated to Change the World Day! Our community was able to serve 490 families, which is over 1,000 people!  
For the volunteers and blood donors who worked and gave at the blood drive on Wednesday!

#### **Updated Procedure! for Prayer Requests**

All prayer requests should be sent to: [admin@fpccov.org](mailto:admin@fpccov.org) or by clicking the "Email Peni" button at the bottom of the Enews prayer list. Please specify if you want the request in the bulletin or for pastors only, or only the confidential prayer circle. You must click to submit or we won't receive the request.

#### **Worship Notes**

- ◆Recordings of Sunday sermons can be accessed on the church website: [www.fpccov.org](http://www.fpccov.org).
- ◆Music printed (and streamed) in our bulletins are covered by licenses authorizing their use. Licenses are from: CCLI #11379886 and One License # A-728738.

*Thanks to those  
serving us today*

Dan Walden,  
Phil Anderson, Brad Phillips, &  
Ken Walker

# Ongoing Activities in the Life of the Church

## This Week at FPC

### Sunday, November 29 Advent 1

9:45 Adult Sunday School (link below)  
 10:00 Youth Sunday School (in person)  
 11:00 Indoor Worship Service (RSVP)  
 (live on Facebook)  
 7:00pm Concert on Facebook or via Zoom  
 Watch Party (see article above)

### Sunday, December 6 Advent 2

9:45 Adult Sunday School (link below)  
 10:00 Youth Sunday School (in person)  
 11:00 Worship Service (RSVP)  
 (live on Facebook)

## Commitment Cards for 2021

Please prayerfully consider how WE, while "Opening Doors", can share all that God has blessed us with during these unprecedented times. Church family, think about all the doors we can open as we give through our Time, Talents and Treasure. Pledge cards are available from an usher if you need one. Please leave your Commitment Card in one of the offering plates on the narthex table.

"Everyone should give whatever they have decided in their heart. They should not give with hesitation or because of pressure. God loves a cheerful giver."  
*2 Corinthians 9:7*

### Angel Trees (Due Date has changed)

There are still some angels on the trees in the narthex. You may choose from the nursing home tree or the children's tree. Sign your name on the clipboard corresponding to the tree. When you've purchase the gift: wrap the gifts for the nursing home and attach the tag; for the children's tree attach the tag, but do not wrap. All gifts are due back to the church by **December 10**.

### Christian Education

**Children:** Sunday School continues with Dan and Perri! Videos will be posted to Facebook on Sunday morning and will be available on our [website](#).

**Youth:** Join Pam, Jim and Kimmy at 10:00am for Sunday School! We will gather in the Youth Room. Please enter through the doors near the sanctuary and plan to wear a mask. Contact [Kimmy](#) if you have any questions.

**Adults:** Join us on Zoom at 9:45am for Sunday School! This is a casual time of reflecting on Scripture together. Each week will be a stand alone conversation, so if you miss a week, make plans to join the following week! [Click here](#) to join.

### Reservations for Indoor Worship Services

**11:00 in person & live stream—Reservations needed each week**

You may call the church, **770-786-7321, ext 1010** and leave a message with Peni or the answering service OR email: [admin@fpccov.org](mailto:admin@fpccov.org). Please give your name & phone number and names of all those attending. Reservations are due 2 days before any service that you wish to attend. If too many register, those who communicate 1st will have priority; others will be placed on a "wait" list and will be notified about their place in line. No one may reserve more than 6 days in advance. Please notify us if you register and then will not be able to attend.

**Covid-19 Protocols in force: Enter through the sanctuary doors, 50 people only, masks, temperature check, 6 ft. distance between person or family pods, restrooms are for emergency only.**

### Volunteers Urgently Needed for the First United Methodist Food Pantry

Please see the weekly e-news for specific instructions about who can volunteer and the link to sign up.

### Interested in Joining the Church?

If you're interested in joining the FPC church family, you are welcome to reach out to Neeley. You can enjoy a virtual coffee together and discuss what it means to become a member.

To set a date:

by email: [neeley@fpccov.org](mailto:neeley@fpccov.org);

By phone: 770-786-7321, please leave a message with Peni Kehoe.

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Neeley Rentz Lane	<i>Senior Pastor</i>	Krista Firkus	<i>Music Director</i>
Kimmy Briggs	<i>Director of Family Ministries</i>	Alice Walker	CAGO, AAGO
Peni Kehoe	<i>Church Administrator</i>	Danielle Schubert	<i>Organist/Ambassador Choir Nursery</i>

## MEMBERS OF SESSION

### Class of 2020

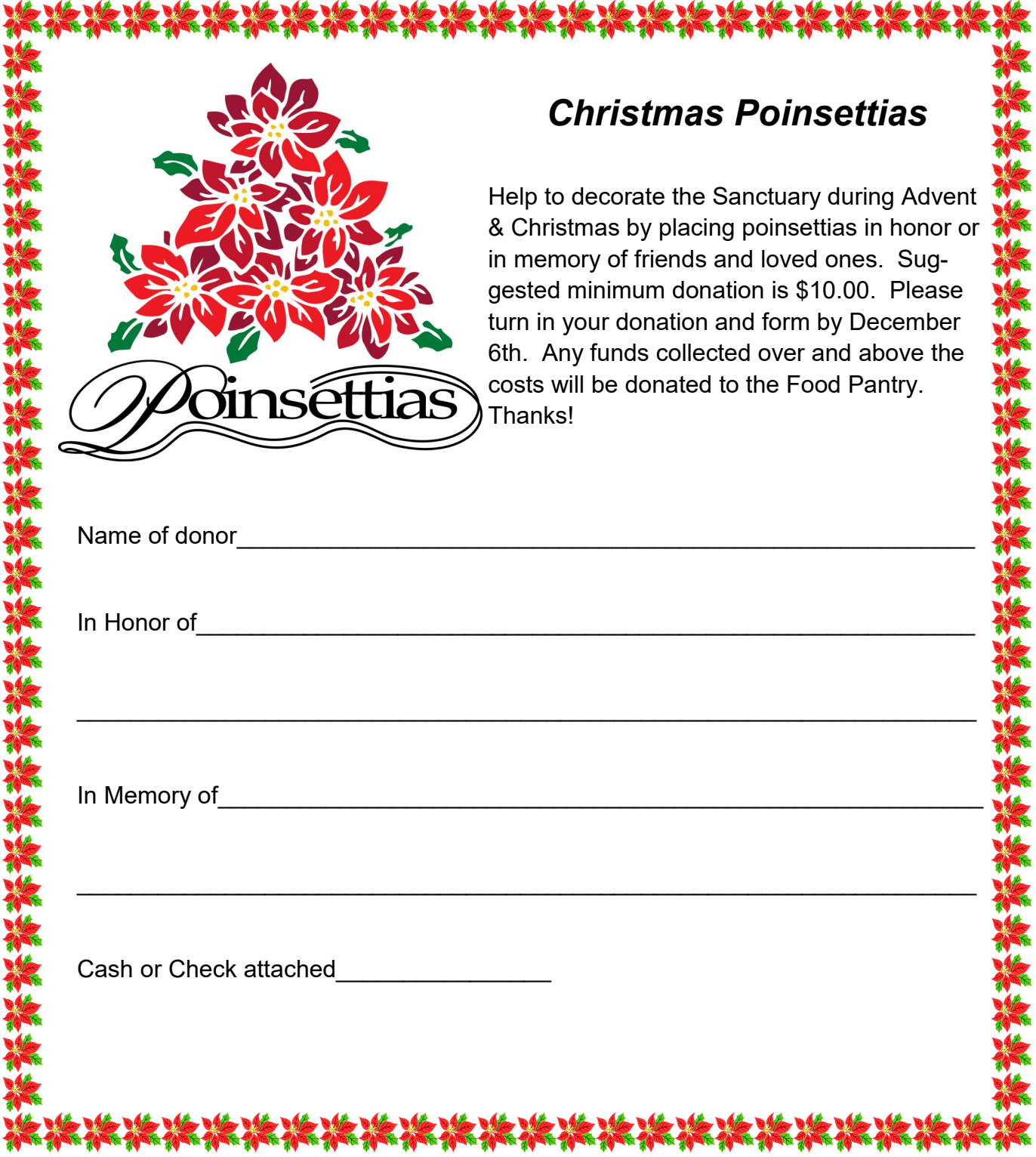
Doug Bolton  
 Stan Hall  
 Cindy Moon  
 Bob Tabb

### Class of 2021

Jay Lanners  
 Warren Liem  
 Pam Stillerman  
 Donna Weesner  
 Cy Wolverton

### Class of 2022

Aubrey Evans  
 John McCarthy  
 Stephanie Scarborough  
 Trista Hooten Wilson



# Poinsettias

## **Christmas Poinsettias**

Help to decorate the Sanctuary during Advent & Christmas by placing poinsettias in honor or in memory of friends and loved ones. Suggested minimum donation is \$10.00. Please turn in your donation and form by December 6th. Any funds collected over and above the costs will be donated to the Food Pantry. Thanks!

Name of donor \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Cash or Check attached \_\_\_\_\_