

Our sole purpose is to glorify God, proclaiming through word and deed the love and compassion of Jesus Christ. We trust God's Spirit to lead and nurture us in all our community and congregational endeavors. We desire that all who come through our doors find deeper faith, larger hope, and more complete love.

**Service For The Lord's Day
First Sunday of Advent
3 December 2017**

Assemble In God's Name

RINGING OF THE BELLS
BRINGING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IN

** PRELUDE "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"
arr. Marquita Someliana-Lauer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

** THE CONGREGATION GATHERS
Minister: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP "Sleepers, Wake!" WACHET AVF

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE- *Hope for Those Who Wait*
David, Allison, Hampton, and Ruthie Brock

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: (Sing the verse each time with the choir.)
HYMN 134 "Joy to the World" (first verse) ANTIOCH
*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*

RESPONSIVE LITANY: Congregation Responses in **Bold**

Advent is a time for the human heart to wait,
while trusting God's eternal time.

How long, O Lord, how long?

For those waiting for answered prayer:

Grant your steadfast patience.

For those waiting in the face of uncertainty:

Grant unshakable confidence in your sovereign provision.

For those waiting for justice and mercy to reign:

Grant a glimpse of your glory in our wounded world.

For all of us waiting for God's kingdom to come:

**Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait,
the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ
as we speak, for we wait for Emmanuel.**

Candle Lighting: This morning we light the **first candle** which reminds us that throughout history, God's people have spent time waiting, wandering and wondering about the timing of God's eternal plan. Like the people of old, we long for God's presence to illuminate the areas of life where we are called to wait. This morning we echo the words of Matthew 1:18-25.

REPEAT CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

HYMN 134 "Joy to the World" (first verse) ANTIOCH

Let us pray together: **God of all creation, we declare that You are the Eternal One. We confess to You, O Lord, that we easily grow impatient, when your word to us is to wait. Ignite within us a new and everlasting hope. We pray this in the name of Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

* HYMN 347 "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" PICARDY

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION Whit Tart

Let us pray: **God of grace, ever faithful to your promises: The earth rejoices in hope of our Savior's coming, and longs for the day of his return in glory. Prepare our hearts to receive him when he comes. Cleanse us from all that leads us to turn away from him, trusting instead in ourselves to make our future good. Forgive us for turning our backs on the needy, through whom he comes to day by day. Empower us by your Spirit to prepare ourselves for Christ's return by doing the work to which he has commissioned us, until your reign is revealed in all its fullness and power, through the incarnation of Jesus. Amen.**

* Silent Confession

* KYRIE ELEISON

*Lord, have mercy upon us;
Christ, have mercy upon us;
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The Apostle Paul has written: "If God is for us, who is against us? Neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, nor anything else in all creation, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.."

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

* GLORIA PATRI (Hymnal) No. 581

Proclaim God's Word

FIRST LESSON: Matthew 24:1-13 Message Version

** HYMN 137 "He Came Down" (first verse)
*He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love; hallelujah forever more.*

CHILDREN'S MOMENT: "Oh, You'd Better Watch Out!"

** P.A.T.H. OFFERING
(Children age 4 - grade 1 depart for worship readiness with leader Tami Warren)

SECOND LESSON: Mark 13:33-37 Message Version

Minister: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE "Joy to the World: Oh, You'd Better Watch Out"
Dr. Jerry Bron

* HYMN 357 "The Days Are Surely Coming" LLANGLOFFAN

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH "Apostles' Creed" (Hymnal) Page 35

Give Thanks To God

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "Wake Up, My Soul, Wake Up and Sing"
Hal H. Hopson

(Visitors please fill out cards in pew rack and place in offering plate)

* DOXOLOGY (Hymnal) No. 608

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND **THE LORD'S PRAYER**
(Hymnal) pg. 35

BREAKING THE BREAD AND OFFERING THE CUP
PRAYER

Go In God's Name

* HYMN 352 "My Lord! What a Morning" Spiritual

* BENEDICTION AND CHORAL AMEN
"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" TRURO

* THE TAKING OF THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

* POSTLUDE "Trumpet Tune on 'Wachet Auf'" arr. Martha Sobaje

* Those who are able, please stand
** Seating of worshippers

The **P.A.T.H. Offering (Presbyterian Answer to Hunger)** is being received this morning. This offering, collected by GMPC since 1986, is sometimes called the 2 Cents a Meal Offering. Families are requested to "set aside" this amount per person, per meal in your family home and given bi-monthly on the 1st Sunday when Communion is observed (February, April, June, August, October, December). Of this, 25% is withheld and used to supplement our own "Sick and Relief" benevolence. The remaining 75% is forwarded to our Presbytery of Coastal Carolina. The presbytery's disbursement formula for what they receive from participating churches is as follows: 40% for International support (countries such as Haiti, Malawi and Bangladesh); 25% for PC(USA) hunger projects; 25% for local hunger programs within our Presbytery and 10% for administration.

Today's prelude was composed/arranged by Marquita Someliana-Lauer, oldest daughter of Sean & Lara Capparuccia. It is the first movement of a piece entitled "Improvisations on Three Hymn Tunes." This hymn tune is PICARDY, a traditional French melody.

***THE CHRISTMAS WREATHS AND GREENERY ARE GIVEN TO THE
GLORY OF GOD BY THE SEASONAL FLOWER COMMITTEE***

Sallie Adams, Nita Aiken, Mary Aycok, Bonnie Barr, Edna Fay Boone, Ardella Boyette, Jennifer Bradley, Beth Bryan, Beth Bryan, Sr., Allison Brock, Linda Carr, Margaret Carter, Wanda Coleman, Jessica Coombs, Nancy Cowand, Mary Doyne, Martha Dunn, Susan Fox, Sharon Funderburk, Beatrice Gray, Lisa Green, Mary Harrington, Nancy Heath, Betty Heaton, Til Herring, Tammy Honeycutt, Lee Howard, Kathryn Jackson, Ann Johnson, Linda Lamb, Peggie Lindsay, Lucy Lockamy, Alice Lockerman, Kathy Mertz, Iva Miller, Mary David Morris, Delores Murphrey, Melissa Nimmo, Brenda Nordin, Robin Palmer, Nancy Perry, Myrtle Petty, Vickie Pope, Joy Prestage, Marsha Prestage, Anne Price, Lynn Pridgen, Dale Purcell, Tink Purcell, Margaret Register, Alice Rose, Darby Scott, Trish Sessoms, Debbie Sinclair, Robin Sink, Mac Spell, Julie Stefanovich, Amelia Surratt, Barbara Taylor, Susan Tucker, Diane Viser, Glenice Webster, Diane Westerbeek, Susan Westerbeek, Hollis White, Anne Wicke, Linda Williamson, Kristi Williford, Carol Wilson

December Ushers are: David Brock, Wesley Cowand, IV, Wes Cowand, Tim Howard, Stan Mertz, Scott Prestage, Paul Viser

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS: **REMEMBER IN PRAYER...**

HOSPITAL/ASSISTED LIVING

Doc Fields – Southwood; Rm. 109
Frances Hubbard - GlenAire
Margaret Faircloth – Mary Gran; Rm. 715
Tink Purcell – The Cardinal at North Hills
Ted Lockerman – Mary Gran

AT HOME

Martha Dunn
Margaret Register
Don Wilson
Betty Heaton

OTHERS:

Betty Hairr – (Mother of Vickie Pope)
Juaweese Franklin – (Mother of Melissa Nimmo)
Joe Butler – (Brother-in-law of Penny Horne)
Christine Stacey – (Mother of Lara Capparuccia)
Joe Kozel – (Father of Kristi Williford)
David Askins – (Former GMPC member)

November/December: (Wednesday's: Handbells 6:00 p.m./Choir at 7:30 p.m.)

- 03 - 12:15 p.m. - Session Meeting
- 2:00 p.m. - Christmas Joy Practice (See info. below.)
- 3:00 p.m. - Boy Scout Court of Honor (Sanctuary)
- 5:00 p.m. - Youth Group
- 04 - Noon - Circle #1 Salad Luncheon (Home of Nita Aiken, *Note Change)
- 7:00 p.m. - Circle #2 (Memorial Room)
- 05 - 10:00 a.m. - Circle #3 (Fellowship Hall)
- 06 - 6:30 p.m. - Jesse Tree Advent Ceremony hosted by Pathfinder Class
- 09 - - Christmas Joy Rehearsal following Clinton Parade, Lunch served
- 10 - 11:00 a.m. - Worship (*Sunday School weekly 9:45 a.m.) Christmas Joy Offering
- 5:00 p.m. - Christmas Joy Program, Catered Meal to Follow
- 12 - 9:00 a.m. - Newsletter Deadline

OTHER CONCERNS / LOOKING AHEAD . . .

GMPC's **Christmas Joy Program** is scheduled for December 10, 2017, at 5:00 p.m., in the GMPC Sanctuary. A catered meal, coordinated by Tami Warren, Sara Rosario, & P.W. Committee, to follow in the fellowship hall. ***Rehearsals: Dec. 3rd from 2 – 5:00 p.m.** (scheduled 30 min. time slots) & **Dec. 9th following the Clinton Christmas Parade:** Lunch will be served. Both rehearsals are mandatory. Please contact Lee Howard for more info., cell #590-9105.

MISSION BUDDIES: (PreK—12th Grade, 3rd Sunday's monthly, as part of Sunday School)
December Mission: Helping Hands for the Homeless. ITEMS NEEDED: Blankets (\$2.50 Walmart blankets are fine), Bottles of Water, Single Serve Drink Mixes (lemonade, peach, etc.), Socks & Gloves (men & women), Snacks (that won't melt: peanuts, crackers, etc.), Gently Used Purses, Menstrual Hygiene Products (to fill the purses), as well as Monetary Donations. *A Mission Buddies bin is in the fellowship hall. **Please submit supplies by Friday, December 15th.**

The Pathfinders Sunday School Class cordially invites everyone to a Jesse Tree Advent Ceremony on Wednesday, December 6, 2017, at 6:30 p.m., in the fellowship hall.
Refreshments to follow. The Ceremony is an activity for the whole Church family. The name "Jesse Tree" comes from Isaiah 11:1, "Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit." A Jesse Tree represents the family tree of Jesus Christ. Each ornament represents a story from the Bible that tells about God's people before Jesus was born. Each story shows God's salvation plan and tells how He guided humanity to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. *If you or your family would like to participate in this year's Ceremony, by reading a passage and lighting a candle, please contact Lauren Perry, #990-3753.

There will be NO PresbyMusic, Handbell's, or Chancel Choir practice on December 6th.

Seasonal Flower Committee: (Please see your 2017-2018 Presbyterian Women's Book for list of committee members.) We ask that you please submit your Annual Dues: \$20.00 (Payable to P.W.) at this time if you have yet to do so. Thank you!

First Wednesday Fellowship and Covered Dish Meals will take a break in December. Our next meal is scheduled for January 3rd at 6:30 p.m. January hosts: K - 5th Sunday School Class & Friends in Faith Groups 1 & 2.

December 17th — GMPC's **Service of Lessons/Carols/Bells, 11:00 a.m.** Our traditional program of scripture and music to ring in the Christmas season.

December 24th – Christmas Eve Worship Services, 11:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

There will be **NO Worship Readiness on Decemebr 17th**. The Worship Readiness class will remain in the sanctuary, with their parents, for the Service of Lessons/Carols/Bells.

PresbyMusic: Cherub Choir (PreK-1st Grade: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 4-4:30); Children & Youth Choir/Handbells (2nd-8th Grade: Wednesdays, 5-5:45); *Register today if you have yet to do so.

PresbyCrew meets the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of every month from 3 – 5 p.m. for Kindergarten – 5th grade. Plan to join us & bring a friend! *Register today if you have yet to do so.