



Forest Lake Presbyterian Church



HEAD, HEART AND HANDS IN THE SERVICE OF CHRIST

Newsletter Volume 62, Number 24

December 4, 2019

Dear Friends,

This coming Sunday we will light the second Advent Candle. This second candle reminds us of the peace that God promises to bring. Now that promise is one I can feel deep in my bones . . . a desire for peace. I have always clung to the Scriptural passages where Jesus shows up after his crucifixion and resurrection in Luke and John and commands his terrified followers, "Peace!" (Luke 24:36 and John 20:19, 21 & 26) I wish that Jesus would return and command us now to be at peace!

But in the absence of Jesus' physical presence, perhaps our faith asks us what is keeping us from being at peace right now and right here? If the problem is the war mongering and sabre rattling that is happening in the world right now, then I would ask – exactly what good does it do for either you or the world to watch an uninterrupted stream of news about conflict and war? It is good to be informed about what is happening in the world, but who decided that we needed to have 24 hour commentary about "he said, she said" and what "the experts" think will happen next. What if your commitment to peace this Advent Season meant that you decided to take a break from the cable news or talk radio channels that feed you a constant stream of conflict, war and anger? What would it feel like to spend that time instead reading a good book, talking to your family, or taking pleasure in the simple gifts of life? During Advent, consider limiting yourself to one brief overview of world news each day from one high level source that is not openly partisan (is there such a thing?).

Or maybe our lack of peace is more personal. Perhaps it is a member of our family about whom we are worried or with whom we cannot get along. That is tougher, since we can't "turn off" a family member. But we can remember that while we have no control over how anyone else talks or acts, we do have control over how we act and over what comes out of our mouth. Peace might be working with a good counselor to learn how to stop allowing this person to get on our nerves and how to keep control over our own emotions and stop any manipulation by a person who wants to trouble us. Peace either begins inside us, or it never exists. My challenge to us all is to spend more time figuring out how to react peaceably and lovingly to someone who challenges or baits us than we spend sharpening our biting retorts.

When the Angels announced Jesus' birth to the shepherds, they said, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors." (Luke 2:14) and he commanded his followers to have peace after his resurrection (Luke 24:36). How can we live, learn and model peace to a world that is in desperate need of peace?

This Sunday, we have the privilege of hearing our choir sing and musicians play excerpts from Handel's *Messiah* (The Advent Section). Maybe one small step towards peace is setting aside the time to be able to come to worship – well rested and not rushed – to listen and pray as we are washed over with the words of Scripture set to beautiful music.

Let Peace begin with us!
See you in worship!

Ellen

Ellen Fowler Skidmore

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www.flpc.org
Office Hours: M-Th, 8:30-5:00
Friday: 8:30 - 1:00*

*Proclaiming the good news of God's love in
Jesus Christ, to build a fellowship of
Christian Love, and to serve this
community and the world in the spirit*

Please Pray For . . .

Mission Co-Workers

- * Rev. Mark Adams & Miriam Maldonado Escobar- Mexico
- * Rev. Shelvis & Rev. Nancy Smith-Mather - Uganda
- * Ministry of Hope- Lesotho
- * Destiny Prinski - YAV, Scotland

PASTORAL CARE NUMBERS

Ellen Skidmore - 803-463-7586 (cell)
E-Mail: ellenskidmore@flpc.org

Eric Skidmore - 803-543-9859 (cell)
E-mail: zacchaeus@sc.rr.com

Ed Black - 803-240-0192 (cell)
Email: edblack@flpc.org



STEPHEN MINISTRY



Forest Lake Presbyterian Church is a Stephen Ministry congregation!

If you feel like you or someone you know could benefit from a one-to-one, confidential, caring Christian relationship, please contact:

Wayne Harris at 790-0954 or
cell 608-1187 or
harris1973@bellsouth.net ;

Margaret Harris at 790-0954 or
cell 608-1477 or
harris1973@bellsouth.net

Bettianne Davenport at 782-6256 or
Cell 530-6018 or
bettianned@sc.rr.com



Advent & Christmas Schedule

December 8 – Second Sunday of Advent

9:00am & 11:00am - Special Christmas Music in Worship –
Handel's *Messiah* (excerpts)

5:15pm - Congregational Dinner – Fellowship Hall

6:00pm - Children's Christmas Program – *A Christmas Alphabet*

December 15 – Third Sunday of Advent

Handbells Play in worship

December 18 – **5:30pm** Longest Night Service – Sanctuary

Christmas can be a difficult time that reminds us of people, places, and events that have been a part of our lives in the past, but that are now changed or gone. In a culture that requires joy of us, we may feel isolated and sad. The increasingly longer nights seem symbolic of the creeping emotional shadows that we rightfully and honestly feel, even in the midst of celebration. If this is true for you, you are invited to attend our Longest Night worship service of healing and wholeness. This is an opportunity to bring our hurting places to God and prepare our hearts and minds for the light of Christ that promises to penetrate the darkness. The Longest Night service will be about an hour long, and will include scripture readings, music, prayers, silence, anointing with oil, and communion.

December 22 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas Joy Offering in worship

December 24 – Christmas Eve Services

5:00pm – Family Service with Communion – Sanctuary

This 45-minute service is for the young and young at heart. A simple retelling of the Christmas story is combined with familiar Advent and Christmas carols. Communion is served, and the story is brought to life by larger-than-life figures that give the service a sense of majesty and mystery. Dress is casual. Nursery provided for children ages 3 and under.

8:00pm – Candlelight Service and Communion – Sanctuary

This traditional Christmas Eve service combines the beauty of candlelight Communion with the opportunity to sing well-loved Advent and Christmas carols. Come and wait with us as we celebrate the coming of Christ into the world! No nursery provided for this service.

December 29 - 1st Sunday of the Christmas Season

*One Worship service at **11:00am***

No Sunday School

January 5, 2020 – Epiphany Sunday

9:00am and 11:00am - All Saints Celebration with Communion

10:00am – Epiphany Breakfast Celebration in Fellowship Hall

Epiphany is the Christian Festival marking the visit of the Magi to celebrate Jesus' birth. Fellowship with us at the Epiphany Party to begin the New Year.

H3 Groups - Small Group Bible Study

If you haven't had a chance to get involved with small group Bible study at FLPC, now is your chance. Our groups started last fall, and have been a meaningful experience to those involved:

"The sharing and caring of my H3 group is amazing. I love the curriculum and videos." Stuart Hunter

"I've had a great experience with H3. It's provided me a structure to grow in my faith, and opportunities to connect with my Forest Lake community and my surrounding community. Personally, it's centered me and created a stability that I very much needed. Thank you for bringing this to our church. It's been a much needed blessing for me." Kristy Woodward

If you would like to be part of this small group experience, please contact Jodibeckham@flpc.org.

Advent Devotionals

Check out the blog at flpc.org throughout the month to see Advent devotionals written by FLPC members!

Forest Lake Presbyterian Women

All women of Forest Lake Church are invited to participate in any Forest Lake Presbyterian Women activities and to attend any Circle meeting to become acquainted and visit with new friends. "Circles" (smaller groups) meet monthly for friendship, spiritual enrichment, missions and Bible Study. For information please contact Sandy Helfer, FLPW Moderator, 788-8111.

Circle 1 – Tuesday, December 10, 11:00am
2140 Bee Ridge Rd
Leaders: Sally Templeton and Anne Amma

Circle 2 - Monday, December 9,
10:30am Parlor—11:00am S-211
Leaders: Beth Rozek and Sally McKenzie

Circle 3 - Tuesday, December 10, 6:30pm
At Linda Etheredge's (3224 Quitman St)
Leaders: Sandy Helfer and Margaret Shackelford

Circle 4 - Thursday, December 19, 6:30pm
At Rebecca Timmons' (245 Berry Tree Lane)
Leader: Laura Wannamaker and Julie Warren



Attention All Soup Chefs!

Forest Lake is blessed with lots of good cooks, so next time you make a pot of soup or chili, consider bringing a portion to the church to be stored for someone who needs a good meal this winter! We are providing containers and labels **beginning this Sunday, November 24 at the Connecting Point**. Take a container, fill it up with some soup, tell us what's in the soup using the provided label, and we'll store it at the church in the freezer in the fellowship hall.

Soup Pantry Update

Several FLPC members have already been the beneficiaries of the fabulous cooking of our soup chefs! Thank you to everyone who has already made soup or picked up a container at the Connecting Point! Once you're finished making your soup, just drop it off in the white freezer in the Fellowship Hall. Questions? Please ask Ed: (803) 240-0192 or edblack@flpc.org.

PW HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Each year Forest Lake Presbyterian Women awards Honorary Life Memberships to Presbyterian women, chosen by their church peers, as recognition for being outstanding examples of a Presbyterian Woman's commitment to Christ's mission.

Nomination forms will be available to all Forest Lake Presbyterian women at the Downstairs lobby desk and the Connecting Point desk.

The deadline for nominations is December 15, 2019



Senior Luncheon

MONDAY, December 16; 12:00 noon
\$6.00

Make Reservations by Wednesday,
December 11

Program: Sylvia Trimmier ~ "Music for the Holidays"

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

8:30 AM—Choir Rehearsal
9:00 AM—Worship Service
10:00 AM— Sunday School
10:30 AM—Choir Rehearsal
11:00 AM—Worship Service
5:15PM—Dinner
6:00 PM—Children’s Program

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

10:30 AM—Circle 2 (Parlor & S211)
5:30 PM—Coordinating Council
6:00 PM—Officer Dinner (FH)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

6:45 AM—Men’s Bible Study & Breakfast
8:30 AM—Stewardship & Admin (E102)
9:00 AM—Yoga (Parlor)
10:30 AM—Staff Meeting
11:00 AM—Circle 1 (FH)
12:00 PM—Gills Creek Assoc (E102)
6:30 PM—Circle 3

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

4:00 PM—Book Club (Parlor)
6:40 PM—Handbell Choir
7:30 PM—Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

9:00 AM—Yoga (Parlor)
5:30 PM—FLY Eats

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

8:30 AM—Choir Rehearsal
9:00 AM—Worship Service
10:00 AM— Sunday School
10:30 AM—Choir Rehearsal
11:00 AM—Worship Service
4:00 PM—Session & Deacons Joint Meeting (Parlor)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

12:00 PM—Senior Lunch

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

6:45 AM—Men’s Bible Study & Breakfast
9:00 AM—Yoga (Parlor)
10:30 AM—Staff Meeting
11:00 AM—Circle 1 (FH)
5:30 PM—Puppet Practice

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

5:30 PM—Longest Night Service
7:30 PM—Chancel Choir

BE GOOD TO GOD’S EARTH
FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

EATING...

- *Take reusable bags to the store
- *Buy organic and local food
- *Compost kitchen scraps
- *Prepare only food needed

DECORATING...

- *Use LED Christmas lights
- *Avoid glitter and unrecyclable decorations
- *Buy a live Christmas tree to replant after the holidays
- *Recycle your cut live tree for mulch
(Grinding of the Greens places will be posted)

PARTIES...

- *Use washable or compostable tablecloths, cups, glasses, plates, napkins, etc.
- *Recycle bottles and cans

GIFT GIVING...

- *Give to the less fortunate
- *Give time and charity donations as gifts
- *Give gardening supplies, trees, plants, compost bins, rain barrels, etc.
- *Give sustainable and handmade gifts
- *Use creative reusable wrappings (as baskets or cloth)

GREETINGS...

- *Send email greetings
- *Upcycle used cards



Celebrate Christmas with the children as they present the program, **A Christmas Alphabet**. Hear how each letter helps us remember the birth of Christ. The performance will be on **Sunday, December 8, at 6:00pm.**
Please join us!

"Unplugged"
Intergenerational Retreat
in Montreat, NC
March 6-8, 2020

When the holidays pass and winter hits us, we will be ready to start thinking spring! Make plans now to attend our congregational retreat. Ellen Fowler Skidmore will be our speaker and there will be programming for children and youth. We talk about mindfulness and about being present, but we don't have much experience in how to do this. Ellen will aim to provide a balance between learning and doing. Mindfulness is not paying attention harder, but paying attention is a different way. We hope you will come home with some practices that will help your mindfulness of God make a difference in your everyday life. Registration and pricing may be found on the Connecting Point and downstairs desks. A \$100 non-refundable deposit is due at time of registration. Questions, contact Julie Warren.

Year End Contributions

For contributions to count for your 2019 Income Tax return, the gift must be received in the church office by 4:00pm on Tuesday, December 31, 2019 or have a US Postal Service postmark with a 2019 date. A stock gift would need to have a 2019 transaction date.

Online Giving is an option as well for year end giving. Any gifts made online with a 2019 transaction date will count toward your 2019 giving. Online giving can be accessed from our church website, www.flpc.org or directly with this hyperlink: <https://www.acionlinegiving.com/4188>

Thank you for your faithful support of Forest Lake Presbyterian and its ministries!

2019 Christmas Memorial/Honorarium Order Form

To make a contribution to PDA in memory or in honor of a loved one, please complete the form below. You may place it in the offering plate, mail it to the church, or bring it to the church office along with a minimum donation of \$12.00.

Please make your check payable to FLPC. **The deadline is December 18.** Memorials and Honoraria will be listed in the December 22 and December 24 bulletins.

Please print clearly so that your information will be listed correctly. Thank you!

GIVEN by _____

In HONOR of _____

In MEMORY of _____

Or E-mail above information to adelewatt@flpc.org

This gift is a tax-deductible contribution.