



Christmas Eve Worship!

Friday,
December 24,
5:00 PM

Come worship with us this Christmas Eve! Celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with poinsettias, candles, lessons

and carols, and communion!

Our Christmas Eve worship will be traditional, but very family friendly and safe. Please invite friends and neighbors!

Did You Know?

Pastor Steve publishes a 3-4 minute “Daily Message” every day! These messages are available through our church Facebook page, our church website, or our church YouTube channel. “Like” them! “Share” them! Make them a regular part of your day!



In accordance with the Book of Order, a Congregational Meeting is called to elect Elders, Deacons, and Nominating Committee members. The meeting will be Sunday, December 19, 2021, immediately following worship. By order of the Session, Maree Peacock, Clerk.



Congregational
MEETING

“Peace on earth will come to stay, when we live Christmas every day.”

~ Helen Steiner Rice

“The way you spend Christmas is far more important than how much.”

~ Henry David Thoreau

“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart.”

~ Helen Keller



Update on our Christmas boxes! Our final total was 95 boxes! Praise the Lord!

From the Pastor's Desk...

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

~ Luke 2:13-14

Dear Lafayette family:

I have many images of Christmas in my mind and heart.

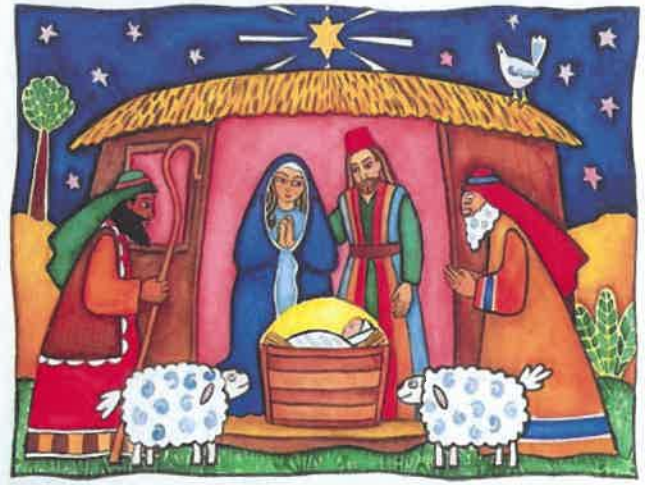
Some are from childhood: pageants, caroling, pressing against the glass outside department store windows to see the newest toys, waking up Christmas morning...

Other images are based on relationships: family gatherings, church events, celebrations, special meals...

Many fond memories center around worship, candles, and communion.

This year, this month, through prayer and contemplation, I will be focusing on images of Christmas through the eyes of others. I want my Christmas to resonate with other voices, other songs, and other circumstances.

In my mind and heart, I want to know Christmas through the eyes of a Muslim child in an East African village who receives a Christmas box.



I want to feel the sometimes unrealized hopes of an impoverished family of color in the inner city.

I desire to experience Christmas through the humble, quiet piety of a cloistered monk praying in a small, spartan room overlooking a garden.

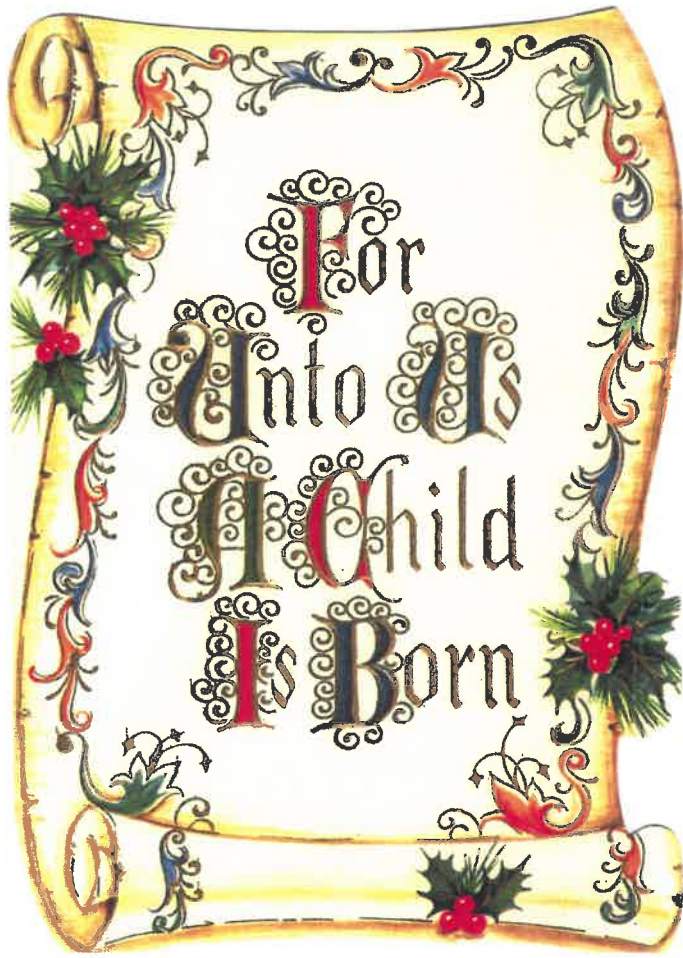
I will seek to feel the dampening cloud of loneliness and grief which keeps Christmas, for many, locked in the past.

I will seek out new heart-songs through carols from other traditions, cultures, and languages.

Journey through Christmas with me. Together, let us be a little more open, a little more vulnerable, and a little more loving. Merry Christmas!

In Christ,

Pastor Steve



Merry Christmas
to all from the Church Staff!

Stephen E Graves

Lynda

정경희 ☺

Denise Vandiver

Brett Epperson

Pastor Stephen E. Graves, Administrator Lynda Blount, Accompanist Serena Jung,
Treasurer Denise Vandiver, and Music Director Brett Epperson



Christmas Joy OFFERING

Please support the annual Christmas Joy Offering during this Christmas season.

Half of the Christmas Joy Offering serves devoted and caring retired pastors and leaders who served in times or areas which did not provide remuneration or pensions sufficient to weather their "golden" years.

The other half of the Christmas Joy Offering supports the continued ministry of educating and forming Christian leaders at our minority Presbyterian institutions.

This Christmas,
Please consider a
birthday gift to
the Lord!

Here are a few
examples:

- **Memorial Fund:** A gift in memory of a loved one or a friend.
- **General Fund:** To help us finish the year as close to "the black" as possible!
- **Building Fund:** Help fund maintenance, improvements, and major repairs.
- **Missions:** Consider a gift to Thornwell Home, UKirk, Chelsea House, Echo, Dogwood Acres, or any of our supported missions.



Christmas Market for Missions!

Presbyterian Giving Catalog



Are you searching for a Christmas gift for a friend or family member who is difficult to shop for or already has everything? Here is an idea that may solve your gift-giving dilemma while helping the needy around the world!

Give a gift through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog in the name of your friend or family member.

• Kits and Tools: Sewing Machine, Kitchen Kit, Emergency Life

Pack, Fishing Net

- Water: Rainwater Catchment, Water Filter, Jerry Can
- People Relief and Assistance: Famine relief food voucher, refugee food basket, WASH Aid
- Livestock & Agriculture: cow, chicks, piglet, goat, honeybees, farming tools, saplings, seeds

For **every gift you give**, you will receive a Christmas Greeting Card!

Beginning Sunday, November 28, and continuing through Christmas, there will be a Giving Catalog table in the fellowship hall where you can place your orders and pick up your greeting cards.

All proceeds go to Presbyterian Giving Catalog, Presbyterian Church (USA) and are tax deductible. Alternatively, you can contact Marlyn Weinell to coordinate a house call.

Christmas Fellowship Luncheon

Plans are underway for a wonderful fellowship luncheon to celebrate the Christmas season together. It will still be after the worship service but please note that the date has changed to Sunday, December 19. The final details are being worked out but definitely bring your appetite and some Christmas cheer.

This will be a wonderful way to kick off the last week of advent before the joyous celebration of our Lord's birth.





Calendar Dates and Special Days

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday Worship-----Sundays-----10:30 AM
 Grace Sunday School----Sun/Zoom-----9:00 AM
 Pastor's Bible Study-----Mon/Zoom-----11:00 AM

MONTHLY EVENTS

Committee meetings-----as scheduled
 Circle of Friends-----2nd Monday-----6:30 PM
 Contemp. Book-----3rd Monday-----1:00 PM
 Morning Circle-----2nd Tuesday---10:30 AM
 Session Zoom Meeting --3rd Tuesday----6:30 PM
 Evening Circle-----Last Tuesday----6:00 PM
 Crafts for Missions-----4th Thursday---1:30 PM

SCOUTS (actual times and dates may vary)

Pack 10 Meetings-----Mondays-----6:30 PM
 Troop 10 Meetings -----1st, 3rd Tues---7:00 PM
 Senior Patrol Leaders---2nd Tuesday----7:00 PM
 Crew 10-----3rd Thursday---7:00 PM
 Girl Scouts 4023-----as scheduled

PLEASE NOTE THAT CHURCH EVENTS MAY BE POSTPONED OR CANCELED!

DECEMBER

WED	1	..... Civil Air Patrol Day
		..... Rosa Parks Day
SAT	4	..... National Cookie Day
SUN	5	10:30 AM.....2nd Advent Sunday: Bethlehem
MON	6	..... St. Nicholas Day
TUE	7	6:30 PM.....Special Session Budget Meeting
FRI	10	..... Nobel Prize Day
SUN	12	10:30 AM.....3rd Advent Sunday: Shepherd
		12 Noon.....A "Celebration of Life" for Ellen Jacobs
MON	13	6:30 PM..... Circle of Friends
	13	..... National Guard Birthday
TUE	14	10:30 AM.....Morning Circle
	14	..... Asarah B'Tevet
FRI	17	..... National Ugly Sweater Day
	17	..... Wright Brothers Day
SUN	19	10:30 AM.....4th Advent Sunday: Angel
	19	11:15 AM.....Cong. Meeting, Elders/Deacons, Nominating Comm
	19	11:30 AM.....Luncheon, Fellowship
MON	20	1:00 PM..... Contemporary Book
TUE	21	6:30 PM..... Session Zoom
	21	..... Yule, Winter Solstice
FRI	24	5:00 PM.....Candlelight Christmas Eve Communion
	24	..... Christmas Joy offering
SAT	25	..... Nativity of Jesus Christ
	25	..... Christmas Day
SUN	26	10:30 AM....1st Sunday of Christmas
		.....Kwaanza begins
MON	27	..... National Chocolate Day
FRI	31	..... New Year's Eve

★
 For
 unto
 you is
 born this
 day in the
 city of David
 a saviour, which
 is Christ the Lord.
 Luke
 2:11

ANNE
PERRY

A
CHRISTMAS
RESOLUTION



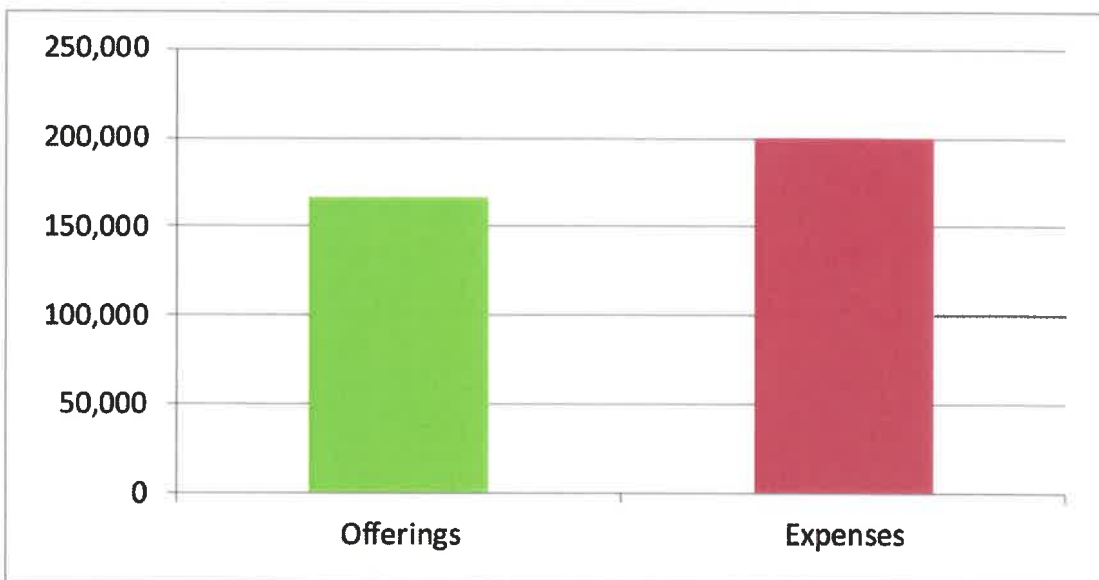
Coffee and a Cookie Book Club

Please join us for book discussions and plenty of fellowship. We meet in the Church Fellowship Hall. On the 3rd Monday of the Month from 1:00 – 2:00 P.M. We are always happy to welcome new members – men and women. If you want to join us please contact Denise Vandiver for more details. These are the next books we will be reading.

- Monday, December 20 ~ A Christmas Resolution by Anne Perry
- Monday, January 17 ~ The Stationary Shop by Marjan Kamali
- Monday, February 21 ~ The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead

OCTOBER 2021 FINANCIAL UPDATE

Actual Offerings January - October	Actual Expenses January - October
\$166,475.28	\$200,233.12



Giving is not just about making a donation.

CRAFTS FOR MISSIONS



The Crafts for Missions workshop will not meet in December due to the holidays. We will pick up our projects again in January.

Session Meeting Brief † November 16, 2021



- † We received a report on Presbytery Stewardship from Elder John Guthrie of 1st Presbyterian, Tallahassee.
- † We received thank-yous from Presbyterian missions.
- † We noted the passing of member, Ellen Jacobs. Her memorial service will be after church on 12/12/2021.
- † The Treasurer's reports were received and approved. Expenses continue to outpace income.
- † The Worship Committee announced that Christmas Eve worship will be celebrated at 5:00 PM on 12/24/2021.
- † The Missions Committee updated us on Packing the Pulpit, Thornwell turkeys, and Christmas boxes.
- † The Property Committee reported the completion of the kitchen cleaning.
- † A Christmas fellowship will be organized by the Fellowship Committee and the Session.
- † The 2022 budget was discussed at length. A special zoom Budget Meeting was called for 12/7/2021 at 6:30 PM.
- † COVID protocols have been adjusted to take weather and temperature into account.
- † Doug Pitts reported on the Presbytery Meeting at Dogwood Acres, 10/23/2021.
- † The Pastor was given permission to stress "Giving Tuesday," 11/30/2021.
- † The 75th Anniversary Committee (Maree Peacock and Rita Tucker) gave updates.
- † December assignments: Elder on Call: Ned Stacey; Liturgists: Susan & Chrys Graves



Your Session Members in 2021 are:

<u>Class of 2021:</u>	Joe Faragasso, Rita Tucker, Marlyn Weinell
<u>Class of 2022:</u>	Sandi Herrington, Richard Loose, Denise Pentecost
<u>Class of 2023:</u>	Ned Stacey, Doug Pitts, Faith Kinneer

Your Deacons in 2021 are:

<u>Class of 2021:</u>	Janet English, Susie Graves, Phyllis Loose
<u>Class of 2022:</u>	Susanne Korta, Ken Norman
<u>Class of 2023:</u>	Patti Dickman, Diane Dowling, Martha Ann McCaskill, Molly Miller



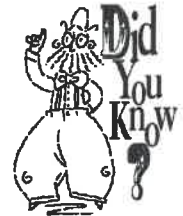
from your

Mission Committee

Many thanks to all of you for so generously supporting our recent mission projects. Because of you we were able to give a large food donation to ECHO, a nice contribution to Thornwell Home for Children and over 90 gift boxes to Operation Christmas Child. We can be proud to have helped so many people at this special time of year.

In December, we will have a booth in the Narthex offering the chance to make purchases from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. This is a great way to honor others or to give something different than a traditional gift. There is a large variety of items – animals, water filters, sewing machines, fishing equipment, school supplies – that can help people throughout the world improve their quality of life. For example, according to the World Bank, South Sudan has a primary school graduation rate of 37%, the lowest in the world. A contributing factor is the lack of safe drinking water and hygiene in the schools. Gifts made through the Giving Catalog have supported the drilling of wells at three schools overseen by the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan, with hopes of achieving a 100% graduation rate in this group of schools. This is a gift that truly keeps on giving!

DID YOU KNOW? BY PHIL FERGUSON



Matthew 19:24 – Mark 10:25 – Luke 18:25 all say the same thing, almost word for word. It is a quote by Jesus saying that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than it is for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. So, what does this all mean? Does it literally mean that the tall animal with humps on its back cannot fit through the eye of a tiny sewing needle like a thin piece of thread?

There is a theory that Jesus is literally talking about a small gate (called the “camel gate”) in the wall around Jerusalem. To get through this gate a camel would have to be unloaded of its load and then get down on its knees to crawl through the gate. Although this is a popular theory, neither history nor archeological evidence proves the existence of such a gate.

Another theory is that it is simply an example of Jesus’ humor, speaking of something completely absurd, like exaggerations he used in his parables.

Another theory is that it is a misprint in the translation from Greek, since the words for camel and rope are the same except for one letter.

The Quran, the holy book of Islam, also has a similar reference stating that a camel must pass through the eye of the needle before certain people will be allowed to enter Heaven. In Arabic, the word Jamal can be translated as camel or twisted rope.

We Lift Up In Prayer . . .

11/21/2021

- ◆ Ned & Christy Stacey's granddaughter, Elise, who has pneumonia.
- ◆ Phyllis Loose asks that we pray for the family of her friend, Lois Chapman, who passed away after a heart attack.
- ◆ Sandi Herrington and several family members are in quarantine. Our prayers are with them all!
- ◆ Charla Casey's brother, Howell, needs further prayers.
- ◆ Jonah Eng, as he recovers from knee surgery.
- ◆ Pray for Brett Epperson's uncle Steve Peters who is facing challenges with cancer and infections.
- ◆ The son of Bonnie Burns' friend Jane Aycock, Alan, is facing additional medical issues.
- ◆ We offer Christian love and sympathy to the family of Ellen Jacobs, who joined the church triumphant early Saturday morning. There are no arrangements at this time.

Continued Prayers

- ◆ Our Armed Forces around the world
 - ◆ Jordan Askew, grandson of Donna Lou Askew
 - ◆ Kevin Askew, son of Donna Lou Askew
 - ◆ Angela and Jerry White, daughter and son-in-law of Donna Lou Askew
 - ◆ Charla Casey's brother, Howell
 - ◆ Sheila Greene, sister of Patti Dickman & Faith Kinneer
 - ◆ LaVerne Gibson
 - ◆ Anne Hebrock
 - ◆ Hal Herman, father-in-law of Rachel Herman
 - ◆ Jaya Herman
 - ◆ Jeff Mills, friend of Faith Kinneer
 - ◆ (heart transplant)
 - ◆ Chandler (Candy) Touchton, daughter of Martha Ann McCaskill
 - ◆ Anita Moreno
 - ◆ Carol Peele
 - ◆ Leonard & Twila Phillips
 - ◆ Christy Stacey's sister-in-law, Charlotte Lehman, who had kidney transplant surgery on July 22. Charlotte's donor is her brother Earl Keister, so keep Earl in your prayers also.
 - ◆ Russell Stovall
 - ◆ Barry Fake, brother of Diana Swegman
 - ◆ Denny Chevillot, friend of the Telander's
 - ◆ Carolyn Wallace
 - ◆ Gail Yates
 - ◆ Those who have no one to pray for them
- 11/14/2021**
- ◆ Billie Jackson is back home, but still needs our prayers.
 - ◆ Rachel Herman's grandson, Carter, has recovered well.
 - ◆ Steve and Susie's friend, Gary Sheldon, is now under hospice care.
 - ◆ A joy! Pam Terry's son-in-law, Cesar has an interview with TMH for the medical residency program.
- 11/07/2021**
- ◆ The Rev. Hugh Lackey, St. Cloud Presbyterian, who is facing the spread of internal tumors.
 - ◆ Maree Peacock's granddaughter, Misty, who is moving from California to Iowa.
 - ◆ Pray for Sandi Herrington's extended family upon the untimely death of her daughter-in-law's (Michelle Herrington) father, Don East.
 - ◆ Richard McElveen asks that we pray for the family of his friend, Bob Hall, who passed on All Saint's Day.
 - ◆ Lynda Blount's husband, Bill, as he is having heart-related tests.
 - ◆ Pray for Shelby Rose Herman, who is facing health issues.
 - ◆ Bonnie Burns asks that we pray for her friend, Jane Aycock, and for her son, Alan, who are both having health issues.
 - ◆ Pray for Billie Jackson, as she faces health issues and further assessments.
 - ◆ Ken Johnson had successful appendix surgery, and we pray for a speedy and complete recovery.

In Memoriam

Ellen K. Jacobs

October 23, 1931 - November 6, 2021



LAFAYETTE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Tallahassee, FL 32308

Phone: 850-877-4428
Email: lpctally@outlook.com

Staff

Stephen E. Graves, Pastor

Lynda Blount Secretary	Brett Epperson Director of Music	Virginia Telander Educator
Denise Vandiver Treasurer	Serena Jung Accompanist	Jaya Herman Nursery

FountainChurchTallahassee.org
facebook.com/LafayetteLive
YouTube: Lafayette Presbyterian Tallahassee

December Ushers

Karen Gunter
Nancy Telander
Substitutes



December Birthdays

6 Ken Ingham	21 Gay Munyon
6 Rob Vandiver	26 Jon Chapman
7 Barbara Brooks	30 Penny Isom
16 Peggy Johnson	31 Rev. Linda Pitts



January articles are due
Friday, December 24


Remember our church in your will.