



THE UPDATE

January 2026

Rooted In Christ, Growing In Faith, Loving Our Neighbor



Women's Circle News For November

Circle #1 will meet on **Monday, January 12th at 6:15 pm** in the Fellowship Hall.

Circle #2 will meet on **Tuesday, January 13th at 2:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall.

Circle #3 will meet on **Tuesday, January 6th at 6:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall.

If anyone would like to join a Circle, please contact Jill Dotson at 704-608-6324.



Our Music Ministry

If you are interested in being a part of the church's music ministry please speak with Sarah Rogers Griffith, Brad Rashley, or any choir member. We work hard in rehearsals but have fun doing so. May the Lord be glorified in our music. Amen!

January Children's Message

January 4 - Phil Lail

January 11 - Doug Griffith

January 18 - DeNeil Suarez

January 25 - Scott Jeffreys

January Children's Church

January 4 - Dot Ingram

January 11 - Elly Shaffer

January 18 - Amanda Chipman

January 25 - Elizabeth Rashley



January Elder Duty

January 4 - Deena Chambers and Deborah Chipman

January 11 - Rob Crawford and JD Dotson

January 18 - John Downs and Doug Griffith

January 25 - Steve Ingram and Scott Kennedy

January Nursery Schedule

January 4 - Kathy Hoover and Azariah Peet

January 11 - Jill Dotson

January 18 - Jan Gantt

January 25 - Lexie Jeffreys and Parker Jeffreys

Happy January Birthday to You!

1. Toby Staples
2. Robin Downs
5. Simon Jeffreys
7. Sandy Moose
13. Scott Kennedy
15. Steve Ingram
17. Mark Tomlin
19. David Lackey
20. Elizabeth Rashley
25. Jane Hinson
30. Pat McKinney
31. Lynn Daniels



Events to come:

Wednesday Communion - Every Wednesday starting January 7th at 12:15 pm in the Sanctuary

De-Greening of the Sanctuary - Sunday, January 11th after the church service

Joy Lunch - Wednesday, January 21st at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be provided

Session Meeting - Thursday, January 22nd at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

No Fellowship Dinner in January - The Fellowship Dinner will resume in February - Feb. 25th

Prayer Group Wednesday - Please join us for a time of fellowship, learning, and prayer, **Wednesdays at 10 am in the Parlor**. Our small group is growing and knows that as we come together to pray, God is with us and those we lift in prayer! Contact Laurel Andrews at 704-880-3406 if you have any questions.



Thank you to all of our Forest Park Musicians and their families, including Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, and children, for their gifts of music throughout the year. Your talents and dedication are a true blessing to our worship services. May God be glorified! ~ Sarah

The staff of FPPC would like to thank the congregation for their generous Christmas Love Offering! What a blessing you are!







“COLD CHRISTMAS MORNING” a Short Story by Steve Black

It was cold in the sitting room, but he didn't want to light a fire yet. In his calloused hands, he held a package wrapped in bright green foil. There was a tag, simply labeled “To Granddaddy,” written in a child's labored hand. He stared down at the package as “Silent Night” played softly in the background from the Charlotte television station. It was dawn and he knew he'd better put on his heavy work coat and gloves soon. It was almost time to head for the barn and start his morning chores of feeding the calves and getting the cows ready for milking.

He never put up a Christmas tree anymore, but there were several gifts on the floor beside his old and worn platform rocker. Turning the package in his hands over and over, he realized he needed a chew of Beechnut tobacco before heading outside. Heavy frost covered the front windows as he stole a glance at the steep hills across the gravel road. The frost resembled snow. Should he open this one package now? Shaking it, he knew what it was and from whom it came. Those grandchildren of his never forgot the one gift he'd grown to expect each Christmas season. To them, it was more special than the new galoshes, wool cardigan sweaters, and heavy work socks their parents usually bought for him at Christmas time.

He gently shook the package as a slight grin formed on his thin, sun-wrinkled face, and his glasses slid down his nose. He turned off the television. Forget his chewing tobacco for now! Taking his prized Barlow pocketknife from the side pocket of his worn overalls, he slid it as gently as possible under the foil wrapping. There it was. Just what he'd wanted and what he'd expected. A big box of chocolate-covered cherries! Carefully selecting one, he popped it into his mouth while slowly savoring the unforgettable flavor. He'd forget heading to the barn for a few more minutes. As he slowly ate the overly-sweet treat, he recalled his Momma and Poppa buying chocolate-covered cherries during his childhood Christmases. There was always an orange or two and a few peppermint sticks in his stocking as well, but the cherries were the highlight of each Christmas morning. Where had the years and all of those many Christmas Days flown since his childhood spent in this same old house? He'd already had to bury a wife and a grown son over on that old hill at Ramah Church. Those tragic events still seemed like yesterday. He couldn't remember a few Christmases after those bad things happened. He'd probably not wanted any candy at all then.

His mind quickly came back to the moment at hand. Standing up and struggling into his work coat, he slipped a couple more chocolate-covered cherries into his pocket. Pulling on his warm hat, he headed for the back porch door. Cold air almost took his breath away. He heard a calf bawl as its mother's muted bellow came from another part of the barn. His gait quickened and a wide grin formed on his face. It was Christmas. He'd see his family for lunch later in the day. And as he approached the barn and that old, leaning cedar tree in front of it, he silently said a prayer of gratitude for his family, for the fond memories of those he'd loved and lost, and for that generous gift of a box of chocolate-covered cherries.





Dear Congregation,

What a blessed season of Advent and Christmas we have shared together! Did you know that Advent and Christmas marks not the end of the year, but the beginning of the year on the church calendar. Why is that? Because at Advent and Christmas we celebrate the new beginning of God in the incarnation of God in the birth of the Christ child! The church, the body of Christ, marches to the beat of a different drum when it comes to tracking time, or at least we are supposed to. We are not on "*chronos*" time but rather "*kairos*" time. You can look up the meaning of these two Greek words for time and figure what I mean by that, and then you can read Galatians 4:4-5 and research what word for time was used by the apostle Paul in that verse to describe the birth of Christ.

Enough of that... speaking of new things ... This year I am beginning a weekly midweek lunch break service that will consist of a brief message of encouragement from the Bible and then followed by partaking in the Lord's Supper. Brad will also lead us in the singing of a familiar hymn. This service will be not only for us but also for our neighborhood and community. It is designed to be a midweek picker upper, if you will, and also to give us the opportunity to more frequently partake of the Lord's Supper.

The service will begin at 12:15 and last about 15 minutes, thus giving people who work time to grab a bite to eat.

Looking forward to seeing you starting January 7!

Blessings,

Pastor Scott

January

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
9:45-10:45 SS 11-12 Worship	4	5 6:00 pm Circle #3 Fellowship Hall	7 10:00 – 11:00 Prayer 12-15 pm Communion 7-7:45 pm Choir Practice	8 10 am Women's Bible Study	9	10
9:45-10:45 SS 11-12 Worship De-Green Sanctuary	11 6:15 pm Circle #1 Fellowship Hall	12 2:00 pm Circle #2 Fellowship Hall	13 10:00 -11:00 Prayer 12-15 pm Communion 7-7:45 pm Choir Practice	14 10 am Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm ADK - Suarez	15	16
9:45-10:45 SS 11-12 Worship	18	19	20 10:00 -11:00 Prayer 12-15 pm Communion 7-7:45 pm Choir Practice	21 10 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Session Meeting	22	23
9:45-10:45 SS 11-12 Worship	25	26	27 10:00 -11:00 Prayer 12-15 pm Communion No Fellowship Dinner 7-7:45 pm Choir Practice	28 10 am Women's Bible Study	29	30
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