



First Presbyterian Church

UPDATE/11.27.23

MOUNT HOLLY NC

Hello!

And here we are at the beginning of the liturgical year—a time of waiting and expectation. As we light the first of our Advent candles for **Hope** on Dec. 3, our hearts turn toward that which we both know, and long for, in Jesus.

As the world struggles, I am reminded of the words of one of the Advent hymns in our hymnal: *The people who waited in darkness awaken to see a great light. The people who dwelt in the land of the shadow rise to a star shining bright. His name is Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, Father forever, Prince of Peace.* Amen!

Our church staff joins me in wishing you a beautiful and meaningful celebration of the birth of Jesus.

In faith and with hope,
Janet



Hangings of the Greens Sunday, Dec. 3, 3:00

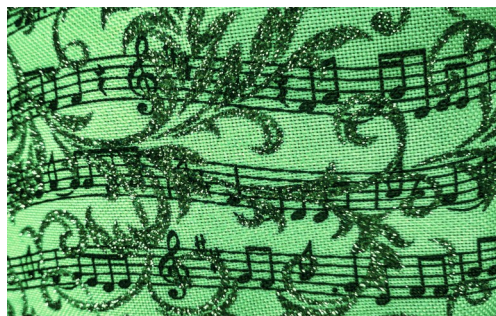
Join us for some fresh air and festivity as we hang wreaths on the outside doors of the church and put the garland on the fence. We will decorate our indoor sanctuary Christmas tree and add decorations to the Fellowship Hall as well! Your help is appreciated, and there are jobs for all ages so bring the kids!

Cookies and Carols Dec. 10

Bring a plate of your favorite Christmas cookies to share—good cheer and hot chocolate provided!

3:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

See the attached flyer and share it with your friends!



Healing and wholeness

On the second Sunday in Advent our morning worship service will have a special focus on healing and wholeness. Recognizing that Christmas can be a difficult time for those who are grieving or who are stressed, or who simply have a need for peace in their lives, we will give some time for all of us to rest in God's presence and love. There will be a special time, for those who wish, to light a candle remembering God's light in the midst of our need for healing and wholeness in this season.



Christmas Eve Service - 5:00

We look forward to our 59th Annual Service of Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve. Violinist Hannah Namkoong will be with us again this year adding a lovely touch to the service.

As is our tradition, the offering received on that night is given to Church World Service to provide warmth for those in need.

The service will conclude with "Silent Night" and the lighting of candles as always.



December Birthdays

Bruce Sudderth	2
Ralph Faust	12
Joshua Kalinowski	16
Frances Wingate	18
Ellie Williams	20
Chloe Kaylor	22
Joyce Lindsey	24
Henry Pigg	29

Congregational Meeting

A brief Congregational Meeting will be held to elect church leaders on Sunday, Dec. 3, immediately following the worship service.

In Our Prayers

- Len Bergman in hospice care
- Gail Williamson and Mike Prosser upon the death of their mother
- Our homebound members and those who are ill or grieving

Thoughtful Thursday

Save the date —Jan. 18 for our next “Thoughtful Thursday” gathering. We’ll begin with at 6:00 with dinner in the Fellowship Hall. Topic will be announced ahead.

Thank You for Your Faithful Giving! Budget Update as of 11/12

Total budget 2023	\$186,702.00
YTD receipts	\$133,593.33
YTD CRO	\$886.05
YTD Daily Change (5 Cents)	\$672.30

If you wish to contribute to our ministry and mission online, you can do so using the provided QR code or by visiting our website: fpcmountholly.com



Session Highlights from the 11/12/23 Meeting

- ◆ Following the Congregational Meeting about property, Session spent some time reflecting on the outcome of the vote.
- ◆ Susan Nalley reported on the Presbytery workshop she attended with members from several other church in our area. It had a focus on listening and considering our ministries.
- ◆ Jeff and Nan Kaylor, commissioners to the October Presbytery Meeting, presented some highlights of the meeting, including a presentation by the pastor from the Presbytery’s mission partners in Malawi.
- ◆ The previously approved email motion to change to Erie Insurance was ratified. We are receiving better coverage with a savings of several thousand dollars.
- ◆ The 2024 draft budget was presented, reviewed and approved. It will be presented to the congregation for information at the Annual Meeting on Jan. 28.
- ◆ All committee reports were received with the Membership Committee noting a successful “Cider in the Pumpkin Patch” and “Friendsgiving Potluck on Nov. 19. The Mission Committee applauded a record-breaking \$3,677 raised from the Pumpkin Patch for the CRO. Additionally, in support of the CRO, 20 Thanksgiving meals and Angel Tree gifts were provided through the generosity of our members.
- ◆ The meeting was closed with prayer.



Angel Tree Gifts

Thank you to all who provided a gift for a child in need through the CRO. You have made a huge difference in a child’s life!

