





Sedgefield Presbyterian Church

4216 Wayne Road Greensboro, NC 27407 336-299-4061

December 2023/January 2024



From the Pastor's Desk

Advent Greetings Family and Friends of SPC,

We had a beautiful time after church on Sunday decorating the Sanctuary for the Advent Season. I love all the Chrismon ornaments and the meaning that each Christian pattern holds. The children were so careful in their placement of each symbol. Then the Christmas garland was draped and wrapped from the balcony and highlighted with red bows. And the candlelights were all carefully placed in the church windows. It is one of my favorite fellowship activities, because in the end we have a charming space to prepare our hearts for Christmas.

It is year B! And what does that mean? Most times I preach from the lectionary, which is a predetermined cycle of Scripture

readings that are designed to help a congregation through the majority of the Bible in three years. On December 3rd we begin with year B, and so our Advent readings will come from the Gospel of



Mark. Turning to the Gospel of Mark at Christmastime is like trying to arrange a nativity set without the key characters. There is no Mary, no Joseph, no baby found in a feeding trough. I have been reading a lovely book in preparation for the Advent season of preaching and worship called *Holy Disruption: Discovering Advent in the Gospel of Mark* by Tracy S. Daub. Let me encourage you to check out this book.

I like the idea of a cooing baby Jesus in a manger surrounded by Mary, Joseph and the stable animals. Matthew and Luke provide the birth narrative of the son of God, but Mark asks us to imagine Christmas without a baby. The nerve. This Advent season, let us all agree to open our minds to the idea the Gospel of Mark has of the coming of Christ

thoroughly by a countercultural event, disrupting our lives and calling for an inversion of the prevailing

social order. We are pointed to God's disruptive but transformative love for us and our world. I agree with the author of the Holy Disruptions that we want a very big God who can do very big things, a God who will make whole our broken world. I pray that this Advent season is full of disruptive gifts that bring us closer to the true meaning of Christmas.



This season we have so many good and disruptive events to distract us from the business of Christmas. I know there is much shopping and celebrating to do, but I hope you will find some time for you and God. We will begin this Sunday (12/3) with a beautiful Worship service that will use beautiful music to remind us there is hope for the future. This service is in collaboration with Hinshaw UMC. On Christmas Eve morning our littlest ones will help to tell the Christmas story and that evening at 5pm there will be a Communion and Candlelight Worship. Along the way there will be other opportunities to listen in to Mark's telling of Christ's coming. And don't forget about the Christmas Angel tree located in the Gathering Area, it is always a blessing for us to help others feel love at Christmas.

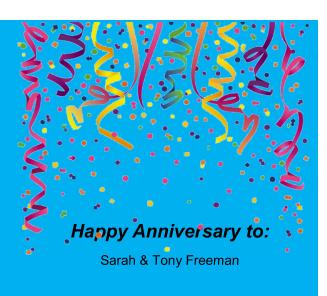
Advent love, Pastor Kim



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

- **Matt Miller**
- 2 Julie Gehling
- 3 Gordon Johnson
- Maren Creed
- 15 Cody Johnson Tyler Johnson Charlotte Stone Sarah Freeman
- 19 Sam Cook
- 21 Mike Ambrosion
- 23 Margaret Millard
- 25 Scott Barker
- 30 Tricia Creed





December	Lay Reader	Usher(s)
3	Karen Johnson	Bruce & Paul
10	Hadleys	Bruce & Paul
17	Linda Price	Bruce & Paul
24	Candlelight Service	Karen Younts
31	Charlotte Stone	Karen Younts
December Elder on Call: Zoe & All Elders		

Elders

Session Class of 2023:

David Boger Ellen Morton

Session Class of 2024:

Karen Johnson Tim Saunders

Session Class of 2025:

Meghan Hadley Zoe Dillard

This Month's Highlights

- Every First Sunday, Pennies for Hunger,
- Every 4th Sunday, Benevolence Basket passed, Youth at Potter's House
- Every Tuesday evening, Boy Scout Troop 8 meets

Sunday, December 31st Sunday of Advent; 2 pm, "Holiday Waste-Less" Sunday, December 102nd Sunday of Advent; Drive through Nativity at Our Father Lutheran

Sunday, December 173rd Sunday of Advent; Con gregational Meeting after worship

Sunday, December 244th Sunday of Advent; Christmas Eve, 5 pm Communion/Candlelight worship

Monday, December 25......Christmas Day

Sunday, December 311st Sunday of Christmas Saturday, January 6, 2024 Epiphany of the Lord

Sunday, January 7......Baptism of the Lord

Sunday, January 14......2nd Sunday after Epiphany Monday, January 15MLK, Jr. Birthday

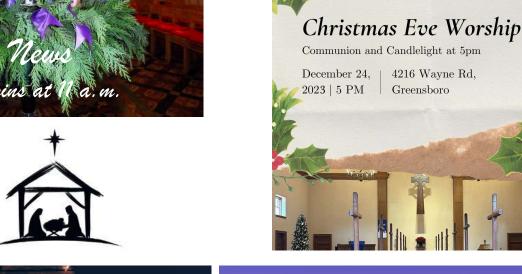
Sunday, January 21......3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, January 28.....4th Sunday after Epiphany

Inside this Issue From the Pastor.....1 Monthly Announcements......2 Birthdays & Anniversaries, Worship Assistants, Month's Highlights Worship Information..... Christian Education..... Music Notes5. 6 Congregational Care/Fellowship......7 Benevolence Ministry......7,8,9 Mailbag......9 ommunity & Church Events......10 Staff Infor<mark>m</mark>ation......10











There will be a Congregational Meeting to elect **Elders** for the class of 2026 and Nominating Committee members for the Class of 2024 on December 17, 2023.



Continue to keep in your prayers:

God calls us to be a praying people. Being in a faith community together, we join our hearts and voices to offer our prayers for one another and God. Continue to keep these people in your prayers.

Note: Prayer requests should be sent to the church office at

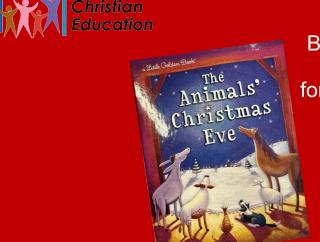
office@sedgefieldpresbyterian.org.

Kasey Redfern Paje' Jernigan Mary West Robin Staley Jim Turner (Suzanne Thacker's brother) **Ned McMillian** David Knowles (Kim Priddy's father) Shirley Bell (Sheryl Bell's mother) Ross Ramsey (Diane Weeks' father) Daniel Wilkerson (Tim's nephew) Lee Oliver Fave Brown Classie Meredith Jack Hester (Kathy Saunders' father)

Helen Boyer (Karen Johnson's mother) Joann Smith



The word "Chrismon" is a combination of the words "Christ" and "monogram". The word Chrismon has been adopted to refer to special Christmas tree ornaments that have been developed to display symbols of Christ. The designs of the Chrismons has over the years been extended to represent symbols of Christianity.



Bring children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and neighbor kids for Worship on Christmas Eve at 11am to help tell the Christmas Story.

Contact Zoe Dillard at dillardzoe@gmail.com.

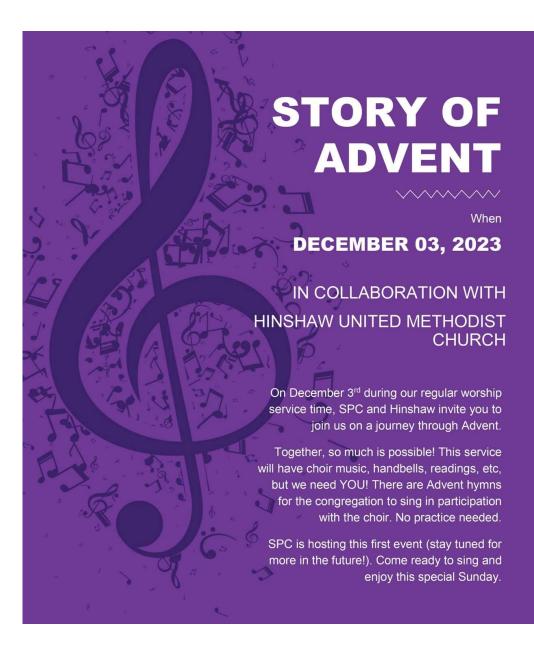
SEDGEFIELD PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL

The preschool has been enjoying these pretty fall days. We talked about fall, hibernation, and Thanksgiving.

The Thanksgiving Feast was a huge success! The children performed a few Thanksgiving songs. They did a fabulous job. We shared wonderful food and fellowship with our preschool families.

Our Christmas program will be held **Wednesday**, **December 20th at 11:00 am.**









What does Advent (and the music we will sing) teach us about "I believe even when..."?

from Stephen A. Emberley
Director of Music

Hope For a New Creation (written 11.28.23)

Creation began with an idea formed in the mind of God brought to life with a Word, and so the worlds were framed by the Word of God.

The things which were unseen became seen.

Salvation began with an idea, Love, coming down to live on earth to lead humanity out of its darkness, an example full of grace and truth, the Words made flesh.

The things which were unseen dwelt among us.

The Word began the example of walking into the plans God has for us for a future filled with hope, to spend and be spent for others, as the Words re-animate us.

The things were are unseen becoming seen through us.





PARENTS!!

Is your child returning to college this fall?
Please make sure we have their current contact

information so we can continue to send cards and packages to them!

Angels for November and December:

Ana, Lisa, Jenny, and Tricia



Sunday December 3rd at 2pm
Presentation by the SPC Earth Care
Committee on how to reduce waste
this Christmas season







Since 1983, Greensboro Urban Ministry has presented a holiday honor card each year as a meaningful way for individuals to honor a friend or loved one by providing a gift that honors them and also helps our neighbors in need. In 2022, as the year came to a close, we found ourselves moving into a new era we knew would eventually happen. For thirty-five of the forty-year Honor Card history, Greensboro Urban Ministry was blessed with the opportunity of having the very talented and dedicated artist Bill Mangum design our



Honor Card. Now, as we begin our 2023 holiday honor card season, we have made every effort to ensure we preserve and honor the legacy and meaning our annual honor card represents.

This year, we have a new artist to carry on the long-time tradition of our Honor Card program. This year's card is titled *Victoria's Kindness, designed by local artist Maria Santana. The theme for this year's card is kindness. The holiday season reminds us all to show kindness to one another. Our agency is called to serve the community and we are guided by values that call us to be kind to our neighbors.*

The 2023 Honor Card season will officially begin in late October, starting with pre-order sales online and then in local retail locations and congregations in November.

WATCH FOR THE SALES TO BEGIN IN OUR GATHERING AREA IN NOVEMBER.



Benevolence Fund With the increased need for assistance with rent, utilities, and water bills, more requests from Guilford Congregational Assistance Network (GCAN) and GUM are anticipated. Please continue to contribute to our Benevolence Fund as you are able. Thank you for your continued support of this very important ministry!!

HOW CAN YOU BRING JOY TO SOMEONE THIIS CHRISTMAS?





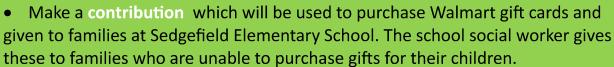


• Support a ministry by purchasing an Honor Card from Greensboro Urban Ministry, Bread for the World, Animal Rescue, our Cooking Matters or BackPack programs

- Bring nonperishable food items to go to our local food pantries
- Send Christmas cards to those from our congregation who are unable to attend church or are sick



- Purchase and fill a back pack with gloves, socks, blanket, toiletries, candy etc. for someone who is homeless which will be given out on Christmas Day at Sunday Serve
- Visit/call one of our members who is unable to come to church









Information on all the above suggestions is in the Gathering Area at church. It is <u>very important</u> that you sign the list provided if you choose a child from the Angel Tree.



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE BENEVOLENCE MINISTRIES OF SEDGEFIELD PRESBYTERIAN

* For additional information. please contact Charlotte Stone at 336-317-1752 or cpstone@triad.rr.com

How do we learn about the needs?

Throughout the year we receive requests for assistance from GUM, Mustard Seed Community Health, Greensboro Police Department, Beloved Community Center, GCAN (Greensboro Congregational Assistance Network) and occasionally a referral from someone in our congregation who is aware of a need. With all the family shelters full and each with long waiting lists, finding safe, warm shelter is very challenging and often congregations are asked to assist.

THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTE!



Sedgefield Presbyterian has pledged to sponsor 14 children from Faith Action International House as well as 13 children from Mustard Seed Community Health for our Angel Tree this holiday season. We will be providing Sedgefield Elementary School families with gift cards again this year.

Faith Action International House's mission is to serve and advocate alongside thousands of new-comers each year while educating and connecting diverse communities across lines of culture and faith—turning strangers into neighbors! The goal of the toy drive is to provide gifts to immigrant and refugee children between the ages of 1 and 12 who are living in low-income households.

Mustard Seed Community Health's mission is to provide high-quality, holistic, integrated healthcare to those in need in an

environment that dignifies and empowers the whole person. Without Mustard Seed Community Health, many Cottage Grove

residents would go without medical care or only see a doctor in an emergency. Their organization helps people get healthy and stay that way.

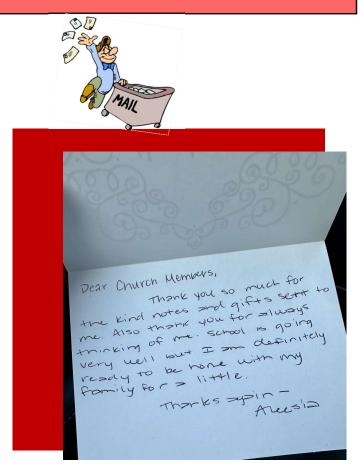


The Benevolence Ministry Team will be setting up the Christmas tree in the gathering area with a tag for each child this week. Purchasing two to three new toys per child is recommended.

For those interested in helping us provide a wonderful holiday for these families, you may do so by taking a tag and shopping for a child or by giving a monetary donation. Please bring your wrapped and tagged gifts to the church gathering area no later than Tuesday, December 12th. We are scheduled to drop them off or have them ready for pickup on Wednesday, December 13th.

Thanks to all of you who support these programs! It is through your generosity and giving spirit that we are able to help so many in need.







Welcome our newest SPC member Nancy Halpin. She has been with us for over 10 years and we are excited to have her officially. Nancy will continue to share her passion and gifts with the church and community.



2 Hot Dogs, Chips, Drink \$6

Every Tuesday

(January—November)

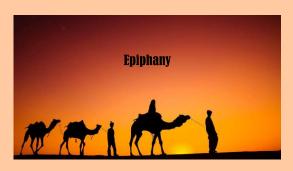
11:30 am -1:30 pm

Hinshaw Methodist Church

Proceeds Benefit Local Hunger Projects







Epiphany is the celebration of God's manifestation or self-revelation to the world in Jesus Christ. In particular, we celebrate the revelation of God's promise and purpose to the nations of the world, as the magi came from the East to worship to the Christ child, and God's covenant of grace is extended to all who believe the good news of Christ Jesus. The symbolism of light is important: not only because of the star that guided the magi, but as it relates to the bright dawning of God's self-revelation in Christ.





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Rev. Frank Dew, Peace and Justice Advocate

