



grapevine



Sedgefield Presbyterian Church

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December 2024 & January 2025

“O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Savior’s birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
‘Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;”

Dear SPC Family and Friends,

Advent invites us into a unique tension—a space where we see the world as it truly is, with all its weariness, yet hold onto hope for a future we can only sometimes glimpse. This season doesn’t ask us to ignore the heaviness of life or force ourselves into a premature holly jolly spirit. Instead, it gives us permission to name the hard truths and still find moments of rejoicing.

I’ll admit, this year I’ve struggled to embrace the Christmas and Advent spirit. I’d love to blame one specific thing—the ongoing repairs and renovations, the endless stream of political headlines, alarming updates about climate change, my vocal cord challenges, the bitter cold, or simply feeling like there aren’t enough hours in the day. Maybe it’s all of these things together.

As I’ve prepared sermons and sat with Advent devotions, I’ve wrestled with this sense of weariness. Looking around, it really does feel like a weary world. But Advent reminds me that weariness doesn’t get the last word.

Last Sunday, Rev. Frank Dew reminded us to look for Jesus among the everyday moments. That advice has been nudging me to pay closer attention. And when I do, I notice the Christmas spirit quietly sneaking into my soul. It’s not in grand or flashy ways, but in the small, ordinary acts of love and kindness that whisper God’s presence.

I’ve seen it when someone in my workout class kindly sets up my equipment, in a waitress blessing my day as she hands me my London Fog, or in the joy of shopping for angel tree gifts. It’s in the warmth of an invitation to spend time with friends, and in the simple, unexpected phone call from a child “just because.” These are glimpses of God’s love breaking through the weary moments.

I’m learning that I don’t need to rush out of this space of weariness and force myself into cheer. Advent is teaching me to hold the tension: it’s okay to feel weary and rejoice at the same time. It’s a reminder that the coming of Christ doesn’t erase the world’s struggles, but brings light into them.

Friends, this Advent season, I invite you to join me in reflecting and anticipating. Take time to notice where you’ve witnessed God’s love in your life. It might be in the kindness of a stranger, the laughter of a friend, or the stillness of a quiet moment. And then ask yourself: where does God’s love need to go next?

Advent isn’t about rushing to Christmas; it’s about living fully in the waiting. It’s about naming the weariness, finding reasons to rejoice, and remembering the hope that comes with the Christ child. May this season be one where the weary world—and your weary soul—finds reason to rejoice. I look forward to singing O Holy Night with you and your loved ones this Christmas Eve.

Peace, Kim



December Birthdays

- 1 Matt Miller
- 2 Julie Gehling
- 3 Gordon Johnson
Sue Lucado
- 7 Mike Haynes
Vicki Dorman
- 8 Maren Gehling Creed
- 12 Bob Halpin
- 15 Cody Johnson
Tyler Johnson
Charlotte Stone
Sarah Freeman

- 19 Sam Cook
- 21 Mike Ambrosio
- 23 Margaret Millard
Zoe Dillard
- 25 Scott Barker
- 29 Morgan Haynes
- 30 Tricia Hayes Creed

January Birthdays

- 2 Sean Morton
- 10 Sheryl Bell
Norma Matto
- 12 Carmen Atwater
- 14 Zoey Martinez

- 14 Stanley Ashworth
- 17 John Atwater
Brandon Dietz
Nick Dietz
- 18 Shani Lester
- 19 Max Harkleroad
- 21 Maiya Coughlin
- 27 Taylor Mitchell
- 28 Lisa Miller
- 31 Paul Angelo
Kim Priddy



Anniversaries



December 22

Sarah & Tony Freeman

Worship Assistants



December	Lay Reader	Usher(s)	Infant Care	Church School
1 Advent Sunday	Zoe	Harkleroads		
8	Julie	Gehling		
15	Ben	Meghan & Ben		
22	Barb	Tim		
24	Nancy	Halpins		
29		Frances W.		

Elders

Session Class of 2024:

- Karen Johnson
- Tim Saunders

Session Class of 2025:

- Meghan Hadley
- Zoe Dillard

Session Class of 2026:

- Drake Mitchell
- Ellen Morton



This Month's Highlights

- Every First Sunday, Pennies for Hunger, Communion
- Every 4th Sunday, Benevolence Basket passed,
- Every Tuesday evening, Boy Scout Troop 8 meets

Sunday, December 1 10 am Yoga; First Sunday of Advent; Hanging of the Greens after Worship

Thursday, December 5Angel Tree Gifts due here

Sunday, December 82nd Sunday of Advent

Tuesday, December 106 pm Women's Christmas Dinner at Ana's

Sunday, December 153rd Sunday of Advent; Christmas lunch, 12 pm

Thursday, December 19Preschool Program

Sunday, December 224th Sunday of Advent

Tuesday, December 24Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 25Christmas Day

Sunday, December 291st Sunday of Christmas

Wednesday, January 1, 2025 .Church office will be closed

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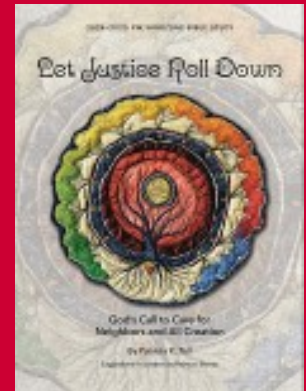


Continue to keep in your prayers:

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

- Margaret Underwood (friend of Linda and Frances Wolf)
- Valsa Lawrence
- Nick Doss
- Jean Stewart
- Lydia Jernigan
- Phil Martin
- Billy O'Brien (Britt Styers' husband)
- Pete McMillian
- Kasey Redfern
- Ned McMillian
- Shirley Bell (Sheryl Bell's mother)
- Daniel Wilkerson (Tim's nephew)
- Lee Oliver
- Classie Meredith
- Joann Smith
- Helen Boyer (Karen Johnson's mother)
- Judy Spillers (sister of Teresa Caine)
- Glenda Neal (friend of Teresa Caine)
- Janice Massie (friend of Barbara Haynes)

Note: Prayer requests should be sent to the church office at office@sedgefieldpresbyterian.org.



JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY!

Bring your lunch and join us in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesdays at 11:30am for the Bible Study: Let Justice Roll Down.

We will begin on Tuesday, September 10th.

Session Snippets

- 2024 Nominating Committee is **Geraldine Burch, Suzanne Thacker, and Drake Mitchell**. Please see one of these people if you have someone to nominate after you have spoken to the person about it.
- We are getting parking lot quotes as our insurance company is requesting we get repairs done for them to continue carrying us.
- **Jim Gehling** is continuing to work with the roofing company and insurance company to get any refund we are due.
- The **Benevolence Ministry Team** decided to have Christmas Honor Cards designed by members that we will use to support all the outreach we do. From the proceeds, we will support all the non profits that we normally have cards for. They will be available for purchase soon, and as in past years will be \$5 each. You can give to someone in their honor.
- You've noticed different college students helping with childcare. Our goal is to have two with the little ones and two with the older ones; for a bible story to be shared with each group, and for a craft to be done with each group. There will be on-going training for our caregivers.

**SEDGEFIELD
PRESBYTERIAN
PRESCHOOL**

Fun at the Preschool
Thanksgiving Feast



December is always a special time at the preschool. The children are busy making holiday crafts, learning about holiday traditions and practicing for our Christmas program. This year our program will be held on **Thursday, Dec. 19th at 11:00 am.**

A special thank you to **Chuck Martin, Hannah's Grandpa**, who volunteered to come and do some Christmas sing a longs with the children. They loved his guitar playing.



Financial statements will be printed and will be available through the end of Quarter 3. Please be sure to check your statements to be sure you are up to date on your pledges.



**CHURCH
CONNECTION**



It's that time of year. Kids have settled back into their college routine and we need their addresses so we can stay in touch. Please send their addresses to Linda Price (lindaprice452@gmail.com)

We have a great group of church members that work to keep our youth that are away from home connected to Sedgefield Presbyterian Church. Each group takes a month or two and reminds these youth that we are thinking of them. One month may be a card; another may be a gift card or goodie box. Are you interested in this mission? Let Linda Price know (lindaprice452@gmail.com) (lindaprice452@gmail.com)



The Nominating Committee is meeting and looking the 2027 Class of Elders and members to serve on the next Nominating Committee.

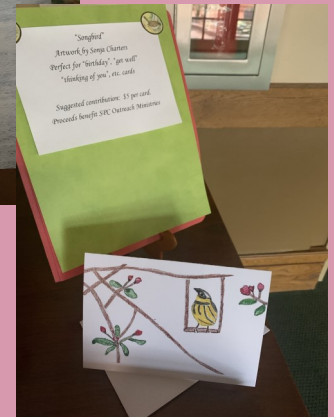


Benevolence Ministry

Honor Cards

The Benevolence Ministry Team chose to prepare our own Honor Cards this year with the proceeds going to Greensboro Urban Ministry and other outreach ministries supported by SPC.

Special thanks to our members, Sonya Charters and Max Harkleroad for sharing their artistic talents. Thanks also to Quality Printing (Bonnie Beisner and Brooks) for printing the cards. They are for sale (\$5 each) and are available on a table in the Gathering Area.



Special thanks to:

- All who chose an angel from the tree
- Suzanne Thacker and her sister, Lyn, for the special handmade blankets for each child every year
 - Rita Wingler for the crocheted hats for each child. (Rita helps prepare backpacks each week for the children at Sedgefield Elementary)
 - Stanley Ashworth and John Stone for delivering gifts to Faith Action
 - Michelle Harkleroad, Frances Wolfe, Charlotte and John Stone for preparing the gifts for delivery to 12 families



Members of the Benevolence Team prepared Angel Tree gifts for 30 children

Who are the Montagnard people? We are the indigenous peoples of the Central Highlands of Vietnam. The term Montagnard is French for "mountain people" or "highlanders", and is often used to refer to us, the indigenous people of the region. There are over 30 different Montagnard tribes. We were some of the frontline fighters during the Vietnam War, alongside with U.S. Special Forces. Today, North Carolina holds the largest population of Montagnards outside of Southeast Asia.

Members of our congregation joined with the Montagnard congregation between services Nov. 17th to sit in small groups and get to know one another better. They are a resilient group of people who endured many struggles to get to the United States.

One lady and her family survived in the jungle for 17 years catching, killing, and eating whatever they could.

For 5 years, she only had one dress, took baths in the river, and stayed in the river until her dress dried.

She also had a child during the 17 year stay in the jungle.

Recently, her husband became sick and cannot work. She can only work 3 days a week and has to spend the remaining time caring for him. Even when she's working, she calls hourly to check on him.

Since she can't work more days, they are having a difficult time paying their rent and buying groceries.

Their pastor's uncle was captured by the Viet Cong, placed in a tree and tortured.

Some of the Montagnards remain as refugees in Cambodia and Thailand with hopes of being able to join their family here in the United States.

The Montagnards, who are Christian, have met in our Fellowship Hall each Sunday for 20 years. We hope to have additional times to meet together with them.

For additional information, see <https://www.montagnardda.org/>



Sunday Serve continues to provide meals, clothes, blankets, sleeping bags, tents, cots, and shoes as well as a family for our less fortunate friends downtown. We are doing at least 100 bookbags to be given out Christmas morning when we serve them breakfast at a church in downtown Greensboro. A warm breakfast in a warm church is such a rarity for them. If you'd like to help, we need men's socks and handwarmers for our bookbags. And if you'd like to contribute something to the breakfast, we would so appreciate that. Our needs are: 15 more breakfast casseroles, 10 gallons of white & chocolate milk, oranges, 10 gallons of OJ, bananas & grapes, 20 dozen muffins, and 20 dozen doughnuts. If you can provide any of this, let me know I can pick it up at church Christmas Eve. **Help bring a little warmth and cheer to our less fortunate.**

Thanks, Karen



Coming in December.....

Women's
CHRISTMAS DINNER

Ana Atwater's home
Tuesday, December 10
6 pm

SAVE THE DATE

Christmas Lunch

SUNDAY 12:00 PM | 15 | DECEMBER 2024

Sedgefield Presbyterian Church
More details to come...

Hanging of the Greens

Come see the festivity in the sanctuary!

Happy New Year

2025

The Church Office will be closed on
Wednesday, January 1, 2025

Library Books!

The Session has decided to downsize our library to allow the space to be used for additional purposes. Please come by and get your favorite books.

We will now be using our Youtube Channel :

<https://www.youtube.com/@sedgefieldpresbyterianchur7026>

to stream our service.

Peace, Kim

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Rev. Frank Dew, Peace and Justice Advocate

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