

December 6, 2020 Announcements
Pennies for Hunger: Dec. 6, 2020
December special mission offering:
Benevolence Farm of Graham

WELCOME TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP today. *This is the last Sunday in 2020 that we will meet together on the lawn.* Our Advent worship services after today all include video portions, which are best broadcast from inside the sanctuary. Worship services are live-streamed **each Sunday**. Instructions to set up and use a Livestream account are on (www.alamancechurch.org).

TO ALLOW BETTER STREAMING of worship, please **TURN OFF** your cellphones during worship. Even when silenced, they use bandwidth, and interrupt the outgoing signal.

NOTICE: Our **Session continues to craft policy specifically for APC**, per state and Salem Presbytery *Safer at Home* recommendations for COVID-19 Phase 3, which is now scheduled to end **Dec. 11**. **All** groups that meet here **MUST** apply to Session for permission to meet.

DECEMBER MISSIONS OFFERING is for Benevolence Farm of Graham. (You may use the special envelopes from basket beside bulletins.)

KIDS R.O.C.K.: **No meeting today, Dec. 6**, because of *Visit with Santa*.

YOUTH GROUPS: High schoolers meet **today, Dec. 6, 5p** on the sanctuary front porch.

DIGITAL CHRISTMAS MARKET: See insert for details.

VISIT WITH SANTA in Brown Fellowship Hall on **Sun., Dec. 6, 2-6p** (sponsored by L.I.F.T. Circle). Use this link to sign up for your time to see Santa: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F044AA9A92EA6F94-visit>

POINSETTIAS FOR ADVENT: APC has ordered 40 plants from Mindenhill Farms for **Sunday, Dec. 20**. Use form in your bulletin packet to reserve one. Cost is \$14. You may also choose to make a

donation to an APC fund instead, on the same form. **Deadline to order is Dec. 14.**

DRIVE-THRU MEALS at APC: Take-out only! Pick up **between 5-7p** outside Brown Fellowship Hall. **Dec. 19** (Christmas meal), **Jan. 23** (Brunswick stew). Profits go to APC Operating Fund. Order ahead, pay on-line, to offset food waste. (www.alamancechurch.org).

RED KETTLE DRIVE, the major fundraiser for The Salvation Army, has started. Use this link to sign up for an interlude with the bell: <https://signup.com/go/UpwuoCF>

CHRIS-NON TREE on the lawn. It's not your mother's chrismon tree. Pick up components from blue bin on front porch of the yellow house, to make a weather-resistant ornament. Bring finished items to hang on tree.

CHRISTMAS EVE worship service is in-person, on the lawn, at **5:30p on Thurs., Dec. 24**. Bring your own light source (non-flammable, please!) Service will be short but sweet. Y'all come now, y'hear?

FUNERALS DURING PANDEMIC: Face coverings still required in public when not possible to maintain social distancing from non-household members in **any** public place — indoor or outdoor. The mass gathering limit is 10 people inside, 25 people outside.

Staff love offering
will be collected during worship on **Sundays Dec. 6 and 13**. Use the special envelope, or deliver directly to the church office.

Christian sympathy is expressed
to Joy Thomas and family,
at the death of her cousin,
Cindy Adkins, on November 28, 2020

Christian sympathy is expressed
to the family and friends of
Harvey Lee Starr,
who died on November 30, 2020

Year-end donations
To claim a tax-deductible charitable donation for 2020, donors must deliver or mail (and postmark) donations **on or before Dec. 31, 2020**. Checks written, mailed and postmarked in 2020 **will** be tax-deductible, even if not received until 2021. Checks hand-delivered after Jan. 1, 2021 **will not qualify** for 2020 tax deductions, even if dated 2020.
Church offices will be closed Dec. 24-25. Only a skeleton staff will be on hand **Dec. 28-31**. Any personally-delivered checks should be placed in Jeanine Rossi's workroom mailbox.

Food Pantry
Special collection for December: Soup
We can always use clean, dry, plastic grocery bags — and clean, dry, empty egg cartons, to re-pack eggs from a weekly bulk egg donation.
VOLUNTEERS ESSENTIAL: Food Pantry Team **needs** you. Volunteer your service! **Go here to sign up: <http://signup.com/go/h2b6xy>**

ONLINE GIVING: See the Bulletins & Announcement page of website (www.alamancechurch.org) for details of how to use.
You will need to sign up with this service to access online giving.
To give by Text: text the word "give" to **336-396-6133**. Then follow the simple prompts to set up your account and make donations.

CHURCH OFFICE
(336)-697-0488
info@alamancechurch.org
Phase 3 of NC's *Safer at Home* order is scheduled to end Dec. 11.
Church offices are open. Buildings will remain closed until Session rules that it is safe to re-open the church.

NC *Safer at Home* pandemic protocols: Phase 3 are now scheduled to end Friday, December 11.

Session will decide the safest course of action for our congregation, based on trending data relating to COVID-19 — particularly hospitalizations and ICU census numbers.

Data considered will be from reliable sources such as county and state departments of health, the Center for Disease Control, and the Cone Health System.

After a steady two week's downward trend in numbers, Session will **consider** re-opening buildings for public worship.

Face masks are required at all public events.

APC KNIT, PRAY, LOVE MINISTRY:
Ongoing project to create items for maternity and newborn depts. of Women's Hospital at Cone. Project is NOT limited to KPL. Suggested patterns are available: check with Linda Aydelette. Drop off finished items in labelled box on Yellow House porch. (Prayer shawls and chemo caps still needed, too.)
A video posted on the church Facebook page has more info. Contact Linda Aydelette (linda.aydelette@gmail.com).

Church Staff
Dr. Kyle Goodman, Lead Pastor
Rev. Jess Rigel, Discipleship Pastor
Andrew Long, Dir., Youth Ministries
Joy Thomas, Dir., Children's Ministries
Katie Long, Director of Music
Rebecca Oden, Accompanist
Jeanine Rossi, Finance Manager
Lynn Barnes, Administrative Assistant
Mary Ellen Shores Director, Child Development Center
Jane Preston Asst. Dir., CDC



We welcome all to the community of Jesus: to connect, to learn, to worship, to serve.

Second Sunday of Advent December 6, 2020 10 a.m.



Gathering

Prelude 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime - arr. Joseph Martin

Lay Reader today is Dara Reece.

Lighting the Candle of Love

Opening Hymn O Come, O Come Emmanuel Song sheet

Confession and Reconciliation

Prayer of Confession

Holy One, we have waited through many a long night, for your coming: like those of old our eyes have been red from weeping, our minds numb from anxiety, and our hands held out in longing. This Advent season finds us waiting again, asking: "When will you come to us? When will we see a star we can trust? When will wise ones rise up in our midst? When will humble workers see angels? How long, O God, must we wait for your promises to be fulfilled?"
Help us to be patient, God; meet us in our doubts and our questions. Open us to the understanding that you are the source of all love; and we need not feel so alone in our fear and our grief. Teach us to trust you again, to know that you are indeed Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Responsive Psalm Reading *Psalm 85: 1-7*

One: Lord, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
All: You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin.

Refrain:

Musical score for the refrain of Psalm 85. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system has the lyrics "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near." and the second system has "Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!". The music is in G major (one sharp) and 2/2 time.

One: You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.
**All: Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
and put away your indignation toward us.**
One: Will you be angry with us forever?
Will your prolong your anger to all generations?

Refrain

All: Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you?
One: Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

Refrain

One: This is the Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Children’s Church

Children from age 4-5th grade may now leave the lawn with Director of Children’s Ministries Joy Thomas, for *Godly Play*, a worship time designed especially for them. They will rejoin us after the Message.

The Word

Scripture Reading *Isaiah 40:1-11*

One: This is the Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Biblical Reflection

As you listen to the Scripture and our pastoral reflections, we invite you to meditate on how you might respond to these prompts.
If you are worshipping with us virtually, we encourage you to hold your own discussions at home as a form of worship within your family.

What are some of the things you’re grieving this Advent season?

What are some of the things bringing you comfort this Advent season?

How are you committed to preparing the way of the Lord this Advent?

Thanksgiving & Offering

Affirmation of Faith *The Apostles’ Creed* - Ecumenical version

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

This morning we invite you to take a moment for quiet reflection on what you’re grieving this season. What losses have you sustained over the past year? What hurts do you need release from? Who or what do you miss the most as we approach the end of 2020?
We encourage you to write your thoughts on the blue page in your bulletin and put them in the offering plate as a form of prayer. Our church staff and Session will commit to lifting these prayers up in the days and weeks to come, as we prepare for the birth of the Christ child.

Call to Offering

Sharing of Offering

We invite you to prayerfully make a donation to contribute to the continued life and work of our congregation, even — and especially — in these times of anxiety. Please consider mailing contributions directly to the church, or using our online giving platform, available at <https://www.alamancechurch.org/online-giving>.

Offertory *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night* - arr. Thomas Keesecker

Doxology *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sending Hymn *In the Bleak Midwinter* Song sheet

Charge and Benediction

Postlude *Hope* - arr. Joel Raney

The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible is used during worship.

Lectionary Year B Scripture for the Second Sunday of Advent, **Dec. 6:**
Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12.

Lectionary Year B Scripture for the Third Sunday of Advent, **Dec 13:**
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28.

Daily video Advent devotions, filmed by the staff, are available on our YouTube channel and website.



4000 Presbyterian Road
Greensboro, NC 27406
(336)-697-0488
www.alamancechurch.org

We are an ecumenical congregation in a Presbyterian Church, USA form.

We welcome all to the community of Jesus:
to connect, to learn, to worship, to serve.