



*For unto us
a child is born*



Christmas Eve

December 24, 2024 | 12pm and 11pm Worship | Sanctuary

This church welcomes you no matter who you are or from where you come.
We are Christ's people, and this is Christ's place with its doors open wide.
If you are passing through, Godspeed; if you are looking for a home, stay here;
if you need instruction, we can learn together. We invite you to return often.

GOD GATHERS HIS PEOPLE

Christmas Eve is the high-point of the season of Advent. During the season of Advent we light the Advent Wreath each week to prepare for the birth of Jesus and on Christmas Eve we celebrate his birth. We believe that the birth of Christ is one of the two most important events of human history, second only to Christ's resurrection on Easter. Because of the significance of his birth the liturgical color of white is used in the sanctuary. The white stoles on the pastor's robe and the other vestments on the pulpit and communion table are reserved for the most sacred days of the Christian year.

PRELUDE

*God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen | 19thc English
Of the Father's Love Begotten | 11thc Latin*

WELCOME

*GATHERING CAROL NO. 133

O Come All Ye Faithful

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE *12pm Ken Maassen & Rachel Andersen | 11pm Joe & Hannah Jordan*

Please join me in the liturgy for lighting the Christ Candle.

Hear the Word of the Lord from the Prophet Isaiah:

The people who walked in darkness,

Have seen a great light.

Those who lived in a land of deep darkness,

On them light has shined.

Our God has multiplied the nation,

He has increased our joy.

We rejoice before you, Almighty God,

As with joy at the harvest.

For the yoke of our burden and the bar across our shoulders, the rod of our oppressor,

Has been broken.

Let us pray.

Almighty God,

The heavenly host fills the sky and the shepherds rush to behold the babe, but we are rushing too fast to stop and understand. We think we know the story of Christmas well enough to keep cooking while only half listening, forgetting that this story changes everything. We are distracted by family drama, instruction manuals, and unmet expectations. We wish for so much that we miss what is right before our eyes.

Forgive us.

In this silence hear our confession, that we might forsake our broken ways to be blessed by the gift that you bring.(Silence) Amen.

*WE LIGHT THE CHRIST CANDLE

Please rise.

Arise, God's people, for light still shines.

As we light the Christ Candle,

We watch for the miracle of Christmas.

As we watch its flame,

We remember the Light that shines in the darkness.

*GREETING ONE ANOTHER WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Hear the teaching of Christ: I give you a new commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Having received forgiveness and peace from God, let us pass such forgiveness and peace to our neighbors.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

(12:00pm) *CAROL NO. 119

Hark the Herald

(11:00pm) *CAROL NO. 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

OFFERING/OFFERTORY *Coventry Carol* | 16thc English

*CAROL NO. 134 *Joy to the World*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

ANTHEM *My Lord Has Come* | Todd

Shepherds, called my angels,
called by love and angels;
no place for them but a stable.

My Lord has come,

Sages, searching for stars, serching
for love in heaven;

no place for them but a stable.

My Lord has come.

His love will hold me,
his love will cherish me,
love will cradle me.

Lead me, lead me to see him,
sages and shepherds and angels;

no place for me but a stable,

My Lord has come.

GOD SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE

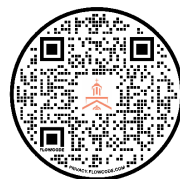
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS (NRSV)

Isaiah 52:7-10 | Luke 2:1-14

The Word of the Lord | **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON *Wrapped in Bands of Cloth* | Rev. Joe Evans, Senior Pastor



If you would like to give online go to fpcmarietta.org, or scan this QR code.

WE RESPOND TO GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Christmas Creed*

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the power of the gospel, begun in Bethlehem.

I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a small village, of whose coming shepherds saw the sign, and for whom there was no room at the inn.

I believe in the one whose life changed the course of history, over whom the rulers of the earth had no power, and who was not understood by the proud.

I believe in the one to whom the oppressed, the discouraged, the afflicted, the sick, the blind, the injured gave welcome, and accept as Lord and Savior.

I believe in the one who, with love, changed the heart of the proud and with his life showed that it is better to serve than to be served, and that the greatest joy is giving your life for others.

I believe in peace, which is not the absence of war, but justice among all people and nations and love among all.

I believe in reconciliation, forgiveness, and the transforming power of the gospel.

I believe that Christmas is strength and power, and that this world can change if with humility and faith we kneel before the manger.

I believe that I must be the first one to do so. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Everyone is welcome to take part in the sacrament of communion in the Presbyterian Church. You don't have to be a member. The table is open and you are welcome. If you have a gluten sensitivity, the bread in the center of each tray is gluten free.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. | **And also with you.** | Lift up your hearts. | **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. | **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, O God, through your beloved Servant, Jesus Christ, whom you have sent in fulfillment of your will. He comes as a messenger of your will and as our Savior and Redeemer. He is your Word, inseparable from you, through whom you made all things and in whom you take delight. You sent him to the Virgin Mary, where he was conceived, and took flesh, by the power of the Holy Spirit. He was revealed as your Son. He stretched out his hands to release from suffering those who place their trust in you, and so won for you a holy people. Then he was betrayed by the religious leaders. He freely accepted the death to which he was led, in order to destroy death; to shatter the chains of the evil one; to trample underfoot the powers of hell; to lead the righteous into your light; and to manifest the resurrection. He eternally lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit. We thank you that we are counted as worthy to share this sacrament, as we offer you praise, saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The gifts of God for the people of God. | **Thanks be to God.**

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT *Wexford Carol* | 15th C Irish

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE

(11:00pm) *SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

*SENDING CAROL NO. 122 *Silent Night*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*SENDING MUSIC *Toccatina on 'Angels We Have Heard on High'* | Elliott

Today's Worship Leaders

Rev. Joe Evans, Senior Pastor

Rev. Cassie Waits, Associate Pastor

Rev. Dr. Paul Sherwood, Parish Associate

Bob Smith, 12pm Beadle

Dr. Jeffrey Meeks, Director of Music & Fine Arts | Chohee Kim, Principal Organist | Chancel Choir

Will Myers and Michele Volz, Violinists | Katie Waters, Soloist | 11pm Tyler Hartley, Harpist

Audio/Visual Team: *Will Myers*

Cover Photo Credit: *Victor Segoviano Regalado, Chalktoberfest 2024*

Chancel Flowers

The flowers today are given to the glory of God and in honor of Martha Rampley and in loving memory of Milton Rampley and Yvonne and Henry Randall by Hank and Debbie Randall.

Join us

New members are received each month in worship.

If you are interested in joining, please contact Ken Farrar at kenfarrar@icloud.com.

Congregational Care at FPC

Here are just a few ways FPC cares for its congregation and community. More at fpcmarietta.org.

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry is a lay ministry that is available to anyone who is going through a difficult time. Our Stephen Ministers are trained caregivers, ready to listen, care for, and encourage you. They will pray with and for you, providing confidential one-to-one Christian care to help you through whatever you are facing.

You don't have to carry this burden alone. To find out more about Stephen Ministry, contact Claire Francis: 678-313-1961 or francisr@bellsouth.net.

Caring Ministry

The Caring Ministry Committee enables the church to reflect the love of Christ to those congregational members who may find themselves challenged by the difficult situations in life. Through Caring Ministry, Caregivers communicate at least monthly with their Care-Receiver by means of a phone call, an email, regular mail, or a personal visit. If you would like to become a Caregiver or know of someone who needs regular contact, please contact Marti Miner: martimgf02@bellsouth.net.

My Handy Friend Ministry

The purpose of this ministry is to provide a service to our members who are in need of assistance with tasks that they may no longer be comfortable doing. If you would like to have help, please fill out the form at fpcmarietta.org/my-handy-friend, and someone will call you to understand your need and let you know if this is something we can do for you. If you have skills and are willing to share them, please fill out the same form.

The Pantry on Church Tuesdays | 9:00am-11:30am Off Campus | 3:45pm- 7:00pm On Campus

The Pantry on Church packs and distributes food in our community every Tuesday. Our partner is Sweetwater Mission in Austell. We serve 390 families each week. Adult volunteers pack at Sweetwater between 9-11:30am. Volunteers of high school age and older distribute food in our parking lot on Tuesday evenings between 4:30-7pm.

Contact Martie Moore, The Pantry on Church Coordinator: MartieMoore@fpcmarietta.org.

Club 3:30 Monday-Friday | 4:00pm-5:30pm | August-May | On campus

Club 3:30 volunteers serve as tutors and mentors to students from Hickory Hills Elementary. Learn more by contacting Mary Groves, Club 3:30 Director: MaryGroves@fpcmarietta.org.

Weekday Preschool For Children ages 1 (by May 1) - Kindergarten

Our premier preschool is open to members and non-members. Call for registration procedures and other information. Find out more: fpcmarietta.org/preschool/

Scouts

Boy Scout Troop 252 has been a part of FPC for decades. We also offer Cub Pack for boys and girls. Find out more here: www.scouting.org/ or contact Pam Googe at pkgooge@gmail.com.

Parents Day Out Monday-Friday | 9am-1pm | Children 8 weeks - 5 years

FPC offers half-day care for children 8 weeks- 5 years.

Reservations are necessary. Employment opportunities may be available.

Adrean Grant, Parents Day Out Coordinator: AdreanGrant@fpcmarietta.org.

Discipleship & Fellowship Opportunities

These are just a few opportunities for spiritual growth and fellowship at FPC. Go to fpcmarietta.org/get-involved to learn more.

Adult Sunday School Classes Resume January 5 (9:45am-10:45am)

Children & Youth Classes Resume January 12 (9:45am-10:45am)

Infants and 2-3yr-olds Nursery

PreK - Grade 1 Rm 206

Grades 2-5 Rm 216

Youth Grades 6-12 Lower Level

Young Adults Rm 231

30-50s Class Lectionary study | Rm 053

New Seasons Lectionary study | Rm 051

Explorers Ephesians | Rm 050

Faith Builders Lectionary Study | Rm 055

Weekday Adult Groups

Presbyterian Women Second Mondays 10am | Second Sundays 5pm

Monday Prayer and Bible Study Alternating Mondays 10am

Monday Women's Group Alternating Mondays 7pm

Monday Men's Group Fourth Mondays 6pm

Tuesday Ladies' Bible Study Tuesdays 9:30am

Thursday Bible Study Thursdays 12-1pm

Youth Group

FPC youth from grades 6-12 meet Sunday evenings from 5-7pm, ending with dinner.

Contact Jana Chesney, Youth Ministry Coordinator, at JanaChesney@fpcmarietta.org.

Young Adults

If you are age 18-35 and love making connections, enjoy new experiences, and are looking for a place for fellowship, we want to help! Joe Jordan, Young Adult Engagement Coordinator: JoeJordan@fpcmarietta.org.

Jubilee

Social group for adult seniors, with lunches and outings at least once a month! Planned events are suggested by the group and take place on and off campus. Dutch treat. Transportation is often provided.

Contact Rev. Dr. Paul Sherwood: PaulSherwood@fpcmarietta.org.

Dinner Groups and Wine Groups

Small groups of 8-12 meet monthly at a group member's home. Hosting rotates among group members. Open to singles or couples. Contact Bob Sloop: rsloop47@gmail.com.

Book Club

Monthly book study led by various participants. Mostly women, members and non-members.

See the reading list at fpcmarietta.org/adults. Contact Nancy Jo Kirk: njkirk@mindspring.com.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Calling all Seamstresses!

We need to restock our stash of baby blankets for babies born into the life of FPC Marietta! For babies born into our family of faith, FPC gifts the family with a baby blanket and gift card for parents to have a meal. Blankets measure around 35"x24.5" and we would love anyone who feels called to help replenish our supply. Questions? Contact Adrean Grant at AdreanGrant@fpcmarietta.org

P/T Facilities Manager Position Monday-Friday - up to 25 hours.

The Facilities Manager supports the Property Committee to oversee the church building and grounds maintenance, and facilities care functions to promote a clean, well-kept, and safe environment for members and visitors. Please contact Melissa Ricketts at MelissaRicketts@fpcmarietta.org.

Medical Equipment

The church has accumulated some extra medical equipment. If you or a loved one have a need for one of the following, email BeccaYan@fpcmarietta.org and you can pick it up at the church: Shower/Tub Chair (2), Toilet Seat Extension, Cane (7), Walker (2), Doughnut Cushion (2), Wheelchair Footrest (2 pair)

Pedalers

Next Ride: Friday, January 3 | 9am | starting at the Florence Road trailhead. We usually ride an hour out and an hour back, but we can modify the ride to fit the needs of the group. This is a social activity, not a race! We ride for pleasure!

Tuesday Ladies Bible Study - New 7-Week Study!

How Much More by Lisa Harper

beginning Tuesday, January 7 | 9:30am-12:00pm | Room 055

Lisa Harper explains how our Creator Redeemer's unconditional love is woven throughout Scripture. Refreshments, workbook discussion time, and a 30-40 min video. Questions? Linda Bush at 770-856-8443

PreK-5th Adventure Air Outing

Sunday, January 12 | 5-7pm | \$10 per child

Join us at Adventure Air Sports on Barrett Pkwy for a fun evening out with friends! Arrive at 5pm for check-in. Jump from 5:30-6:30pm followed by dinner. Please sign up and fill out a waiver at fpcmarietta.org/events.

FPC Men's Group

Upcoming 2025 dates: 1/27, 2/17, 3/24, 4/28

Contact John Knox at Jdknox162@gmail.com to join!

Small Group Opportunities

SUNDAYS

Sunday School

for All Ages 9:45-10:45am

Youth Group 5:00-7:00pm

Presbyterian Women

2nd Sundays 5:00pm

MONDAYS

Presbyterian Women

2nd Mondays | 10:00am

Monday Men's Group

4th Mondays (usually)
6:00-7:30pm

NAMI Support Group

Mondays 7:00-8:30pm

TUESDAYS

Ladies' Bible Study

Tuesdays 9:30am-12pm

WEDNESDAYS

Book Club

2nd Wednesdays 6:00pm

Jubilee (55+)

2nd Wednesdays

THURSDAYS

Thursday Bible Study

Thursdays 12pm-1pm

DAILY

Club 3:30

4-6pm

This list is not exclusive.
For more opportunities,
go to fpcmarietta.org/get-involved.