

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice"



Advent is here!

Friends,

Advent season began Sunday, November 29. This season is going to be one like none we have faced in our lifetime. Your pastors, the COVID team, and members from our church committees have prayerfully considered how to best support and connect to one another during this challenging time. They have planned activities that show concern and love for the congregation and community, while creatively taking advantage of technology and adhering to local, state, and CDC guidelines (three W's) during this COVID-19 pandemic. We invite you to join us in new ways for some traditional favorites and to try something new this Advent Season!

*****NEW***** **Advent-Epiphany Daily Devotions:** FPC has subscribed to a new resource for this Advent season through Epiphany. We invite you to click [***Devotional Weeks 1-3***](#) and [***Devotional Week 4 - Epiphany***](#) to access this new resource, ***Those Who Dream***, which we subscribed to for our congregation from sanctifiedart.org.

*****NEW***** You are invited to participate in a **Sunday Luminaria Devotional**. This devotional calls for a white paper bag that you can decorate and a battery-operated tea candle. Instructions can be found [***here***](#).

*****NEW***** **Sunday, December 6** We will hold a **Drive-Thru Advent Festival** where you will have the opportunity to pick up devotional resources along with Christmas Eve candles, and have your photo taken. Learn more [***here***](#).

*****NEW***** **Participate in the Christmas Eve Video Pageant** (deadline to submit a

photo or music is **December 12**). Click [here](#) to sign up for a part/scene in the pageant. This video, featuring individuals and families of FPC, will be shown on December 24 at 3:00 p.m. The annual **Christmas Eve worship** (live streamed with communion and candle lighting) will begin at 5:00 p.m. Click [here](#) to access the link to worship.

*****NEW*** Be a Christmas Angel** for someone living alone. All slots are now filled. Contact [Mitzi Leshner-Thomas](#) if you have questions or want to learn more.

*****NEW*** A Time to Mourn:** Join in meditation and conversation with others who are grieving the loss of a loved one on Sunday evenings (December 6, 13, 20) via zoom. Click [here](#) for more information.

Weekly Evening Vespers: Our evening prayer services will continue during Advent on **Thursdays** (December 3, 10, 17) at 8:00 p.m. Join us on FACEBOOK (<https://facebook.com/firstpresdurham/>).

*****NEW*** Advent Bedtime Stories:** Each evening between 7:30-7:45, **Lenore Champion** will read a bedtime story. These stories will be available on the church's [Instagram](#) and will be saved for later in case you can't join live.

*****NEW*** FPC Youth's Instagram Advent Calendar** – Every day in Advent, one of our youth or adults connected to youth will share a short thought about hope, peace, love or joy. It should post by 7:30 p.m. The youth Instagram account is [@fpcedurmyouth](#).

*****NEW*** "Virtual" Carols Sing-along** (no Christmas potluck this year!) Join via Zoom on **December 13 at 6:30 p.m.** More details forthcoming!

A Service of Lessons and Carols will be held during our 11:00 a.m. live-streamed worship on **Sunday, December 20**. Click [here](#) to access the link to worship.

We look forward to celebrating the season of Advent and Christmas with you. We will continue to shine bright despite the darkness covering our world.