

DECEMBER 2025

first press

A MOORESVILLE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN PUBLICATION



CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF FPC MOORESVILLE

READ MORE! CHURCH EVENTS THIS ADVENT SEASON

PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Church Family,

It was a joy to celebrate FPC's 150th anniversary together! Thank you to Andy Poore (historian), Liz Lamadue (vision team spokesperson), David Hamilton (worship leader), Clarke Hodges (chef), Lynda Robinson (planning team), Kailie Rockness (photographer), and all our dedicated volunteers for making this milestone memorable. We were honored to welcome special guests, including Ed Lewis (Pastor Emeritus), Billy Black (former custodian), Chris Carney (mayor), and Will Aven (city commissioner). The event was filled with meaningful worship, fellowship, great food, and inspiring presentations.

Legacy Campaign: Shaping Our Future Together

As we reflect on our rich history, we invite every member of our church family to join us in the Legacy Campaign. Your support is vital to strengthening our ministry and ensuring a lasting impact for generations to come. Together, we can continue to build a legacy of faith and service. We are grateful for those who have already pledged! If you are contemplating a pledge and would like additional information, please visit <https://moorevillefpc.org> to learn more or to submit your pledge. You can also place pledges in the offering plate or bring them to the church office.

→ It continues to be a privilege to serve alongside you in ministry!

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Dave Rockness



150 Years of FPC Mooresville!



MUSIC MINISTRY

Dear Friends,

Back by popular demand, I am overjoyed to announce that the church will present *Amahl and the Night Visitors* again this year on Saturday, December 13 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 14 at 3:00 p.m. in the 143 Broad Worship Space. Some of you, if you are of a certain generation, may remember watching *Amahl* on NBC on or around Christmas Eve annually. NBC approached Gian-Carlo Menotti and asked him to write a musical drama that could be broadcast annually, similar to *A Christmas Carol*. *Amahl* is the story of a poor shepherd boy and his mother who are visited by The Three Kings, who are on their way to Bethlehem to visit Jesus. Amahl, his mother, and the kings witness a life changing miracle.

I have been blessed to have been a part of many productions of Amahl, and am blessed by the many people here at the church who have volunteered to be a part of this production. If you have any experience in being part of a dramatic production you understand that it takes many people to make it successful. I have had help with costumes, props, lighting design, set, and musical preparation. The church has come together and it has been a joy to see folks using their gifts and talents. Please invite friends and family to these special performances. The story is heartwarming and points us to Jesus' birth as the Gospel hope we all need. This is not your typical Christmas production. The Kings and the Mother are all professional singers. We had a wonderful turn out last year and it is my prayer that we will be able to have a large crowd for both performances this year. There will also be a short gospel presentation immediately following both performances. Please invite friends and family. Amahl is a wonderful way to celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ!

ADVENT 2025 AT FPC MOORESVILLE

Wednesday, December 3, **WNT Advent Worship Night**, sanctuary, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 13, *Amahl & the Night Visitors*, 143, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 14, *Amahl & the Night Visitors*, 143, 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 16, **Advent Recital with David Hamilton, Meredith Whitlow, and Greg Thompson**, sanctuary, 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 21, *Saint-Saens Christmas Oratorio*, sanctuary, 11:15 a.m.

Wednesday, December 24, **Family Tableau Christmas Eve Service**, sanctuary, 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 24, **Candlelight Christmas Eve Service**, sanctuary, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 24, **Contemporary Communion Service**, 143, 11:00 p.m.

Your brother in Christ,

David Hamilton



STEWARDSHIP

GIVING YOUR TIME, YOUR TALENTS, AND YOUR TITHES TO GOD'S WORK...

PRAYER: *Thank you, Father, for giving me unique gifts and abilities. Help me to realize that only I can do the work you have prepared for me to do. I ask for the wisdom and strength to use my gifts for the good of your people and for your honor and glory.*

Stewardship of Spiritual Gifts 1 Corinthians 12 : 1-31

Paul describes the Christian church as a body, with various parts performing various roles. The unifying threads of all these parts are the Holy Spirit who works for unity and maturity, the Lord Jesus who taught us to serve, and the one God and Father who works in all. The diversity of spiritual gifts is one of the main ways God accomplishes his redemptive purpose in and through each individual Christian. Spiritual giftedness is a form of administration that God uses to steer his redemptive economy.

It is important that you discover and develop the spiritual gifts that God has bestowed on you. These gifts are desirable for three basic reasons.

You will be satisfied. Knowing and using your gifts will give you an understanding of the unique and indispensable ministry you have been called to accomplish in the body of Christ. You will discover a significant part of your purpose for being on this planet and realize that God has made you competent to produce something that will last for eternity. You will have a sense of fulfillment and joy in the service of others as you become an available instrument through whom the Holy Spirit can work.

In addition, knowledge of your spiritual gifts will greatly assist you in discerning and affirming the will for God at various points in your life. God will not call you to accomplish anything without giving you the power and enabling you to do it. You will be able to make more intelligent decisions about possible involvement in specific opportunities and training in light of your God-given function in the body (Ro 12:4). You will also use your time more effectively by focusing on the things you have been equipped to do well rather than expending your energy in areas of minimum purpose.

Others will be edified. Remember that the primary purpose of the spiritual gifts is ecclesiastical – they are given to build up and purify the church as the body and bride of Christ. As you exercise your spiritual gifts, you will play a substantial role in serving other people and leading them into maturity (Eph 4:12-16). If you fail to develop your gifts or let them decline through disuse, your brothers and sisters in Christ will be hurt because they will be deprived of the unique ministry that only you could perform in their lives.

God will be glorified. According to 1 Peter 4:10-11, your spiritual gifts are ultimately designed to bring glory to God. This is your highest calling, and it relates to all three persons of the Godhead. As you use your spiritual gifts in conjunction with the power and fruit (especially love) of the Holy Spirit and in the name and lordship of Jesus Christ, the Father receives the glory.

SAINTS ALIVE

Welcome back to another amazing year of Saints Alive. On the 3rd Tuesday of every month (Sept - May) we meet for a time of fellowship and fun. Lunch costs \$10 a person. RSVPs are asked on or before the Sunday prior to Saints Alive. Our Next Saints Alive will be on Tuesday December 16. David Hamilton has put together a beautiful Advent concert for us. After lunch we will head to the sanctuary to enjoy the concert. The concert will be from 1:15 - 2pm.

Time: 12:30 - 2:00pm

Location: Fellowship Hall

RSVP: by December 12



SAINTS ALIVE 2026

January 20 12:30pm - 1:30pm
Bob Amon shares the history of the church

February 17 12:30pm - 1:30pm
Fitness in February with Sharon Culp

March 17 12:30pm - 2:00pm
Lenten Service with David Hamilton

April 21 12:30pm - 1:30pm
TBD

May 19 12:30pm - 1:30pm
TBD

PRESCHOOL

Looking Back

Our Thanksgiving celebration feasts were wonderful. Our little turkeys treated us to a few Thanksgiving songs. Then they feasted on delicious food and gave thanks for all their many blessings. We are grateful to all the parents who helped us celebrate!

Christmas Programs

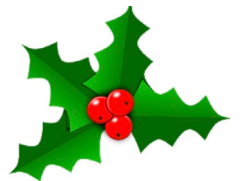
Have you heard a distant jingle? It is not Santa's sleigh! It is our preschoolers preparing a very special program for you. Our Christmas Programs are scheduled for Thursday and Friday, December 11 & 12 at 9:15 AM in the Sanctuary. Doors will open at 8:40 AM. Children need to be dropped off **by 9:00 AM** so we have time to get our little angels ready for the program. Please do not send jackets in with your child that day. Please note: 2 year old families are encouraged to sit further back in Sanctuary, as often children see their parents and become upset or don't



want to perform. It will be a very special day! Please plan to join us for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall following our program.

Holly Jolly Days

On December 15 and 16, we will have our annual Holly Jolly Days. Children (and teachers) will dress in their most festive attire to help us get in the Christmas Spirit! Think Christmas sweaters, fun Christmas socks, etc. No hats please! We will also have our Classroom Christmas parties these days.



Mark Your Calendars

- 12/11: Christmas Program 9:15 AM for all TTh, MTTh, TWTh and 5 Day Students
- 12/12: Christmas Program 9:15 AM for all MWF and 5 Day Students
- 12/15 & 12/16: Holly Jolly Days - dress your child in holiday attire
- 12/17-1/5: Christmas Break
- 1/6: Preschool Resumes

YOUTH MINISTRY

Dear Church Family,

God is on the move in mighty ways within our youth ministry right now! These past few weeks with our students have truly been amazing in every way!

By the grace of God... we recently baptized 11 youth/children (thank you Rick and Denise Tidball for allowing us to use your beautiful home for the baptisms), we are seeing new students from diverse backgrounds show up at our youth group every week AND surrender their lives to Christ, we are hearing many stories of our students being bold witnesses for Jesus in their schools, and we have been able to bless many people with different physical provisions that they are in need of. All I can say in response to all of this is thank you Jesus!

I want to take a moment to honor two of our most dedicated volunteers in this past season. Amy and Banagher Hamilton! They have both gone above and beyond to love on our kids and ensure that the various needs of the youth ministry are met on a weekly basis. Amy prepares the meals every single Sunday night, helps coordinate big event logistics, teaches the word of God, and is a spiritual mother to so many in this youth group. Banagher joyfully shows up to lead and shepherd our students at EVERY Sunday school, MS/HS youth group, and WNT Bible study! Please thank them both for all their hard work whenever you see them next. We would not be where we are right now as a youth ministry if it were not for all our volunteers using their gifts to serve the Lord.

Lastly, I humbly request that continue to pray for the students, volunteers, and leaders in our youth ministry. I know many of them who are facing serious spiritual attacks right now. We have already felt so many of your prayers, but please do not stop! I love you all dearly! Do not hesitate to reach out for anything.

Blessings,

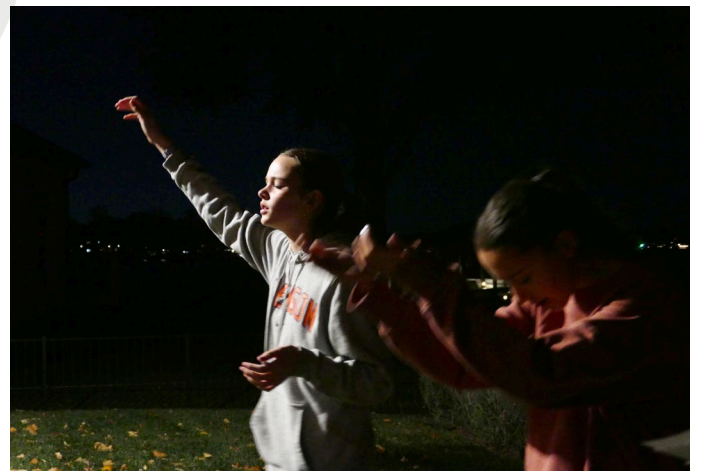
Zeb Nelson

Save the Date: December 21st... @6:30pm-8:30pm COMBINED Youth Christmas Party (White Elephant!)

If you are still in town, join us for a fun night as we celebrate the birth of Jesus! There will be Christmas snacks, and we will be continuing the tradition of playing White Elephant! I am asking each student to bring one gift that is already wrapped for our white elephant game. Please do NOT spend over \$25ish on these gifts!!! The gift can literally be anything (something cool, useful, or funny), but please keep it appropriate! If you are not able to bring a white elephant gift right now for any reason, that is okay.

Please message me individually, and I will make sure to prepare extra gifts. This will be our LAST youth group gathering for the year of 2025. Hope to see you there!





CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

What's Happening This Month:

1. December 3- Last WNT of 2025- Worship Night

This is our last WNT for the year. More information on our spring dates will be out in the new year. Children Kindergarten and up will join their families in the sanctuary for our family worship night. Childcare will be provided for children 0-preK.

2. December 21- No Kingdom Kids or Sprouts Sunday School

We will have 1 service at 11:15am in the sanctuary for our annual Cantata service. Childcare will be provided for children ages 0-preK for the service. Check in will be on the 2nd floor.

3. December 24- Christmas Eve

Family Service 5pm (sanctuary) *If your children are in the tableau please arrive in the Fellowship Hall by 3:45pm to help them get into their costumes.

Traditional Service 7:30pm (sanctuary)

Communion service 11pm (143)

4. December 28- No Kingdom Kids

There will be 3 services this week but due to the holidays and travel we will not have Kingdom Kids. Our Sprouts ministry will be open.

Check in for Nursery - Highschool

Just a reminder, all children going to a Sunday School class, WNT or Youth group event should be checking in at our check in station. Children 5th grade and younger will get a name tag with a matching guardian name tag for secure pick up. No name tags will be printed for our MS or HS students. Please be sure to check in your children before you take them to their class or meeting area.



SUNDAY MORNINGS

Sprouts Ministry (0 - Preschool) - 2nd floor

0 - 23 months - Nursery room

Toddlers (our 2's and 3's class) Duck room

(Teachers: Ms. Allison, Ms. Melissa)

Preschool (our 4-5 year olds) Bear Room

(Teachers: Ms. Margaret, Ms. Lily)

Kingdom Kids (Kindergarten - 5th grade)

Drop off - Fellowship Hall

Pick up: 3rd Floor Classrooms

K-1st Grade Room 322

(Teachers: Ms. Lucy, Ms. Andrea, Ian)

2nd-4th Grade Room 324

(Teachers: Mr. Rick, Ms. Denise, Ms. Kathryn, Brother Bill)

4th-5th Grade Room 309

(Teachers: Ms. Courtney, Mr. Will, Ms. Jodi, Hatten)

Children's Sunday School Hour: 10am - 11am

Sprouts Ministry is our Nursery - preschool

We love the playground! We have a great time getting outside, running, playing and building friendships. Please know that we aim to go outside weekly weather permitting.

Toddlers and preschoolers will participate in a time of music/worship as well as in a Bible lesson, activity and a visit to the playground if the weather is cooperative. We will provide a light snack.

Infants - young 2's will be in our infant room playing and being cared for by some wonderful volunteers. They will be provided a snack of cheerios and water or whatever you bring in their cup. *Please bring a cup for them if you are able, we have labels here for you to use to label your child's cup.*

Check in will begin at 9:45 after the Sunday School teachers have prayed together. Please wait for the check in time to begin so that our teachers can pray and get to their classes before you and your children do.

Kingdom Kids is our Kindergarten - 5th grade

Elementary school classes will use the following schedule:

10:00 Kingdom Kids meet in Fellowship Hall for a time of worship, scripture memorization, games and more. After we conclude our large group time together, the children will divide by grade and head to their classes on the 3rd floor with their teachers. Please pick up your K-5th graders from their classes on the 3rd floor.

*****Please note-** any children who have not been picked up by 11:15am will be brought to the second floor childcare room (Duck room) so that our teachers can get to church on time.



DECEMBER 2025

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

	1 7:00pm Scouts BSA Troop 1166-G 7:00pm Scouts BSA Troop 166-B	2 6:30pm Cub Scouts	3 1:30pm Prayer Meeting 5:30pm WNT - Worship Night
Stewardship Sunday 7 8:30am Contemporary Worship 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Contemporary Worship 11:15am Traditional Worship 5:00pm MS Refresh Youth 7:00pm HS Refresh Youth	8 2:00pm Circle 1 7:00pm Personnel Committee 7:00pm Scouts BSA Troop 1166-G 7:00pm Scouts BSA Troop 166-B	9 10:00am Circle 4 12:30pm Circle 5 5:00pm Handbells Rehearsal 6:00pm Circle 3 6:30pm Cub Scouts	10 1:30pm Prayer Meeting 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal
8:30am Contemporary Worship 14 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Contemporary Worship 11:15am Traditional Worship 3:00pm Amahl & the Night Visitors 5:00pm MS Refresh Youth 6:00pm Worship & Music Committee 7:00pm HS Refresh Youth 7:00pm Finance Committee	15 Preschool Holly Jolly Days/ Christmas Parties 6:30pm Missions Committee 7:00pm Scouts BSA Troop 1166-G 7:00pm Scouts BSA Troop 166-B	16 Preschool Holly Jolly Days/ Christmas Parties 12:30pm Saints Alive Luncheon 1:30pm Advent Recital 5:00pm Handbells Rehearsal	17 Preschool Closed- Christmas Break 1:30pm Prayer Meeting 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal
21 10:00am Sunday School- No Kingdom Kids 11:15am Combined Worship- Christmas Hymns/ Carols 2:30pm Prayer Shawl Team 6:30pm Combined Refresh Youth- Christmas Party	22 Preschool Closed- Christmas Break 7:00pm Scouts BSA Troop 1166-G 7:00pm Scouts BSA Troop 166-B	23 Preschool Closed- Christmas Break	24 Preschool Closed- Christmas Break 1:30pm Prayer Meeting 11:00pm Christmas Eve Communion Service
28 8:30am Contemporary Worship 10:00am Sunday School 10:00am Contemporary Worship 11:15am Traditional Worship	29 Preschool Closed- Christmas Break 7:00pm Scouts BSA Troop 1166-G 7:00pm Scouts BSA Troop 166-B	30 Preschool Closed- Christmas Break 5:00pm Handbells Rehearsal	31 Preschool Closed- Christmas Break 1:30pm Prayer Meeting

CALENDAR

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

<p>4</p> <p>7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:15am Men's Bible Study</p>
<p>11</p> <p>9:00am Preschool Christmas Program 7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:00am Preschool Christmas Program 10:30am Amahl & the Night Visitors Setup 7:00pm Amahl & the Night Visitors Dress Rehearsal</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:15am Men's Bible Study 5:00pm Performance Coffee House Event 7:00pm Amahl & the Night Visitors</p>
<p>18</p> <p>Preschool Closed-Christmas Break 7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Preschool Closed-Christmas Break</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:15am Men's Bible Study</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Office and Preschool Closed- Christmas Day</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Office and Preschool Closed- Christmas Break</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:15am Men's Bible Study</p>

BIRTHDAYS

12/1- Alyssa Moore, Evan Reifner, Charles Robinson, John Weaver
12/3- Allison Justice
12/4- Dean Washburn
12/5- Jason Garvin
12/6- Addison Carpenter, Tyler Carpenter, Nancy Omohundro, Janice Pluer, Nick Sidorovich, Adrianna Whalen
12/7- Jean Coates, Larry Putnam, Anne Telford
12/8- Jamie Brooks, III, Patrick Wright
12/10- Mark Auten, Walker Culler, Jayne Rider, Jon Sands
12/12- Jessica Babington, Josh Schaen, Karen Watson
12/13- Kayla Stissel
12/14- Taylor Jordan
12/16- Sherry Leslie
12/17- Cathy Irwin, Rick Sheppard
12/18- Sarah Deese, Leeann Decastro, Claire Miller
12/19- Ryan Lynch
12/20- Kaitlyn Nelson
12/23- Mark Vaughan
12/24- Connie Brawley, Chas Rader, Joseph Robinson
12/25- David Handy, Griffin Stevens
12/26- Dot Nelson
12/28- Sandra Harris, Valerie Mauney
12/30- Courtney Moseley, Althea Nelson
12/31- Leslie (Bud) Lovett, Amy Williams

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No.74
Mooresville, NC

Address Service Requested

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

249 West McLelland Ave.
Mooresville, NC 28115

Telephone: 704-664-5275
Fax: 704-664-7526
Preschool: 704 664-7201

Website: www.mooresvillefpc.org
Email: office@mooresvillefpc.org

mooresvillefpc@groups.facebook.com

If you would like to be added to or deleted from
our mailing list, please send an email to
office@mooresvillefpc.org or call 704-664-5275

8:30 am Contemporary Worship
10:00 am Contemporary Worship
10:00 am Sunday School
11:15 am Traditional Worship

December 2025



ECO

A Covenant Order
of Evangelical
Presbyterians