

# First Presbyterian Church of Americus

Wed, Dec. 6th

5:30 p.m.



## CHRISTMAS MUSIC PARTY

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6 | 5:30 PM | PIANIST JOSEF PATCHEN

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 125 SOUTH JACKSON STREET,  
AMERICUS, GEORGIA 31709 ~ 229.924.2162



A fun selection of Crime Novels has been donated to the church. They are located on the fellowship hall bookshelf. Please feel free to grab one that interests you. You are welcome to bring it back to the shelf, swap it out or simply pass it on. Thank-You, BJ Bryan!!

### CSM SOFT DRINK FUNDRAISER

If you would like to support our Community Service Ministry, we have a surplus of pepsi products and bottled water for sale at \$1/ each!! The drinks are located in the backdoor hallway and your money can be left in the convenient DONATION jar. All contributions are greatly appreciated and will benefit those needing help with utility expenses during the Holiday Season.

# First Presbyterian Church

Americus, Georgia

A community of faith responding to God's call.  
Loving, learning and leading people to Jesus Christ.

## First Sunday In Advent



*Advent means "coming into view." On this first Sunday, we might ask ourselves what is it that we are waiting for? What are our expectations? What have we learned in two thousand years of waiting? Perhaps our expectations need to adjust. Perhaps the Second Coming isn't what we thought it was. Or perhaps the powerful visions that the prophets beheld of the day of the Lord and Jesus's own words might help remind us that the Word made Flesh was as earth shattering as the sun going dark. The world turned upside down. And perhaps our expectations should be none the less: that we know God desires for the world to change, but in order for the world to change we must be transformed. Perhaps that's the problem – we want God to tear open the heavens like God did in ancient days. We want the big flashy signs that things are going to turn. Instead, we're supposed to be the signs for the world. We're actually supposed to do something about it. The watching and waiting was never meant to be passive, but active. We've put a lot of expectations on God to perform for our satisfaction; what expectations have we put on ourselves? How do we live with the focus in the here and now, while we wait for what is to come into view?*

**First Presbyterian Church of Americus, GA**



First Sunday In Advent  
Sunday, December 3, 2023 ~ 11:00 a.m.



\*All Are Invited to Stand in Body or in Spirit  
The congregation is invited to respond at the **bold** print

**PRELUDE**.....Pianist Candice Godby

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**.....Pastor Sommer Bower

**\*HYMN (#82)** .....Pianist Candice Godby  
*“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”*

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

*O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High,  
pervading and permeating all creation.  
You order all things with strength and gentleness.  
Come now and teach us the way to salvation.*

**Come, Lord Jesus!**

*O Adonai, Ruler of the house of Israel,  
you appeared in the burning bush to Moses  
and gave him the law on Sinai:  
Come with outstretched arm to save us.*

**Come, Lord Jesus!**

*O Root of Jesse,  
rising as a sign for all the peoples,  
before you earthly rulers will keep silent,  
and nations give you honor:  
Come quickly to deliver us.*

**Come, Lord Jesus!**

**CHURCH EVENT CALENDAR**

**DECEMBER ELDER ~ Terry McDonald**

**JANUARY ELDER ~ Ronnie Greer**

**FPC OFFICE HOURS** ~ The church office is open Monday - Thursday 9:00am-3:00pm.  
**GARDEN** ~ Ready for harvest; Collards, Swiss Chard and Kale. Thank You Fred Richmond!  
**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT** ~ Sunday, December 3rd  
**SESSION** ~ The next stated Session meeting is Tuesday, December 5th @ 6pm.  
**CHRISTMAS MUSIC PARTY** ~ Wednesday, December 6th at 5:30pm. Guest Pianist: Josef Patchen. We are planning heavy hors d’oeuvres and a potluck after singing in the sanctuary. You are welcome to bring a dish to share if you wish.  
**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE** ~ Thursday, December 7th at 7pm~ Downtown Jackson Street~  
**MISSION HOUSE CLEAN OUT** ~ Thursday, December 14th at 1pm. \*Volunteers Needed  
**SPECIAL MUSIC** ~ Sunday, December 10th ~ Kelly McCoy on the Great Highland Bagpipes  
**SPECIAL MUSIC, COOKIES & COCOA** ~ Sunday, December 17th at 11am. Guest Musician: Jon Smith and Vocalist’s: Rachel Lairsey and Dianna Bower. Fellowship after worship.  
**CHRISTMAS EVE ~ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24** ~ Worship at 11:00am and Candlelight Service at 5:00pm

**December Birthdays:**

- December 9 ~ Carrie Hawkins
- December 12 ~ Jim Buffaloe
- December 13 ~ Cara Hawkins
- December 14 ~ Ronnie Greer
- December 14 ~ Katie Minich
- December 20 ~ Tom Collins
- December 23 ~ Russ Childers
- December 23 ~ Pat Hill
- December 23 ~ Sharon Parks

**December Anniversaries:**

- December 20 ~ Earl and Beth Williams
- December 28 ~ Ray and Donja Tripp



If we have missed a birthday or anniversary, please let us know. A sign up sheet is on the narthax table.



First Presbyterian financially supports the Harvest of Hope Food Pantry each month. **The month of December, we will be collecting 20 oz - Jelly (any flavor)** as our monthly donation. Donations to Sunday 11am Worship or to the office on Tues & Thurs 9am—3pm. As we are fed each month by our Lord Jesus through Holy Communion, we do our best to help feed others in need.

## PRAYER LIST

We lift up prayers for those listening Sunday mornings on WISK 98.7, Radio.  
May they be spiritually fed. Please Pray For - Our Nation, Our Church; Our  
Presbytery, Our Pastor, Our Staff, Our Officers, Campus Ministry,  
Our Community and especially:

### **MEMBERS AND CHURCH FRIENDS AT HOME &/OR IN RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES**

Bob & B.J. Bryan      Nancy Miller      Gloria Johnson      Pat Hill  
Blanche Palmer      Kathy Newkirk      Anne & Malcolm Perry

### **MEMBERS REMEMBERED**

Malcolm and Anne Perry  
Richard Pollette

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

~Carla Cullison ~ Gary Cullison's wife, Carla Cullison, is recovering from a cracked rib and pneumonia. Thank you for your prayers.

~Mrs. Roselyn Carter ~ We extend our condolences to the Carter family with the loss of former First Lady Roselyn Carter. The Georgia Southwestern State University Choir and the Civic Chorus were honored to be asked to lead congregational singing during the celebration of life at the Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains on Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>. Several church members from First Presbyterian (Sharon Parks, Donna Minich, Tom McFarland and Cynthia Richmond) are members of the civic chorus who participated.

~Sharon McFarland and Pam Moye ~ Flint River Presbytery has requested intentional and perpetual prayer for all the churches, affiliates, staff and volunteers in our Presbytery. This week we are lifting up Volunteer Staff Associates, Sharon McFarland and Pam Moye. Thank-You both for all you do for our presbytery in the name of Jesus Christ.

~Nancy Miller ~ Nancy Miller has had a stroke and is on hospice care at Magnolia Manor's Mattie Marshall Memory Unit. Please pray for comfort.

~Nancy Miller, Magnolia Manor Mattie Marshall Memory Unit,  
2001 South Lee Street, Americus, GA 31709~

### **MISSIONARIES REMEMBERED IN PRAYER**

-Ben & Esther Campbell, Push the Rock Intl.  
- Tim & Lois Hunter, Spoken Worldwide  
- Rev. George Haugen (PC USA Minister), Antioch Partners

Please notify the church office at 924-2162 or [office@americuspresbyterian.org](mailto:office@americuspresbyterian.org)  
if you would like to add someone to our prayer list and/or request a PrayerGram.

After the 1<sup>st</sup> candle is lighted:

*God of grace, ever faithful to your promises, the earth rejoices in hope of our Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts to receive him when he comes, for he is Lord forever and ever. Amen.*

### **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

*God of signs and wonders: we light the candles of hope. Open our hearts and minds in this time of worship to hear Your word anew; to listen for new notes in the songs of old; to prepare for Your arrival in our world and in our lives in a new way. In the name of Christ, who makes all things new, we pray. Amen.*

### **SCRIPTURE**

NRSV updated edition

#### **Isaiah 64: 1-9**

- 1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
- 2 as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
- 3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
- 4 From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.
- 5 You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
- 6 We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
- 7 There is no one who calls on your name  
or attempts to take hold of you,  
for you have hidden your face from us  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

**8** Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
**9** Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

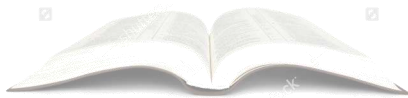
**Isaiah 52: 13-15a; Habakkuk 2:3**

**52:13** See, my servant will act wisely; he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted.  
**14** Just as there were many who were appalled at him—his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being and his form marred beyond human likeness—**15** so will many nations be amazed at him, and kings will stand speechless in his presence.

**2:3** This vision is for a future time. It describes the end, and it will be fulfilled. If it seems slow in coming, wait patiently, for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed.

*This is the Word of God, for the people of God.*

**Thanks be to God.**



**\*HYMN (#88)**.....Pianist Candice Godby  
*“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”*

**SERMON**.....Pastor Sommer Bower  
*“Come, Lord Jesus”*

**OFFERTORY**.....Pianist Candice Godby

**\*DOXOLOGY (606)** .....Pianist Candice Godby

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

*Christ’s table is wide, and is welcoming to all.*

*As we gather around Christ’s table,*

*we are united with all of God’s beloved across the world*

*through the love and grace made known in bread broken and cup passed. So come to the table where we witness Christ’s love and peace for all.*



**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION**

*This table is open to all. You are invited forward for the Lord’s Supper. Come forward down the center aisle to receive the gifts of bread and fruit of the vine. You are invited to immediately partake of the communion bread and juice, followed by returning to your seats by the side/window aisle.*

**\*HYMN (#123)**.....Pianist Candice Godby  
*“ It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”*

**BENEDICTION**

*“Hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” -Romans 5:5. Through the Holy Spirit, we have this hope that endures through everything: through life and death, heights and depths, sorrows and joys. Through the cross of Christ, we know that the worst thing we have experienced will never be the last thing. Our sorrow will turn to joy, our mourning to dancing. So, cling to hope, despite the world’s hopelessness, and be assured of God’s presence with you, now and always. Amen.*

**POSTLUDE**.....Pianist Candice Godby

*We are absolutely delighted that you’ve chosen to worship with us today! May Christ’s peace be with you until we meet again. You can always join us on our website: [americuspresbyterian.org](http://americuspresbyterian.org) and on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/fpcamericus/>.*

Works Cited

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