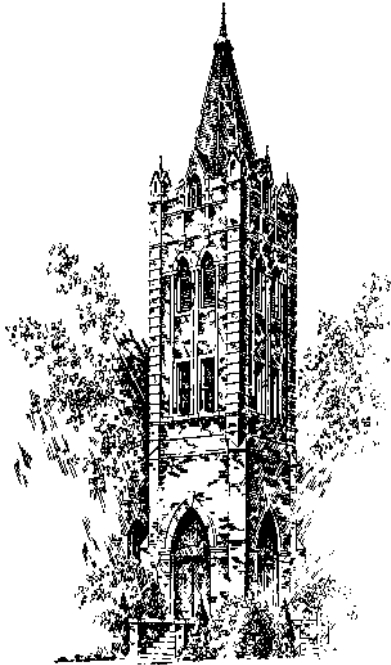


# **Laurinburg Presbyterian Church**

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

**Our Mission: To Be The Word In Action**



Founded 1859

Rev. Rebekah Carpenter, Senior Pastor  
Holly Albrecht, Director of Christian Education  
Dr. José Rivera, Director of Music  
Lee Harris, Organist

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Eleven o' clock

*Please pass the Friendship Pad found at the end of the pew and return it to its starting place. If you are worshiping with us for the first time, we invite you to leave your contact information on the pad. This will give us the opportunity to share with you the work and witness of our community of faith—and to welcome you into our midst!*

### Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Rebekah Carpenter

### Prelude

*"People, Look East!"*

Kristina Langlois

### Lighting the Fourth Advent Candle

The Sutherland Family

### \*Call to Worship

Bill Purcell, II

Leader: God who spoke to Mary and Elizabeth,

**All: speak your Word to us now.**

Leader: God who blessed them with new life,

**All: bless us with great expectation.**

Leader: God who gave them songs of praise to sing,

**All: receive our joyful praise.**

Leader: God who loves beyond all measure,

**All: we are here to worship you with hearts full of love.**

### \*Invocation

\*Hymn of Praise #88 *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

### Invitation to Confession

#### Corporate Prayer of Confession

(Silent prayers of confession)

**Gracious God, although we have found love in Christ, we are a people divided against one another. We have not loved as you love us and we have too often been careless with our words, our bodies and how we treat others. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Lord have mercy upon us. Heal us, forgive us and set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. Amen**

### Assurance of Pardon

\*Congregational Response #581 *"Glory Be to the Father"*

### \*Passing of the Peace

"May the peace of Christ be with you."

"And also with you."

### Time with Children

Dr. Hillary Sessions

**\*Hymn of Worship #87 “Comfort, Comfort Now My People”**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture** Luke 1:35-45

**Commentary on The Word** “Anticipation” Rev. Rebekah Carpenter

**Anthem** “He Comes to Us as One Unknown” harm. Charles Hasting

**Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer**

**An Invitation to Give**

**Offertory** “Do You Hear What I Hear” arr. Harry Simeone  
Male Ensemble

**\*The Doxology**

*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**

**\*The Apostle’s Creed** (pg 35 in front of the hymnal)

**\*Hymn of Parting #106 “Prepare the Way, O Zion”**

**\*Charge and Benediction**

*(Why we sit for the Postlude: We have been blessed with wonderful organists over the years, so it has become a tradition at Laurinburg Presbyterian to remain seated for the Postlude and continue to worship and listen for God through music. If you need to leave before it ends, we do not mind if you exit reverently.)*

**Postlude** “Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying!” David Cherwien

\*Those who are able are requested to stand

*Save the dates!!*  
*January 2025 Three New Member Classes*  
*After worship Lunch\*and Learn Opportunity*  
*Noon to 1:30 PM*  
*For new members especially but all members are welcome*  
*Child Care\* provided*

**January 12, 2025 - Noon**

***“What’s so unique about being a Presbyterian?”***

Revs Rebekah Carpenter and Roderic Frohman will lead a presentation/discussion on “Reformed” theology, emphasizing the distinguishing marks of being a Presbyterian vs. the traditions of our Baptist, Lutheran, Catholic, etc. sisters and brothers in the faith.

**January 19, 2025 - Noon**

***“What’s so unique about Laurinburg Presbyterian Church?”***

We have a rich tradition in Scotland County among all congregations. Some of our member-historians will lead us in a presentation/discussion of the highlights of our past and our unique role in Laurinburg as a catalyst of the development of significant institutions including St. Andrews University, Church Community Services and, most recently, Family Promise of Scotland County.

**January 26, 2025 – Noon**

***“What is church membership all about?”***

This class will highlight what it means to commit to being a church member spiritually and through stewardship of time, talents, service and finances. Charles Bounds will offer a transparent look at how we handle finances at Laurinburg Presbyterian Church.

\*Lunch and Child Care: Please call Lisa Adams in the Church office, 910 276 0831, to reserve your lunch spot and/or need for child care. Yes, lunch will be provided for the children too.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### UPCOMING:

**Wed. 12/24** 5:30 pm Christmas Eve Service  
**12/25-12/27** Church Office Closed- **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**  
(Rev. Rebekah on-call in case of emergency)  
**Sunday 12/29** 11 am Worship  
**Wednesday 1/1** Church Office Closed

### SAVE THE DATES!! For new members especially but all members are welcome.

January 12,19,26-Three new member classes will be held after worship, Noon to 1:30 PM  
\*Lunch and Child Care: Please call Lisa Adams in the Church office, 910 276 0831, to reserve your lunch spot and/or need for child care. Lunch will be provided for the children too.

### Sunday School Information:

- The Fun Adult Sunday school class will not meet on December 22 or 29. The class will resume on January 5. Please join us!
- The 9:45am Children's Sunday School class will not be meeting on December 29<sup>th</sup>. We welcome children to join us for Children's Church after the Children's Moment during the 11:00am worship service throughout December.
- Children through 5<sup>th</sup> graders mark your calendar for **Peacemakers, January 5<sup>th</sup> 5:00-6:30pm**. Join us for games, dinner, music, and Bible time. Parents take an hour to enjoy a cup of coffee at Starbucks, read a book, or run an errand without your little ones.
- **Communion Education for children and their parents** will be February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Children will be received at the table on Sunday, March 2nd

**SAVE-THE-DATE for our Presbyterian Women's Retreat March 7-8.** Hadley Horne-Kifner will be leading our retreat. Hadley is a Laurinburg native, currently serving as the Associate Pastor for Spiritual Nurture at the University Presbyterian Church in Chapel Hill. I had the pleasure of teaching Hadley in high school, and her wisdom even at that age was something special. I can't wait to see and hear what she plans to share in March. We will have a social that Friday night (March 7) and the retreat on Saturday (March 8) in our LPC fellowship hall.

**Thanks to the LPC children** for painting beautiful wooden Christmas decorations for tables in the fellowship hall! Parents are asked to pick up their art work so that it can be enjoyed at home.

### Stewardship Update

Budgeted Pledges 2024	\$342,575
Total Received Thru 12/15/24	\$328,898
Difference Thru 12/15/24	\$13,677
Percent	96%

### 2025 Stewardship Planning

2025 Pledges received to date	\$414,080
2025 Budgeted Other Income	\$49,000
2025 Budgeted Inco	\$463,080
2025 Budgeted Expenses	\$492,076
Additional 2025 pledges needed	\$28,996

Pledges received in 2024	86
2025 pledges received to date	81

**The LPC Mission Committee** invites you to partner with us and Total Women's Outreach Ministries in their annual coat drive for kids. Bring in NEW coats of any size to the church office through January 12

**The Ladies who lunch** will meet Wednesday, January 22 at 12:30 pm at Railroad Bar and Grill. We hope you'll take a break in the new year and join us for some fellowship and fun. If you plan to attend, please let Barbara Bateman or Virginia McCormick know.

**DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS**

**Deacon Greeters/Visitors:**

December 15-21 Katherine Campbell  
December 22-28 Chip Wells  
Dec. 29-Jan. 4 Carol Edwards

**Bus Drivers:**

12/22 Chip Wells  
12/24 Boyd McLaurin  
12/29 David Herr

**Sanctuary Committee:**

\*Sis Thomas Sharlene McLaurin  
Angela Purcell Susan Wentz

**Usher Team 2:**

\*Brian Bounds Charles Bounds  
David Bounds Turner Bounds  
Walt Bounds Eddie Carmichael  
Bob Dyer Jim Mason  
Boyd McLaurin Randy Miller  
Ed O'Neal Kevin Patterson  
Bill Purcell, II Chip Wells

*Prayer List*

- **Sis Thomas**, in healthcare at Scotia Village after a hospital stay.
- **Clint Willis**, recovering, at home, from a hospital stay.
- **Jane Somerville**, receiving Hospice routine home care.
- **LeGette McLean**, dealing with health concerns.
- **Betsy Massey**, recovering after a small stroke.
- **Meredith Bounds** appreciates continued prayers.
- **Fletcher Kendall** of Atlanta, 7-year-old grandson of Paul and Judy Rush, diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia
- **Sammy Townsend**, friend of the congregation, at Liberty Commons Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Sanford.
- **Beth Newbold**, continuing health concerns.
- **Sara Tezzi**, granddaughter of Sammy and Linda Simmons; continuing concerns.
- **Barbara Salzlein**, continuing health concerns.

**Scotia Village Skilled Nursing:** Mackey McCormick, Anne Ramsay Melton, Marie Love, Doug Hix, Elizabeth McIntosh

**Scotia Village Assisted Living (Heather Glen):** Daphne Gaw, John and Henrietta Carmichael, Norma McKeithan, Jean Clansky

**Scottish Pines:** Jim "Sunbeam" Sutherland