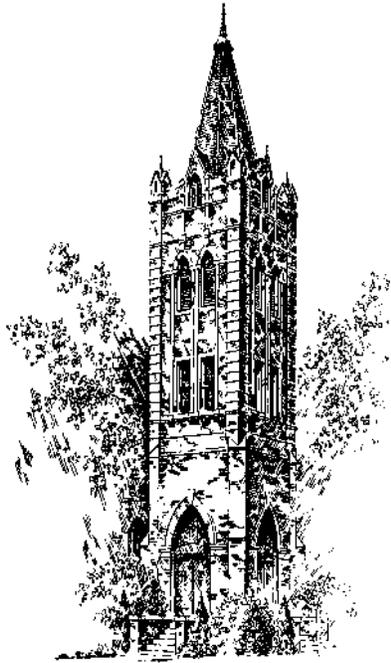


Laurinburg Presbyterian Church

1st Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025

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 worshipping 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

Improvisation on "Savior of the Nations, Come"

Paul Manz

Lighting the First Advent Candle

"Hope"

Bob Dyer and Phil Eshleman

Leader: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

In the Wilderness prepare the way of the Lord!

People: Make a highway in the desert for our God.

Leader: From ages of old, no ear has heard, no eye has seen one so glorious as the Lord our God, for whom we wait.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

People: those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

Leader: This morning we light the first candle, the candle of hope. This candle reminds us that God's promises give us reason to be filled with hope — hope for unity in a world of division, hope for healing in a world of pain, and hope for peace in a world filled with anger and strife.

***Hymn #85** "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" (verse 1)

*Call to Worship

Pastor: The light shines in the darkness,

All: We come to worship, seeking the light of Christ once again.

Pastor: Shine into our lives and into your world this Advent.

All: Renew us with fresh hope

*Invocation

***Hymn of Praise #107** "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

Invitation to Confession

Corporate Prayer of Confession

God of hope, we confess that we often prefer to accept half-truths and pleasing ideas, rather than Your challenging word. We praise our own cleverness rather than Your wisdom. We have exploited others for our benefit and used the earth without a thought for its wellbeing. In Your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct who we shall be through the mercy of Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture (interspersed throughout sermon)

Jeremiah 31:21-25, Romans 15:13,
John 8:12, 2nd Corinthians 4:13-16, Matthew 5:3-9

Commentary on The Word

Rev. Rebekah Carpenter
Rev. Linda Nelson

“A Wandering Advent Journey to 'Being' God's Peace”

Anthem

“Come Now, O Prince of Peace”

arr Jeremy Bankson

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

An Invitation to Give

Offertory

“Hark! the Glad Sound the Savior is Nigh”

Michael Burkhardt

***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** #105 *“People, Look East”*

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

“Lift Up Your Head, You Mighty Gates”

Robert Hobby

(Why we sit for the Postlude- The Prelude and Postlude begin and conclude our corporate worship. The first allows us to meditate as we transfer from private worship to group worship, while the Postlude gives us the time and opportunity to translate what we have learned and experienced in the church service into our private lives and plans for the week. If you must leave before it ends, please exit reverently.)

*Those who are able are requested to stand

Laurinburg Presbyterian Church Advent and Christmas Events

Nov. 22

10am-12pm-Advent Workshop

Nov. 23

11am- Christ the King
Worship and Communion
3pm- Decorating the
Church for Christmas

November 27

Happy Thanksgiving!

November 30

11am-First Sunday of Advent
Worship Service "Hope"

December 7

11am-Second Sunday of Advent
Worship Service "Peace"
5:30pm- Christmas Pageant

December 14

11 am-Third Sunday of Advent
Worship Service "Joy" and
Christmas Cantata

December 21

11am-Fourth Sunday of Advent
Worship Service "Love" and
Lessons and Carols Service

December 24

5:30pm-Christmas Eve
Family Candlelight Service

December 25

Unto Us a Child is Born!
Merry Christmas!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Office Hours

While Rev. Rebekah is in the office throughout the week, her designated drop-in hours are Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. If you prefer to schedule a specific time, please feel free to call the church office to make an appointment.

The **Christmas Pageant is Sunday, December 7th** @ 5:30 pm. An offering of nonperishable foods will be collected for Church Community Service. Please help us fill the manger with food for our neighbors. A cookie reception will follow the pageant.

Participants in the Christmas pageant plan to attend rehearsals on Wednesday, December 3rd at 5:00pm and Thursday, December 4th at 5:00pm. Costumes will be assigned at that time as well.

SPY (Scotland Presbyterian Youth) 6th -12th grades will meet on December 14th 4:30-6:30 pm at Church in the Pines. Wear your favorite Christmas attire or pajamas!

Peacemakers will meet January 4th 5:00-6:30 pm. Join us for games, a Bible story, music, and a mission project.

Many thanks to all who helped with the Advent Workshop. You've helped to make the Advent season even more special.

A heartfelt THANK YOU from the Worship, Music, and Arts Committee!

We extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who came out to help decorate the church for Advent and Christmas. Your time, creativity, and joyful spirit have beautifully prepared our worship space for this sacred season. Thank you for sharing your gifts and helping our church shine with the hope and light of Christ.

Christmas Cheer- Grab your tags from the tree located outside the sanctuary and join the Deacons in blessing community families with some Christmas Cheer. Please return gifts, wrapped with the original tag attached, to the session room by December 7th.

December 14 — Christmas Cantata

Sunday • 11:00 a.m. • LPC Sanctuary

Join us for a special service as the **Chancel Choir**, accompanied by **strings, handbells, and organ**, presents a beautiful Christmas Cantata featuring music by **Bach and Handel**. Celebrate the season with this joyful offering of worship and song!

Presbyterian Women:

- Circle 1—Susan Hartwell: Monday, December 8, 6:00 pm,
home of Becca Hughes -11501 Fairway Drive, Laurinburg
- Circle 2—Anne Sprouse: December 4, 3:00 pm LPC fellowship hall
- Circle 3—Carolina Caddell: December 17, 3:00 at Scotia - 2nd floor

College Students & Parents:

Be on the lookout for the renewal email for the Jane Graham McKay & Katherine Hill McKay Scholarship. Renewal information will be sent soon, and applications are due in January. Don't miss the chance to continue receiving this wonderful gift from the McKay sisters! If you have any questions, please contact Dawn Sellers at dmsellers67@gmail.com.

Food Drive-All of us are aware of the issues with SNAP. It is heartbreaking watching the food lines and thinking of families going hungry, especially this close to the holidays. Laurinburg Presbyterian has a long history of giving back during crisis and we are once again stepping up. Monetary contributions written to Church Community Services earmarked "Food" can be given to the church office. There is a box for collection in the office lobby.

The most needed food items are:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) Non-perishable fruits and vegetables | 3) Bagged and boxed pasta and potatoes |
| 2) Canned meats | 5) Dried Beans |
| | 6) Bottled water |

Support Cub Scout Pack 420 and Boy Scout Troop 420 of Laurinburg Presbyterian Church by purchasing car wash gift cards! Valued at \$30 but available for just \$10, these gift cards are a great way to contribute to the scouts' activities and adventures. Cards are good for use at the Tidal Wave Auto Spa in the Walmart parking lot or at any other Tidal Wave location. They make perfect stocking stuffers for the holidays. You can pick up your gift cards from the church office – don't miss out on this great deal while helping a worthy cause!

Save Your Plastic Grocery Bags! They will be used by a group of volunteers, led by Henrietta Carmichael, to weave and crochet mats for the homeless. 400 to 500 bags are needed to make one mat. The need is great. Recycle with this great project! Bring your bags to the church office.

UNCP Holiday Extravaganza

The University of North Carolina at Pembroke Department of Music will present the SEVENTEENTH annual Holiday Extravaganza on Thursday, December 4 at 7PM in Givens Performing Arts Center (UNCP campus). This performance is a benefit for music student scholarships. It features numerous UNCP Music ensembles performing holiday favorites. Admission is \$20 for Adults, \$15 for UNCP faculty/staff, \$5 for UNCP students and children.

2025 Pledge Detail As Of 11/24/25

	Pledged	Actual	Difference	%
Annual	\$266,300	\$252,680	(\$13,620)	95
Monthly	\$122,080	\$107,952	(\$14,128)	89
Quarterly	\$17,420	\$13,315	(\$4,105)	77
Weekly	\$23,940	\$20,315	(\$3,625)	85
Total	\$429,740	\$394,262	(\$35,478)	92

2026 Pledge Detail

Proposed budgeted pledges for 2026	\$467,307
Currently 70 pledges received	\$386,115
Difference	\$81,192
% received	83%

NOVEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Deacon Greeters/Visitors

Nov 30- Dec 6 Carol Edwards

Bus Drivers:

November 30 Tom Draper

Sanctuary Committee:

*Maggie Wells Carol Coughenour
Meredith Bounds Susan Williams

Usher Team:

*Richard Mabry Earl Bowling
Danny Caddell David Carmichael
David Harling Bill Hill
Richard Massey John McRae
Scott Sellers Monroe Williams
Andy Womble

Deacon Greeters/Visitors

Dec 7 Louise Mabry December 7-
Dec 13 Louise Mabry
Sunday, December 14 Hillary
Sessions December 14- December
20 Hillary Sessions
Sunday, December 21 Debra
Sutherland December 21- December
27 Debra Sutherland
Sunday, December 28 Chip Wells
December 28- January 3
Chip Wells

Bus Drivers:

November 30 Tom Draper

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Meredith Bounds Susan Williams

DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Usher Team:

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 Danny Caddell David Carmichael

David Harling Bill Hill
 Richard Massey John McRae
 Scott Sellers Monroe Williams
 Andy Womble

Prayer List (Names of those on the prayer list will remain for one month, unless a family member calls Lisa with an update, or the Pastor has visited the person. Thank you for the way you care for the Laurinburg Church family.)

- Judy Draper, recovering from knee surgery.
- John McRae- cancer treatment
- Wayne Hobbs, ongoing health concerns.
- Carol Edwards, recovering from back surgery.
- Hart Sessions, broken arm.
- Randy Miller, dealing with health concerns.
- Meredith Bounds, chemotherapy.
- Ashleigh Bailey & Family (Sutherlands) Deployed with the Military.
- Barbara Salzlein, continuing health concerns.

Friends of Congregation

- John McLean, LPC Custodian, cancer treatment
- Dan Woerner, former member and administrator of the McKay Sisters Foundation, recovering from spine surgery.
- Jerrod Lowry, General Presbyter, (Colon Cancer, Stage 3, Chemotherapy)
- Janet McQueen, Mother of Alex Bryant, cancer treatment
- Sara Tezzi, granddaughter of Sammy and Linda Simmons
- Fletcher Kendall, Atlanta. grandson of Paul & Judy Rush, Leukemia
- Sammy Townsend, Liberty Commons Nursing, Sanford.

Scotia Village Skilled Nursing

Anne Ramsay Melton, Elizabeth McIntosh, Goode Mobley (Memory)

Scotia Village Assisted Living (Heather Glen)

Daphne Gaw, John and Henrietta Carmichael, Jean Clansky, Sibyle Dulin, Bob Gordon

NOVEMBER VOLUNTEERS**Deacon Greeters/Visitors**

November 16- 22 Katherine Campbell
 November 23- 29 Katie Clark
 Nov 30- Dec 6 Carol Edwards

November 23 Bradley Williams
 November 30 Tom Draper

Sanctuary Committee:

*Maggie Wells Carol Coughenour
 Meredith Bounds Susan Williams

Bus Drivers:

November 16 Eddie Carmichael

Usher Team:

*Richard Mabry
Danny Caddell
David Harling
Richard Massey

Earl Bowling
David Carmichael
Bill Hill
John McRae

Scott Sellers
Andy Womble

Monroe Williams