



# PRESBY PRESS

December 2020



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The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. *John 1:14*

## DIGITAL CHURCH

See below for the latest updates on in-church worship. We will remain digital for Sunday services. Please join us every Sunday at 10:30 am on Facebook for a service LIVE! You can access all of the previous services here: <https://www.facebook.com/greenwoodpres/live>. Note you do not need a Facebook account to view past videos!

**SUBMISSIONS TO PRESBY PRESS:** [gpc.presbypress@yahoo.com](mailto:gpc.presbypress@yahoo.com)

*Deadline for January issue: Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup>*

**SOCIAL MEDIA:** [www.facebook.com/GreenwoodPres](https://www.facebook.com/GreenwoodPres)

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

Because the positivity for Covid-19 is over 12%, we are going back to virtual worship, on Facebook only. This was decided by Session with much prayer, and a heavy heart, but also out of an abundance of caution. Our congregation just can't afford to catch this virus. So again, we will not be having worship in the Sanctuary beginning Nov. 29, until further notice. We encourage you to stay home and watch us on Facebook!

## SESSION MINI-MINUTES

Much of the November Session Meeting was devoted to a discussion of the pros and cons of going back to an all virtual worship service. The final decision was that we would ask those who can view the service from home to do so, greatly reducing the number of people in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. The surge of new cases of COVID-19 seems to be related to people being together in groups so we would prefer to err on the side of not getting together any more than necessary.

Deacons reported on the Chrismon project, which is asking for money not gifts this year. Steve and Joyce Baker and Fred and Kathy Johnson will do the shopping for the gifts. The Happy Stitchers are making pillow pups or bears (their newest project) for each child.

Finance reported that the Stewardship Drive is progressing well. If you haven't turned in your Estimate of Giving or your Time and Talent Sheet, please do so as soon as possible. Nurture is planning a virtual Hanging of the Greens service on December 5<sup>th</sup> and a virtual Christmas Eve service on the 24<sup>th</sup>. The Boy Scouts will be helping Janett Lowes with decorating the sanctuary.

## **CHRISMON MINISTRY 2020**

As with so many things in the year 2020 there are changes being made to the Chrismon Ministry. The Deacons decided this year's project, of all years, is very important. We will not have a Chrismon Tree this year decorated with tags for the children but instead are asking that you donate the money you would have spent on a gift(s) this year in an envelope clearly marked "**Chrismon Fund**" and if you are giving with a check please mark your check "Chrismon Fund". We have volunteers that will do the shopping and wrapping.

We are hoping to bring Christmas joy and love to 3 families and 10 children. Gifts of clothing and toys are purchased for the children and gift cards to Kroger and Aldi grocery stores are presented to the parents along with a Bible. From our experience these families are so appreciative of these gifts.

Thank you for sharing this Christmas Season,  
Your Board of Deacons

## **I'VE BEEN THINKING...**

...About the Christmas Joy Offering. Advent begins the season of this special offering in the Presbyterian Church. As well it should. Christmas is the celebration of God's becoming human, of the Almighty's will coming to earth and being done here on this planet, for Creatures God loves. And so the Christmas Joy Offering is an expression of the Almighty's will taking shape among human beings we can reach and touch in this world.

The Offering is for support of (a) current and retired Presbyterian church workers in their time of need, and (b) with our historic commitment to higher learning, the Offering supports Presbyterian-related schools and colleges, equipping communities of color.

As we have done the past two years, we will also offer you the possibility of giving to one or more special giving needs. In no particular order, they are:

- **Fishery Kits**, which help families fight famine and extreme hunger—as well as helping occupational fisher-folk to increase their income. It is important to us that this gift not only provides food, but also increases the effectiveness of a person’s work. The gift provides a fishing net, line, and fish finding radars.
- **Teacher training** for teachers of girls. More teachers can be effectively trained to serve in remote communities where girls may otherwise have little opportunity for schooling.
- **Mzuzu Drills**. In a region of sub-Sahara aridness, with lack of clean water, drills for water are desperately important. But it’s also important that the technology is appropriate, and can be locally sourced. And these Mzuzu Drills are.

You have the opportunity to help God’s Word become flesh through the Christmas Joy Offering, and/or one (or more (!)) of our specially designated offerings this Christmas.

May Joy come to your house, and to God’s world through you!

In His Service,  
*Pastor Peter*

### FEATHER IN YOUR CAP

I would like to nominate Fran Mitchell. The Poet! We didn’t know it!  
Fran, we enjoy your up to the minute poetry! – Gloria Redhead



### CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



The Worship Committee will offer red poinsettias for you to purchase to enhance our Sanctuary during Christmas. If you wish to place an order, please complete the form at the end of this month’s Presby Press and place it in the offering plate or return to the Church office by **Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**. The cost is \$10 per plant.

### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The P.W. Board has approved funding of 14 worthy causes. In an effort to reach a large number of people, national, state and worldwide organizations have been included. Additionally, funds were reserved for other charities that may come to our attention after the first of the year.

Many thanks,  
Bev Fiandt, Moderator



## BOY SCOUT NEWS

BSA Troop #266 Troop Meetings are every Thursday from  
7:00pm to 8:30 pm (no meetings 12/24 and 12/31)

Meeting in the Fellowship Hall

NOTE: Limited to 35 Scouts and Parents  
(per GPC requirements until further notice)



Activities for December are as follows (Subject to Change due to the Cov-19 rules set by the State and the Church):

- ❖ Friday Dec. 4 thru Sunday Dec. 6th Be at Church Parking Lot at 5:30 pm for Weekend Campout at Adventure Point at The Ransburg Scout Reservation. Be back at Church around noon Sunday Dec. 6th.
- ❖ Thursday December 10th -Patrol Leader Meeting at 6:00-7:00 pm at GPC in Room 16, 18 & 20
- ❖ Monday December 14th - Adult Committee at 7:00 - 8:00 pm at GPC in Room 16, 18, & 20
- ❖ Thursday December 17th Scout Christmas Party at 7:00 - 8:30 pm at GPC in Fellowship Hall (MAX # of people is 35)
- ❖ Monday December 21 GREENWOOD SCHOOL CORPORATION is on WINTER BREAK
- ❖ NO MEETING on JANUARY 3, 2021.

CUB SCOUTS - Meeting are every Thursday in Fellowship Hall Time 6:00 - 7:00 pm  
NO Meeting's on December 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> and January 3, 2021. Get with Leaders on Activities.  
*NOTE: Limited to 35 Scouts and Parents.*

BROWNIES – Meetings are every 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Tuesdays in Fellowship Hall Time 6:00 - 7:00 pm  
Get with Leaders on Activities; *NOTE: Limited to 35 Brownies and Parents.*

Anybody interest in Scouting please contact the Church Office.

Dave Baker  
Liaison for BSA Troop #266

## FACEBOOK GROUP – STAYING CONNECTED

Unfortunately as we wrap up 2020, it looks like we will be more apart than ever. During this season, especially, that can be tough on many of us. As you are aware, GPC has a Facebook page where we share our live service, inspirational quotes, Bible verses and news for public viewing. This is a wonderful way to share our story with the world, in addition to our regular website. But that's just it – it is a public space that anyone can see.

As I think about ways we can connect during this time, I wanted to have a place where we can come together as a Church family and share with each other a bit more privately. I have now created a GPC "Group". If you aren't familiar with the Facebook terminology (and really...who can keep track?!), the difference between a Page and a Group is privacy. A Page represents the Church and what we want to share with the world – a Group is a more private place to share things with each other.

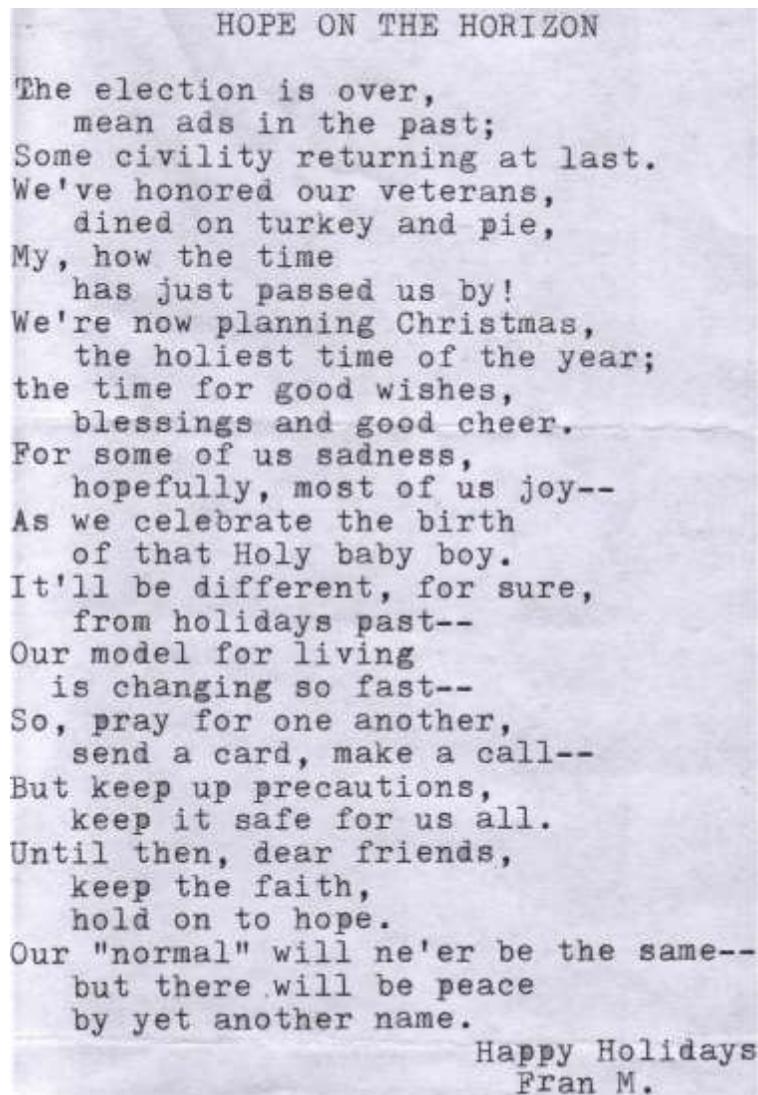
News about loved ones, pictures of the grandkids, updates about health, and anything else you don't necessarily want the world to see, but want to share with your Church family – think of it like a virtual coffee fellowship!

You can find the Group at [www.facebook.com/groups/gpcchurchfamily](http://www.facebook.com/groups/gpcchurchfamily) or by searching “GPC Church Family”. It is a private group you must “request” to join just to confirm we are sharing in a safe space.

On Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, I plan to go back Live on the Facebook Page (where the service is held) following service to show how to access the Group. I can also answer any questions about the Facebook lives (or really anything Facebook related to the best of my ability!). Not on Facebook, but interested in joining? You can e-mail me or call me and I can walk you through the process. I hope this one small step can assist us in becoming closer during this distant time.

Be (and stay) well,  
Lauren Underwood

**POETRY**  
**Submitted by Fran Mitchell**



HOPE ON THE HORIZON

The election is over,  
mean ads in the past;  
Some civility returning at last.  
We've honored our veterans,  
dined on turkey and pie,  
My, how the time  
has just passed us by!  
We're now planning Christmas,  
the holiest time of the year;  
the time for good wishes,  
blessings and good cheer.  
For some of us sadness,  
hopefully, most of us joy--  
As we celebrate the birth  
of that Holy baby boy.  
It'll be different, for sure,  
from holidays past--  
Our model for living  
is changing so fast--  
So, pray for one another,  
send a card, make a call--  
But keep up precautions,  
keep it safe for us all.  
Until then, dear friends,  
keep the faith,  
hold on to hope.  
Our "normal" will ne'er be the same--  
but there will be peace  
by yet another name.

Happy Holidays  
Fran M.

# Recipe of the Month



## FRAN'S BANANA PUDDING

Submitted by Fran Mitchell

**Ingredients:** Instant Banana or French Vanilla Jello Pudding Mix prepared with  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup less milk than the package directions. Chopped salted cocktail peanuts. Sliced bananas



**Directions:** Layer above in that order, beginning and ending with pudding. Top with chopped nuts. Enjoy!

## A PRAYER FOR TODAY

Submitted by Jan McFerran

*"This was on my desk during my 43 years of teaching."*

### A PRAYER FOR TODAY

*This is the beginning of a new day. God has given me this day to use as I will. I can waste it -- or use it for good, but what I do today is important, because I am exchanging a day of my life for it! When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever, leaving in its place something that I have traded for it. I want it to be gain, and not loss; good, and not evil; success, and not failure; in order that I shall not regret the price I have paid for it. --Author unknown*

## JUST FOR FUN

### Advent & Christmas O & A Jokes

*What happened to the man who stole an Advent Calendar?*

He got 25 days!

*What carol is heard in the desert?*

O camel ye faithful!

*What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?*

It's Christmas, Eve!

### Actual children's versions of Christmas Carols:

"...sleep in heavenly peas";

"Joy to the world, the Savior rains";

"This is he whom Sears of old...";

"Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plane";

"While shepherds washed their socks by night."

## Church Signs



**BIRTHDAYS**



DECEMBER		JANUARY	
3	Kay Talley	2	Debby Meek
7	Olivia Wages	8	Clarence Grelle
8	Ralph Dunlevy	12	Emilyann Grelle
	Alyssa Jewell	15	Joyce Todrank
10	Eleanor Mitchell	17	Debbie Deck
11	Rev. Peter Zinn	20	Julie Hayes
16	Janett Lowes	22	Morris Conley
	Mike Wood	27	Lauren Underwood
20	Steve Baker	31	Tracy Nelson
24	Betty Kinnear		

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**Christmas Poinsettias**

The Worship Committee will offer red poinsettias for you to purchase to enhance our Sanctuary during Christmas. If you wish to place an order, please complete the order form below and place it in the Offering Plate or return to the Church Office by **Sunday, December 13**. The cost is \$10.00 per plant. Plants will be placed in the Sanctuary through Sunday, December 27. Please pick up your poinsettia/s following worship on December 27 or Janett Lowes will deliver it to you after December 27.

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Number of plants ordered at \$10.00 each: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In celebration of: \_\_\_\_\_

Will Pick Up \_\_\_\_\_

Please Deliver \_\_\_\_\_

