

We're creating a **new pictorial directory** that'll be printed, online, and accessible on smartphones (and secure!). Members Larry Curfiss and Kate Robinson will take pictures on **immediately after the worship service TODAY**, next Sunday, and Sunday, December 16. Questions? Contact Larry (lcurfiss@gmail.com) or Kate (k8robins@gmail.com).

GO DEEP IN ADVENT: To help us prepare for the coming of the Lord, Advent Devotional booklets are available in the sanctuary and church office, and the Christian Education Committee has also prepared an Advent Activities Calendar available in each bulletin this morning. It provides suggestions for living our faith each day in this holy season.

SERVE

LET US PRAY...

Please pray for the following members: Anne Bach, Bob Bullock, Ben Dickerson, Judy Garst, Bob Goodwin, Doug Hayes, Toni Jolly, Erik Johnson, Sandy Lipes, Anna Oedel, Mike Parr, Mike Pate, Mamie Sleeper, Wanda Thompson, and John Wood.

Please also pray for these mission partners:

- CEDEPCA in Guatemala. They provide disaster assistance, theological training, and vital ministry to women.
- Renee Bach and Serving His Children. They fight malnutrition in Uganda.
- Members John Ellison and Steve Lemons. They volunteer in disaster/crisis ministry with Samaritan's Purse.
- Leslie Vogel is a PCUSA mission co-worker serving in Central America.

LOOK FOR THE HELPERS." — MISTER ROGERS

- **Alternative Christmas Giving:** Don't know what to buy that hard-to-shop-for person on your list? Consider donating in their honor to the Presbyterian Community Center, Family Promise of Greater Roanoke, or Heifer Project. In return, you'll receive an ornament and card explaining the gift. We'll accept donations and have ornaments **TODAY**, next Sunday, and Sunday, December 16 before and after worship outside Gresham Hall.
- **Fill a Salvation Army Stocking** for children and families in need. They're available in the church office and should be returned by **Tuesday, December 11**.
- **We have a "Mitten Tree"!** It's awaiting your decorations of new mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves that we'll donate to people in need through Ms. Dorsey's Clothes Closet.

Offering envelopes for 2019 are on a table outside Gresham Hall. Please pick up yours today. If you'd like a set of offering envelopes, please contact Carlene Hickman (churchadmin@salempres.org or 389-3881).

The Salem Choral Society invites you to their Christmas Concert **TODAY** at 4:00 PM at SPC. There's no admission fee, though donations are greatly appreciated, and

Stewardship Good News!

Because of the pledges made by so many of you, we're **90% of the way to fully funding our 2019 proposed budget!** Your officers have planned carefully for what we'll need financially for worship, outreach, education, and fellowship, and to take good care of our staff and our building. **The Session and Diaconate will vote on the proposed budget on December 11, so if we haven't yet heard from you, please turn in your pledge as soon as you can so we can meet our goals for doing God's work.** Pledge Cards are in the sanctuary and the church office. You may place yours in the offering plate or in Carlene Hickman's box in the church office, or just email Carlene at churchadmin@salempres.org. If you have any questions about the budget, pledging, or giving to the church in general, please contact Elder Fran Ferguson (franferguson@comcast.net).

WEEKLY CALENDAR

**The church office will be closed for the Christmas and New Year holidays from Monday, December 24-Tuesday, January 1.*

SUNDAY - December 2

First Sunday of Advent

Bring a canned good to worship!

9:30 AM	Sunday School
11:00 AM	Worship with Communion
12:15 PM	Homebound Communion
4:00 PM	Salem Choral Society Christmas Concert
6:00 PM	Youth Group at SPC

MONDAY - December 3

6:45 AM	Men's Breakfast (Salem's Famous Anthony's)
7:00 PM	Chancel Handbells rehearsal
7:30 PM	Narcotics Anonymous (NA) [Gresham Hall]

TUESDAY - December 4

10:30 AM	Morning Circle
11:00 AM	Staff meeting
7:00 PM	Salem Choral Society rehearsal (Gresham Hall)
7:30 PM	Evening Circle

WEDNESDAY - December 5

10:30 AM	Women's Bible Study (Room 117)
4:00 PM	RoundTable Board meeting (Room 117)
4:30 PM	Children and Youth Choir rehearsal
7:30 PM	Chancel Choir rehearsal

THURSDAY - December 6

7:30 PM	Narcotics Anonymous (NA) [Gresham Hall]
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SATURDAY - December 8

2:00 PM	"Reel" Advent Movie "The Polar Express"
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SUNDAY - December 9

Second Sunday of Advent

Two Cents-A-Meal!

9:30 AM	Sunday School
11:00 AM	Worship
4:00 PM	SPC's "Christmastime" Music Program
5:30 PM	Youth Group at Mac and Bob's

Advent and Christmas at SPC!

TODAY	4:00 PM Salem Choral Society Christmas Concert
December 9	4:00 PM SPC's "Christmastime" Music Program
December 24	5:00 PM Christmas Story, Candlelight, and Children Singing
	11:00 PM Lessons, Carols, Candlelight, and Communion

STAFF

Dr. Will Robinson (will.robinson@salempres.org), **Pastor**
 Rev. Janet Chisom (janet.chisom@salempres.org), **Associate Pastor**
 Reed Carter (reed.carter@salempres.org), **Director of Music**
 Kitty Beehner (kitty.beehner@salempres.org), **Parish Nurse**
 Carlene Hickman (churchadmin@salempres.org), **Church Administrator**
 Erin Beard, Tracey Blankenship, Alyssa Caldwell, Lauren Carroll, **Nursery Caregivers**

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 salempres.org

Salem Presbyterian Church

Founded in 1831
 Salem, Virginia



A Chi Rho (from the first two letters of the name "Christ" in Greek) Chrismon ornament on our Chrismon Tree. Note the Greek letters Alpha and Omega hanging from the top part of the Chi (the "X"), signifying that Christ is the Beginning and the End.

First Sunday of Advent

December 2, 2018

11:00 AM

Our mission, inspired by God through the Holy Spirit, is to be a visible sign of God's love for all people by sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed, so that all people may know Him as Lord and Savior.

WORSHIP. GROW. SERVE.

THE LORD’S DAY SERVICE

First Sunday of Advent

December 2, 2018

11:00 AM

Chiming the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude “An Advent Prelude” Charles Callahan
Julee Hickcox, flute; Reed Carter, piano

***Call to Worship** George Lester, Elder
One: We gather in preparation and in anticipation:
All: to hear the Good News proclaimed in sermon, sacrament, and song!
One: We gather in hope,
All: expecting Jesus to come again.
One: In preparation, anticipation, and hope,
All: let us worship the long-expected Jesus!

***Hymn 82** “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

*Prayer of Adoration

Prayer of Confession Rev. Janet Chisom
God of Mercy and Hope, forgive our sins—the times we missed the mark by failing to do what Your Son teaches us is right and good and kind. Especially in this season of Advent, let us walk not according to sin but according to Your Spirit, who dwells in us and prompts us to follow Your Son, our Savior. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

***Hymn 581** “Glory Be to the Father”

Lighting the Advent Candle Hope The Lugar Family
Song “A Candle Is Burning” Sandra Dean/James Murray
**A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
a candle of hope in December’s dark night.
While angels sing blessing from heaven’s starry sky,
our hearts we prepare now, for Jesus is nigh.**

Anthem “Advent Celebration” Mark Patterson
Children’s and Youth Choirs

Celebrate the coming of the King! Light the candles one by one. Come share the joy He brings. Celebrate the coming of the King! Soon the child will reign among us, Jesus Christ, the promised One, Prince of Peace, Messiah, God’s own Son. Celebrate the coming of the King! Come share the joy He brings. Hold fast, keep watch, great joy is coming! Look close, stay sharp; Christ is coming soon! Look to the heavens, follow the bright star shining in the dark of night. Soon we will find Him born in a manger; He will bring us truth and light. Celebrate the coming of the King! Light the candles one by one. Come share the joy He brings. Celebrate the coming of the King! Come share the joy He brings.

Word with the Children

After the Word with the Children, children three and younger may return to the nursery; children four and older will remain in the sanctuary for the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper.

Anthem “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Trevor Manor
Julie Hickcox, flute; Rachel Fauber, piano

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. O come, Thou dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here. Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. O come, Thou wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily, to us the path of

knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. O come, Thou rod of Jesse, free Thine own from Satan’s tyranny; from depths of hell Thy people save, and give them victory o’er the grave. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. O come, desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind. Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease; fill all the world with heaven’s peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Scripture Reading Isaiah 9:6-7 OT, p.
One: This is the word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon “Hope of All the Earth” Dr. Will Robinson

***Affirmation of Faith** from *A Brief Statement of Faith* (PCUSA)
In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

Dedication of Tithes and Offerings
Offertory “Offertoire” J. Donjon
Julee Hickcox, flute; Reed Carter, piano
***Hymn 144** “In the Bleak Midwinter” (stanza 4)
***Prayer of Dedication**

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Invitation to the Table
Hymn 347 “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” (stanzas 1 and 2)
Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord’s Prayer
One: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.
One: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them up to the Lord.
One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Communion of the People
The communion bread includes gluten-free bread, which is in the cups in the center of the trays.

Prayer after Communion

***Hymn 357** “The Days Are Surely Coming”

***Charge and Choral Benediction** “He Came Down”
**He came down that we may have hope;
He came down that we may have hope;
He came down that we may have hope;
Hallelujah forevermore.**

***Postlude** “As With Gladness Men of Old” arr. Molly Ijames
Rachel Fauber and Reed Carter, piano

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

WORSHIP

WELCOME TO SALEM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (SPC)!

Whether you’re visiting or a longtime member, we’re grateful you are here. We don’t look or act alike. God *knows* we don’t think alike. We come with varied questions, burdens, and joys. But every Sunday we worship as one. Our church has deep roots. You’ll hear that in the hymns, for example. We pray you’ll also hear a word of comfort, challenge, God’s “still, small voice,” or otherwise experience God’s presence and deepen your relationship with Him.

So we can greet one another by name, please fill out the black fellowship register at the end of each pew. You’re invited to join us every Sunday for **Sunday School at 9:30 AM, worship at 11:00 AM, fellowship at 10:30 AM in Gresham Hall, and for any of SPC’s ministries**, and there are many here to feed your soul. If you’d like to learn more about them or join this family of faith, please speak with pastors Will or Janet. You can also learn more at salempres.org, including read worship bulletins and newsletters, hear audio of anthems and sermons, and see upcoming ministries.

“LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME.”

SPC values children! Children’s bulletins are available by the sanctuary doors. Child care for infants and toddlers is available in Rooms 103 and 104, and if you need to leave the service with a child, you can listen to the service in the parlor (the first room on your right as you walk through the front right sanctuary door).

THESE MAY HELP

If you’d like a large-print hymnal or hearing assistance device, please ask an usher. (Both are available on tables at the back of the sanctuary.)

ABOUT WORSHIP

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, a season of preparation for the coming of the Lord! Our sermon series, called “Reel” Advent, will explore Biblical themes and faith connections in three movies and a play: “It’s a Wonderful Life,” “The Polar Express,” “How The Grinch Stole Christmas” (1966 version), and “The Christmas Cup.” We encourage you to prepare for next Sunday’s worship by **reading Luke 1:5-20 and watching the movie “The Polar Express.”** You’re invited to watch it at SPC on December 8 at 2:00 PM, and you’re invited to watch “The Grinch” at SPC on December 19 at 5:00 PM. Join us!

Listen to anthems and sermons, see worship bulletins and newsletters, and check out upcoming ministries and events at www.salempres.org. CD copies of previous anthems and sermons are available at the back of the sanctuary.

We believe in the **power of prayer**. So, while there’s no “Prayers of the Church” today, if you fill out a yellow prayer card in the pew and place it in the offering plate, the staff will add your request to the confidential Prayer Chain. Pastors Will and Janet are also available to pray with you after the service or at your convenience.

Lighting the Advent Candle is adapted from Rev. Richard J. Fairchild, Spirit Networks, and “A Candle is Burning” is by Sandra Dean (1986) and is sung to “Away in A Manager” by James Murray (1887). **If you’d like to light the candles on the Advent wreath at the 11:00 PM service on Christmas Eve, please speak with pastor Janet.**

We thank God for Julee Hickcox and Rachel Fauber who are adding to the joy of our worship today and for members David, Margaret, and Tom McClung; Bob and Judy Goodwin; Sandy Richenaker and her friend Teri Scott; Janet Yost; and Barbara Young for decorating the church with the wreaths, greens, and poinsettias!

GROW

DISCIPLE MEANS “LEARNER.”

We encourage everyone to be life-long learners of the Lord by committing to one of the following **classes at 9:30 AM:**

- Pre-Kindergarten (age 2 1/2-5)—Cherub Choir (9:30-10:00 AM) and Sunday School (10:00-10:30 AM)
- Kindergarten-Grade 5—Workshop Rotation: *The Christmas Story*
- Youth—“*Hope, Peace, Joy, Love*”: *Advent Lessons*
- Disciple—Disciple III: *Remember Who You Are—The Letters of Paul*
- Journey On—“*Songs for the Waiting: Devotions Inspired by the Hymns of Advent*”
- Kingdom Living—*Kerygma: The Bible in Depth*

In Advent, artwork in Gresham Hall will be based on the Advent themes of hope, peace, joy, and love. You’re encouraged to take pictures of where you see hope, peace, joy, and love and send them to pastor Janet (janet.chisom@salempres.org) in response to her weekly email prompts. Watch for signs of Christ’s coming and his hope, peace, joy, and love in your lives and the world!