



Crossnore Presbyterian Church

"Growing Deeper in Faith, Reaching Out in Love"

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Announcements and Items of Interest

December 4, 2019

Sunday, December 22, 2020—
Choir – 9:00 a.m., Sunday
School – 10:15 a.m., Worship
Service—11:00 a.m.

**Tuesday, December 24, our
Candlelight Christmas Eve
Service will be held in the
sanctuary at 5:30 p.m.** Christmas
Worship will be filled with
special music, Christmas carols,
guest musicians, scripture
readings, Christmas stories,
and prayers as we worship
Christ, the babe born in Bethle-
hem, the Lord of all, and the
Ruler over heaven and earth.
**Every penny of our Christ-
mas Eve offering will go to
Volunteer Avery County
(VAC) which provides electrici-
ty, heat, medicine, food, cloth-
ing, rent, and more to the most
financially needy in our county.
VAC also recruits volunteers to
repair homes and build handi-
cap ramps.**



**Thank you to all who helped
with our wonderful Christmas
potluck luncheon last Sun-
day, December 15. We en-
joyed great food and fellow-
ship.** A special thanks to Char-
lotte Davila and Sally Wilhite
and volunteers for organizing,
setting up and cleaning up!

**We celebrated Daniel Coffee's
graduation from American
University on Wednesday,
December 11 at Puerto Nue-
vo. He is receiving a bachel-
or's degree in Religious
Studies. Congratulations
Daniel.**

A Prayer for Advent
by Susan Christerson Brown

God of life and Promise,

In a season of waning days and
deepening dark, we thank you
for the gift of watchful anticipa-
tion,

We have known the despair of
expecting nothing, when win-
ter's bleak imaginings cannot
envision spring, and night
blinds us to the promise of
morning. Evenings descend
without the blessing of rest, and
weariness rises with the dawn.

We long for Christ's birth to

renew creation, yet scarcely
trust the power of God-with-us
to transform the only life that is
ours. We believe, Lord. Help
our unbelief.

Help us to wait as Mary did, a
vessel for the gestating light of
the world. Help us to trust your
holly intention to bring forth
fullness of life.

Strengthen our voice in the wil-
derness, that we may reach all
your children, preparing the way
in a trampled world for the
greening gift of your Spirit.

In the name of the Son for
whom we wait, Amen



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- * Patricia McGarr—December 1
- * Ben Jordan—December 7
- * Mac McKinney—December 7
- * Sarah Isles—December 12
- * Noah Kidder—December 14
- * Tasha Reid—December 16
- * Nancy Yarborough—
December 20
- * Linda Taylor—December 24
- * Bill Silvia—December 27

Prayer Requests

- * JOE TODD
- * BETH GACEK
- * JOE JORDAN
- * ALBERTA DUNCAN & FAMILY
- * FRED & BETTY FRANCE
- * NICHOLAS (COLE) GRETZ
- * KAREN PHILLIPS
- * FRANK DUNCAN
- * BARBARA & CHARLIE STUART
- * RYAN WATTS
- * SGT. JESSE DOWNING
- * FRANCES McGRUDER
- * MARTHA HUTCHESON
- * SUSAN HARTLEY

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. Psalm 89:1

A Mantra for Today by Ann Freeman Price

The blessing came. John says,
"In the beginning was the
Word."

Mark starts out his gospel say-
ing, "the beginning of the good
news of Jesus Christ, the Son
of God."

Luke writes, "And she gave
birth to her firstborn son and
wrapped him in bands of
clothe, and laid him in a man-
ger, because there was no
place for them in the inn."

Matthew says, "Now the birth
of Jesus the Messiah took
place in the way."

They are all accounts of this
amazing blessing to the world.

And that one blessing has re-
verberated around the world
and has traveled through time.

The blessing came.

The blessing comes. If anyone
had need of proof of a resur-
rection, that person could look
into the lives of all those peo-
ple in whom the Christ is born
anew.

The Jesus of Bethlehem was
born again in Francis of Assisi,
in a Dorothy Day and a Martin
Luther King, Jr.

The blessing of that nativity
comes again in the Christina
Rossetti hymn urging the gift of
one's heart. The blessing
comes in the neighbor across
the street, in the person in the

grocery, in the stranger far
away, in the soul struggling
mightily in a very real prison.

There is no ending. The birth
continues in this very moment.

The blessing comes.

The blessing will continue to
come.

There is excitement in knowing
about forever-ness, knowing
that this birth in Bethlehem will
continue in to the future.

There is relief in the promise
that there will always be nativi-
ty beyond the manger, that
God has promised a faithful-
ness that does not despair and
does not give up—even on a
world that seems trapped in

transgression.

There is joy—such joy a joy that
in the very midst of working for
peace and love in the present,
one can also relish the future.

The blessing will continue to
come.

It's a mantra—say it often and
believe it in your heart:

The blessing came.

The blessing comes.

The blessing will continue to
come.

