

HEARING AND PROCLAIMING GOOD NEWS

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Joy Gift Program

December 23, 2018

CALL TO REVERENCE

PRELUDE “Away In a Manger”

Lasky

*LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

One: What is the sign that we see?

All: “God has scattered the proud with the thoughts of their hearts. God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; God has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.”

One: What will all this mean?

All: That God’s new way has begun, and we are invited to live with justice and compassion as we share God’s light in the world.

(The first, second, third, and fourth candles are lit)

One: Let us worship God who is born in our hearts again.

*HYMN #106

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

*PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess that we are busy with many preparations. We are busy with parties, with feasts, with giving. We are busy cleaning house and wrapping presents. We are busy with the stuff of the holiday. And we confess that our busyness may be misplaced, that we spend more time preparing for things than preparing for You. Draw us back to the center which is You. Remind us that our hearts and souls have work to do, too. Enable us to let go of that which does not matter, and to see what does matter. This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Sisters and brothers in Christ, the promise is true: God loves us.

God forgives us. God is coming to us even now to save us.

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.

*SHARING THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST

A TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Receiving the Christmas Joy Offering

“Christmas Fun”

Thyatira’s Younger Disciples

“Twinkle, Twinkle Christmas Star”

“Ring the Bells”

“J-E-S-U-S”

“Jesus Loves Me”

Mary Waller

Anna Waller

Aislinn Watts

Cara Blake Cruz

Kate Richmond

Caroline Covington

McGuire Moore

Katelynn McKnight

Tucker Richmond

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPECIAL MUSIC “Christmas Is With Us Again” Eden’s Bridge
Alex Bouk, *ukulele*
Lydia Richmond, *vocalist*

THE JOY GIFT PROGRAM Thyatira’s Young Disciples
“The Living Creche” (*see insert*) Page and Shafferman

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (*concluding with the Lord’s Prayer*)

OUR OFFERING

Offertory: “While By My Sheep” German Carol
* Doxology Hymnal, #606
* Prayer

*HYMN #108 “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

*BENEDICTION

Congregational Response (#92, v. 1) “While We Are Waiting, Come”
While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

*POSTLUDE “Ding Dong! Merrily on High” Young

*Those who are able, please stand.

Some resources used in today’s service are adapted from holdfasttowhatisgood.com.

* * *

WELCOME VISITORS! We are delighted to welcome you today and hope your time here is a blessing. If you are not active in another church, we hope you will consider making Thyatira your church home. If you would like to find out more about us, please contact Pastor Stacey Steck at 704-245-8100.

USHERS: **December Team** – Ben Watts, Ted Fuller, Paul Rogers, Jada Ware-Guy

LITURGIST: **Today** – Bill Hall
Next Sunday – Millicent Hoffner

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP: All children are strongly encouraged to remain in worship following the Time with Young Disciples. The Nursery is located on the first floor of the educational building, and is available for infants and very young children.

This Sunday – Leigh Anne Wetmore, Selena Bell

Next Sunday – Jada Ware-Guy, Flora Calderón-Steck

GENEROSITY UPDATE: Through the first three weeks in December, we reached 32% of our monthly goal. Your generous gifts help us be the Good News Capital of Rowan County!

THYATIRA PRAYER CONCERNS

Please keep in your prayers the Session and Staff of the Church, as well as all who faithfully serve one another and our community through the ministries of the church.

Carillon: Mary Moon

At Home: JoAnn Kerr

- Joy Steele, recovering from surgery
- Joel Wilkie, hospitalized
- Norma Lauder, facing health challenges
- Family of Carol Graham following her death
- Brian Waller recovering from shoulder surgery
- Ted Deal
- Communities affected by California fires, and Hurricanes Florence and Michael
- Harold Sechler
- Bill McLaughlin
- Fred & Edna Stamper
- Pam Poteat Clough, friend of Joyce Caldwell
- Joyce and Danny Caldwell, facing health challenges
- Julie, a co-worker of Jada, diagnosed with cancer
- Mike Hawkins' mother, Elizabeth, at Genesis
- Linda Gaylor's mother, Barbara
- Ada Jo Sloop, serving in the Peace Corps
- Bill Bergstrom is being treated for leukemia
- Drema Clemens' mother, Bertha Warden
- Millicent Hoffner's brother, Joe Kerr
- Mike Hawkins who has RA and osteoporosis
- Paul Rogers' daughter and family in Pakistan
- The Raymer family serving in Tanzania, Africa

PHONE PRAYER CHAIN: If you, a family member, or friend would like to be added to our Phone Prayer Chain, please call Jim Albright at 704-279-3317. Thyatira's Phone Prayer Chain is different from being added to our electronic newsletter, mailed newsletter, and bulletin. We have 3 people that spread the word by calling approximately 25 prayer list members, who add your request to their daily prayers. Whatever your prayer need may be, finding peace of mind provides a foundation of strength to face any situation. Your request is a sacred trust and is kept confidential among our prayer list members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CALENDAR

BIRTHDAYS: Dec 24 Steve Daniel
Dec 26 Christi Reber
Dec 29 Drema Clemens

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: This morning, we receive the Christmas Joy Offering, one of our annual opportunities to support important ministries of the national church. Please give generously using the special purple and white envelopes found in the pew card/envelope holders.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: Join us on Monday, December 24 at 5:30pm for a Candlelight Christmas Eve Service.

GRIEFSHARE SUPPORT GROUP: GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life after losing a loved one. Our group is led by caring people who have experienced grief and want to help you through the difficult days ahead. The next thirteen week cycle begins Sunday, January 13 at 4:00 p.m. To register, or for more information, please contact Pastor Stacey at 704-636-1595.

CHILD SAFETY LUNCH AND LEARN: On Sunday, January 13, at a Lunch and Learn following worship, we will be hosting Beth McKeithen, Executive Director of Prevent Child Abuse Rowan, who will help us understand what child abuse is, how to spot it, and how to respond to it. This event will be free of charge and childcare will be available. RSVP to the Church Office by Wednesday, January 9.

MEN OF THE CHURCH BREAKFAST AT DINNERTIME: All men of the church are invited to a time of food and fellowship on Wednesday evening, January 16 at 6:00 p.m. We'll enjoy our traditional breakfast food and make plans for the coming year.

END OF THE YEAR GIVING: Monday, December 31 is the final day to have any gifts or offerings to Thyatira credited to your 2018 giving statement. If you would like an update on the status of your year-to-date giving, please contact our Office Manager, Sharon Gantkowski at 704-636-1595. Thanks for your ongoing generosity which helps us to be the Good News Capital of Western Rowan County.

OFFERING ENVELOPES: Offering envelopes for 2019 are available for pickup in the hallway outside the church office.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

Today	9:15am	Children's Choir (Big Kids)
	9:30am	The Happy Place
	9:45am	Children's Preschool Choir
	10:00am	Sunday School for all ages
	11:00am	Worship – Joy Gift Program
Monday	5:30pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Tuesday		Office Closed
Wednesday	11:00am	Meals on Wheels
Thursday	11:00am	Meals on Wheels
Friday	11:00am	Meals on Wheels
Saturday		
Next Sunday	9:30am	The Happy Place
	10:00am	Sunday School for all ages
	11:00am	Worship
	6:30pm	Adult Choir

THYATIRA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

220 White Road
Salisbury, NC 28147
704-636-1595
PASTOR STECK: 704-245-8100

Office Hours Monday – Friday 9:00am – 2:00pm
EMAIL ADDRESS: office@thyatirapresbyterian.org
WEB SITE: thyatirapresbyterian.org

STAFF AND OFFICERS

STAFF

Pastor The Rev. Stacey Steck
Faith Community Nurse Nora Patterson, RN, FCN
Faith Community Health Promoter. Georgia McCorkle
Office Manager Sharon Gantkowski
Treasurer. Doug Patterson
Assistant Treasurer. Keith Vaughan
Director of Music Angela Moore
Organist Ron Mercer

THE SESSION

Moderator The Rev. Stacey Steck
Clerk of Session. Janet Lambert

Class of 2018

Beth Bates
Janet Lambert
Sandra Swanson
Keith Vaughan

Class of 2019

David Hall
Norma Lauder
Eric Rouse
Juanita Turner

Class of 2020

Robin Luther
Doug Patterson
Phares Sechler
Brian Waller

Elder Emeriti. Jim Albright, Charles Newsome

THE DIACONATE

Chairman of the Diaconate. Paul Gaylor

Class of 2018

Eddie Bell
Mike Connolly
Ted Fuller
Paul Gaylor
Ryan Sloop

Class of 2019

Jeremy Deal
Jada Ware-Guy
Daniel Milam
Aaron Richmond
Steven Wetmore

Class of 2020

Mike Hawkins
Randall Patterson
Paul Rogers
AJ Waller
Ben Watts

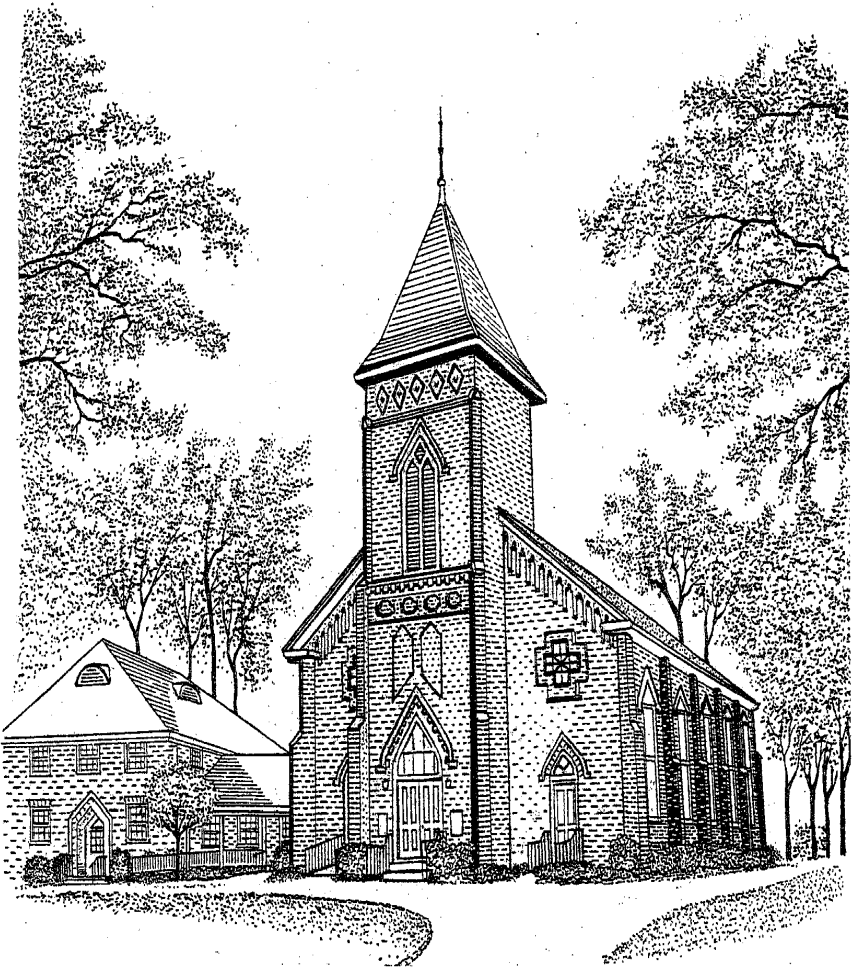
CONTACT PERSONS

Thyatira Memorial Association President. Ed Hall
Church School Superintendent Jimmy Hoffner
Men of the Church President. Greg Hager
Presbyterian Women Moderator. Jada Ware-Guy
Boy Scouts. Greg Hager
Cub Scouts. Jon McCachren
Girl Scouts. Jada Ware-Guy

WELCOME

THYATIRA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT MILL BRIDGE

*The Good News Capital
of Western Rowan County*



Organized by 1750

A Living Legacy of Love, Faith, Service,
and Patient Endurance