



News at Paw Creek



Paw Creek Presbyterian Church

December 22, 2021

From the Pastor...

Dear Friends,

If you were able to join us in the CFC last Sunday for our Christmas lunch, what a great event we had! Like so many things we do now, we had that familiarly odd sensation of “just like always” yet “different than what we’ve gotten used to for the past two years.” Many thanks to the Fellowship Committee for pushing forward to get us back to the sharing of food and friendship around the table. May the new year bring us more and more often to reclaim lost traditions in safe and wise ways.

And I also want to thank our emcee, Sam McCord, for nudging us to share and enjoy Christmas memories. I love the way that each of our family traditions is unique to our own families, yet can bring a smile and tug of nostalgia to everyone.

Although it’s hard for most of us to choose just one favorite memory, I think I would probably have to say that Christmas Eve was the part of my childhood tradition that stands out the most. Christmas Eve was always the time for a holiday celebration with my mother’s family. All of the Barnhardts, other than my immediate family, lived in the farming country northeast of Huntersville. Their houses all stood within a mile or so of the original family farm, which in my childhood was still an active farm run by Great Uncle Ed, with cows, pigs, chickens and an old mule named Sal. Every three or four years the party would be at our house in Charlotte, but the rest of the time, we city cousins got to go to the country for Christmas.

As the darkness settled on Christmas Eve, we would pile the car with the presents we were taking to aunts, uncles and cousins, and set out for the country. In those days before interstates, we wound our way downtown, then headed north on Statesville Avenue. On that route you could feel the city gradually fall away as the rural landscape of woods and open fields took over. I always thought of it as our own version of “over the river and through the woods”. When we arrived there was a roaring fire in fireplace of whichever house we were gathered at and it felt like Christmas had finally arrived.

But the best part came as we packed up to head home. The car pulled away from front porch lights onto the deserted rural road, and sitting in the quiet back seat I would look out the window and marvel at the darkness of the sky, so much deeper than the sky we could see in town. And slowly my eyes would focus on the stars, twinkling brighter than I remembered from any other night of the year. And when I saw the stars, I thought about the shepherds with their sheep in the night, and about the wise men following the brightest star. And I thought to myself, this is what it looked like when Jesus was born. Even as I got older and had moved from the back seat to the driver’s seat, for as many years as I made that Christmas Eve trip, I would still take my eyes off the road for a second to seek out the stars and savor that childhood memory.

Jesus was born so that ordinary things could become windows for us to look through to see the wonder of God. A starry sky, a family gathered, the sound and smell of cows and pigs on a farm, the cry of a newborn babe. They are all windows to God. May each of us find open windows again this Christmas, for God’s light to shine.

Merry Christmas, Elliott

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Paw Creek Presbyterian

Church is on:

Facebook and YouTube

Online Giving available on our Website

Prayer Concerns & Celebrations



Prayer Requests:

- Gene Pegram passed away on Dec. 10th. There was a graveside funeral on the 18th. Please keep the family in prayer at this time.
- Larry Pierce's sister, Ann Black, is in ICU at CaroMont in Gastonia with Para flu, Kidney Failure and had a cardiac arrest that stopped her heart for 10 minutes. Please pray for strength and healing and prayers for her medical team as well.
- Joy Tyler's brother-in-law, Mike Stroud, is in the hospital with pneumonia.
- Dina Salvo's friend, Norma Mosley needs prayers.
- Jack & Sandra Watson are very ill with COVID. Please keep them in prayer.
- Ron Mullis, cousin of Linda Riggins, is now home from the hospital after being admitted for acute kidney failure.
- Anne Miller has 2 prayer requests: 1. Long time friend, Vivian, has a bad cancer diagnosis. 2. Their son who lives in Boone, has a friend, Eric, that has thymus cancer and is the middle of chemo and radiation.
- Melanie Johnston is having tests this week. As she waits for results, she asks for prayers and healing if it is God's will.
- Suzette Johnston Barker has shingles in her spine and is in a lot of pain.
- Skip Todd fell in the garage, hurt his knee and is in a cast.
- Susan Gustafson has spent time in the hospital. She is home but still needs prayers for healing.
- Rob Lamb and his wife had a baby girl last week, Penelope Marie. She is still in the hospital.
- Pray for those that were affected by the tornados on Dec. 10th.



New Offering Envelopes for 2022

Offering Envelopes for 2022 are now available. You can pick up your envelopes from the Narthex before or after worship service.

****Please be sure to use the correct year's envelope when making your offering. Thank you!****

Church Calendar

Wednesday, December 22

*Newsletter
10:00am Bible Study
12:00pm Bulletin Deadline for 12/26 & 1/2
5:30pm Bible Study
6:30pm Chancel Choir Practice

Thursday, December 23

6:30am Men's Bible Study
9:00am Cardio Fitness

Friday, December 24

7:30pm Christmas Eve Service

Saturday, December 25

****Merry Christmas!!**

Sunday, December 26

9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Worship

Monday, December 27

***Church Office Closed for Christmas**

Tuesday, December 28

***Church Office Closed for Christmas**
9:00am Cardio Fitness

Wednesday, December 29

***Church Office Closed for Christmas**
10:00am Bible Study
12:00pm Bulletin Deadline
5:30pm Bible Study
6:30pm Chancel Choir Practice

Thursday, December 30

***Church Office Closed for Christmas**
6:30am Men's Bible Study
9:00am Cardio Fitness

Saturday, January 1

***Happy New Year!**

Sunday, January 2

9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Worship / Installation Service

Tuesday, January 4

9:00am Cardio Fitness
10:00am PW Go & Grow Circle
12:00pm Newsletter Deadline
7:00pm PW Life Seekers Circle

Wednesday, January 5

10:00am Bible Study
11:15am CMPD - Active Shooter Training
12:00pm Bulletin & Newsletter Deadline
5:30pm Bible Study
6:30pm Chancel Choir Practice

Thursday, January 6

6:30am Men's Bible Study
9:00am Cardio Fitness

Sunday, January 9

9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Worship

Tuesday, January 11

12:00pm Newsletter Deadline
9:00am Cardio Fitness

Wednesday, January 12

10:00am Bible Study
12:00pm Bulletin Deadline
5:30pm Bible Study
6:30pm Chancel Choir Practice

Thursday, January 13

*Newsletter
6:30am Men's Bible Study
9:00am Cardio Fitness

Saturday, January 15

10:30am Stitches for Missions

Sunday, January 16

9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Worship

Monday, January 17

***Church Office Closed - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

Tuesday, January 18

9:00am Cardio Fitness

Wednesday, January 19

10:00am Bible Study
12:00pm Bulletin Deadline
5:30pm Bible Study
6:30pm Chancel Choir Practice

Thursday, January 20

6:30am Men's Bible Study
9:00am Cardio Fitness
6:45pm Stated Session Meeting



Presbyterian Women

Circle Meeting Tuesday, January 7th

Morning circle (Go & Grow) 10:00am - We will meet in the Parlor.

Evening circle (Life Seekers) 7:00pm - We will meet at Celia Gray's house.

Thank You



How do I even begin to say thank you?! Your amazing generosity spread so much joy throughout our community – a true gift of Thanksgiving!

To begin, we had request for over 4,200 meals from the non-profits and schools we serve each year. In addition, several new agencies reached out to us for assistance raising our total to 4,500.

We were confronted with several challenges this year, the first being COVID yet again. We had successfully navigated it last year and felt sure we could do so again. Next, we received word that turkeys were in short supply and were going to be expensive. The cost of food was on the rise and supplies were limited on many of the items we include in our boxes. I was very concerned we would not meet the numbers needed to fill the request. Once again, you stepped up and shared on social media, with your neighbors, companies, churches, clubs, etc. Community and company challenges were a tremendous help as well. And then...after a plea from our President/CEO, Tony Marciano wearing a turkey suit 🦃, many of you readily increased the number you had initially committed to. One of our biggest company supporters went from 877 last year to over 1,100 this year. Food Lion graciously donated food to fill 360 boxes! Compare Foods gave us certificates that provided for 200 families at one Title 1 school. The kindness throughout this community is beyond compare!

With that said, after all the cars and rented U-Haul trucks rolled through, we had collected 5,707 boxes! We average that a meal will serve a family of four which means approximately 22,828 individuals received a nice Thanksgiving meal – all because of you!

Our amazing residents managed all the collection and distribution of these meals. After unloading them from your vehicles and reloading them for the receiving agencies, they handled 11,414 boxes and turkeys and did so without one complaint. We could not manage this without them!

Your support and compassion makes this a very special time in the lives of many in our community. I pray that the blessings you so freely give come back to you tenfold!

Wishing you and yours all God's best throughout the holidays into the New Year!

Many blessings,

Pam Beam

Executive Assistant

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www.charlotterescuemission.org

 CHARLOTTE RESCUE MISSION



**Happy Birthday to Those
Celebrating in January!**

January 2

Jeremy Chapman
Patrick McCarthy
Mark Muller

January 13

Todd Miller
Donna Timberman
Tucker Torrence

January 24

Cameron Fortier

January 4

Debbie McCord

January 16

Tim Boysworth

January 25

Eddie McArver
Toni Torrence

January 5

Eric Cathey
Todd Joy

January 17

Brian Gross

January 26

Savannah Reel

January 6

Vickie Joy
Jon Kenley

January 18

Joyce Joy
Jessica Kincaid
Kaitlyn Revalee

January 27

Scott Brenner

January 11

Phillip McCord

January 19

Tori Caudill

January 31

Stephanie Sudderth

Paw Creek Presbyterian Church

P.O. BOX 64
Paw Creek, NC 28130-0064

Seek..... Matthew 6:33
Serve 1 Samuel 12:24
Praise..... Psalm 111:1
Love Christ!.....1 John 4:12

Lord, we thank you for...

Have a Prayer Request? To put someone on our prayer chain, obtain permission from the person or family involved, then contact Joy Tyler (phone captain - (704) 399-8040) - and- Ann Cashion (email captain - acatlake@gmail.com)

Know someone Who Needs a Visit? Please contact the Church Office or Rev. Elliott Hipp (704) 392-0329



Next Newsletter

The next Newsletter will be **January 13th**. The deadline for Newsletter submissions is Tuesday, January 11th at noon.

Thank you! *Kim*

Upcoming Sermon Titles

Friday, December 24

Christmas Eve - 7:30 pm
Service of Candlelight and Communion

Sunday, December 26

First Sunday of Christmas
John 1: 1-18
"The True Light"

Sunday, January 2

Second Sunday of Christmas
Luke 2: 41-52
"What Must We Do?"

Sunday, January 9

Epiphany Sunday
Celebration of the Lord's Supper
Matthew 2: 1-12
"Time to Find Another Road"