



# Weekly News at Paw Creek

December 10, 2020

## Paw Creek Presbyterian Church

### Office Information

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Pastor

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**Telephone:**

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**Fax:**

(704) 392-4625

**Email:**

office@pawcreekpc.org

Paw Creek Presbyterian  
Church is on:  
Facebook and YouTube

**Sermon By Phone:**

704-312-1343  
Available 11am Monday

### From the Pastor...

Dear Paw Creek,

Advent greetings, one and all, as the days rush through December! This week I'd like to highlight some ways that we can all support activities that honor the spirit of the season and still keep ourselves and our community safe and distanced.

First, community giving has always been a bright spot for holiday celebrations at Paw Creek, especially through the annual Angel Tree. Each year we have been able to gather hundreds of presents for children in our local schools and for their families and give them a brighter Christmas. For safety reasons, the schools are not able to hold this program this year. However, there are many other programs that focus on children and families. For 2020, the Session recommends that we consider the work of the Salvation Army - they are well equipped to accept donations by internet or phone and are a fine alternative. Through their programs we can donate financially to the Empty Stocking Fund (in collaboration with the *Charlotte Observer*) or choose specific gifts and donate directly to their Angel Tree. I've listed all the contact information at the bottom of this letter.

Of course, there are many other options as well. For example, in our neighborhood the True Holiness Pentecostal Church across the street from our house is collecting gifts for the children of their own congregation, whose families are struggling this year. Many of the neighbors on our street are supporting their work. Perhaps you know of a similar project right in your own backyard - that would be a fine place to give as well, and truly in the spirit of the season!

Here at Paw Creek, I'm happy to report that our Congregational Care committee has been busy in recent weeks delivering baskets of Christmas cheer to our shut-ins. They come on behalf of the entire congregation, and I know you join me in giving thanks to the committee for maintaining our connections with one another during difficult times. Another tradition that continues this year is the donation of poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary at Christmas. Donations can be given to remember or honor those who are dear to us, and are a fine way to spread holiday cheer this year, whether we are worshipping in the sanctuary or through live-stream. Details on how to donate are included with this week's letter.

May God's blessings be with all of us as we navigate these bewildering times, finding in our families, our church and our community the best ways to celebrate Christmas even when old traditions can no longer serve. And of course, we join in thanksgiving for the news of medical breakthroughs that will lead us on towards Christmas 2021 with real hope for a more familiar celebration next year.

In our prayers this week, along with the countless families and individuals struggling with virus infection around our country and the world, please remember:

- Don Joy, who is hospitalized at Huntersville Presbyterian after a fall at home. He will most likely be released for rehab care in the next day or so.
- Miriam Childress, who is happy to be home from rehab - she is resting a lot and continuing her physical therapy. She's still tired and is not ready for phone calls.
- Frances Lyerly's grandson Justin and his wife, who both have Covid-19 and are home caring for their 13 month old daughter who is not ill.
- Carol McNeill, with thanksgiving for a positive post-op report after recent surgery to receive a pacemaker/defibrillator.
- Alita Gaines, a friend of Celia Gray's who is struggling with complications of cancer treatments.

With blessings of the season,

Elliott

#### **Contacts for giving through the Salvation Army:**

On-line giving:

- **Empty Stocking Fund**  
<https://www.salvationarmycarolinas.org/charlotte/make-a-contribution/empty-stocking/>
- **Angel Tree**  
<https://www.salvationarmycarolinas.org/charlotte/make-a-contribution/angel-tree/>

Donations by phone:

1-800-725-2769

Donations by mail:

The Salvation Army North and South Carolina Divisional Headquarters  
ATTN: Resource Development  
P.O. Box 241808  
Charlotte, NC 28224

**Service for the Lord's Day**  
**Paw Creek Presbyterian Church • December 13, 2020**  
Third Sunday of Advent



**Preparatory Music**

*Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*

arr. Jim Brickman

**Welcome and Lighting of three Candles on the Advent Wreath**

*Grace be unto you, and peace, from the one who is and who was and who is to come,  
and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness. "I am the Alpha and the Omega", says the Lord God.  
Hallelujah!*

**Prelude**

*Mary, Did You Know?*  
Flute and piano

arr. Cindy Blevins

**Call to Worship**

from Zechariah 9

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!  
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!  
Behold, thy King cometh unto thee.  
He is the righteous savior,  
And he shall speak peace unto the heathen.

**Hymn 96**

*"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"*

*On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;  
awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!  
Then cleansed be every life from sin; make straight the way for God within,  
and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.*

**Prayer of the Day**

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets. Anointed by your Spirit, may we testify to your light. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Scripture Reading**

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

## Hymn 673

*"Jesus, Light of Joy"*

*Jesus, light of joy surround us; let your splendid glory shine:  
source of every earthly blessing, heaven's everlasting sign.  
Alleluia, alleluia, we adore you, light divine.  
With the saints we lift our voices, God of power, God of might.  
All creation shines with glory, singing praises day and night.  
Alleluia, alleluia, holy, holy, holy light.*

## Sermon

*Light in the wilderness*

## Offertory

*Christmas Medley*  
Flute and piano

arr. Gary Lanier

Offerings for God's work through Paw Creek Church are gratefully received  
in the baskets by the entrance and exits to the sanctuary, or by mail to the church office.

## Prayers of God's People

Beginning with announcements and prayer concerns; and concluding with *The Lord's Prayer*

## Hymn 106

*"Prepare the Way, O Zion"*

*Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!  
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.  
Greet one who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.  
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.  
He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.  
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth and love.  
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.  
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.  
Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace,  
and tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.  
All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.  
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.*

## Charge and Benediction

## Postlude

*Fugue in C Major*

George Frideric Handel

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*Elliott Hipp, Pastor • Mark Burleson, Pianist • Patrick McCarthy, Director of Music/Soloist  
Clint Shaw, Video and Streaming • Members of the Task Force for In-person Worship, Arrangements*

*Susan Bandel, Flute soloist*



## **Christmas Poinsettias**

Paw Creek will be decorating the Sanctuary with poinsettias on December 20th. If you would like to make an offering to help towards the purchase of the poinsettias in memory or honor of someone, their name will be included in the Order of Service for December 20th as well. Please be sure to mark your check in the memo section as "Poinsettia", and list who it is in memory or honor of. Names must be received by the church office by Tuesday, Dec. 16th. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 704-392-0329. If you would like to take a poinsettia, there will be some available for pick up after the Christmas Eve Service.

Thank you!



## **New Offering Envelopes for 2021**

Offering Envelopes for 2021 are now available. This year we have cut back on the number of envelopes we ordered to save some money. In doing so, we had to reassign some of the envelope numbers. If your number was above 90, then you will be getting a new number for 2021. You will also notice that the Initial Envelope has increased from \$1 to \$5. You can pick up your envelopes from the Narthex before or after worship service starting this Sunday, Dec. 13th. Please contact Kim in the Church office at 704-392-0329 if you would like to schedule a time to come by and pick them up during the week or let her know if you would like them mailed to you.

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

## 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 call:  
Judy Smith (704) 392-2892  
-or-  
Ann Cashion (704) 301-0126

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

### Online Giving

Paw Creek has now implemented Online Giving for the convenience of church members and our friends who worship with us. Please go to our website at [www.pawcreekpc.org](http://www.pawcreekpc.org) and follow the link on the home page.



Once you click on this link, you will be directed to set up an account. You may make this gift as a one time transaction, or you can set up recurring payments. You may use your bank account information to create this payment, or you may use your debit or credit card. (If you use your debit or credit card, you will also be given the option to add the transaction fee to your payment if you choose to do so)



For those who like to use mobile apps, you can download the app: Give+ and search for Paw Creek Presbyterian Church. Once you have created an account, it will save Paw Creek as your default Church.

### Upcoming Sermon Titles

**Sunday, December 13**

***3rd Sunday of Advent***

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

“Crying in the Wilderness”

**Sunday, December 20**

***4th Sunday of Advent***

Luke 1: 26-38

“The Son of God Comes Near”

**Thursday, December 24**

***Christmas Eve, 7:30pm***

Candlelight Service & Communion

Outdoor Carols

**Sunday, December 27**

***Guest Preacher - George Slaton***

**Sunday, January 3**

***Guest Preacher - Betsy Williamson***