

WORSHIP LEADERS for TODAY ~ December 18:

9 AM: Greeter: Renay Nunn

Host/Hostess: Debbie Book

Worship Leader: Clay Weir

Power Point: the Harveys

11 AM: Usher: Gary Bass

Worship Leader: Sandra Stephens

Reader: Mickey Sharp

For this coming week --December 18-24:

CARE Center Pick-up: Gary Bass

WAVE Team: Jeff & Vicki Irons

PRAYER REQUESTS

Members: Amanda Vernon; Mary Burnette; Sandy Young; Merrie Duncan

Friends & Relatives: Carol Loggins (Julie's mother); Phyllis Rader (Renay Nunn's mother); Tom Cecere & Thomas Leddy-Cecere (Vicki Waldrop's brother and nephew); Houston Hodges and Pat; Derek Emmerson (friend of Dallas and Jennifer Ferneau and Don Barnhart); Charlie Roell (Diane Lee's brother-in-law); Martha Wells (Kay Gentle's cousin's wife); Jillian Shandra (Melinda Harvey's daughter); Janie Putnam (friend of Gail Birdsong)

The Church: Candice Klein, our pastor-to-be; Big Cove Presbyterian; the Session; North Alabama Presbytery

Military & International: 1st LT Tyler Shrader (US Army Iraq) nephew of Linda Wheeler; all service men & women.

Our Nation: President Obama and our representatives

Big Cove Missions & Ministries: CARE Center; Vine Pastoral Counseling Center; The Presbyterian Home for Children

HAPPY BIRTHDAY this week!

Julie Loggins on December 21

Tom Jones on December 24

Bruce Harvey on December 24

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please pick up a 2017 Pledge Card from the sideboard in the narthex if you haven't already. Please return your pledge card to the attention of Diane Lee, Bookkeeper, in the offering plate today or next Sunday or mail it to the church.

The Big Cove Choir will present a Christmas cantata **tonight** at 7:00. Refreshments will be provided after the cantata. [Many thanks to Dexter Gentle for his work in creating the platform for the choir to stand on for the cantata!]

Wednesday Immersion Study/discussion will not meet this week or next week, but will resume on Jan 4.

The service at 5:30 on Christmas Eve will be a service of Lessons and Carols. Please join us! The offering received at the Christmas Eve Service will go to the Joy Gift Offering.

The Christmas Joy Offering is one of the five Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

Prayer Group is scheduled to meet Tue Dec 20 at noon.

Wednesday Immersion study/discussion will not meet this week or next week but will resume on January 4 at 6:00.

All of the Christmas wishes for children at the Presbyterian Home have been taken care of! Thank you so much!!

Centering Prayer will not meet during the holidays but will resume on Jan 9.

Mary will be out of the office tomorrow, Dec 19, but will be here regular hours on Tues.

**WELCOME TO BIG COVE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)**



“What is your Christmas Memory of Smells?”

December 18, 2016

Fourth Sunday of Advent

A JOURNEY OF MEMORIES

Advent is a time of remembering. In the weeks before Christmas we watch, wait, and prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ. We read Scriptures and practice church traditions that have been around for thousands of years. In our homes we put up lights, bake holiday treats, and sing songs to celebrate and remember Christ's birth.

This Advent season we will take a journey of memories--of sights, smells, tastes, and sounds that point to the promises of God in Jesus Christ.

“First Light” Worship – Sundays at 9 AM

Guitarist: John Isom

Percussionist: Jimmy Jones

Traditional Worship – Sundays at 11 AM

Music Director and Pianist: Jervon Niska

Nursery Available

www.bigcovechurch.org

256-533-5570

9 AM ~ FIRST LIGHT CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Called by God, We Gather

Call to Worship ~ Ringing of the Bell

Call to Worship Angels We Have Heard on High

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Revelation and Peace: Luke 2:10-14

Greeting Welcoming Christ Among Us

Sharing a Christmas Memory—Bruce Harvey

Preparation for Message Silent Night

Spoken to by God, We Listen

Isaiah 7:10-14 488
Luke 2:8-14 725

The Message “Good News of Great Joy”
Rev. Dr. Mel A. Strain

Believing in God, We Respond

Praise Reports and Prayer Requests
Announcements

Celebrating Our Blessings

Offertory O Come, All Ye Faithful

Blessed by God, We Give Thanks:

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

(Silent Reflection)

Sent by God, We Go Out

Sending Song Joy to the World!

Blessing and Sending



*The CCLI Music license allows *only the lyrics* (and not the musical score for the tunes) to be printed or projected.

11 AM ~ TRADITIONAL CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Preparing for Worship

The prelude marks the beginning of worship and is observed in silence.

Prelude “O Come, All Ye Faithful” Arr. Jarrod Radnich

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Revelation and Peace: Luke 2:10-14

All: Father, we thank you for revealing yourself through Jesus, and we praise you for the greatness of your love. Help us to share your peace with others and live our lives more like Christ every day. In His name we pray. Amen

Called by God, We Gather

One: By a Word, God created the heavens and the earth

All: By a Word, God revealed Himself to us through a Son.

One: By a Word, God gives us the promise of Eternal Life.

All: By a Word, He now invites us to worship Him.

Song of Worship Angels We Have Heard on High 188

Prayer of Confession

All: Emmanuel, God with us: You came that we might have life and have it more abundantly. We confess that we have not always lived up to your expectations for us. We are too often:

- **Impoverished of spirit. Grant us the fullness of your grace.**
- **Wrapped up in ourselves. Open us to others.**
- **Slow to learn. Teach us your ever-expanding truth.**
- **Proud over little things. Whet our hunger and thirst for your ways.**
- **Distracted of mind. Direct us to what is important: Your love for us...your will for our lives...and your sustaining Presence in every circumstance.**

Assurance of Pardon

Response Gloria Patri 734

Sharing a Christmas Memory—Dexter Gentle

Greeting Welcoming Christ Among Us

Spoken to by God, We Listen

Anthem “The Divine Expectation” Arr. Joseph Martin

Old Testament Isaiah 7:10-14 488

Song of Reflection The King of Glory Comes 159

Gospel Luke 2:8-14 725

Sermon “Good News of Great Joy”
Rev. Dr. Mel A. Strain

Hymn Joy to the World! 179

Affirmation of Faith (Second Helvetic Confession)

We believe that Jesus Christ is the sole Redeemer and Savior of the world, the King and High Priest, the true and awaited Messiah, that holy and blessed one whom all the predictions of the prophets promised. We believe that God appointed him beforehand and sent him to us. Now there only remains for all of us to give all glory to Christ, and believe in him, and rest in him alone.

Believing in God, We Respond

People’s Prayers and the Lord’s Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer (in unison)

Our father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Celebrating Our Blessings

Offertory “Mary, Did You Know”
Presley Birdsong, soloist

Doxology 34

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Sent by God, We Go Out

Song of Sending While By the Sheep 200

Blessing and Sending

Postlude “Czech Drumming Carol” Arr. Jarrod Radnich