

God’s People Gather to Worship
10:00am Worship

Welcome and News of our Church Family Liturgist: Carol Mebane

Announcements

Passing of the Peace

Prelude *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen* Arr by Jim Lucas
Beth Cape, Piano

Call to Worship

Psalm148:1-5
L: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!
P: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!
L: Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!
P: Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!
All: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.

† Opening Hymn 40 *Joy to the World* Arr. Lowell Mason
Beth Cape, Piano

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession: (Unison)

Lord God, We praise you for sending light into this world. We confess that we live as though the light has never defeated darkness. We confess that we ignore the Savior you sent to be among us and to live in us. We’ve kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for his coming each moment in our waiting hearts. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to Jesus. Help us rejoice in the light so that your grace can illuminate the darkened places of our hearts.....

Assurance of Pardon
Congregational Response
† Hymn 23 *Gloria in Excelsis Deo*

Time for Little Presbyterians

Prayer of Illumination

First Scripture Lesson Galatians 4:4-7

Special Music *O Holy Night* *arr. Jim Lucas*
Beth Cape, Piano

Second Scripture Lesson Luke 2:22-40

Sermon “Promises, Promises” Rev. Burt McGlawn

† Second Hymn 37 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*
Beth Cape, Piano

† Affirmation of Faith: (From the Brief Statement of Faith)

In life and death we belong to God, through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit. We trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Dedication of our Gifts, Tithes, and Offerings
Invitation for offering
† Doxology 592 *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*
† Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

† Closing Hymn 31 *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*
Beth Cape, Piano

† Benediction

Postlude *Go Tell It On the Mountain* Arr by Jim Lucas

†**You are invited to stand.**

WELCOME TO WORSHIP. We are delighted that you joined us this morning. We encourage families with children to sit near the front.

Childcare is provided for children ages 4 and under throughout the service in Room 120.

Hearing Aids Available – We provide hearing aids for the service. An usher will be happy to assist you.

Prayer request cards can be found in the pew racks. Place in offering plate if you have a prayer request.

 **Are you visiting? Welcome! Would you like to know more about the life and ministry of Faith Presbyterian Church?** We invite you to scan the QR code or go to our website <https://presby.org/worship-contact/> to submit a form requesting information. The church office’s number is (256) 881-4811.

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Faith Says Goodbye to Our Interim Pastor



Thank you Burt for all you have done!

Faith Welcomes Our New Pastor

Michael has warned his family that EVERYTHING is subject to being a sermon illustration. His sermon's usually introduce a tidbit or story about himself or something he has learned, but for future context. Michael was born and raised in Huntsville. He only moved away to go to seminary, but then moved back. Michael out punted his coverage by marrying Tammy Burgess. Their first date was at a Lady A concert, where they sneaked down to the floor seats, but sadly got kicked out, but not for sneaking down to the floor seats. They have a combined family of 4 kids: Reanna (21) Christian (18) Tyler (16) and Elijah (16). Also, they have two dogs: Porkchop and Harley.



Michael's favorite verses: Isaiah 1:18 and Genesis 28:16 among many others

Michael's favorite sports teams: Auburn Tigers, Dallas Cowboys, Atlanta Braves, Chicago Bulls

Hobbies: Michael loves to spend time with family. He also loves to referee sports. He says it is his hobby that pays. He currently refs football, boxing and MMA. When there is free time, Michael also loves to write and wants to write another (more) book(s).

More than any of this Michael is excited about the next chapter for Faith Presbyterian Church. He knows God has been doing great things for some time and is quite excited to see what God has in store next!

The Worship Committee could use some help in taking down the Advent materials in the Sanctuary and relocating them to the storage closet up stairs. We'll be working after the service today.

If you would like to donate to a Special Fund honoring Burt the number is 2957.



Today is the last day to donate to the Christmas Offering. Contributions will go to Heifer International for an Ark, North Alabama Presbytery, Huntsville Assistance Program and the Medical Benevolence Foundation. Put #2940 in the memo line of your check or on the envelope if it's cash. Thank you

HANDBELL RINGERS WANTED! The Sanctuary Handbell group is looking for new members who are interested in ringing with us. No experience is really needed - we can help you get started with a bell in each hand. Rehearsals are Wednesdays at **5:00 pm in room 100**. Please contact Stephen Sivley or Sally Priester for more information.

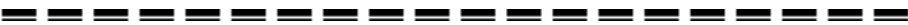


Faith is blessed with a large and beautiful facility, but that also leads to large (and not so beautiful) Utility Bills! Please help us be good stewards of our resources by turning off lights, locking doors, and returning thermostats to regular settings after using rooms!

The office will be closed on Monday, January 1st, 2024.



Wednesday Night Suppers resume on January 3, 2024. If you are planning to attend, please fill out the Supper Reservation below and put in the offering plate or call the office at 256-880-4811 and let us know.



WEDNESDAY SUPPER RESERVATION

January 3, 2024 at 5:30 pm

Menu: Fried Chicken, Corn, Potatoes, and Bread

Names: _____

_____ Adults (\$7.00) _____ Children (\$5.00) (10 and under)

Please indicate ages of children 10 and under _____

Standing reservation _____

Cold weather gear makes a big difference for the homeless. Bring new or gently used, clean adult size coats, gloves, hats, socks, thermal underwear, sweatshirts/pants, warm scarves, blankets and sleeping bags to the bin on the porch of the Fellowship Hall. Donations will be taken to First Stop through February for distribution. This is part of the mandate Jesus gives us in Matthew 25.



Thank you for your generous donations of spaghetti sauce for Faith's food pantry. The pantry items are used in the Elderly Mission Project (EMP) boxes that Faith volunteers pack and deliver monthly to 15 recipients. The EMP Item of the Month for **January is cans of tuna**. Put your donations in the back of the Fellowship Hall or under the table in the narthex.

Huntsville Assistance Program, HAP, is one of our mission partners, and they need help to stock their food pantries. They expect to have a record number of families with grocery shortages over the holiday season. Check their website to see current needs: <https://huntsvilleap.org/current-needs/>.

Bulletin and Newsletter Information: Please send all Bulletin and Newsletter information to Renee Savelle (rsavelle@presby.org) AND Kelly Forrester (kforrester@presby.org). The deadline for the February newsletter is **Friday, 1/19/2024**. Please have submissions turned in by this date!



Faith Voyagers Adult Sunday School Class is continuing a video series on the New Testament. All are welcome to join us at any time. We meet in room 109 at 9:30 am.



Ladies Tea on January 14! It will be a Ladies' Tea from 3-5 at the home of the Capes. Put it on your calendar and invite a friend!



www.thelearningsite.info

Faith Presbyterian Church



“Faith Presbyterian Church seeks to be Worship-Centered and Mission-Focused as we join together in Christ’s ministry”

Welcome to Worship

December 31, 2023

Rev. Burt McGlawn—Interim Pastor
Stephen Sivley—Director of Music Ministry
Dr. Beth Cape — Dir. Of Christian Ed./ Mission Coordinator

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