

# **POLLOCKSVILLE** PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



***January 1, 2023***

***Leader in Worship: Mary Ann LeRay***

***Music Accompanist: Jennifer Miller***

311 Main Street / P O Box 205 / Pollocksville, NC 28573

[www.PollocksvillePresbyterian.org](http://www.PollocksvillePresbyterian.org)

(252) 224-8181



## **The Session & Committee Chairs for 2022**

Clerk of Session: Jay Bender	(252-224-6201)	<a href="mailto:jaybender@ec.rr.com">jaybender@ec.rr.com</a>	
Treasurer: Ron Pound	(252-638-8397)	<a href="mailto:ronnclbs@aol.com">ronnclbs@aol.com</a>	
Jean Bender, Christian Ed	(252-229-6545)	<a href="mailto:jbbender2@embarqmail.com">jbbender2@embarqmail.com</a>	[Class of 2024]
John Bender, Worship	(252-675-8431)	<a href="mailto:jmbender1991@gmail.com">jmbender1991@gmail.com</a>	[Class of 2024]
Eileen Griswold, Stewardship	(252-671-0391)	<a href="mailto:eegriswold@aol.com">eegriswold@aol.com</a>	[Class of 2024]
Ed Jekel, Facilities	(315-723-4422)	<a href="mailto:edjekel@quadlink.net">edjekel@quadlink.net</a>	[Class of 2023]
Margaret Ross, Fellowship/Cong. Care	(252-670-8254)	<a href="mailto:adamandmargaretross@gmail.com">adamandmargaretross@gmail.com</a>	[Class of 2023]
Ed Valentine, Missions	(252-617-8278)	<a href="mailto:W2YPM@earthlink.net">W2YPM@earthlink.net</a>	[Class of 2023]
Rebecca Long, Evangelism/Memorial	(252-626-3521)	<a href="mailto:rebecca.long4702@gmail.com">rebecca.long4702@gmail.com</a>	[Class of 2022]
Diane McCaffity, Child Care	(252-229-7164)	<a href="mailto:dfmccaffity@gmail.com">dfmccaffity@gmail.com</a>	[Class of 2022]
Lyle Swanger, Personnel	(252-617-0697)	<a href="mailto:lyle.swanger@gmail.com">lyle.swanger@gmail.com</a>	[Class of 2022]
Presbyterian Men Moderator -	Jeremy LeRay	(252-474-7678)	<a href="mailto:jdleray@gmail.com">jdleray@gmail.com</a>

# Pollocksville Presbyterian Church

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas

11:00 a.m.

## Order of Worship

January 1, 2023

Prelude

“Hark, the Herald Angels Sing!”

*arr. David Cherwien*

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (*Responsive*)

*Leader:* How magnificent is all creation!

*People:* **God’s love is poured throughout all God has created.**

*Leader:* God’s love is poured out upon us each day.

*People:* **Praise be to God!**

*Leader:* Let your souls and spirits rejoice at the goodness of God.

*People:* **Let all the people praise God! AMEN.**

Prayer of Invocation

~ *Liturgist*

God of hope and light, your good news has been emblazoned across the skies, the great starry night of Jesus’ birth, sung by angels, celebrated by shepherds, witnessed by animals. You have given us a new chance, a reminder of your continual love for us. Be with us in this worship, we pray. Guide our thoughts, our lives, our spirits. Heal and restore us. For we ask this in Jesus’ Name. AMEN.

\*The Peace of Christ

*Leader:* ...The peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you all.

*People:* **And also with you.**

\*Opening Hymn

“I Danced in the Morning”

#302

*The Presbyterian Hymnal*

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Forgiveness

**We come to you this day, gracious Lord, exhausted from all the activities of the season. It seems that we spend so much energy, time, and resources in preparation, and then when it is over, we collapse. We wonder what happened to all the enthusiasm we had. Lord, forgive us for placing our energies in getting and gathering. Give us peace and strength to renew our commitment to you. Remind us again to look around at the many ways in which we can be of service to you by serving others. Help us move forward in our compassion and not collapse in our witness. Heal us, merciful Lord, for we ask this in Jesus’ Name. AMEN.**

## *A Moment of Silent Confession*

### Assurance of God's Pardon

*Leader:* Though the world swirls around you and exhaustion threatens to overtake you, rest your spirits in the great God of all creation who is with you now and forever! God will give you strength and restore your spirits.

*People:* **Amen!**

Anthem "Light of the Stable" *Steve & Elizabeth Rhymer* ~ *Jen Miller, soprano*

Prayer for Illumination ~ *Mary Ann LeRay*

Scripture First Scripture Isaiah 63: 7-9 (MSG)

<sup>7-9</sup> I'll make a list of GOD's gracious dealings, all the things GOD has done that need praising, All the generous bounties of GOD, his great goodness to the family of Israel—Compassion lavished, love extravagant. He said, "Without question these are my people, children who would never betray me." So he became their Savior. In all their troubles, he was troubled, too. He didn't send someone else to help them. He did it himself, in person. Out of his own love and pity he redeemed them. He rescued them and carried them along for a long, long time.

Second Scripture Hebrews 2:10-18 (MSG)

<sup>10-13</sup> It makes good sense that the God who got everything started and keeps everything going now completes the work by making the Salvation Pioneer perfect through suffering as he leads all these people to glory. Since the One who saves and those who are saved have a common origin, Jesus doesn't hesitate to treat them as family, saying, I'll tell my good friends, my brothers and sisters, all I know about you; I'll join them in worship and praise to you. Again, he puts himself in the same family circle when he says, Even I live by placing my trust in God. And yet again, I'm here with the children God gave me. <sup>14-15</sup> Since the children are made of flesh and blood, it's logical that the Savior took on flesh and blood in order to rescue them by his death. By embracing death, taking it into himself, he destroyed the Devil's hold on death and freed all who cower through life, scared to death of death. <sup>16-18</sup> It's obvious, of course, that he didn't go to all this trouble for angels. It was for people like us, children of Abraham. That's why he had to enter into every detail of human life. Then, when he came before God as high priest to get rid of the people's sins, he would have already experienced it all himself—all the pain, all the testing—and would be able to help where help was needed.

Sermon "The Gift That Keeps Giving" ~ *Mary Ann LeRay*

\*Hymn of Response "Heaven Came Down" #371  
Sing to the Lord Hymnal

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

## Morning Prayer and Lord's Prayer

**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.**

### \*The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. AMEN.**

### \*Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.**

## Offering of our Tithes and Gifts

### Offertory

**"What Child Is This?"** *arr. Kristin Campbell*

### \*Doxology

**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. Amen.**

### \*Prayer of Dedication (*Unison*)

**Everlasting Father, thank you that you are the light of the world, guiding our steps on your path. Your word says that the earth is yours, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to you. We recognize everything we have belongs to you. We acknowledge that our very lives belong to you. We now offer back to you a portion of what you have given us. May God the Father prepare our journey, Jesus the Son guide our footsteps and the Holy Spirit watch over us, on every path that we follow. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.**

\*Closing Hymn

"Good Christian Men, Rejoice"

#182

Sing to the Lord Hymnal

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Postlude

"Rise Up, Shepherd and Follow" *African-American Spiritual*

*\*Please rise in body or spirit / **Bold:** Congregation Speaks*

*Welcome!*

**to everyone who is worshiping with us today.**

**~ Thank you to Mary Ann LeRay for leading in Worship today ~**

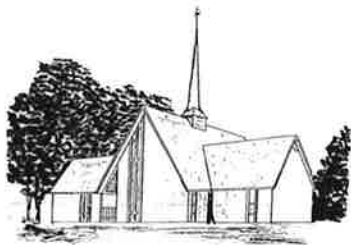
**~ Next Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> ~**

**Lyle Swanger will be filling the pulpit during the morning worship service**

Ushers & Greeters



**January: Rebecca Long & Diane McCaffity**



### **Guest Speakers for Pollocksville Presbyterian Church**

January 8

Lyle Swanger

January 15 (Installation & Communion)

Rev. Gary Howell

January 22

Rev. David D. McDonald

January 29

Rev. Barbara Hager

February 5

Rev. Dr. David Vanderbilt

February 12

Jay Bender

February 19

Rev. Dr. Nancy Gladden

February 26

Rev. Gary Howell



### **Prayer List Additions as of 12-25-2022**

*The family/friends of Chanc' Eberhart. Former student of Amber's died in a vehicle accident on the 18<sup>th</sup>; Vivian Eubanks passed away. Please keep Denford and family in your prayers (Jerry Burkot); Doug & Ellie Williams' illness (Bob Mattocks)*

*Prayers for Our Nation; Our Military; Our Church; PPC Childcare and Staff*

**Our complete prayer list is available in the PollyPress.**



### **For Congregational Use: Lectionary Readings:**

Isaiah 63:7-9 and Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

**Daily Readings for January 1 – 7 use the following web link:**

<http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/devotions/month-month-lectionary-reading-list/>

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### **SPECIAL OFFERINGS**



***\$350 has been received to date for The Annual Christmas Joy Offering. It's not too late to give! If anyone would like to donate, earmark your check or envelope for the "JOY Offering" or use the special envelopes on the table in the narthex. Then drop in the offering plate.***



### **Announcements & Reminders**

**Sunday Mornings: 11:00 am – Worship in the Church Sanctuary & Streaming Live on Facebook & on PPC Website**

**Sundays at 9:45 am Adult Sunday School – *Remember your Bibles!*  
Children's Sunday School at 11 am**

**Wednesdays**

**6 pm Choir Practice**

**Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Church Office & Childcare Closed – HOLIDAY**

**Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**

**5 pm Session Meeting**

**Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Ordination & Installation of 2025 Elders**

**Communion during Morning Worship**

**Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>**

**MLK Holiday – Church Office & Childcare closed**

**7 pm Women's Circle Meeting –**

**Hostess, Mary Pound; Study Leader, Cathy Campbell**

**Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**5 pm Finance Committee Meeting**

**Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>**

**8 am Men's Breakfast – Team 1, Cook**

**Building Fund Sunday**

## FATHER'S LOVE LETTER

An intimate message from God to you.

*My Child,*

*You may not know me, but I know everything about you. Psalm 139:1 I know when you sit down and when you rise up. Psalm 139:2 I am familiar with all your ways. Psalm 139:3 Even the very hairs on your head are numbered. Matthew 10:29-31 For you were made in my image. Genesis 1:27 In me you live and move and have your being. Acts 17:28 For you are my offspring. Acts 17:28 I knew you even before you were conceived. Jeremiah 1:4-5 I chose you when I planned creation. Ephesians 1:11-12 You were not a mistake, for all your days are written in my book. Psalm 139:15-16 I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live. Acts 17:26 You are fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139:14 I knit you together in your mother's womb. Psalm 139:13 And brought you forth on the day you were born. Psalm 71:6 I have been misrepresented by those who don't know me. John 8:41-44 I am not distant and angry, but am the complete expression of love. 1 John 4:16 And it is my desire to lavish my love on you. 1 John 3:1 Simply because you are my child and I am your Father. 1 John 3:1 I offer you more than your earthly father ever could. Matthew 7:11 For I am the perfect father. Matthew 5:48 Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand. James 1:17 For I am your provider and I meet all your needs. Matthew 6:31-33 My plan for your future has always been filled with hope. Jeremiah 29:11 Because I love you with an everlasting love. Jeremiah 31:3 My thoughts toward you are countless as the sand on the seashore. Psalm 139:17-18 And I rejoice over you with singing. Zephaniah 3:17 I will never stop doing good to you. Jeremiah 32:40 For you are my treasured possession. Exodus 19:5 I desire to establish you with all my heart and all my soul. Jeremiah 32:41 And I want to show you great and marvelous things. Jeremiah 33:3 If you seek me with all your heart, you will find me. Deuteronomy 4:29 Delight in me and I will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4 For it is I who gave you those desires. Philippians 2:13 I am able to do more for you than you could possibly imagine. Ephesians 3:20 For I am your greatest encourager. 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 When you are brokenhearted, I am close to you. Psalm 34:18 As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you close to my heart. Isaiah 40:11 One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes. Revelation 21:3-4 And I'll take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth. Revelation 21:3-4 I am your Father, and I love you even as I love my son, Jesus. John 17:23 For in Jesus, my love for you is revealed. John 17:26 He is the exact representation of my being. Hebrews 1:3 He came to demonstrate that I am for you, not against you. Romans 8:31 And to tell you that I am not counting your sins. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 His death was the ultimate expression of my love for you. 1 John 4:10 I gave up everything I loved that I might gain your love. Romans 8:31-32 If you receive the gift of my son Jesus, you receive me. 1 John 2:23 And nothing will ever separate you from my love again. Romans 8:38-39 Come home and I'll throw the biggest party heaven has ever seen. Luke 15:7 I have always been Father, and will always be Father. Ephesians 3:14-15*

*My question is... Will you be my child? John 1:12-13*

*I am waiting for you. Luke 15:11-32*

*Love, Your Dad...  
Almighty God*

