

# POLLOCKSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



**Sunday, December 3, 2023**

***Leader in Worship: Kenneth Yearick, Pastor***

***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>                           |  |
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# Pollocksville Presbyterian Church

1st Sunday of Advent

Order of Worship

11:00 a.m.

December 3, 2023

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's season and to pray for the return of the light. The church has Christianized that practice in the lighting of the Advent wreath. To us, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again in all fullness into the darkness of our world. Until the dawning of that Great Day, we watch and wait in Holy Spirit for Christ's coming into the darkness of our world, lighting candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, and remembering the promises of God with prayer.*

*Lighting of the Advent Candle (see insert) ~ Hope ~ ~ Robert and Hailey Bender*

Response (*remain seated*) "He Came Down" *See Hymn Insert*

Call to Worship (*Responsive*)

*Leader:* O deepening darkness, make room for us!

*People:* **O gathering darkness, receive our prayers.**

*Leader:* O luminous darkness, bring Mystery near.

*People:* **O welcoming darkness, let us find God.**

*Leader:* We gather to worship, O God, seeking your light.

*People:* **We come by your invitation, led by your love.**

*Leader:* Bless us in our worship, that we may see your light.

*People:* **Bless us that we may be your light,  
the light of Christ dawning in this world's night.**

Prayer of Invocation

*~ Liturgist*

\*The Peace of Christ

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

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

\*Opening

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"  
*The Presbyterian Hymnal*

# 1

## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Forgiveness

*Pastor:* Lord God,

we praise you for sending light into this world. We confess that we live as though the light had 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.

*People:* **Forgive us for not opening our eyes to Jesus. Prepare us for His return. Help us rejoice in the light, so that your grace can illuminate the darkened places of our hearts.**

### *Silence is Observed*

### Assurance of God's Pardon

~ *Pastor Yearick*

### Anthem

"We Await the Love You Bring"

by *Frombach arr. Lau*

~ *Choir*

### Prayer for Illumination

~ *Pastor Yearick*

### Scripture

Mark 13:24-37 (NIV)

<sup>24</sup> "But in those days, following that distress, "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; <sup>25</sup> the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken." <sup>26</sup> "At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup> And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens. <sup>28</sup> "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup> Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. <sup>30</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. <sup>31</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. <sup>32</sup> "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup> Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. <sup>34</sup> It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. <sup>35</sup> "Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. <sup>36</sup> If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. <sup>37</sup> What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'"

### Sermon

"*Living the Hyphen Fully!*"

~ *Pastor Ken Yearick*

### Sharing of Joys and Concerns

### Pastoral Prayer

\*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

\*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

~ Pastor Yearick

\*Communion Hymn

“Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread”

#505

*The Presbyterian Hymnal*

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

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

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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.**

Words of Institution

Communion

Prayer after Communion

\*Closing Hymn

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

# 8

The Presbyterian Hymnal

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Postlude

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

*Welcome!*

**Welcome to everyone who is worshipping with us today.**

~ **Next Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>** ~

**Jay Bender will be filling the pulpit during the morning worship service**

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**Prayer List Additions as of 11/26/2022**

Jim Daughtry in hospital with pneumonia- he used to be the Extension agent here in Jones County (Mary Pound); Warren and Frances Waters - surgery was successful but recovery has been difficult, and he needs our prayers (Ed Jekel and Ken Yearick)

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

**Our complete prayer list is available in the PollyPress. These names will remain on this list for 3 weeks.**



**December: Ron Pound**

**January: Rebecca Diane McCaffity**



## Reminders & Announcements

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

Sunday, December 3

5 pm Session Meeting

Sunday, December 10

Annual Christmas Joy Offering

Monday, December 11

6:30 pm Women’s Annual While Elephant Party Christmas

Wednesday, December 13

5 pm Annual Community Christmas Dinner at PPC

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

Morning Worship Service - Building Fund Sunday

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

6:30 pm Christmas Eve Service at PPC

– Communion & Candlelight Service

Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup> – Church Office Closed - HOLIDAY

Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> Through January 1<sup>st</sup>

– Childcare Closed – Reopen Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>

Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>

Church Office Closed - HOLIDAY

Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>

Ordination & Installation of 2026 Elders

5 pm Session Meeting

Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup>

Church Office & Childcare Closed – MLK HOLIDAY

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For Congregational Use: Lectionary Readings:

*Isaiah 64:1-9 and Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Matthew 13:24-37*

Daily Readings for December 3 – 9 use the following web link:

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



**\$540 has been received to date for The Annual**

**Thanksgiving Offering for Children's Hope Alliance, formally known as Barium Springs. It is not too late if you wish to contribute. Just mark on your check or pew envelope Thanksgiving Offering and drop in offering plate or give to Ron Pound. ~ Their mission is to provide a safe, healing journey for hurting children and families - creating hope now and in the future.**



The Annual Christmas Joy Offering will be received Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> during the Morning Worship Service.

God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need.



**" LESSONS AND CAROLS "** ~~~ Sunday Evening, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm  
in the Pollocksville Presbyterian Church Sanctuary



Please read the **Back Cover** in today's bulletin  
**"Getting Through The Holidays"**  
**Information on Grief Support Workshops at the Filling Station**



**Attention Women of the Church**

**You are invited to a floating baby shower ~ Sunday December 10<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 4  
in the fellowship hall of the church for Dana and John Bender.**

**Please mark your calendar and come help celebrate with them. Their baby list is at**

**<https://www.babylist.com/list/baby-dana-bender>**



**The Women of the Church ~ Annual White Elephant Christmas Dinner  
December 11<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m. at Attitudes in River Bend**

**The main course selections are: A) baked chicken or B) stuffed porkchop with cornbread stuffing,  
The cost will be \$18 to include main course, sides (mashed potatoes with gravy, mixed beans), roll,  
and dessert, coffee or tea, tax and tip. Payment is made at the counter after dinner.**

**MUST RSVP main course selection by December 4<sup>th</sup> to Cathy Campbell  
at 252-617-2265 (if text include your name), or [campbellrobertc@embarqmail.com](mailto:campbellrobertc@embarqmail.com)**



# Getting Through The Holidays

## A Three Session Series of **GRIEF SUPPORT WORKSHOPS** at The Filling Station in Pollocksville, NC

*The upcoming holidays can be a difficult time for those who are experiencing loss in their lives. Pruitt Health at Home is offering a series of workshops to provide education, information, and support for those who are dealing with grief and loss.*

The workshops are free & open to adults of all ages. Some topics discussed will include:

*Dealing with Difficult Emotions During the Holidays*  
*Survival Tips for Handling the Holidays*  
*Making Decisions About Holiday Traditions and Rituals*

**Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 10AM**

**Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 10AM**

**Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 10AM**

Join us at The Filling Station, 221 Main Street, Pollocksville  
Facilitated by Carol Jackson, Medical Social Worker at Pruitt Health at Home

**TO REGISTER, PLEASE CALL 252-514-6016**





## LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH – 2023

### WEEK ONE: HOPE

*(Reader 1):* In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth; and set lights in the sky – sun and moon and stars. By these stars, our ancestors chartered their journeys. By these stars, they knew God was with them.

*(Reader 2):* This morning we light one candle to bring the fire of the stars down from heaven to earth, to nestle among the greens.

*(Reader 1):* This candle – a purple candle – is the Candle of Hope – also called the Prophecy Candle. *(Light a purple candle)*

*(Reader 2):* We too are on a journey, and we do not always know the way. But we chart our path by the star of hope. Even when better days seem far away and the weight of the world seems to crush your promises, we set our face steadily towards the light.

*(Reader 1):* Hear God's promise of hope from Jeremiah 33: 14-16:

*“The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time, I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’”*

*(Reader 2):* Let us pray:

*Faithful God, out of death, you bring life. Renew us in hope that we may be alert to the burgeoning of Christ's advent among us. As we search for signs of hope this week, help us to BECOME the signs of hope that others are seeking. As these candles are but a glimpse of the light of the heavens, help us to be a glimpse of heaven's hope. God of promise, God of Hope, into our darkness, come. AMEN.*

*(Reader 1):* Let us sing verse 1 of “He Came Down” – on your insert.

## He Came Down

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He came down that we may have hope; he

came down that we may have hope; he came down that we may

have hope; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.

*Leader:* Why did he come?

*Additional stanzas:*

... that we may have peace  
 ... that we may have joy  
 ... that we may have love

Because this traditional Cameroon piece begins with the refrain, it does not initially reveal that it is cast as a call-and-response song. Assigning the answers to the congregation rather than to the leader is a notable affirmation of the corporate wisdom of God's people.