

POLLOCKSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Sunday, December 31, 2023

Leader in Worship: Pastor Ken Yearick

Music Accompanist: Jennifer Miller

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

www.PollocksvillePresbyterian.org

(252) 224-8181



The Session & Committee Chairs for 2023

Clerk of Session: Jay Bender	(252-224-6201)	jaybender@ec.rr.com	
Treasurer: Ron Pound	(252-638-8397)	ronnclbs@gmail.com	
Sheron Bender, <i>Child Care</i>	(252-270-9967)	sbww@ec.rr.com	[Class of 2025]
Shirley Bryan, <i>Evangelism/Memorial</i>	(910-581-6141)	vsb218@icloud.com	[Class of 2025]
Amber Swanger, <i>Personnel</i>	(252-515-2385)	akkocher91@gmail.com	[Class of 2025]
Jean Bender, <i>Christian Ed</i>	(252-229-6545)	jbbender2@embargmail.com	[Class of 2024]
John Bender, <i>Worship</i>	(252-675-8431)	jmbender1991@gmail.com	[Class of 2024]
Eileen Griswold, <i>Stewardship</i>	(252-671-0391)	eegriswold@aol.com	[Class of 2024]
Ed Jekel, <i>Facilities</i>	(315-723-4422)	edjekel@quadlink.net	[Class of 2023]
Margaret Ross, <i>Fellowship/Cong. Care</i>	(252-670-8254)	adamandmargaretross@gmail.com	[Class of 2023]
Ed Valentine, <i>Missions</i>	(252-617-8278)	W2YPM@earthlink.net	[Class of 2023]
Presbyterian Men Moderator - Jeremy LeRay	(252-474-7678)	jdleray@gmail.com	

Pollocksville Presbyterian Church

1st Sunday of Christmas

Order of Worship

11:00 a.m.

December 31, 2023

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (*Responsively*)

Leader: What a year this has been!

People: **So many things have happened. Some of them have been wonderful; others very sad.**

Leader: In all of this our Lord has been with us, guiding, healing, comforting, and rejoicing.

People: **Thanks be to God for God's continual presence with us.**

Leader: Now we are on the threshold to a new tomorrow.

People: **We don't know what it will hold for us.**

Leader: In all of what is to come, our Lord will be with us.

People: **Guiding, healing, comforting, and rejoicing with us.**

ALL: **Thank you, Lord, for your steadfast love and presence.**

Prayer of Invocation

~ Liturgist

*Passing of the Peace

Leader: ... May the peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

*Opening Hymn

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

#28

The Presbyterian Hymnal

Call to Confession

~ Pastor Ken Yearick

Unison Prayer of Confession

Lord, you have asked us to feed and give drink to those who hunger, to welcome the stranger, to visit those who are sick and imprisoned. When we look back on this year, we might be able to say we did some of those things.

We remember the enthusiasm with which we started out this waning year, ready to do your work and witness to your love. But you know how things got in our way. We placed comfort of self before service to others. We took the "easy way out" whenever we could. And you wept for us. Now we are on the brink of the new year. We cannot change what we did not do, but we can make a covenant with you to be your witnesses in our words, thoughts and deeds to your people so that when you say, "Have you given food and drink to those who hunger and thirst, welcomed the stranger, visited the sick and imprisoned?" We can respond with a joyful "Yes! Lord, we have done these things with joy and love!" Forgive us for what we have not done. Inspire us to do what you would have us do. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

Silence is Kept

Assurance of God's Pardon (*Responsively*)

Leader: God is making all things new. The past is over and done. It taught us many lessons.

People: **But God is the God of the future, new opportunities, new hopes, new dreams, renewed vision.**

Leader: God dwells with us to be our God. We are not alone.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

~ *Choir*

Prayer for Illumination

~ *Pastor Ken Yearick*

Scripture Old Testament Reading Leviticus 25:1-5, 8-12 (NIV)

The LORD said to Moses at Mount Sinai, ²"Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'When you enter the land I am going to give you, the land itself must observe a sabbath to the LORD. ³For six years sow your fields, and for six years prune your vineyards and gather their crops. ⁴But in the seventh year the land is to have a year of sabbath rest, a sabbath to the LORD. Do not sow your fields or prune your vineyards. ⁵Do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the grapes of your untended vines. The land is to have a year of rest.

⁸"Count off seven sabbath years—seven times seven years—so that the seven sabbath years amount to a period of forty-nine years. ⁹Then have the trumpet sounded everywhere on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement sound the trumpet throughout your land. ¹⁰Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you; each of you is to return to your family property and to your own clan.

¹¹ The fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you; do not sow and do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the untended vines. ¹² For it is a jubilee and is to be holy for you; eat only what is taken directly from the fields.

The Gospel Lesson Luke 4:14-21 (NIV)

¹⁴ Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. ¹⁵ He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹ He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

The Message

"Is That All There Is?"

~ Pastor Ken Yearick

*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.

*Hymn of Response

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

#44

The Presbyterian Hymnal

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer and The 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.

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 Ken Yearick*

*Closing Hymn

“Joy to the World!”
The Presbyterian Hymnal

#40

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

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

* * * * *

Welcome!

Welcome to everyone who is worshiping with us today.

* * * * *



**Communion - Sunday, January 7, 2024 - Baptism of the Lord
And Ordination and Installation of 2026 Elders**



December: Ron Pound

January: Rebecca Diane McCaffity

*If you would be willing to serve as an usher, please contact
John Bender at 252-675-8431 or email: jmbender1991@gmail.com.*



For Congregational Use: Lectionary Readings:

Isaiah 61:10-62:3 and Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

Daily Readings for December 31 – January 6 use the following web link:

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



Prayer List Additions as of 12/24/2023

Please pray for comfort & healing of the Family of Peg Swinehart, Lyle Swanger’s Grandmother who passed away; Lori Davis (PPCCC Director) and Family in the sudden death of her nephew; Kensley Napier from SC – Bone cancer (Margaret Ross); Barbara is back in the hospital with an appendix that burst but is recovering (Ed Edmondson); Jay has to have more eye surgery on January 3 and January 13 (Sheron Bender); Friend Evan who built their home needs our thoughts and prayers as he fights his cancer (Blair Purvis)

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.*

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

Monday, January 1st Church Office & Childcare Closed - HOLIDAY

Sunday, January 7th Communion during Morning Worship

11 am Ordination & Installation of 2026 Elders

5 pm Session Meeting

Monday, January 15th Church Office & Childcare Closed – MLK HOLIDAY

7 pm Women’s Circle Meeting

at the Home of Jean Bender, Hostess

Study Leader for Lesson 4: Hilda Bender

Sunday, January 28th 8 am Men’s Breakfast – Team 2, Cook

Building Fund Sunday

Installation Service for Pastor Ken Yearick