



Prayer List

EAMC

-Steve Salo

MAGNOLIA PLACE

-Mike Hozer

COLUMBUS

-Rona Phillips

HOME

-Don Bravaldo
-Larry Dalrymple
-Isobel Prater
-Bill Pugh
-Todd White

A WORD FROM OUR PASTORS

Advent Sunday School Series

Once again this year we are glad to be offering a special Sunday School series in the season of Advent titled, “Illuminating Advent.” The class will take place in Conway Hall during the regular Sunday School hour (beginning at 9:45) and will explore the traditional Advent themes of hope, peace, joy, and love from a Reformed theological perspective.

There are many reasons we enjoy doing these special liturgical series throughout the year. Classes like the ones we do during Advent and Lent give us an opportunity to mix and mingle Sunday School classes for a month or so, challenging us all to step out of our routines to hear new voices during our education hour. It also offers a chance for those who aren’t regularly attending Sunday School to jump in and enrich their Sunday morning experience beyond the worship hour. Additionally, it allows the teachers who regularly give of their time and energy to teach our adult classes a bit of a reprieve and time to recharge.

Finally, and perhaps selfishly, we enjoy this time with you. Although we do not regularly teach on Sundays, when we offer these series we are reminded that we serve a congregation of curious and eager learners. Preaching can often feel very one-sided, but in the classroom setting we benefit from hearing your questions and insights, which in turn deepens our own understanding of life and faith. We hope to see you in Conway for what we know will be a meaningful time of learning together!

Kathy & Nick

Don’t forget: Children’s Program and Christmas Mission Dinner, December 1 at 5 p.m. in the Sanctuary! Bring a dish to share at our potluck meal and wear your festive Christmas attire - prizes will be awarded for the outfits with the most Christmas spirit!

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Auburn, Alabama

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FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE NEWS

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, November 24

- 8:30 AM -Communion (Chapel)
- 9:30 AM -Advent Potluck Breakfast (Baird)
- 11:00 AM -Worship (Sanctuary)
- 5:00 PM -Chancel Bell Choir
- 5:00 PM -Children's Dinner & Choirs

Tuesday, November 26

- 12:00 PM -PCM Board Meeting

Thursday, November 28 Office Closed *Happy Thanksgiving!*

Friday, November 29 Office Closed

Saturday, November 30

- 7:30 AM -Parking Lot Opens for Iron Bowl

Sunday, December 1

- 8:30 AM -Communion (Chapel)
- 9:45 AM -Sunday School
- 11:00 AM -Worship (Sanctuary)
- 5:00 PM -Children's Program &
Christmas Mission Dinner

Wednesday, December 4

- 8:00 AM -Men's Bible Study (Library)
- 9:30 AM -PW Coordinating Team (Library)
- 11:30 AM -Women's Bible Study (Library)

Thursday, December 5

- 9:00 AM -Weekly Exercise Class (Chapel)
- 7:00 PM -Choir Rehearsal

Coming Soon:

- Dec. 7 8-1, WE HELP Cookie Walk, Grace UMC
- Dec. 8 11 a.m., Special Music @ worship
2 p.m., Auburn Christmas Parade
- Dec. 19 5:30 p.m., Service of Grief & Remembrance
- Dec. 24 5:30 p.m., Christmas Eve Service

THURSDAY DINNERS

November 21 was the final dinner for this calendar year. We are so grateful for all the hard work of our kitchen volunteers and for the delicious meals they prepared. We hope they enjoy a restful Advent and look forward to spending Thursday evenings together again in January!

As we approach the holiday season, some of us may find ourselves encountering additional stress or worry. Some of us may also feel overwhelmed. To address these feelings I want to suggest one way to reduce those feelings of stress and gain some other benefits. My suggestion: BAKING!!

There are some particular psychological benefits to those who like to bake. Baking can have positive effects similar to meditation to reduce stress and increase happiness. Baking takes you out of your frantic world by requiring your full attention. There is the physical movements of measuring, stirring, rolling out dough and adding fillings or icing. Stress reduction comes when you focus on the smell and taste of your creation, on being present as you create and escape from your usual stress for a period of time.

Baking sometimes delivers a message that words cannot convey. Think of the times of immense happiness or sadness. Usually such occasions such as birthdays, weddings or funerals involve food. Food brings comfort and an awareness that others think of you and the occasion. Beyond recognizing your connection to others, baking offers you an overall sense of well-being and balance in the midst of chaos.

Baking can also be an expression of creativity. Some people like to make music or create works of art. Baking also offers that opportunity and can also relieve stress. Baking offers an alternate outlet for creative expression. Think of the variety of ways that cakes are decorated and the artistry that is involved. The sense of accomplishment of the finished product provides a positive sense of well-being.

One caveat to this topic: If you do not like to bake, then do not expect to get positive benefits. You may need another outlet for stress reduction!

Your Faith Community Nurses,
Jan Widell & Erin Brown

Christ the King Sunday

November 24, 2019

- 8:30 a.m. - Communion (Chapel)
- 11:00 a.m. - Worship (Sanctuary)
- Worship Leader: Rev. Nick Reed

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2019

- 8:30 a.m. - Communion (Chapel)
- 11:00 a.m. - Communion (Sanctuary)
- Worship Leader: Rev. Kathy Reed

CE NEWS

- There will be no Youth activities this Sunday, November 24, but Children's Choirs WILL meet.
- The Auburn Christmas parade will be Sunday, December 8 at 2 p.m. Join us in Baird Hall after church for pizza and then we will hop on our float and enjoy the Christmas festivities!
- On Sunday, December 15, Confirmands, Youth, and anyone else who would like to join will gather at the church for a time of Christmas caroling at 4 p.m. Directly following, Junior and Senior High Youth will gather at the Sarkowski's house at 6:30 for the Youth Christmas party. Chris Sarkowski

WE HELP COOKIE WALK

Thanks to all who are baking cookies for the WeHelp Cookie Walk. You are building houses with your measuring cups and mixers! Cookies can be brought to our church on Thursday afternoon (12/5) or Friday morning (12/6) for transport to the sale. Cookies can also be brought to Grace United Methodist Church on Glenn Avenue between 2:00 and 7:00 p.m. on December 6. Contact Martha Henk (821-9047 or marthahenk@bellsouth.net) with questions or to have your cookies picked up. See you December 7 at the Cookie Walk between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.

2020 PLEDGES

If you have not yet done so, please submit your pledges of time, talent, and treasure during the offering Sunday or mail (or bring by) to the church office as soon as possible. Additional pledge materials can be found in the narthex, chapel vestibule, or church office. The Finance Committee will begin working on a final budget for 2020 in the next couple weeks and it is necessary to have total pledge numbers available for this process.

ADVENT POINSETTIAS

Deadline for ordering poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary and chapel is December 2. If you do not have an order form, please contact the church office, via e-mail or phone. Cost is \$20/plant.

Birthdays

- Nov. 27 Philip Carter
- Nov. 28 Allen Patterson, Gerri Talley
- Dec. 1 Bobbie Thurlow
- Dec. 3 Isobel Prater
- Dec. 4 Curt Bailey, Anna Carter
- Dec. 6 Sara Ann Curry, Leslie Parsons, Joe Peterson
- Dec. 7 Lily Wells, Duncan Whatley

Anniversaries

- Nov. 24 Reed & Vickie Cooper
- Nov. 29 Phil & Laura Shevlin
- Dec. 6 Ed & Dorothy Moran

RECEPTIONISTS

November 25-27

AM - Larry McQueen, MaryBeth Webeler, Bob Recknor.

PM - Bonney Schowalter, Carol Griffin, Vicki Throckmorton.

December 2-6

AM - Bob Walkup, Carol Griffin, Jo Cooper, Ken Autrey, Jim Disque.

PM - Doug Klinkenborg, Gerri Talley, Margaret Brinkley, Terry Ley, Bob Recknor.

A big THANK YOU to Kay Recknor and Susan Stanley for being such gracious hosts of the appreciation luncheon last Monday. The food was delicious and the company delightful: the church is truly fortunate to have to such dedicated volunteer coordinators. Wonderful work, ladies!

WELCOME, CAROLINE

At the November 17 congregational meeting, the recommendation of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee to call Caroline Barnett as our new Associate Pastor/Campus Minister was overwhelmingly approved. Caroline will begin her ministry with us on Sunday, December 15! Please find included Caroline's biography provided by our APNC. Many thanks to our APNC committee members for their hard work and prayerful consideration: Holly Mitchell (chair), Leslie Carter, Brett Clark, Grace Marenka, Daniel Parsons, Ellen Sherling, and Jeffrey Stewart.

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee is excited to nominate **Caroline Barnett** to the position of Associate Pastor for Campus Ministry!

Caroline comes to us from Prairie Village, Kansas, a suburb of Kansas City. We were really impressed with her from the very first phone interview. She possesses all of the leadership competencies that the committee was looking for including compassion, preaching and worship leadership, and spiritual maturity. Other gifts we see in Caroline are her organizational skills, youthful enthusiasm, and vitality; the desire to include others; courageous thinking; introspection; intellect; new ideas for Ukirk; past involvement in and leading campus ministry; and experience in serving a Presbyterian church in a university setting.

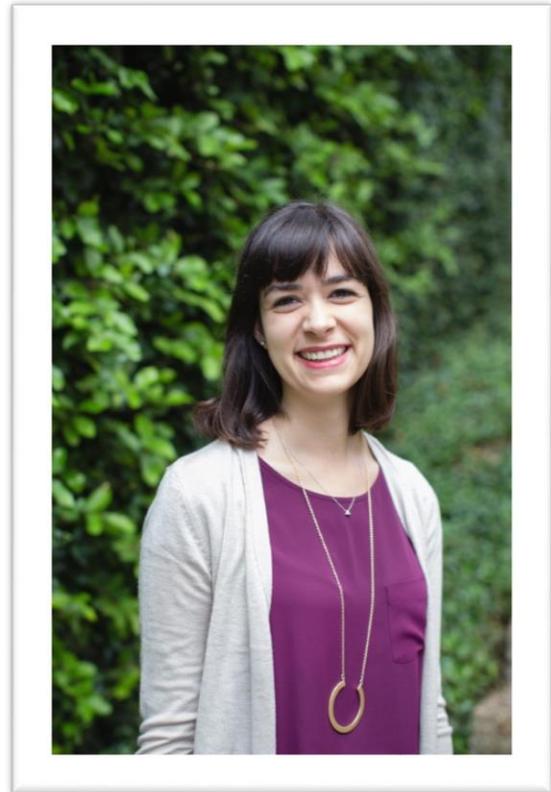
She is a graduate of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary where she received her Master of Divinity in 2019. She also has a Bachelor of Arts from Kalamazoo College where she studied religion and anthropology/sociology. Between receiving her BA and starting on her MDiv, she moved to Washington D.C. to work as an editorial assistant for *Sojourners* magazine. Cultivating a deep love of words, Caroline has published articles on the topic of religion, popular culture, and social justice. Her words have been featured in *Sojourners* magazine, *The Presbyterian Outlook*, and *Believe Out Loud*.

While in seminary, Caroline explored her call to ministry by working as a ministry intern in a church in Austin very similar to FPC Auburn. She also worked as a teacher's assistant in seminary and a chaplain in a hospital. In all three settings, she found meaning in listening to people's pressing questions about faith and helping provide the tools to work through them.

Here is a brief note that Caroline sent to the APNC:

Last month, while sitting in the Atlanta airport after my interview with the PNC, I called a friend to debrief my trip, and I couldn't stop smiling as I talked about my time spent in Auburn. I didn't want to get ahead of myself, but even then, I had a feeling that God was calling me to First Presbyterian Church of Auburn. Thanks be to God the PNC felt the same way!

Since my first emails and phone calls with the PNC, I have been impressed by FPC's love for the community and your commitment to the Auburn University students. As someone who spent much of my free time in college in the basement of the school chapel—the gathering place for all religious groups on campus—I know firsthand the impact of a welcoming spiritual



community. When touring FPC's building, I was pleased to see it is a space where students feel comfortable to spend time, even if all they need is a quiet place to finish a paper. I believe it is a testament to the community formed in this congregation and the ways in which church can be a home for all of God's people.

For this and many more reasons, I am excited to join in the ministry of First Presbyterian Church and I look forward to meeting you soon! As I prepare to move to Auburn and you prepare for a new person in your midst, I will be praying for you and for the work we will do together, trusting that God is with us through it all.

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee enthusiastically recommends that Caroline Barnett be approved as FPC Auburn's Associate Pastor for Campus Ministry. We believe that she will be a fantastic addition to the staff of FPC Auburn. Her potential to grow and flourish under the mentorship of our wonderful heads of staff is evident and the gifts she will bring are a true blessing to not only our students but our entire congregation. We look forward to her arrival in mid-December. In the meantime, if you would like see more of her writing or hear Caroline lead worship and preach, go to <https://carolinesbarnett.wordpress.com/>.

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee 2019

Holly Mitchell, Chair
Leslie Carter
Brett Clark
Grace Marenka
Daniel Parsons
Ellen Sherling
Jeffery Stewart