



## Prayer List

### MAGNOLIA PLACE

-Mike Hozer

### COLUMBUS

-Rona Phillips

### HOME

-Don Bravaldo  
-Larry Dalrymple  
-Isobel Prater  
-Bill Pugh  
-Kay Recknor  
-Steve Salo  
-Todd White

## A WORD FROM OUR SENIOR PASTORS

“Why did he come?...He Came down that we may have love...he came down that we may have love; hallelujah forever more.”

The words above are from the Cameroon hymn “He Came Down.” We have sung this hymn during worship during both the Advent and Christmas seasons. The hymn begins with the worship leader asking the question, “Why did he (Jesus) come?”. The people give a simple but powerful answer and affirmation of Christ’s purpose for the world, “He came down that we may have love.” As the Advent season begins to draw to a close and the Christmas season begins, we remember, proclaim, rejoice together that God’s love for the world has been revealed to us through Jesus Christ!

Love is the greatest gift that has been given to world. Love is the core of the church’s purpose in the world. Love is the foundation for our own discipleship. The Gospel stories of Jesus’ love during his life and ministry are the guiding truth for our own love towards one another. A love that reaches out to those on the margins, a love that holds each other accountable, a love that forgives, and a love that serves. The love of God revealed through the cross and the empty tomb proclaims to us the good news that God’s love reigns forever.

As we light our candles and as we sing hymns of joy this Christmas season and remember Jesus Christ’s love for the world, may we remember our own calling as disciples of Christ is to love one another as Jesus loved us. May we all find time to reflect over these next few weeks the various ways our words and actions can live out this calling. May we all pause and ask ourselves, are there people in our lives and in the world that we need to love more fully? May Christ be your guiding light for how you choose to love all of God’s creation.

Grace and Peace,  
Nick and Kathy

## *Weekly Calendar*

## FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE NEWS

### **Sunday, December 22**

8:30 AM -Communion (Chapel)

9:45 AM -Sunday School

11:00 AM -Worship (Sanctuary)

### **Tuesday, December 24**

5:30 PM -Christmas Eve Service

### **Wednesday, December 25** *Merry Christmas*

Office Closed

### **Thursday, December 26**

Office Closed

### **Friday, December 27**

Office Closed

### **Sunday, December 29**

11:00 AM -Worship (Sanctuary)

### **Wednesday, January 1** *Happy New Year!*

Office Closed

### *Coming in 2020:*

Sunday, Jan. 12 -

Elder Ordination/Installation, 11 a.m.

Children & Youth Mission Event, 4 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 9 -

Congregational Dinners Resume, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 26 -

Children's Choirs & Youth Fellowship Resumes

Feb. 8-9 -

Leith Lecture Series

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## RECEPTIONISTS

December 23-27

AM - Bob Recknor, Bob Recknor, Office closed  
25-27.

PM - Melanie Boecklen, ?, Office closed 25-27.

December 30 - January 3

AM - ?, Larry McQueen, Office closed, Ken  
Autrey, Jim Disque.

PM - Susan Stanley, ?, Office closed, ?, ?.

As we enter the Christmas and New Year holidays, it gives us an opportunity to reflect on this past year and anticipate the New Year. Many of us found 2019 brought new and unusual challenges and celebrations. Some welcomed new family members but also said goodbye to other friends and family members. Some moved to Auburn from other places. Moving can be challenging even when the move is for positive reasons. Moving requires us to find new friends and manage a new environment. Just learning how to drive to the grocery store can be a challenge in a new place. Moving also means leaving other friends and church connections. Moving also provides an opportunity to alter not only your physical living space but also create new connections and memories.

As we look forward to 2020 we color our expectations of the New Year with memories of times past. This helps us to recall how we handled other changes in life and can provide a way to adapt to the new challenges. We are also members of a strong and supportive church community. We find others who are walking with us, ahead of us or coming behind us on the Road of Life. I know from personal experience that our faith community is present and encouraging in whatever circumstance you might be. There is someone in our church that has walked the path you are on. That knowledge gives support and also a way to connect with each other.

As part of my holiday time, I will be visiting my son and his family in Rhode Island. Family time is important to me so I treasure these opportunities. I wish each of you the Joys of Christmas and Blessings for the New Year. I thank you for the comfort and support and moments of celebration that you have shared with me in 2019.

Your Faith Community Nurses,  
Jan Widell & Erin Brown

### **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

December 22, 2019

8:30 a.m. - Communion (Chapel)

11:00 a.m. - Worship (Sanctuary)

Worship Leader: Rev. Kathy Reed

### **First Sunday of Christmas**

December 29, 2019

11:00 a.m. - Worship (Sanctuary)

Worship Leaders: Chris Sarkowski &

Dale Peterson

## CE NEWS

A couple of calendar reminders...

No Children and Youth Dec. 22, 29, and January 5.

No Children and Youth Sunday school Dec. 29.

January 12, all children and youth are invited to an afternoon of mission and service, 4-5pm in Baird Hall.

No Children and Youth January 15.

We will resume our regular Sunday evening schedule January 26. Chris Sarkowski

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### COOKIE WALK UPDATE: THE REST OF THE STORY!

Many thanks to all who made cookies, bought cookies, delivered cookies and volunteered at the recent Cookie Walk for Habitat for Humanity. More than \$12,000 was raised by this event—all going towards building a home for a deserving family.

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### PCM ASSISTS 77 FAMILIES IN THIRD QUARTER

The Presbyterian Community Ministry (PCM) provided financial and home repair assistance to 77 Lee County families during the second quarter. Assistance included loans and grants for utility bills, home repairs, and rent.

PCM continued to do home repairs during the quarter. Those projects included building a handicap ramp for an amputee; installing a heating/air-conditioning system in the home of a woman who had not been able to work for several years; and loaning funds to a man with stage 4 cancer whose bedroom ceiling collapsed, signaling the need for ceiling replacement throughout the house.

Total income for the quarter was \$21,063; expenses were \$24,309. Income included \$10,179 from membership dues, \$2675 from memorials, \$1754 from loan paybacks, and \$6250 from our church's outreach ministry. Expenses included \$13,000 for utilities; \$750 for home repairs; and \$650 for rent/mortgage.

Gifts of any amount from our church members are always welcome. Those who wish to make a gift to PCM should send checks to PCM, 143 E. Thach Avenue, Auburn, AL 36830. Those wishing to become annual members should send their checks for \$250 to the same address.

## *Birthdays*

Dec. 22 Richard Guether, Charles Maynard

Dec. 24 Lynda Tremaine

Dec. 26 Lizzy Lovell, Hal Smith

Dec. 27 Barry Burkhart

Dec. 28 Steve Hickok

Dec. 29 Marianne Cone, John Wild

Dec. 30 Jessica Barnes, Melanie Boecklen,  
William Hickok, Connie Mitchell

Dec. 31 Harmon Herring

Jan. 2 Ray Cooper

Jan. 3 Susan Patterson

Jan. 4 Gardner Johnson

## *Anniversaries*

Jan. 4 Jim and Patty Disque - 55<sup>th</sup>!

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## CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

For more than 70 years, Presbyterians have given generously at Christmas to support the unmet needs of families who have devoted their lives to the mission of the PC(USA). Today this Offering is shared equally by the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, which provides critical assistance to Presbyterian church workers and their families, and Presbyterian-affiliated racial ethnic schools and colleges, which enable students to develop their gifts and find their calling. The Offering dates back to the 1930s, when the former Presbyterian Church in the United States began an offering to supplement inadequate retirement income and provide medical insurance for former ministers, missionaries, church workers, and their families.

Although its roots trace back many years, this special offering remains just as essential today. Equally important to the financial help provided is the spiritual benefit received. Again and again, the individuals and families helped by the Offering say that as crucial as the financial assistance is, what really sustains them is the knowledge that the church is standing with them in their time of need. Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and note in the memo "Joy Offering."