

# First Presbyterian Church

110 S. Ray Street  
Post Office Box 397  
Carthage, North Carolina 28327  
(910) 947-2924  
www.fpccarthage.com  
infofpc397@gmail.com

## *Celebrating 175 Years*



December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025

We welcome you not as strangers but as a part of God's family! We are a community of faith that gathers to praise our Lord and Savior, serve others, search for answers, and enjoy the fellowship of one another. We hope today you will be challenged and discover encouragement. The peace of Christ be with you!

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

### GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

*Worship begins with the Prelude. Please use this time for **silent** preparation.*

PRELUDE

Wayne Wold

"Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland"

### GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

CHORAL INTROIT

Phillip Brooks

“O Holy Child of Bethlehem”

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: This is God’s day.

People: *We are invited to be a part of it.*

Leader: This is God’s invitation.

People: *We come to see and hear what God is doing.*

Leader: This is what God is doing:

People: *bringing good news to the poor, proclaiming release to the captives,  
recovering sight for those who are blind, and letting the oppressed go free.*

Leader: Let us participate.

Unison: *Let us worship God.*

LIGHTENING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Men’s Group

\*HYMN OF ADORATION # 106

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

*Guiding Spirit, behind us are crooked paths, littered with evidence of our carelessness, greed and apathy. We discarded your words of life, summoning instead on our own grit. We plucked all that blooms, fearing scarcity up ahead. We left people behind: the homeless and hungry, the ones who can’t keep pace. We stumbled along in the cover of darkness, avoiding the light which exposes everything: the love and the hate, the good deeds and the harmful ones. We are fools who have gone astray. Point us, again, to the way of joy and gladness which You prepare for us. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.*

\*DECLARATION OF PARDON

\*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.*

A MOMENT WITH OUR CHILDREN

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 35:1-10, page 663

ANTHEM

Don Besig

“Advent Hymn”

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 11:2-11, page 11

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

MEDITATION

The Rev. Maggie Beamguard

“The Highway to Home”

\*HYMN OF PREPARATION 610

“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving 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.*

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

John Mason Neale

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

\*DOXOLOGY

Hymn # 606

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING GOD’S WORD INTO THE WORLD

\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT # 134

“Joy to the World”

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

“Danish Amen”

Traditional

\*POSTLUDE

Diane Bish

“Joy to the World”

*\*Please stand if able.*

**Opportunities for the Week of December 14<sup>th</sup> – December 21<sup>st</sup>**

Today:	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service / Communion / Rev. Maggie Beamguard
Tuesday:	6:15 p.m.	Men’s Group
Wednesday:		<b>Deadline for Church Mouse / Newsletter</b>
	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice

Sunday:           9:45 a.m.    Sunday School  
                  11:00 a.m.    Christmas Cantata / Rev. Robert Wilson

### **Announcements**

Please welcome this morning, Rev. Maggie Beamguard. Maggie Frampton Beamguard has served as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in churches in Tennessee, South Carolina, and North Carolina. She is the editor of the *Seven Lakes Insider*, a special publication of *The Pilot*. Rev. Beamguard lives in Seven Lakes with her husband, David, and daughters Charlotte and Norah.

We will ordain and install our church officers on Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup> during worship.

Please consider serving on a church committee this coming year.

If you have not brought a Poinsettia to decorate the church and would still like to, please let Sonya Potter know so that the information can be added to the bulletin during Advent.

The PW will be collecting school supplies for Carthage Elementary School during the month of December. Needed items are: Lysol spray; Lysol wipes; glue sticks; small boxes of crayons; Kleenex/tissues. A designated tote will be in the Family Life Center for your donations.