



# Weekly News at Paw Creek

December 17, 2020

## Paw Creek Presbyterian Church



### Office Information

**Rev. Elliott Hipp,**  
Pastor

deh46@columbia.edu  
704-502-2143  
(Calls & Text Messages)

**Kim Whittington,**  
Administrative Assistant/  
Webmaster  
office@pawcreekpc.org

**Patrick McCarthy,**  
Director of Music  
trick4501@gmail.com

**Mark Burleson,**  
Pianist  
markaburleson@gmail.com

**Clint Shaw,**  
Coordinator of Videography  
cwschw2009@yahoo.com

**Website:**  
www.pawcreekpc.org

**Mailing Address:**  
P.O. Box 64  
Paw Creek, NC 28130-0064

**Physical Address:**  
(no mail received here)  
7400 Mt. Holly Rd.  
Charlotte, NC 28214

**Telephone:**  
(704) 392-0329

**Fax:**  
(704) 392-4625

**Email:**  
office@pawcreekpc.org

Paw Creek Presbyterian  
Church is on:  
Facebook and YouTube

**Sermon By Phone:**  
704-312-1343  
Available 11am Monday

### From the Pastor...

Dear Paw Creek,

Now that Christmas is almost upon us, I write on behalf of the Session, our church staff, and all of the Paw Creek family to wish each of you the blessings of this season - blessings that will continue and abound despite all that is unusual, frightening and maddening about this year. Our prayers for one another seek healing for the sick, comfort for the bereft, strength for those who struggle, and for all of us the miracle that we might catch a glimpse of the assurance of God's love through the fog that surrounds us.

In short: Merry Christmas!

There are many practical matters to share with everyone as our church schedules change over the next few weeks. I know it's a lot to digest. Please have a look, and don't hesitate to call if you have any questions. Here goes:

Today's mailing contains **Orders of Worship** for Sunday, December 20 and for Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24. There will be a special mailing early next week with Orders of Worship for the two Sundays after Christmas: December 27 and January 3. After today, the next regular Thursday morning "Weekly Letter" will come out on January 7.

December 20 - worship continues as usual with **in-person worship** for those who have asked to be included, and live streaming at 11 am or throughout the week.

Christmas Eve - worship is at 7:30 in the sanctuary and is **open in-person to everyone who wishes to come** (no need to be on the current list). We have also confirmed that the service will be live-streamed and available throughout the week. During the service we will celebrate the Lord's Supper, so if you are worshipping at home, be sure to have bread and juice available. After the service we plan to gather in front of the sanctuary to light electric candles (they don't blow out in the breeze!) and sing Christmas Carols (it's been ten months - raising our voices in song will be wonderful!)

December 27 and January 3 - Session has accepted the recommendation of our worship task force that we **cancel in-person worship for these two Sundays**. This is a gesture of appreciation to our two guest preachers for those services. The Revs. George Slaton and Betsy Williamson agreed several weeks ago to worship with us in person, but as the winter spread of the coronavirus is worsening, we want to make them feel safe and comfortable. In addition, this will be safer for all of us until we see if there is any additional worsening of the virus due to holiday activities. The task force will meet right after New Years to assess the situation in our community and if it seems safe, we expect to resume in-person worship on January 10.

The church **office will be closed** for the holiday December 22 until January 4. Also, I will also be on vacation from Christmas Day until January 4. If you have any pastoral or church concerns that come up during those days, please don't hesitate to call one our session members for help.

There will be no Wednesday night **Bible Study** during the holiday - the next class is Wednesday, January 6 at 5:30 pm on Zoom. The Sunday morning **prayer gatherings** will continue on Zoom at 9:30 am each week.

Finally, please don't forget that we are gathering **pledge cards** for our financial support of Paw Creek in 2021. Cards can be dropped in the offering baskets in the sanctuary, or mailed to the church office.

Of course, more important than anything else, we continue to uphold in prayer all in our community and beyond who stand in need of God's loving care. During the coming weeks, additional concerns will be shared through the prayer chain and announced in worship each Sunday. For this week, please remember:

- Don Joy, who is home recovering after a hospitalization - prayers for Don's recovery, and for Vickie as she cares from him at home.
- Shelby Alexander's sister Patty, who is in hospice care; we are grateful to hear that she is having some better days this week, and that Stephanie is able to visit her regularly.
- Jean Todd, hospitalized at CMC Main with a non-covid infection.
- Jackie Stogner, Jim's daughter-in-law, whose family has been devastated by Covid-19 - her father died suddenly last week, her mother is in critical care, and Jackie herself is ill as well; may God hold them tightly in his everlasting arms during these days of grief and fear.
- Betty Bradley, Paul's mother, who continues to need our prayers as she moves forward in her rehab from recent surgery.
- George Lux, Barbara Ullem's cousin, who is experiencing a second bout of Covid and is quarantined alone in his retirement facility in St. Louis, MO.
- Miriam Childress, who continues her recovery from recent hospitalization and rehab, grateful to be at home, and to be showing signs of improvement.
- Cindy Monical, Celia Gray's sister in Denver, CO, who continues to struggle.

May God's love surround us all.

With blessings of the season,

Elliott

**Service for the Lord's Day**  
**Paw Creek Presbyterian Church • December 20, 2020**  
Fourth Sunday of Advent



**Preparatory Music**

*Once in Royal David's City*

arr. Liz Story

**Welcome and Lighting of four Candles on the Advent Wreath**

*Grace be unto you, and peace, from the one who is and who was and who is to come,  
and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness. "I am the Alpha and the Omega", says the Lord God.  
Hallelujah!*

**Prelude**

*God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*

arr. Ellen Foncannon

**Call to Worship**

from Isaiah 9

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death,  
upon them hath the light shined.  
For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,  
and the government shall be upon His shoulder;  
and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God,  
the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

**Hymn 88**

*"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.  
O come, thou root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.  
O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's  
peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

**Prayer of the Day**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy. Willingly, may we bear your redeeming love to all the world. For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## Scripture Reading

Luke 1: 26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

## Hymn 98

*"To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary"*

*To a maid whose name was Mary, the angel Gabriel came.*

*"Fear not," the angel told her, "I come to bring good news;  
good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news."*

*"Fear not for God is with you, and you shall bear a child.*

*His name shall be called Jesus, God's offspring from on high.  
And he shall reign forever, forever reign on high."*

*As Mary heard the angel, she wondered at his words.*

*"Behold, I am your handmaid," she said unto her God.  
"So be it I am ready according to your word."*

## Sermon

*The Son of God Comes Near*

## Offertory Duet

*You Raise Me Up*

Josh Groban

Offerings for God's work through Paw Creek Church are gratefully received in the baskets by the entrance and exits to the sanctuary, or by mail to the church office.

## Prayers of God's People

Beginning with announcements and prayer concerns; and concluding with *The Lord's Prayer*

## Hymn 134

*"Joy to the World"*

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;*

*let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing . . .*

*Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,*

*while field and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy . . .*

*He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love . . .*

## Charge and Benediction

## Postlude

*Anthem for Christmas*

Michael W. Smith

---

*Elliott Hipp, Pastor • Mark Burlison, Pianist • Patrick McCarthy, Director of Music/Soloist  
Clint Shaw, Video and Streaming • Members of the Task Force for In-person Worship, Arrangements*

*Vocal duet • Julia and Sophia Leeman*



**The Poinsettias in the Sanctuary Today are Given as Follows:**

**IN MEMORY OF:**

Joe Adkins  
John & Flossie Adkins  
Grady Alexander  
Glenn & Lorene Hawkins  
Evans & Lillie Johnston  
Evans & Lillie Johnston  
Jean Johnston  
Frank Kapelar  
Ronald & Susan Kenley  
Susan Kenley  
John Litaker  
Bill & Lib McArver  
Paul & Hannah McCord  
Betty Pinkston  
Phyllis & Gene Ramsey  
Rev. Richard D. Rettew  
Elizabeth Rettew  
Hugh & Burrell Ross  
Kay Scarce  
Jack & Katherine Sisk  
Libby Stogner  
David Ullem  
Marilyn Vane  
Margaret White  
Our Parents

**BY:**

Emily Adkins  
Emily Adkins  
Shelby Alexander & Stephanie Alexander  
Eddie & Jane McArver  
Emily Adkins  
Sonny & Angie Ross  
Hoyt Johnston & Family  
Larry & Vicki Ramsey  
The Children, Grands & Great Grands  
John & Linda Riggins  
Jim Pinkston & Family  
Eddie & Jane McArver  
Sam McCord  
Jim Pinkston & Family  
Larry & Vicki Ramsey  
Anna Rettew  
Anna Rettew  
Sonny & Angie Ross  
John, Jodi, Greyson & Graham  
George & Debbie Taylor  
Jim Stogner  
Barbara Ullem  
Barbara Ullem  
Frances Lyerly  
John & Linda Riggins

(Continued on next page)





**The Poinsettias in the Sanctuary Today are Given as Follows:**

**IN HONOR OF:**

Mark Burleson  
Margie Caudill  
Patty Echerd  
Nell & Elliott  
Patrick McCarthy  
Kenley McGee  
Dorsie White  
Children & Grandchildren  
Mark, Patrick & Choir Members we miss seeing  
First line workers during the Pandemic &  
researchers who found the vaccine for Covid-19

**BY:**

Frances Lyerly  
The Kines Family  
Shelby Alexander & Stephanie Alexander  
George & Debbie Taylor  
Frances Lyerly  
Nana  
Frances Lyerly  
Anne & Tommy Miller  
Anne & Tommy Miller  
  
Tim & Celia Gray



**Service for the Lord's Day**  
**Paw Creek Presbyterian Church • December 24, 2020**  
Christmas Eve • The Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ



*As you worship with us at home, please have available some bread and juice  
so that we may all partake of the elements of the Lord's supper together.*

**Preparatory Music** *Do You Hear What I Hear?* arr. Jim Brickman

**Welcome** *Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth!*

**Prelude** *Angels We Have Heard on High* arr. Jay Rouse

**Call to Worship and Lighting of the Christ Candle**

And the angel said unto them:

*"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.  
For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."*

**Hymn 133** *"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

*O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold him, born the king of angels! O come, let us adore him . . . Christ the Lord!  
Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! O come, let us adore him . . . Christ the Lord!  
Yea, Lord we greet thee, born thus happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! O come, let us adore him . . . Christ the Lord!*

**Christmas Invocation**

Good and gracious God, on this holy night you gave us your Son. Lord of the universe, he was wrapped in swaddling clothes. Savior of all, he was lying in a manger. On this holy night, draw us into the mystery of your love. Join our voices with the heavenly host, that we may sing your glory on high. Give us a place with the shepherds, that we may find the one for whom we have waited, even Jesus Christ, our Messiah and Lord. Amen.

**Scripture Reading** Isaiah 9  
Luke 2

**Hymn 128** *"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"*

*Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing.  
Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!  
Flocks were sleeping shepherds keeping vigil til the morning new  
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of the gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing greet the morrow:  
Christ the babe was born for you! Christ the babe was born for you!*

## Homily

### Christmas Solo

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

arr. Patrick McCarthy

### The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Including the *Lord's Prayer*, the Words of the Institution, and the sharing of the elements

### Christmas Blessing

*Elliott Hipp, Pastor • Mark Burleson, Pianist • Patrick McCarthy, Director of Music/Soloist  
Larry Ramsey, Video and Streaming • Members of the Task Force for In-person Worship, Arrangements*

---

## Candles and Carols on the Porch

### Hark the Herald Angels Sing

***Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king.  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"  
Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the son of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"***

### Away in a Manger

***Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus lad down his sweet head  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.  
The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.***

### Silent Night, Holy Night!

***Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy infant so tender and mild.  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.  
Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."  
Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming  
grace,  
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.***





Dear Paw Creek Presbyterian Church,  
Thank you for your recent gift to Alexander Youth Network. Your continued support is greatly appreciated. During these current times our kids need all the support and love they can get. Thank you again for all you do for Alexander!

Sincerely,  
Crissy Humble  
Director of Development/Alexander Youth Network

Anne & Tommy Miller would like to thank everyone who donated a box and/or turkey or both, to the Charlotte Rescue Mission at Thanksgiving. We wish you a Merry Christmas and may the Year ahead bring Peace, Good Health and much Happiness to you and yours.

Dear Paw Creek Family,

Your cards, calls, and letters have made all the difference. I have enjoyed and appreciated them so much. It is wonderful to be a part of such a loving community of friends. Thank you so much.

With love,  
Miriam Childress

Dear Paw Creek Presbyterian Church Family,  
Thank you so very much for remembering me with such a nice gift. Enjoying the goodies and the beautiful throw will certainly feel good this winter. Merry Christmas to all of you. Elaine Laney



### New Offering Envelopes for 2021

Offering Envelopes for 2021 are now available. This year we have cut back on the number of envelopes we ordered to save some money. In doing so, we had to reassign some of the envelope numbers. If your number was above 90, then you will be getting a new number for 2021. You will also notice that the Initial Envelope has increased from \$1 to \$5. You can pick up your envelopes from the Narthex before worship or by contacting Kim in the Church office at 704-392-0329 if you would like to schedule a time to come by and pick them up during the week or let her know if you would like them mailed to you.

**\*\*Please be sure to use the correct year's envelope when making your offering. Thank you!\*\***

## Paw Creek Presbyterian Church

P.O. BOX 64  
Paw Creek, NC 28130-0064

**Seek**..... Matthew 6:33  
**Serve** ..... 1 Samuel 12:24  
**Praise**..... Psalm 111:1  
**Love Christ!**.....1 John 4:12

*Lord, we thank you for...*

**Have a Prayer Request?** To put someone on our prayer chain, obtain permission from the person or family involved, then call:  
Judy Smith (704) 392-2892  
-or-  
Ann Cashion (704) 301-0126

**Know someone Who Needs a Visit?** Please contact the Church Office or Rev. Elliott Hipp (704) 392-0329

### Online Giving

Paw Creek has now implemented Online Giving for the convenience of church members and our friends who worship with us. Please go to our website at [www.pawcreekpc.org](http://www.pawcreekpc.org) and follow the link on the home page.



Once you click on this link, you will be directed to set up an account. You may make this gift as a one time transaction, or you can set up recurring payments. You may use your bank account information to create this payment, or you may use your debit or credit card. (If you use your debit or credit card, you will also be given the option to add the transaction fee to your payment if you choose to do so)



For those who like to use mobile apps, you can download the app: Give+ and search for Paw Creek Presbyterian Church. Once you have created an account, it will save Paw Creek as your default Church.

### Upcoming Sermon Titles

**Sunday, December 20**

***4th Sunday of Advent***

Luke 1: 26-38

“The Son of God Comes Near”

**Sunday, December 27**

***Guest Preacher - Rev. George Slaton***

Isaiah 60:19-22, Mark 1:9-14

“Breaking and Entering”

**Thursday, December 24**

***Christmas Eve, 7:30pm***

Candlelight Service & Communion

Outdoor Carols

**Sunday, January 3**

***Guest Preacher - Rev. Betsy Williamson***

John 1: 1-18

“Standing in the Light”