

First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City (PCUSA)

14391 Minnieville Road Woodbridge, VA 22193

703.670.7834 fupcdc.org LIKE us on Facebook Find us on Instagram @fupcdc
<https://www.youtube.com/c/FUPCDC>



2nd Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2023
10:00 AM

The Reverend Adam C. Bowling - Pastor
Adam.Bowling@fupcdc.org
828.448.8914

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

BELLS

The three tolls call us to worship and symbolize our belief in the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In quiet reverence, we prepare for worship.

GATHERING SONG *O Come O Come Emmanuel (Veni Emmanuel)* Arr. Thomas Helmore
Translated by John Mason Neale

WELCOME

Rev. Adam C. Bowling

+ CALL TO WORSHIP

Listen to the Spirit urging us to get ready—

Our calendars are jam-packed full.

Listen to the Spirit calling us to wait—

We've already been waiting; there's a line everywhere we go.

Listen to the Spirit inviting us to walk in the way of the Lord—

This is good news!

The way of the Lord is the path of peace.

We are glad to be in the house of the Lord!

May the Advent blessing of peace be with you.

We rejoice, for we are blessed to walk in the light of God!

+ OPENING SONG

O Come All Ye Faithful

John F. Wade, Frederick Oakley
Arr. by Dan Galbraith (CCLI# 4575979)

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

(The second purple candle is lit.)

Alessandro Trujillo

PRAYER

Loving God, in this time of preparation and planning, we thank you for the hope and peace you unfailingly offer us. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

Welcome Christ into your heart and walk in hope and peace this Advent season.

Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,
behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heavenly door
and lives now inside us forever.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Recognizing our need for true peace, both with others and within our own selves, let us confess those ways we have distanced ourselves from God, as we pray together saying. . .

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, how often we settle for a ‘glittery greeting card’ kind of peace, or the worn-out kind of peace that lingers when all the wrapping paper has been recycled and the good-byes have been said. But in our hearts, we long for something more, a strong and lasting peace: when families are reconciled, when the world’s divisions are healed, and human dignity is restored to all. We dream of a peace to come when all people will love mercy, seek justice, and walk humbly with you each day. Heavenly One, forgive our tendency to make this season about shopping for gifts rather than the priceless gifts of grace, peace, and reconciliation you have already provided. Hear us as we continue to confess in the silence of our hearts. . .

(A Time of Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

As we await the coming of the Christ child once again,
let us remember why he came.
He came that we might have life, and have it abundantly.
He came that we might be forgiven completely and totally.
He came so that our past can be erased
and a new future can begin again.
Hearing this good news, know that we are forgiven and be at peace.
Thanks be to God!

+ RESPONSE

Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child
Jesus, Jesus, O what a wonderful child.
Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek and mild;
new life, new hope the child will bring.
Listen to the angels sing:
“Glory, glory, glory!”
Let the heavens ring.

+ **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

(Please share a sign of Christ's peace with those around you.)

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Rev. Adam C. Bowling

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Speak to us, Lord.

Speak to us in the waiting, the watching,
the hoping, the longing,
the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing.

Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days,
and walk with us until the day of your coming.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 28:10-17 NRSV

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went towards Haran. ¹¹He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. ¹²And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³And the Lord stood beside him and said, 'I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; ¹⁴and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. ¹⁵Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.' ¹⁶Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!' ¹⁷And he was afraid, and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Hebrews 12:22-29 NRSV

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. ²⁵See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! ²⁶At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, ‘Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.’ ²⁷This phrase ‘Yet once more’ indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; ²⁹for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

DIALOGUE SERMON Conversations with the Angels: Prayers Understood

Pastor: Rev. Adam C. Bowling

Angel: Martin Andrews

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

If you would like to speak with someone about becoming a Christian, about church membership, or about a special prayer need, please speak with Pastor Adam or someone at the Welcome Table right outside the sanctuary. For those worshiping online, please email Pastor Adam at adam.bowling@fupcdc.org. Know that ALL are welcome in this place!

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

+ SONG OF RESPONSE *Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery*

Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Michael Bleecke, Arr. Brad Henderson (CCLI #7026028)
FUPCDC Praise Team

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

SERVICE OF GIVING

Music at the Offering

He Who Is Mighty

Rebecca Elliott, Kate DeGraide (CCLI #7031870)

+ **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Holy One, this Advent season we wait in peace,

And we give in peace.

A peace deeper than our anxiety and fear.

A peace growing from our trust in your loving power.

Receive these generous offerings,

And use them to bring your peace to our world.

Amen.

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

+ **SENDING SONG**

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley, Felix Mendelssohn, Arr. Joel Mott, Dan Galbraith (CCLI #4581008)

+ **OUR VISION**

Here at First United Presbyterian we are

Welcoming All, Growing Together, Serving with Joy!

+ **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Rev. Adam C. Bowling

+ **BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *O Come All Ye Faithful (Verse 2-Chorus-Tag)*

Glory to God, All glory in the highest!

O come let us adore Him

O come let us adore Him

O come let us adore Him

Christ the Lord

We give Him all the glory...

Christ the Lord

For He alone is worthy...

Christ the Lord

+ *Please stand, in body or in spirit.*

Worship Notes

* **WELCOME!** Whether you are new in the area, a resident of the community, or visiting, we are delighted you joined us in worship. Please come to the Welcome Table at the rear of the sanctuary after the service to fill out an info card and to receive a special gift. To find out more about this church, please call the Church Office at 703-670-7834 or speak with Pastor Adam, adam.bowling@fupcdc.org.

* **WORSHIP ASSISTANT:** Dennis Dingle

* **FLOWERS** are given by Lora Nedimyer in praise to God for all blessings.

Connect with Us

- * **WE ARE ON FACEBOOK:** If you use Facebook, become a Facebook friend, and become a fan of First United Presbyterian. Make friends with others from the church.
- * **WE ARE ON INSTAGRAM:** Find us on Instagram @fupcdc.
- * **FUPCDC WEBSITE:** For detailed news and information, visit the church website at <https://fupcdc.org>.
- * **FUPCDC YOUTUBE CHANNEL:** To view worship services and videos, visit the FUPCDC Youtube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/c/FUPCDC>. You can also find our channel by searching for "FUPCDC Video".
- * **TEXT ALERTS:** Remind is a free text messaging service that will help our church communicate quickly and efficiently. On your cell phone, start a new message to **81010**. In the message, type @fupcdc and send. You can unsubscribe at any time.
- * **THURSDAY NEWS FROM FIRST UNITED:** To read about all the great things that are happening at FUPCDC, you can receive a weekly email. To sign up for the Thursday News, go to <https://fupcdc.org> and click on the church email signups button or email the church office at office@fupcdc.org.
- * **CONNECT CARD/PRAYER CARD:** If you are new to FUPCDC or you need to update your information, please fill out a Connect Card. On the back side is the Prayer Card. It would be our honor to pray for your joys and concerns. Please drop the card in the Prayer Request box in the Welcome Center.

Ministry in Action

- ✝ **DISCOVER FIRST UNITED PROGRAM AND LUNCH:** We invite you to attend our Discover First United lunch and program **TODAY, December 10, 2023** in Room 27 from **11:10 AM until 12:30 PM**. This event is designed to introduce you and your family to the church and is open to anyone interested in learning more about our worshiping community and/or membership. If you are new to FUPCDC, are interested in possibly joining the church, or becoming an official "Friend of the Church," the Discover First United Program is for you!
- ✝ **INCLEMENT WEATHER:** The Church follows the inclement weather closings of Prince William County Schools. If there is a two hour delay (morning meetings), then your meeting will be delayed two hours. If there are closings for school, the church office will be closed and there will be no meetings. Thank you for helping ensure the safety of everyone.
- * **WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL:** Please join us as we fellowship around the dinner table on **Wednesday, December 13th at 6:00 PM**. The dinner will be **Baked Ziti, Salad, and Dessert**. Please contact Marti Hall at 703-626-2269 (call or text) or martihall@comcast.net.

- * **PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY:** Join us at **7:00 PM on December 13th** for The Angels of Christmas. This week's study is *Hark the Herald Angels Sing-The Angels and the Shepherds*.
- * **CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS:** The Worship Ministry Team is preparing for Advent and is inviting all ages to help decorate our church for Christmas: **Saturday, December 16th at 9 AM** - Decorate the Christmon tree with the rest of decorations and set up the Nativity, and **Saturday, January 6th** - Take down the Christmas decorations. Thank you!
- * **FLOWER SIGN UP:** New dates have been added to the Flower Sign Up Genius for 2024. To sign up, you may click on the link on the FUPCDC Thursday News or if you have signed up in the past, an email may be sent to you. When signing up, please indicate who the flowers are in honor or memory of in the comment section. In addition, after the service the flowers are used by the deacons for the Flower Ministry and are given to a congregational member who is in need of feeling some love from the congregation. If you wish to keep the flowers instead, just indicate this in the comment section or email me. The cost for purchasing flowers continues to be \$40.00. You may pay for them by sending a check into the office made out to FUPCDC. Please write flowers and the Sunday you signed up for in the memo section. You may also pay online on the church website. Email Gail Cobb at gailzcobb@gmail.com for help.
- * **SUNDAY ADVENT BIBLE STUDY:** Join us during the Sunday School Hour at **9:00 AM** for a Bible study by Max Lucado entitled Because of Bethlehem. It is suggested that each student purchase their own study guide that allows for notes on the video segments, directions for discussion questions, and activities, as well as practices to deepen learning between sessions. You may also purchase the actual book which has many additional insights that are not in the study guide. We hope to see you there!
- * **252 KIDS CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:** We will meet today at **9:00 AM**. The **252 Kids Club** will meet at **10:15 AM**. Contact Kim Brown at kim.brown@fupcdc.org for more information.
- * **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY:** Please join us for some Christmas fun and games on **Wednesday, December 13th**. The Family supper is at **6:00 PM** and the Children's Christmas party (ages 5- 11) will be at **7:00 PM**. Email Kim Brown at kim.brown@fupcdc.org to confirm attendance.
- * **CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERING:** These gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color and assist current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs. You can donate to the Christmas Joy offering in two ways: (1) You can mail a check to the church with "Christmas Joy" or "Joy Offering" on the memo line. (2) You can go to our website, www.fupcdc.org, and click "online collection plate" and use the "designated giving" to give - putting "Christmas Joy" or "Joy Offering" in the note field. If you would like to know even more about this special offering, check out this website: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/christmas-joy/>. Thank you for your continued support of this important cause!
- * **BLANKET/SLEEPING BAG/TENT DRIVE:** The Mission team is collecting blankets, sleeping bags, and tents for the homeless. We are asking for heavy duty blankets suitable for the outdoors, adult cold weather sleeping bags (20 degrees and below) and tents. To participate in this drive, simply put new or gently used and clean items in the decorated collection box in the Welcome center on Christmas Eve. These items will be distributed to the local unhoused community who we serve each Sunday through our Spread the Bread ministry. If you have any

questions or would like to drop off donations prior to Christmas Eve, please contact Pam Cox at 703-888-6610. Thank you so much for generously supporting this local ministry!

- * **PRESBYTERIAN GIVING CATALOG:** Are you looking for unique/nontraditional gifts for those special people in your life? The Mission team suggests you consider thumbing through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog and make a gift in someone's honor. Your gifts are signs of gratitude: feeding the hungry, comforting the brokenhearted and sharing our faith with young and old. Copies of the Giving Catalog are in the Welcome Center or shop online. See link in the Thursday News.

Student Ministry News

- ✚ **YOUTH BIBLE JEOPARDAY:** Join the fun TODAY at 5:00 PM in the Youth Room.
- * **YOUTH CALENDARS:** Youth calendars are now available online and in the Welcome Center.
- * **STUDENT MINISTRY EMAILS:** Sign up to receive Student Ministry emails. Ask Briana Stewart how to do this, or go to the FUPCDC website.

Joys and Concerns

All those who are ill or facing difficulties, including:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| ✚ Shirley | * Debbie Niederriter | * Karen Gundel | * Linda Ford |
| ✚ Sarpong Amakao | * Baby Raphael | * Jeannine Menzie | * Rick Bockes |
| ✚ Pat Greenhalgh | * Tanya | * Doug Godfrey | * Ann Randles |
| * Judy Stewart | * Amanda | * Yolanda Magpayo | * Leigh Anderson |
| * Baby Louisa Wolstenholme | * Nathan Johnson, III | * Mikon Jones | * Nate Johnson |
| * Bill and Laura Parris | * Amanda Peck | * Deborah Folly | * Sue Johnson |
| * Jason, Arina, Mikail Corbin | * Christine Willever | * Mike Gundel | * Amy Smith |
| * Dave Stokes | * Steve Glycer | * Lee Watenpaugh | * Marti Hall |
| | * John Fee | * Mike Moore | |

All those serving in our military who are stationed away from home, including from our church:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ✚ Kelsey Gibson (Affiliate Member of FUPCDC) | ✚ Zach Lauster (Aaron Lauster's son) |
| ✚ Elizabeth Batista (Ana Batista Caporaletti's daughter) | ✚ Ryan Bruner (Carol and Ross Schwalm's son-in-law) |
| ✚ David Cornelius, Jr. (Debbie Cornelius' son) | |

The churches of National Capital Presbytery, especially:

- ✚ First Presbyterian Church of Dale City - Woodbridge, VA
- ✚ Furnace Mountain Presbyterian Church - Leesburg, VA

Calendar

December 10 -17, 2023

SUNDAY, December 10

Second Sunday of Advent

- 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study
- 9:00 AM Confirmation Class
- 9:00 AM 252 Kids Club
- 10:00 AM Worship - one service
- 10:15 AM 252 Kids Children's Ministry
- 11:10 AM Discover First United Lunch/Program
- 11:15 AM Spread the Bread
- 1:15 PM Property Ministry Team
- 1:30 PM Iglesia Pentecostal De Restauracion
- 3:00 PM Annual Service of Remembrance - Bereaved Parents of USA
- 5:00 PM Youth - Bible Jeopardy

MONDAY, December 11

- 9:30 AM Horizons Bible Study
- 10:30 AM Holy Fitness
- 1:00 PM Personnel Committee
- 5:45 PM Cub Scout Pack 289 - Lion Den
- 6:30 PM Cub Scout Pack 289 - Wolf Den
- 7:00 PM Bible Buddies
- 7:00 PM Girl Scout Service Unit 80-5

TUESDAY, December 12

- 8:30 AM TOPS
- 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 226
- 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 964
- 7:00 PM Evangelism & Outreach Ministry Team
- 7:00 PM Worship Ministry Team
- 7:00 PM Bull Run Troubadours

WEDNESDAY, December 13

- 10:30 AM Holy Fitness
- 6:00 PM Wednesday Night Alive Meal
- 7:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study
- 7:00 PM FUPCDC Chancel Choir
- 7:00 PM Children's Christmas Party

THURSDAY, December 14

- 10:00 AM Postpartum Support VA
- 3:00 PM Prayer and Praise Small Group
- 7:00 PM Ministry Team Leaders Meeting
- 7:00 PM FUPCDC Praise Team
- 7:30 PM Iglesia Pentecostal De Restauracion
- 8:00 PM AA for Beginners

FRIDAY, December 15

- 10:30 AM Holy Fitness
- 8:00 PM Iglesia Pentecostal De Restauracion

SATURDAY, December 16

- 9:00 AM Christmas Decorating
- 5:00 PM Chrysalis Team 106
- 7:30 PM New Dominion Choraliers Concert

SUNDAY, December 17

Third Sunday of Advent

- 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study
- 9:00 AM Confirmation Class
- 9:00 AM 252 Kids Club
- 10:00 AM Worship - one service
- 10:15 AM 252 Kids Children's Ministry
- 11:15 AM Spread the Bread
- 1:30 PM Iglesia Pentecostal De Restauracion
- 3:30 PM New Dominion Choraliers Concert
- 5:00 PM Youth - Progressive Christmas Dinner

SESSION

Cathy Albrecht ('26) 703-670-8369
Amy Bean ('25) 703-670-3790
Bill Ediage ('24) 571-477-9306
Ginger Galaini ('25) 571-408-1228
Jon Guest ('25) 703-586-7718
Pat Manalio ('26) 703-283-2948
Rick Mitchell ('26) 703-590-3277
Sam Parris ('24) 703-946-7226
Vacant ('24)

Rev. Adam C. Bowling.....*Moderator*..... 828-448-8914
Sara Porter*Clerk of Session*..... 703-670-8737

MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS

Amy Bean (Interim).....*Administration*..... 703-670-3790
Mike Slayter *Congregational Care* 703-670-4648
Sam Parris (Interim)*Evangelism & Outreach*.....703-946-7226
Marti Hall.....*Fellowship* 703-626-2269
Curt Hoagland.....*Growing in Faith*..... 703-380-3819
Pam Cox*Mission* 703-441-6319
Mike Gundel *Property*..... 301-767-5030
Dennis Dingle*Stewardship & Finance* 703-583-9689
Martin Andrews*Worship*..... 703-967-4358

Rev. Adam C. Bowling..... *Moderator*..... 828-448-8914

DEACONS

Class of 2024
Agnes Fokwa
Nne Kalu
Kathy McNeely
Donna Seckar
Wilbur Snyder

Class of 2025
Debbie Cornelius
Gaylene Guest
Claire Hoagland
Mary Jones
Mike Slayter

Class of 2026
Grace Asafu-Adjaye
Sandy Chamberlin
Connie Cox
Ellen Nuernberger
Deborah Folly

Mike Slayter, Ministry Team Leader..... 703-670-4648

CHRISTMAS EVENTS AND SERVICES

Please join us as we celebrate Christmas.

- **December 10: 2nd Sunday of Advent - 10 AM one service**
- **December 17: 3rd Sunday of Advent - 10 AM one service**
- **December 24: 4th Sunday of Advent / Christmas Eve**
 - 9:00 AM Christian Education Hour
 - 10:00 AM Worship Service - Lessons and Carols
 - 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Family Service (Candlelight & Communion)
 - 7:30 PM Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service
- **December 31: Epiphany Sunday, 10 AM one service - Star Words**

First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City, Woodbridge, VA

Ministers.....People of the Church
 Pastor.....Rev. Adam C. Bowling
 Parish Assistant..... Pastor Michael Slayter
 Nursery Supervisor..... Taylor Woods
 Children’s Ministry Director Kim Brown
 Youth Director.....Briana Stewart
 Chancel Choir Director..... Dana Van Styke
 Contemporary Worship Leader..... Rachel Bradley
 Pianist/Organist..... Dr. Nadia Carmichael
 Sexton..... Homer Detrich
 Office Manager..... Kim Parker



SCAN TO GIVE

 Church Office Hours: 10AM -2:30PM, weekdays, 703-670-7834
