

# *First Presbyterian Church*

**Whiteville,  
North Carolina**  
“To be a light in our  
community reflecting  
Christ’s love and  
compassion...”

*First Sunday After  
Christmas Day*  
**December 31, 2017**



**Rev. Dr. Joseph D.  
Washburn**

**Guest Minister  
Bob Hankins**

## *Gathering Around the Word*

*Before the service begins, quietly consider the  
printed prayers and Scriptures. During worship, let  
them help open you to God.*

*Prelude*

*The Humphreys*

Welcome, Announcements, Joys and Concerns

Call to Worship

The people walking in darkness have seen a  
great light;

on those living in the land of the shadow of  
death a light has dawned.

Jesus Christ is our life and light.

In his name and in his power, let us worship  
God!

\*Hymn of Praise

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**“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”**

Call to Confession

When Jesus was born of Mary, he became like  
us in all things but sin.

**May we who have been reborn in him be free  
from our sinful ways. Let us confess our sin  
to God.**

Let us begin our confession in self-searching  
silence.

Prayer of Confession

O God, in the beginning you spoke, and  
creation was born, the object of your loving  
care. In the fullness of time you spoke, and  
the Word became flesh, Jesus, gift of your  
love. We wonder at the miracle of creation;  
we stand in awe before the mystery of the  
incarnation. Forgive us earth-bound  
creatures, feeble in faith, empty of hope,  
lacking in love. As we end this year may the  
miracle and mystery of Christmas happen for  
us again. We wait upon you with ready hearts,  
O God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Words of Assurance

To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

**Let us claim that right in this moment.**

## \*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.**

## \*Sharing the Peace of Christ

**The peace of Christ be with you; and also with you!**

*Proclaiming the Word*

## Time with the Children

## Prayer for Understanding

**May we grow in thanksgiving and praise as you speak to us once more. Call to mind your wonderful works and the heritage of faith and trust that is ours.**

**Encounter us now in all your glory, that the word of Christ may dwell in us richly, that we may begin to understand and have the wisdom to follow where you would lead. Amen.**

## New Testament Lesson

Galatians 4:4-7

**This is the Word of the Lord;  
Thanks be to God!**

## Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:41-52

**This is the Word of the Lord;  
Thanks be to God!**

## Sermon

“Good News from Lowly Births”

Bob Hankins

*Responding to the Word*

## \*Affirmation of Faith

“A Christmas Affirmation”

**I believe in Jesus Christ and in the power of the gospel which began in Bethlehem.**

**I believe in the One whose Spirit glorified a small village, of whose coming the Shepherds saw the sign, but for whom there was no room in the inn.**

**I believe in the One whose life changed the course of history, for whom Kings of the earth had no power, and who was not understood by the proud. I believe in**

the One to whom the poor, the oppressed, the discouraged, the afflicted, the sick, the blind, the leprous gave welcome and accepted as Lord and Savior. I believe in the One who, with love, changed the hearts of the proud and with his life showed that it is more important to serve than to be served, and that the greatest glory is giving your life for others.

I believe in reconciliation, forgiveness, and the transforming power of the gospel. I believe that Christmas is strength and power, and that this world can change, if with humility and with faith we kneel before the manger. I believe that I must be the first one to do so.

#### Call to Offering

In awe and gratitude, we return to God a portion of all that is entrusted to us. In compassion and concern we share with those who have received less of God's bounty. **Out of our own need to be generous if we are to become whole, we present our gifts and offer ourselves once more to the will and purposes of our Creator.**

#### Giving Our Tithes and Offerings

#### Offertory

*The Humphreys*

#### \*Doxology

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**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

#### \*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

#### \*Hymn of Commitment

**"There's A Song In the Air"**

see insert

#### \*Charge and Benediction

This is the moment for which we were called together, the moment when, enriched by our fellowship together, strengthened by one another's love, and with imagination kindled by shared vision, we go out to live God's love in our world.

**Let us go forth to live in the peace and power of God!**

#### Music in Preparation for Service in the World

**WELCOME!** We welcome you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! May today's worship open you to God. *Your entire family is welcome*, but we do offer a nursery for children birth to 3 years of age located in the education building behind the sanctuary.

**Prayer Concerns:** Geraldine Becker; Kathryn Clark; Bob High; Rita & R. L. Lewis; Grace Palmer; Rhonda Scott; Walter Strickland; Nancy Thurston; David Trogdon; Joseph Washburn.  
**Assisted Care:** Arlene Blaha; Anna Jane Collier; Charlene Hinnant; Ellen Thurston. **Friends:** Pat Allen; Sara and Rob Armstrong; Annette Caldwell; Penny Carmean; Mary Cherry; Eli Clark; Billie Joe Conrad; Paul Dawson; Shari Dutton; Jerry Ford; Shelby Hodge; Ed Jackson; Roger Kennedy; Benny McBride; Daphne McLeod; Jerome McPherson; Don Morrison; Gail Moye; Donna Parker; Mitchell Powell; Floyd Pridgen; Theresa Rappa; Hollis Salyer; Barbara Shepherd; Ken Smith; Ronnie Thayer; Gail Townsend; Frank Youngblood; Joe Youngblood. **Military:** Preston Parker.  
**Please notify the office when names can be removed.**

Nursery Team:	12/31: Kaye Pope	1/7: Ethan Scott
Sound Team:	12/31: Josh Horne	1/7: Justin Smith
Head Usher:	December: Fuller Royal	January: Coke Gray III



Next Collection: January 28th



Office  
Hours

1/1 Closed | 1/2 8:30am-1:30pm

<b>Contact the church office: 910-642-2253</b>	<b>OFFICE HOURS: 8:30 am - 1:30 pm, M-F</b>
<b>Pastor Joe: <a href="mailto:pastorjoe@fpcwhiteville.org">pastorjoe@fpcwhiteville.org</a></b>	<b>Karen: <a href="mailto:karen@fpcwhiteville.org">karen@fpcwhiteville.org</a></b>
<b>Cell: 910-625-8023</b>	<b>Website: <a href="http://fpcwhiteville.org">fpcwhiteville.org</a></b>
<b>Live-Stream of Service: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/fpcwhiteville">www.facebook.com/fpcwhiteville</a> or Channel 1304 (Spectrum)</b>	
<b>Find us on Twitter and Facebook!</b>	

**CHURCH CALENDAR:**

Sunday, December 31:	<b>New Year's Eve</b> Bob Hankins, Guest Minister Centsability Offering
Monday, January 1:	<b>New Year's Day</b> - Office Closed Alcoholics Anonymous, Community Room - 8:00 pm
Tuesday, January 2:	Office Hours Resume, 8:30 am - 1:30 pm Nuts and Bolts Meeting, Conference Room - 6:30 pm
Wednesday, January 3:	Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room - 6:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous, Community Room - 8:00 pm
Thursday, January 4:	Chicks with Sticks, Parlor - 10:30 am Alcoholics Anonymous, Community Room - 8:00 pm