



January 11, 2026

**Welcome to
Community.**

*We are glad you are
here. While here we
hope you will feel
welcome and
find the service
meaningful.*

*Childcare (infants
through 4 year olds)
is available. Worship
boxes for younger
children to borrow
during worship are
located at the entrance.*

*Large Print bulletins
are available. Please see
an usher for assistance.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

– We Gather For Worship –

PRAYER OF PREPARATION – *(By Rev. Dr. Ruth C. Duck)*

Holy God, Eternal Spirit, we thank you for baptizing us into one body in Jesus the Christ.
Wash over us with your Spirit, that, like Jesus, we may serve you in serving humanity.
Baptize us with the fire of your truth, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

– We Are Called Into God's Presence –

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Light of the world, you have come to us in human form.

People: We rejoice in gratitude!

Leader: Light of Bethlehem's star, you led Magi to the holy child.

People: We worship in awe.

Leader: God of light, you baptized Jesus in your love.

People: We immerse ourselves in your grace. Alleluia!

*OPENING SONG

Down in the River to Pray

Choir: As I went down in the river to pray, studyin' about that good ol' way,
And who shall wear the starry crown, good Lord, show me the way.
Oh sisters, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.
Oh sisters, let's go down, down in the river to pray.

**All: As I went down in the river to pray, studyin' about that good ol' way,
And who shall wear the robe and crown, good Lord, show me the way.
Oh brothers, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.
Oh brothers, let's go down, down in the river to pray.**

Men and/or Low Voices:

**As I went down in the river to pray, studyin' about that good ol' way,
And who shall wear the starry crown, good Lord, show me the way.
Oh fathers, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.
C'mon fathers, let's go down, down in the river to pray.**

Women and/or High Voices:

As I went down in the river to pray, studyin' about that good ol' way,
And who shall wear the robe and crown, good Lord, show me the way.
Oh mothers, let's go down, c'mon down, don't you want to go down?
C'mon mothers, let's go down, down in the river to pray.

All: As I went down in the river to pray, studyin' about that good ol' way,
And who shall wear the starry crown, good Lord, show me the way.
Oh sinners, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.
Oh sinners, let's go down, down in the river to pray.

All: As I went down in the river to pray, studyin' about that good ol' way,
And who shall wear the robe and crown, good Lord, show me the way.

– We Confess Our Sins –

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Sovereign God, in baptism you called us to turn from sin and to turn to Jesus Christ; but we stray from his ways and do not heed your call.

(Silence)

Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: In baptism you joined us to Christ in his death that we might be raised with Christ in new life; but we cherish old ways and fail to embrace the risen life of righteousness, justice, and love.

(Silence)

Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: In baptism you united us with all the baptized who confess your name; but we foster division in the church. We refuse to live as one people, and so fail to witness to your reconciling love before the world.

(Silence)

Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: In baptism you call us to ministry in all realms of life, but we refuse the struggle to know your will; we do not nurture the ways of peace; we allow enmity to grow among us, setting neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse the earth you entrust to our care, and live in discord with all you have made.

(Silence)

Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

*In the presence of a
forgiving God,
We become aware of the
ways we fall short
of God's best hopes
for us, and ways we
have hurt others.
As you pray the prayer
of confession; think
how the words express
specific sins in your
life and the life of the
church. We turn to God
asking forgiveness.*

*Claim the truth that
through God's grace
and Christ giving of
himself on the cross,
we are forgiven. Let this
truth set you free
from your sins so you
may be restored to
God and one another.*

Leader: In baptism you sent us to serve with compassion all for whom Christ died; but we ignore the suffering of the oppressed and the plight of the poor.
We take bread from the hungry, and stop our ears to cries for justice.

(Silence)

Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: In baptism you gave us the Holy Spirit to teach and guide us but we rely on ourselves and refuse to trust your direction. We spurn your eternal wisdom, preferring, instead, the ways of the world.

(Silence)

Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Remember the promises you made to us in baptism, forgive our sinful ways and heal our brokenness. Set us free from all that enslaves us, and raise us to new life in Jesus Christ, that we may be your faithful servants, showing forth your healing love to the world, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE TO THE PARDON

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

(Verse 3)

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.

– We Hear God's Word –

*All children are invited
to come forward for the
Children's Moment.*

*The Scripture bears
witness to the word of
God. Listen beyond the
human word for the
Word of God. Pray that
the Spirit will speak to
you through the text.*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Creator Spirit, who hovered over the waters at creation's birth, who descended in the form of a dove at Jesus' baptism, who was poured out under the signs of fire and wind at Pentecost: come to us. Open our hearts and minds, so that we may hear the Word of life and be renewed by your power, for you live and reign with God and Christ now and forevermore. Amen.

READING FROM THE WORD OF GOD – *Luke 3:15-18, 21-22*

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God,

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Baptism: A Different Kind of Resolution

Rev. Meg Vail

– We Believe –

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM

Brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, siblings in Christ, you belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. You have been claimed by the waters of baptism. Although we acknowledge only one baptism which makes us members of Christ's body, the sprinkling of the water reminds us who we are. As you feel the drops of water, remember that you are a beloved child of God, and a member of the body of Christ. Be cleansed and renewed for the work of ministry.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
2 Timothy 3:16-17

– We Offer Our Prayers –

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: LIVING A NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

The waters of baptism bring to mind a calling, a promise, a resolution set at our baptisms (whether we were old enough to remember them or not). In our prayers, let us remember and re-affirm the summons to die to sin and be raised by Christ to new life.

Leader: Because we live in you, O Christ...hear us as we pray...

In Christ We Live

Choir:

In Christ we live and in Christ we die and in Christ we rise up again.

Let heav'n be glad and let earth rejoice and sing, "Alleluia, amen!"

In Christ we live and in Christ we die and in Christ we rise up again.

Let heav'n be glad and let earth rejoice and sing, "Alleluia, amen!"

Leader: Because we live in you, O Christ...hear us as we pray...

Choir & Congregation:

In Christ we live and in Christ we die and in Christ we rise up again.

Let heav'n be glad and let earth rejoice and sing, "Alleluia, amen!"

Choir:

This is the time when desires and intentions

find interaction with God's holy word:

Trouble and treasure, business and pleasure,

all are redeemed and restored by the Lord.

Choir & Congregation:

In Christ we live and in Christ we die and in Christ we rise up again.

Let heav'n be glad and let earth rejoice and sing, "Alleluia, amen!"

Leader: Because we live in you, O Christ...hear us as we pray...

Choir & Congregation:

In Christ we live and in Christ we die and in Christ we rise up again.

Let heav'n be glad and let earth rejoice and sing, "Alleluia, amen!"

Choir:

This is the purpose of God in creation:

All shall be changed for the Gospel is true -

Sickness to health, apathy to believing,
Doubt to commitment and old into new.

Choir & Congregation:

**In Christ we live and in Christ we die and in Christ we rise up again.
Let heav'n be glad and let earth rejoice and sing, "Alleluia, amen!"
In Christ we live and in Christ we die and in Christ we rise up again.
Let heav'n be glad and let earth rejoice and sing, "Alleluia, amen!"**

– We Share Our Gifts –

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

PRESENTATION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

FRIENDSHIP RECORD – *(Please sign and pass)*

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Great Is the Lord

(Verse 2)

**Great are you, Lord, You are holy and just:
By your power we trust in your love.
Great are you, Lord, you are faithful and true;
By your mercy you prove you are love.**

**Great are you, Lord, and worthy of glory!
Great are you, Lord, and worthy of praise.
Great are you, Lord; I lift up my voice, I lift up my voice:
Great...are you, Lord! Great...are you, Lord!**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

– We Go Out to Be God's Presence in the World –

*CLOSING HYMN

Baptized in Water

**Baptized in water, Sealed by the spirit,
Cleansed by the blood of Christ, our King;
Heirs of salvation, Trusting the promise,
Faithfully now God's praises we sing.**

**Baptized in water, Sealed by the Spirit,
Dead in the tomb with Christ, our King;
One with His rising, Freed and forgiven,
Thankfully now God's praises we sing.**

**Baptized in water, Sealed by the Spirit,
Marked with the sign of Christ, our King;
Born of the Spirit, We are God's children,
Joyfully now God's praises we sing.**



**QR Code (for quick
mobile giving)**

*The giving of an offering
not only supports the
ministry of Christ
but it is the symbolic
dedication of our life
and all that we have to
give to God in response
to his love. Remember
that all things belong to
God, and that we are
entrusted to use all
that we have to bring
glory to God.*

*Our worship does
not end at the
conclusion of this
service. We go forth
to love and serve the
LORD in daily living.
In so doing, we seek to
fulfill our mission to
"love God and make
God's love known".*

*BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

The Postlude is considered the final Alleluia of Worship

*Please stand if you are able.

The flowers are given to the glory of God in celebration of Kayden and Lauren Foyles birthday by their parents Jody and Kirsten.

Accompanist: Ed Martel

Ushers: Chip and Susanne Brown, Kathy Hodges, Nancy and Pat Oakley

Greeters: Cathy Hilton

Audio: Bob Barmore

Holy Grounds: Jeannine Caracciolo and Meg Vail

Children's Church:

If you are a visitor here and have a child that would like to attend children's church they are more than welcome to join us! After the children's sermon, all children ages kindergarten through fifth grade are dismissed to go downstairs with the teachers. We have a snack, game, Bible lesson and a craft. If your child has any food allergies or other health/behavior concerns please come downstairs with your child and let the teachers know. We have visitor forms as well that are located by the worship boxes and bulletins. When church is finished please come downstairs to pick your child up. We also have a nursery that is available from birth-preschool age. Thank you!

Prayer from Our Care Team:

Each month, Pastor Meg and your congregational care elders, Patty Franklin, John Liles, and Cindy Ward, meet to pray through the requests that have been offered on our congregational prayer list. If you have new requests to bring to our team for prayer and care, please contact Cindy Ward via phone or email: rwyt20042004@yahoo.com (910) 986-0491.

The Mission of Community Presbyterian Church:

"We exist not for ourselves, but to love God and
make God's love known."

– Community Happenings –

Weekly Calendar

Sunday (January 11)

10:30 a.m. Worship – Fellowship Hall

Monday

10:00 a.m. SNG – Great Room

3:00 p.m. Interim Pastor Nominating Committee –
Pastor's Office

4:00 p.m. Designing Women – Everett House

6:30 p.m. Barbershop – Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Troop 7B Committee Meeting – Fannie B.
Gray Parlor

7:00 p.m. Troop 7G – Great Room

Tuesday

9:00 a.m. Brookside Planning Team – Conference
Room

2:30 p.m. CALL – Everett House

3:30 p.m. Brookside Tutoring – Fannie B. Gray Parlor

7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 7 – Fellowship Hall

Wednesday

3:00 p.m. Women of the Pines Board Meeting – Great
Room

3:30 p.m. Membership Committee Meeting – Fannie
B. Gray Parlor

5:30 p.m. Youth Advisory Team – Conference Room

Thursday

10:00 a.m. Presbyterian Purls – Library

5:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal – Fellowship Hall

Friday

8:30 a.m. Prayer Garden

Sunday (January 18)

10:30 a.m. Worship – Fellowship Hall

5:30 p.m. Youth Fellowship – Loft

Star Words: An Epiphany Tradition

As the Magi followed the star to where the Christ child lay, we too, seek the Christ child. At Holy Grounds today, you are invited to choose (without peeking) a star word to guide you in your prayer and reflection this new year. Keep the word where you can see it - a mirror, a fridge, a wallet - and contemplate its meaning as you discern God's presence and invitation. Star Words will be available today at Holy Grounds and in the coming week in Pastor Meg's office.

Mardi Gras King Cake: An Epiphany Tradition!

Today's Holy Grounds features a sweet treat that represents a longstanding New Orleans tradition: the king cake! King cakes are traditionally sampled and enjoyed in the weeks between the celebration of Epiphany and Mardi Gras. Having just celebrated Epiphany last Sunday, January 4th, we are right on time for king cake at CPC! The cake honors the three kings who brought their gifts to the Christ child. The circular shape of the cake symbolizes the route taken by the kings to avoid King Herod and thwart his plans for Jesus. King cakes are decorated in the traditional Mardi Gras colors: purple (for justice), gold (for power), green (for faith). Traditional cakes feature a hidden plastic "baby" inside to represent the Christ child. The person who receives the slice with the baby is expected to host the next king cake party! Rest assured that there will be no hidden babies in today's servings at Holy Grounds. Enjoy!

Snack Volunteers Needed for Tutoring Group

We need volunteers to provide snacks for our weekly tutoring program. This can be a **one-time help (even just once per semester)** — or more often if you'd like. There is no **ongoing commitment** unless you want one.

Each week, we aim to provide:

- **Protein:** string cheese, Babybel cheese, etc.
- **Fruit:** bananas, apples, clementines
- **Sweet:** cookie or small treat
- **Salty:** chips, pretzels, dried seaweed
- **Drinks:** bottled water

Snacks should be dropped off in the **church kitchen or refrigerator by 1:00 p.m. on Tuesdays.**

If you're willing to help — even once — we would be so grateful.

Please contact **Pat McFadyen** at mcfadyen.pat@gmail.com with questions.

Thank you for supporting our students!

Good Morning CPC

Your Interim Pastor Nominating Committee has been very busy over the past month. The Committee has created the 5-page Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP) and has submitted this to our Presbytery where it was reviewed and approved. This MDP document was posted on the Church Leadership Connection (CLC) website on December 23rd. The CLC website is a nation wide website for ministers and other church professionals to access if they are considering a change in employment.

The Committee met on Sunday January 4th after worship and reviewed 25 applicants who had been "matched" by the CLC site as potential "good fits" based on the MDP that

the Committee had submitted and each Pastors background, education, and training. The Committee has narrowed down the list to 6 candidates who were invited to apply thru the CLC site. The posting for CPC on the CLC site is still open so more applicants may be reviewed going forward.

The next step for the Committee is to schedule initial Zoom calls with each applicant who has accepted the invitation.

Since the job search is confidential, we are unable to share names, churches, and communities at this time. A copy of the MDP that your Interim Pastor Nominating Committee submitted to the Presbytery is available in the

church office, please ask Rod or Sally for a copy.

We look forward to sharing more information in the near future.

Please keep your Committee, Pastor Rod, Pastor Meg, and The Session in your prayers as we work through this very important process in the life of our church.

Interim Pastor Nominating Committee:

- Scott Brewton, Elder, Chair of Committee
- Marie Carbrey
- Ward Oakley
- Sandy Carroll
- Kim Bailey
- Clare Ruggles

– Contact Information –

Church Office: (910) 295-6848

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday – 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Friday – Closed

If you need a Pastor after hours, the following can be reached:

Rod Stone, Pastor: (910) 585-0828

Meghan Vail, Associate Pastor: (732) 804-4907

Mailing Address: Community Presbyterian Church • P.O. Box 1449 • Pinehurst, NC 28370

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