



# First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City

## Chronicles

### December 2019



14391 Minnieville Road  
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193  
703-670-7834



People of the Church, Ministers  
Rev. Adam C. Bowling, Pastor  
Dana Van Slyke, Chancel Choir Director  
Justin Streletz, Pianist/ Organist  
Rebecca & Chris Anderson, Contemporary Worship Directors  
Ike Evans, Jubilation Handbells Director  
Joann Paige, Nursery Supervisor  
Tiffany Ramsey, Little Hands Preschool Director  
Homer Detrich, Sexton  
Kim Parker, Office Manager

#### MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ADAM

## An Advent Gift

Friends in Christ,

Happy New Year! (Well, almost...liturgically speaking that is...) Before you think that somebody needs to buy the Pastor a calendar, let me explain. I am writing to you, the congregation, to talk to you about Advent. Yes, Advent, the season of the church year that marks the beginning of a new liturgical year for the church. Advent, derived from the Latin *adventus*, means “coming” or “arrival.” Of course, the secular commercial world would like us to think that Advent begins in September, when the first Christmas decorations and displays appear in stores. (You know, right next to the Halloween candy where they belong...but, I digress.) Advent actually begins Sunday, December 1st this year, and it is meant as a time of thinking and reflecting, especially about the coming of Jesus to earth. This year, we have a special Advent gift for you!



I am excited that in the Narthex Welcome Center you will find “Advent Daily Devotions 2019,” a devotional booklet written entirely by the members, youth, and staff of First United Presbyterian Church. To me, nothing is more exciting than the fact that the people who contributed to this devotional booklet are the same people you see Sunday morning in class, in worship, and at Wednesday Night Alive. They are our friends and neighbors, our brothers and sisters in Christ. I hope and pray that using this devotional booklet will become a treasured part of your Advent season.

Furthermore, this edition of the church newsletter will contain information about special events and opportunities available at First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City for the Advent/Christmas season. I hope that you will be able to attend some of these events, and along with your daily readings, continue to grow and go deeper in faith.

With Glad Tidings of Great Joy,

Rev. Adam C. Bowling

P.S. Electronic versions of the Advent devotional booklet are available! Contact Kim in the office at 703-670-7834 or [office@fupcdc.org](mailto:office@fupcdc.org), if you would like an electronic version.

## Session Report - November

At the November Session meeting, the Session approved the sponsorship of Cub Scout Pack 289 in addition to the long-time sponsorship of Boy Scout Troop 964. Elder David Stokes is our congregation's liaison to the two Scout units and can give you more information about church scouting activities.

Session authorized the Little Hands Preschool to collect pajamas and bedtime items such as storybooks in the Narthex Welcome Center as part of their project to donate these items to ACTS.

Earthcare committee's collection of shoes and clothing to be recycled was so successful, that they requested to continue collecting year-round. Session approved setting up a collection box in the closet area of the welcome center. Items in all stages of use can be donated to be recycled.

First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City is now incorporated in the commonwealth of Virginia. Among other things, it protects the individual members of Session who serve as FUPCDC trustees of being held individually liable in case of a lawsuit against the church. All active members of FUPCDC are considered members of the corporation.

At the request of Prince William County election officials, the Session voted to make the sanctuary available for voting in elections where a larger than usual turnout is expected. The sound booth area and sanctuary area will be blocked off during election use of the sanctuary.

*Submitted by Sara Porter, Clerk of Session November Session Report*



### Christmas Poinsettias

It is once again time to order Christmas poinsettias in honor or memory of someone. The cost is \$15.00. The Christmas Poinsettia order envelopes are in the Narthex Welcome Center. The worship team will be taking orders through December 9 at 12 noon. Both orders and money are due at this time. Your poinsettias may be picked up after the 10 AM one worship service on December 29.

## Stewardship Committee

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Our Savior, the Stewardship Committee thanks each of you for all your blessings throughout 2019. Your cheerful giving of time, talents, and treasures overflows and weaves in and out of our church lives, the local community, the nation and yes, even our world sharing God's love. May this Christmas give you Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love throughout this season and the coming year.

Merry Christmas from the Stewardship families to yours!

*Colossians 2:2 ESV: "That their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ."*

## Christmas Concert

Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 14 at 7 PM in the FUPCDC Sanctuary for a delightful Christmas concert with John Kunu. He will have Christmas CDs available for sale and a free-will offering will be taken to benefit FUPCDC Mission Trips. A reception will follow in the Triple Room. Invite your friends, family, and neighbors!

## Congregational Connections



**It's Time to Go Christmas Caroling!**

*All ages are invited to SING and RING for JOY!*

**Sunday, December 8 at 5:00 PM**



**5:00 PM:** Meet at the Little Hands Preschool side of the church to pick out your Christmas elf hat or sparkly antlers, jingle bells, flashlight, and song booklet, and then pray together.

**Walk:** Walk to and through Dane Ridge singing and ringing Christmas Carols (songs) and hanging candy cane invitations to church.

**5:40 PM:** Return to church to enjoy warm cocoa, cider, Christmas cookies, and fellowship.

***Carolers under 18 must be accompanied by a parent/legal guardian and be dressed for the weather. No rain date.***



## Congregational Connections



**'TIS THE SEASON TO CELEBRATE OUR CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS!**

PLEASE JOIN US

DECEMBER 8, 9:45 - 10:45 AM IN THE TRIPLE ROOM

Hosted by Congregational Connections

Let's continue to learn more about each other...

We invite you to bring a Christmas item, one which has become a meaningful tradition that you display each year.

Such as:

A Nativity set (or part of one), a meaningful Christmas ornament or table item, perhaps an item which has been handed down through your family, a wall hanging, etc.

**TELL OTHERS YOUR STORY!**

Pick up a cup of coffee or tea in the Narthex Welcome Center and join us.

We'll gather together to enjoy light refreshments.



**ALL ARE WELCOME!**





# FUPCDC Earthcare Group

## Neabsco Creek Boardwalk Outing on Sunday, 11/24:

It was a beautiful, blustery Sunday afternoon when several brave souls and an excited pup met at Neabsco Regional Park for adventure and intrigue on the new Neabsco Creek Boardwalk, part of the National Park Service's [Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail](#). We followed the boardwalk as it wound across to the opposite side of the creek, giving us a way to be part of a habitat we could not otherwise observe and enjoy. Just past the large observation deck we saw a mysterious trail and followed it through the woods into the Julie J. Metz Wetland Mitigation Bank and almost to Leesylvania State Park. We enjoyed this outing so much we agreed to continue the adventure soon. We hope you'll join us!



## “Climate in the Pulpits” Weekend

Many thanks to everyone who helped make our first “Climate in the Pulpit” weekend so special! During the weekend of **November 16 and 17<sup>th</sup>**, FUPCDC joined dozens of congregations of many faiths throughout Maryland, DC, and Virginia by focusing on Creation care and climate change impacts in sermons and learning programs. FUPCDC participated in the following ways:

**11/16:** We were honored to welcome Joelle Novey, Director of [InterfaithPower and Light \(DC-MD-NoVA\)](#), as she presented **“Our Religious Response to Climate Change”** at the Fair Share Community Speaker Series event which began with a plant-based, climate-friendly supper.

**11/17:** Pastor Adam Bowling shared a compelling Biblical perspective on Creation care at both the 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM services.



# FUPCDC Earthcare Group



## Soles4Souls Shoe and Clothing Collection Continues - Permanently!

Generous souls continued dropping off shoe and clothing donations in November, after our [Soles4Souls](#) drive officially ended, bringing our totals to 104 pairs of shoes and 14 bags/boxes of clothing. You were so generous the Stewardship Committee and Session voted to allow us to PERMANENTLY place our collection box in the Narthex coat closet! THANK YOU and please keep those shoe and clothing donations coming! Wearable donations are most desired, but Soles4Souls recycles torn, stained, and otherwise unwearable shoes and clothing, so don't hold anything back.

## 2020 Initiatives:

In 2020, the Earthcare Group will help lay the foundation for FUPCDC to attain PC(USA) Earth Care Congregation certification in 2021. We are counting on the congregation to become aware of and get involved in our worship, facilities, education, and outreach initiatives not just to achieve certification but to enjoy and show regard for God's creation and each other. Now is a great time to join the Earthcare Group and help us plan these initiatives. Join the "FUPCDC Earthcare" Facebook group, email Nancy Hummer ([nanhummer@gmail.com](mailto:nanhummer@gmail.com)), or better yet, **attend our next meeting on Sunday, December 15, at 12:15 PM in Room 22** (refreshments provided).

*"To the Lord belong the earth and everything in it, the world and all its inhabitants. For it was he who founded it in the seas and planted it firm on the waters beneath." Psalm 24: 1-2*

# FUPCDC Earthcare Group

Did you know that eating vegan or vegetarian meals is an easy way to reduce your carbon footprint and use less energy and resources? That is why the Earth Care group provided a variety of earth-friendly vegan entrees at the recent Fair Share Speakers dinner. We will be sharing easy-to-prepare earth-friendly recipes with you over the next few months to introduce you to a new way of eating that is both healthy and tasty.

The first recipe we are sharing is Lentil Soup. This recipe is courtesy of Alton Brown and The Food Network.

## Ingredients

2 Tbsp. olive oil  
1 c. finely chopped onion  
½ c. finely chopped carrot  
½ c. finely chopped celery  
2 tsp. kosher salt  
1 lb. lentils, picked and rinsed  
1 c. peeled and chopped tomatoes  
2 qts. vegetable broth  
½ tsp freshly ground coriander  
½ tsp. freshly ground toasted cumin  
½ tsp. freshly ground grains of paradise



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## Directions

Place the olive oil in a large 6-quart Dutch oven and set over medium heat. Once hot, add the onion, carrot, celery and salt and sweat until the onions are translucent, approximately 6-7 minutes. Add the lentils, tomatoes, broth, coriander, cumin and grains of paradise and stir to combine. Increase the heat to high and bring just to a boil. Reduce the heat to low, cover and cook at a low simmer until the lentils are tender, approximately 35-40 minutes. Using a stick blender, puree to your preferred consistency. Serve immediately.

Makes 6-8 servings.

There are many things that individuals and families can do to help care for God's creation – cooking and eating vegan and vegetarian meals once or twice a week is just one possibility. For more suggestions, consider purchasing and reading [50 Simple Things You Can Do to Save the Earth](#) by John Javna, Sophie Javna & Jessie Javna. (This is the book recommended by Pastor Adam.) A related book, geared to children, is [The New 50 Simple Things Kids Can Do to Save the Earth](#) by Earthworks Group, Sophie Javna.

Both books are available on Amazon and would make great Christmas gifts or stocking stuffers.

“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims the work of His hands.” Psalm 19:1. Let us all do our part to protect His glorious creation for future generations! “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims the work of His hands.” Psalm 19:1. Let us all do our part to protect His glorious creation for future generations!

Become a member of FUPCDC's Earthcare Group by emailing Nancy Hummer at [nanhummer@gmail.com](mailto:nanhummer@gmail.com).



## Wednesday Night Alive

Wednesday Night Alive is an opportunity to connect and grow while enjoying a dinner each Wednesday night followed by Pastor's Bible Study and Chancel Choir rehearsal. The first Wednesday of each month is a potluck, and on the following Wednesdays enjoy a delicious homemade meal. Salad, drinks and dessert are also provided each week.

There is no charge for the dinner, just a donation to help cover the cost of the food.

Please join us for FOOD, FAITH, FELLOWSHIP, AND FUN!

### DECEMBER:

Dec. 4 Potluck "Italian Night"

Dec. 11 Meat Loaf and Mashed Potatoes

Dec. 18 Stuffed Pepper Soup

Dec. 25 No WNA



## Fair Share Community Speaker program

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of January, our Fair Share Community Speaker program will participate with other faith communities in a one-day interfaith education retreat. Lunch will be provided.

**Resilience:** (10:30-12) A Jewish proverb states, "Ask not for a lighter burden, but for broader shoulders." Come together for a reflective session of intergenerational healing and connection and learn about how faith communities can build resilience.

**"Imagine" a Just World:** (1:30-3 pm) Using John Lennon's "Imagine" and Genesis as a catalyst, this visual arts workshop challenges participants to imagine what a perfect world looks like and identify what stands in the way of bringing that vision into reality.

**Bal Taschit:** (3:30-5 pm) Learn how to be mindful of the environmental impact of our eating habits and to avoid food waste while trying some fun, sustainable recipes.

Location: Temple Ner Shalom, 14010 Spriggs Rd, Dale City, VA 22193

Attend one or all three of the sessions. The retreat is FREE. Save the date, see you there.



### DINNER WITH FRIENDS

If you looking for a time of good food and fellowship, consider joining our FUPCDC dining group, Dinner with Friends. We meet February-June and September-December either at someone's home or at a restaurant. For more information, contact Elizabeth Glycer at [lizglyer@gmail.com](mailto:lizglyer@gmail.com).



## Mission and Outreach

### Christmas Joy Special Offering

The Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) offer the whole Church a way to embody Matthew 25 through the Spirit-inspired stories and gifts which place us in partnership with those who have least. Christmas Joy reflects the ministry of “being with,” just as Matthew’s gospel proclaims that Jesus is “God with us.” These efforts bring the whole church together to be with church workers and their families in critical financial need due to illness or a lack of resources. It also equips students of color through leadership development and education at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges to maximize their God-given potential as they become future leaders in our church and in our world. The Christmas Joy Special Offering is our way of being with our brothers and sisters to change lives in dramatic ways. Look for more information in upcoming bulletins.

Additional information can be found here: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/christmas-joy/>

**IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.**



### SPREAD THE WARMTH

2019 is our fifth year of making warm items for our friends who are homeless and chemo hats for those suffering from cancer. Contributors to this worthwhile outreach program include members of our church, college youth and friends of church members. Since the group began we have distributed approximately 350 items. If you would like to participate in this worthwhile endeavor, please contact Elizabeth Glycer at [lizglyer@gmail.com](mailto:lizglyer@gmail.com).



Thanks to college student and Resident Advisor (RA) Rachel Washburg for bringing 3 hats and 4 scarves knitted by students on her floor at George Mason University for "Spread the Warmth!" These will be distributed to those experiencing homelessness here in Prince William County.

# Deacons

## \*Special Announcement\*

**Due to the upcoming influenza season, spread of germs, dietary restrictions and severe allergies present amongst our church family, there will no longer be snacks offered in the Narthex Welcome Center after services. We appreciate your understanding.**

The ministry of a Deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service after the example of Jesus Christ (Mark 9:35). It is the duty of Deacons to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless and to any others who may be in distress. The role of Deacons at FUPCDC is designed to be a ministry of compassion and care manifested by Deacons developing caring relationships with assigned members encouraging those members to be active participants in the life of the congregation. Deacons once ordained or installed serve a three-year rotation with the church. Feel free to reach out to any of the Deacons on the 2019 Board of Deacons with questions or encouragement.

### **2019 BOARD OF DEACONS A Ministry of Compassion and Service**

#### Class of 2019

Gail Cobb  
Claudia Cunningham  
Mayra Drayer  
Betty Matthews  
Denise Parris

#### Class of 2020

Agnes Fokwa  
Lisa Fortner  
Kathy McNeely  
Carol Schwalm  
Celine Sonkwa

#### Class of 2021

Liz Goolgasian  
Peggy Heins  
Therese Same  
Amy Bean

Denise Parris, Co-Moderator..... 703-730-3920  
Carol Schwalm, Co-Moderator..... 703-680-7673

*We love to hear from you. **If you need to be connected with your Deacon**, please contact Denise Parris or Carol Schwalm by calling the number listed above or the Church Office.*

# DEACONS

**Leading through Serving.**

## Nursery News

With cold and flu season coming, or even upon us, Ms. Joann and Ms. Becky ask that parents not bring sick children to the Nursery. We love that the children are sharing toys and playing well together. We just don't want them to share their colds.

The Nursery is cleaned frequently on Sundays as children are dropped off and picked-up to ensure that germs are not spread. Thank you so much!

## Inclement Weather Policy

As we prepare for winter...we remind you of our Inclement Weather Policy here at FUPCDC.

Please text "@fupcdc" to the number 81010 to be put on our Group Text for [First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City](#).



**During The Week, Information Pertaining To  
Weather Closings Will Be Announced On:  
ABC 7, News 8, FOX 5, WUSA 9 &  
Radio Station WGTS 91.9**

**For Weekend Ministry Activities, We Will  
Notify You Of Cancellations & Changes By  
Email, Text, or Social Media**

## Christmas Events and Services

Please join us as we celebrate Christmas.

### **December 8:**

9:45 AM - Celebrating Our Christmas Traditions

Tell others your story! We invite you to bring a Christmas item, one which has become a meaningful tradition that you display each year, such as, a Nativity set (or part of one), an ornament, or perhaps an item which has been handed down through your family. Light refreshments will be provided.

5:00-6:30 PM – Christmas Caroling in the Community

Come sing and ring the joy of Jesus' birth as we hand out candy canes and Christmas service invitations through our church neighborhood. Bring your family and friends of ALL AGES! Followed by cocoa, hot cider, and cookies.

**December 19, 20:** Preschool Parade of the Magi, 11:15 AM

### **December 24: Christmas Eve Services**

4:00 PM Child Friendly Christmas Eve Service – “Unfrozen”

7:00 PM Special Christmas Music

7:30 PM Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with Communion

This newsletter covers events from:  
December 1 - December 31.  
Exceptions: Fair Share Community event in  
January 2020.

