Worship with us this Christmas Eve at 7:00
Click here to worship with us at 7:00 PM on Christmas Eve at our candlelight service by Zoom. The service will feature lessons and carols, a children's moment, a Christmas slideshow, and beautiful musical offerings. It will end with the lighting of our own candles (which we will view in gallery mode), so please plan to have a candle with you from wherever you might join us. Our special offering will support Olaiya's Cradle, an independent living program of Sasha Bruce for young mothers experiencing homelessness. As a reminder, due to the recent COVID-19 surge, this will be a virtual service for all. So get cozy, dress in red (or green or gold) if you would like, or sit by a crackling fire with some cocoa to take in this year's Christmas Eve service. In Bethlehem is born the one who is for all, the light of the world, the hope of the ages, the healer of the nations, and God's love unfolds once again. Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ!

Stewardship & Pledges

As the old year draws to a close and the new one beckons, we want to thank everyone who helped with the stewardship campaign this year: the people who spoke and wrote about their giving and touched us in many different ways; the assistance of Lucille Dickinson who keeps tabs on our giving so competently; and finally, each of you who have made a pledge of support for this coming year. As of the most recent report from Lucille we have received $267,790 from 100 individuals and families in our congregation. We have not met either our goals for participation or total giving but we remain hopeful that we will receive more pledges before January 1st. If you have not pledged all you need do is email Lucille (lucilledickinson@aol.com) with your intended gift for next year to be included in the total. If we do not meet our goal it means that we will not be able to do all that we hope for the next year.

This is an important year as we have our first “settled” pastor in a very long time. In order for this new ministry to come to its fullest expression we need all kinds of support including financial support. Please, if you have not yet decided on your
contribution for the coming year, do it soon so that we can enter into 2022 with all the strength of this small but mighty congregation.

Jean Alexander and Nick McConnell
Co-chairs Stewardship Campaign

Christmas Eve Offering for Olaiya’s Cradle
On Christmas Eve please donate generously to support young mothers and their babies in the Olaiya’s Cradle program. Olaiya’s Cradle is a supportive, independent living program for homeless young mothers ages 18-21 and their children, for up to 18 months. Women are self-referred, and receive individual counseling, comprehensive maternal and infant health care, life skills training, education and career guidance, and child care support and parenting training to enable them to achieve self-sufficiency. Residents graduating from the program receive follow-up support and housing assistance to help them maintain stability. Olaiya’s Cradle is a program run by Sasha Bruce Youthwork, our partner in carrying out the Youth Drop In Center here at First Church for youth who do not have secure housing.

Virtual Worship on Sunday, December 26
Click here to join us for worship on Sunday, December 26th by Zoom at 10:30 AM. Please note this service will be completely virtual, with no sanctuary presence on this date. Join us for a Christmas-tide service put together by the Central Atlantic Conference as our pastoral staff takes the Sunday off to be with their families. Our Moderator John Smeltzer will offer a personal welcome to begin the service. Join us!
Prayer List

Prayers of comfort for the family and friends of Peg Lorenz, following her death.

Prayers of comfort for the family of Cindy Dobbs following the death of her husband Will.

Prayers of strength for LaTayna Purnell as she provides care for her ailing parents.
   Prayers of healing for Hugh Bushmiller.

Prayers of comfort for Andre, the mother of Scott Prentice, and for the entire Prentice family as she is hospitalized with pneumonia and stage 4 leukemia.

Prayers of healing for Liz and Lance Warren, as Liz recovers from a fall and Lance recovers from surgery.
   Prayers of healing for Diane Brenneman’s daughter Sara as she recovers from surgery.
   Prayers of mercy for the people of Afghanistan and Afghan families resettling in the U.S.

Prayers of comfort for the family of Joan King, following her death, and for this community who loved her.

Prayers for Monte Hillis and her husband Bert, as she faces the rapid onset of dementia.

Prayers of peace and liberation for Nicaragua, Cuba, and Haiti.

Prayers of healing for Dwan Reece as she recovers from surgery.
   Prayers of comfort for Grace Bassler following Don’s death.
   Byron Adams’ niece, Valerie, undergoing treatment for breast cancer.

Prayers of hope for our Racial Justice Audit yearlong process.
   All those who mourn the loss of a beloved one.
   Families struggling to eat and make ends meet.
   People’s UCC, our sibling congregation.

Emmanuel Okorie-Dunn and Ellen Bushmiller, who serve as nurses.
Rev. Laura Johnson and Rev. Diana Gomez de Molina, who serve as chaplains.
Upcoming Events

December Calendar

**Sunday, December 5**  
Second Sunday of Advent  
10:30 am  Worship

**Tuesday, December 7**  
6:00 pm  Drop-In Center for Homeless Youth  
6:30 pm  Drop-In Center Yoga Class

**Sunday, December 12**  
Third Sunday of Advent  
10:30 am  Christmas Pageant

**Tuesday, December 14**  
6:00 pm  Drop-In Center for Homeless Youth

**Thursday, December 16**  
7:00 pm  Blue Christmas Service

**Saturday, December 18**  
1:30 pm  Memorial Service for Peg Lornez

**Sunday, December 19**  
Fourth Sunday of Advent  
10:30 am  Worship  
Christmas Cookie Exchange

**Tuesday, December 21**  
6:00 pm  Drop-In Center for Homeless Youth

**Friday, December 24**  
7:00 pm  Candle-Light Christmas Eve Service

**Sunday, December 26**  
10:30 am  Worship (Zoom Only)
Ministers – Friends & Members of the Church
Senior Minister – Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss
Associate Minister – Rev. Sam McFerran
Building Manager – Mr. Byron Adams
Administrative Assistant – Ms. Trista Dunlap
Sexton – Ms. Ines Marquez
Members in Discernment – Lynaya Morris, LaTayna Purnell
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