

Today's liturgist: Woody Ferrell
Today's greeters: Woody, Janet and Austin Ferrell
Today's ushers: Bill & Terri Carpenter
Fellowship: Tom Fife's Care Group

“Every Longing Heart” Starts Today

The theme of this year's Advent series, “Every Longing Heart,” comes from the well-known Advent hymn, “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus.” The first verse of this hymn concludes with the words, “Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of *every longing heart.*” What did Israel long for in exile? And what do we long for as we experience “exile” in our own lives?

December 9: “Longing for Healing” (Malachi 3:1-4)

December 16: “Longing for Union” (Isaiah 54:4-8)

December 23: “Longing for Home” (Zephaniah 3:14-20)

The Righteous Branch

The branch on the communion table represents God's promise of a coming ruler for Israel. As the prophet Jeremiah says, “I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land” (Jeremiah 33:15). The lighted candles on the branch represent our longing for the coming of Christ.

“There's No Place Like It: Meditations on the Idea of Home”

Our sense of home deeply shapes our life and faith journeys. In our 9:30 AM class during Advent, we will use several familiar biblical texts as starting places to explore different dimensions of our sense of what is “home.” How are we at home in space, in time, in our bodies, and in our relationships? When have we experienced alienation from home? Join leader Win Word-Sims as we explore biblical stories about alienation and homecoming and share about our own stories. Time will be set aside each Sunday to remember migrants and refugees around the world who have left or lost their homes, and who are still searching for a place of belonging. We meet in the downstairs classroom (Room 104).

Alternative Christmas Giving Is Here

Stop by the Outreach table in the Narthex to make a donation of \$10 or more to one of the organizations below and pick up a card saying that you have made a donation in honor of your friend or loved one. This year we are sponsoring (1) the Eblen Energy Project (local), which provides families with heating and cooling assistance, (2) Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (national), which is the emergency and

refugee program of the PC(USA), and (3) educational scholarships for the children of our sister community in Guatemala (global). Visit the Equal Exchange table and consider giving fair trade items. We are also offering items from the Wi'am Palestinian Conflict Resolution Center.

Men's Brunch Bunch will meet at 10:30 AM this Saturday, December 8 at J.K.'s on Long Shoals. We gather every other Saturday to eat and enjoy fellowship! Contact John Riley at (828) 575-2894.

December Fellowship Meal

Join us on Sunday, December 16, after worship for a “Christmas Tea” featuring delightful finger foods and desserts. All are welcome, and if you are able, please bring something festive for the table.

2019 Stewardship Campaign Update

2019 Operating Fund pledges made	50
2019 Operating Pledge Total	\$161,255
2019 Member Contribution Budget Goal	\$159,475

Worship bulletin announcements for Sunday, December 9 are due to Administrator, Erin May, by noon on Wednesday, December 5.

Calendar

Sun	2	11:00 AM	Worship
		12:30 PM	Out-to-Lunch Bunch (see Marlene)
Tue	4	6:00 PM	Building and Grounds Committee Advent Lectio Divina Group
Wed	5	4:00 PM	Finance Committee
		5:00 PM	Outreach Committee
		6:00 PM	Worship Committee
		7:00 PM	Choir
Sat	8	10:30 AM	Men's Brunch Bunch
Sun	9	9:30 AM	Sunday Morning Class
		11:00 AM	Worship
		12:15 PM	Out-to-Lunch Bunch (see Marlene)

New Hope Presbyterian Church

We are a welcoming, inclusive faith community, seeking to respond to Christ's call to love and serve, through ministries of compassion and social justice.

3070 Sweeten Creek Road, Asheville, NC 28803 | (828) 274-0191
 Kim Wells, Pastor | Erin May, Church Administrator
 Rob Blackwell, Director of Music Ministry/Pianist
www.newhopepcusaasheville.org

*New Hope
 Presbyterian Church*

“Including, Renewing, Serving”

First Sunday of Advent
 December 2, 2018
 11 o'clock



“Longing for Wrongs to Be Made Right”

First in a Series for Advent:



“Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of *every longing heart.*”
 —“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus,” verse 1