

**January 4, 2026**

**Pennies for Hunger: January 4**

**January Missions Offering:  
Blessing Bags**

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP!** Vimeo live-streamed services may be accessed from [www.alamancechurch.org](http://www.alamancechurch.org).

**SPECIAL MISSIONS OFFERING in January:** Blessing Bags, for the unhoused in our wider community. See insert for details.

**KIDS ROCK:** Regular meeting **tonight: 5-6:15p** in the Kids ROCK room (upper level, Education building). Program: *No Worries (Matt. 6:25-34)*. Kids Reaching Out to Christ's Kingdom fellowship group is for grades 2-5.

**YOUTH GROUPS:** Regular meeting **tonight: 5-6:15p**.

**SOUP & SALAD EXTRAVAGANZA** fundraiser for Children and Youth ministries is **immediately after worship on Sun., Jan. 11**, in Brown Fellowship Hall. Contact Jess Rigel or Joy Thomas to contribute soups — and/or ingredients for the additional meal components of green salad and grilled cheese sandwiches.

**MEETS & MINGLE** at The Loaded Grape (2915 Battleground Ave., Suite F) at **7p** on **Fri., Jan. 16** with the fellowship group **MEETS** (Meet, Eat, Entertain, Travel, Socialize). **MEETS** is for ages 21 and up.

**KNIT/CROCHET CLASS IN JANUARY:** Lou Gonzalez leads. Contact her for details about the **Sun., Jan. 18** beginners' class. (336-301-9191)

**CHURCH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED** **Jan. 19** for MLK Day, a federal holiday.

**APC BOOK CLUB** meets **Tues., Jan. 20, 7p** in the Book Nook (top floor, middle building).

**POTTERS HOUSE:** Since 2004, APC has fed Greensboro Urban Ministry guests on the **third Sat. of each odd month**. **Sat., Jan. 24, 2026** is next date.

**SENIORS & FRIENDS:** Fellowship group meets and eats on **first Mon. of even months** at **11:30a**, in the Coble House — unless otherwise noted. Next meal is **Feb. 2, 2026**.

**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE** in Brown Fellowship Hall will be from **1:30-6p** on **Fri., Feb. 6, 2026**. Keep your eyeballs peeled in the weeks ahead, for details about how to sign up to donate a pint of life-fluid.

**GREENSBORO GARGOYLES NIGHT:** **Fri., Feb. 6, 7p** at First Horizon Coliseum. Tickets for Section 132 are \$25 — order direct at [gofovo.com/event/Alamancepresbyterian2](http://gofovo.com/event/Alamancepresbyterian2). (Deadline for group rate is **Jan. 26**.)

**CHURCH NURSERY** is in room #313 (top floor, Education Building). Sign up to help there at **Children's Ministries Volunteer** (Please contact Dana Adams for a background check, **because you MUST have one** to work with children in this church. [dana@alamancechurch.org](mailto:dana@alamancechurch.org)).

**LAY READERS:** Those interested in reading Scripture aloud in front of the congregation should contact Doug Clapp, and ask to be put into reader rotation. [doug.clapp@triad.rr.com](mailto:doug.clapp@triad.rr.com))

**STATED SESSION MEETING** is at **2p** on the **second Sunday of each month** (unless otherwise noted).

Purchasing new furniture for the holidays? Is an old couch or lounge chair cluttering your space? APC Youth Groups seek furniture for a new meeting space — and would welcome your comfortable, gently-used, hand-me-downs!

If you have a piece to share, contact Pastor Jess for specifics. ([jess@alamancechurch.org](mailto:jess@alamancechurch.org)). Contact her, too, to volunteer your efforts at clearing out that meeting space in readiness for "new" furniture.

### **Food Pantry**

#### **January special collection: Canned beans**

The APC Food Pantry serves up to 30 families each week, all year long. Your donations make this vital local mission possible.

#### **VOLUNTEERS ESSENTIAL.**

Sign up at [https://signup.com/group/987658676044?utm\\_source=group-badge-volunteer-green](https://signup.com/group/987658676044?utm_source=group-badge-volunteer-green).

**Do, please**, donate clean, dry, plastic grocery bags.

**336-697-0488**

Office hours: **8:30a-2:30p M-T-Th-F, 8:30a-12:30p on Wednesday**

### **Church Staff**

**Dr. Kyle Goodman**, Lead Pastor [kyle@alamancechurch.org](mailto:kyle@alamancechurch.org)

**Rev. Jess Rigel**, Discipleship Pastor [jess@alamancechurch.org](mailto:jess@alamancechurch.org)

**Andrew Long**, Audiovisual Technician [andrew@alamancechurch.org](mailto:andrew@alamancechurch.org)

**Joy Thomas**, Dir., Children's Ministries [joy@alamancechurch.org](mailto:joy@alamancechurch.org)

**Katie Long**, Director of Music [katie@alamancechurch.org](mailto:katie@alamancechurch.org)

**Jacob Dishman**, Pianist

**Dana Adams**, Finance and Administration Coordinator [dana@alamancechurch.org](mailto:dana@alamancechurch.org)

**Lynn Barnes**, Administrative Asst. [lynn@alamancechurch.org](mailto:lynn@alamancechurch.org)

See Holly Daas at the Welcome Table in the narthex, to express your interest in serving on a Bereavement Team.

### **Questions & Answers with Kyle**

is a Sunday school class for adults, led by Pastor Kyle Goodman. Class meets **most Sundays at 9a** in the Parlor (middle building, middle floor, beside the fire escape.) You are welcome to join at any time.

### **Read the Bible in Two Years**

Bobbie Black leads this Sunday school class in the Uffman classroom from **9-9:30a** on the **first Sunday each month**. Next class is on **Sunday, February 1**.

**OPEN MEETING:** 12-step recovery program (AA) meets **7p every Thursday** in the Gathering Place.

**Presbyterian Women Circles meet:**

**Red Hat:** **Mon., Jan. 12, 6:30p** in the Coble House.

**Agapé:** **Tues., Jan 13. 11a** to go eat, **12p** in Uffman room for Bible study.

**L.I.F.T.:** **Tues., Jan. 13, 7p** in the Coble House.

**Men's Group** meets at **6:30p** on the **third Tuesday of each month**.

Next meeting is on **Tues., Jan. 20** at Kirby Ward's home, 3800 Lilly Farm Rd.

### **ONLINE GIVING:**

Easy Tithe charges APC a monthly fee to accept online giving, *in addition* to a processing fee for each transaction. Easy Tithe recommends that donors use the ACH payment type with online donations: this significantly lowers processing fees.

**To give by text:** Text the word "give" to 336-396-6133. Follow prompts to set up an account and make donations.

[www.alamancechurch.org](http://www.alamancechurch.org) has instructions to sign up with Easy Tithe for online giving.

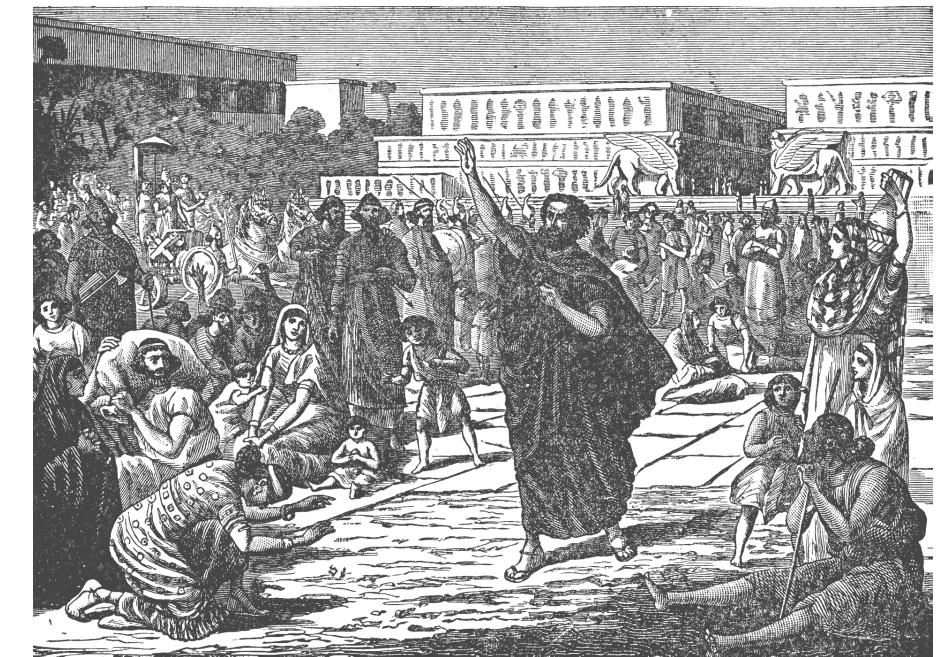
**To make changes to your account**, contact Dana Adams (336-697-0488 x 127, [dana@alamancechurch.org](mailto:dana@alamancechurch.org))



We welcome all to the community of Jesus: to connect, to learn, to worship, to serve.

**Second Sunday of Christmas**

January 4, 2026 10 a.m.



**Gathering**

**Welcome and Announcements**

Lay Reader today is Maelyn Goodman.

**Centering Music**

**Call to Worship**

One: From the depths, we cry to the Lord.

**All: And the Lord hears us.**

One: When we feel cast out of God's sight,

**All: still God's mercy finds us.**

One: When our lives feel swallowed by despair,

**All: God is not finished with us yet.**

One: The one who delivers from the deep

is also the one who challenges our narrow minds and hardened hearts.

**All: We come to worship the God who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

One: Come, let us worship the Lord.

**\* Opening Hymn**

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

Song sheet

Confession and Reconciliation

**Call to Confession**

## Prayer of Confession

**Faithful and persistent God, forgive us when we run and hide from you. You ask us to go to places we would rather avoid, to speak words we fear will cost us, to love people we do not understand and would prefer to keep at a distance. Like Jonah, we flee; not always with our feet, but with our silence, our delay, our excuses about bad timing, or our insistence that someone else is better suited than us. Forgive us, O God. Forgive us for wanting to shape your mission instead of surrendering to it. Turn us around again. Free us from our need to decide who deserves grace. Give us courage not only to go where you send us, but to rejoice when your mercy exceeds our imagining. Amen.**

## A Word of Forgiveness and Encouragement

## Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of the Lord be with you. **All: And also with you.**

We invite everyone to share Christ's peace with your neighbors, both now and after the service. If you are with us on-line, we invite you to send a message or make a call to share peace. If you are here in person, we invite you to greet those near you.

**\*Sung Response** *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me* Song sheet

## The Word Proclaimed

### First Scripture Reading *Jonah 3:1-10*

One: This is the Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem** *See, Amid the Winter Snow* - arr. Dan Forrest

Katie Long, soprano; Jacob Dishman, pianoforte

## Children's Message

Children from age 4-5th grade may now go to the Grace Space, at the front of the sanctuary.

### Second Scripture Reading *Jonah 4:1-11*

One: This is the Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

## Message

Rev. Jess Rigel

## Words of Reflection

## "The Bright Field"

- R.S. Thomas

I have seen the sun break through  
to illuminate a small field  
for a while, and gone my way  
and forgotten it. But that was the  
pearl of great price, the one field that had  
treasure in it. I realise now  
that I must give all that I have  
to possess it. Life is not hurrying  
on to a receding future, nor hankering after  
an imagined past. It is the turning  
aside like Moses to the miracle  
of the lit bush, to a brightness  
that seemed as transitory as your youth  
once, but is the eternity that awaits you.

## Thanksgiving and Offering

### Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

King James Version

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowéd be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Pray with the words that hold the most meaning for you,  
even if they differ from your neighbor's.

### Call to Offering

### Sharing of Offering

We invite you to prayerfully donate to the continued life and work of our congregation. You may mail gifts directly to the church, or use our online giving platform, at <https://www.alamancechurch.org/online-tithing>.

### Offertory

### \* Doxology

### *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Song sheet

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

## Sending

### \* Sending Hymn

### *Here I Am, Lord*

Song sheet

Feel free to come forward during the closing song to light a candle, as a public sign of an inward commitment to life in the light of Christ. If your religious tradition includes crossing yourself, feel free to do that here.

### \* Charge and Benediction

### Closing Music

\*One asterisk means to stand, as you are able.

The nearest restrooms are out the sanctuary side door, through the breezeway, and into the alcove of the Thin Place Gallery.

Assisted listening devices are available from the technician at the Audiovisual booth, which is located at the back of the sanctuary.

Citations for references used during worship are available from the ministers, upon request. The New Revised Standard Version (Updated Edition) of the Bible is used during worship, unless otherwise noted.

Lectionary Year A, Second Sunday of Christmas, **January 4: Jeremiah 31-7-14, Psalm 147:12-20, Ephesians 1:3-14, John 1:(1-9) 10-18.**

Lectionary Year A, Epiphany, **January 6: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12.**

Lectionary Year A, Baptism of the Lord Sunday, **January 11: Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29, Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17.**



We are an ecumenical congregation in a Presbyterian Church, USA form.

We are a **Matthew 25** Church.

We are a Hunger Action Congregation.

We are a Stephen Ministry congregation.

We welcome all to the community of Jesus:  
to connect, to learn, to worship, to serve.