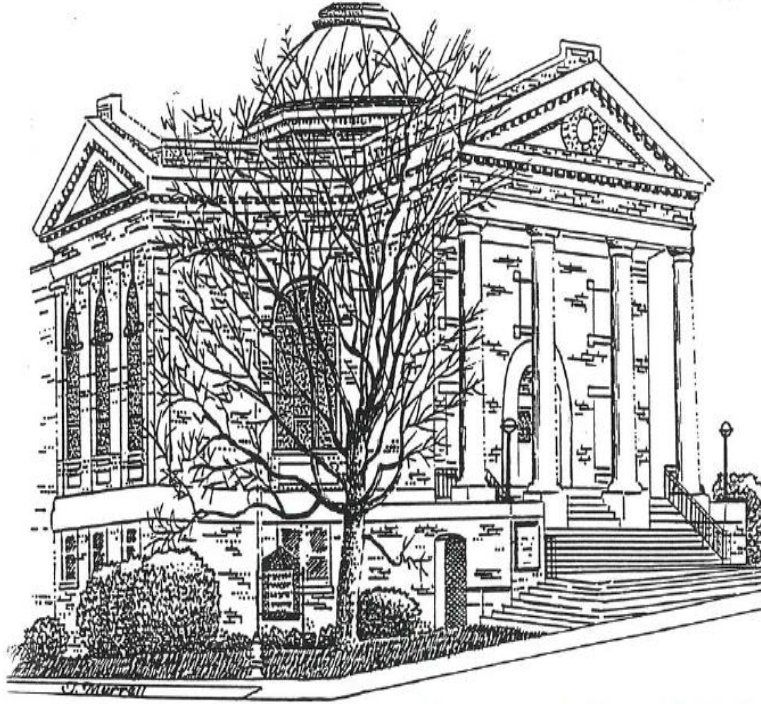


*First Presbyterian Church  
Albemarle, North Carolina*



*SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY*

*January 15, 2023*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After Epiphany*

**GATHERING**

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Carter Gibson, acolyte

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 49

When I waited patiently for you, O God, you bent down to me and heard my cry.

**You put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.**

I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O Lord.

**Do not, O Lord, withhold your mercy from me; let your steadfast love and faithfulness keep me safe forever.**

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Holy God, you sent your son to be the light of the world, so that all may know the brightness of your love. Fill us with your grace this day, that we too may bear witness to his light and serve your coming reign. Amen.**

\*HYMN 610

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

AZMON

*O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King, the triumph of God's grace.*

*The name of Jesus charms our fear, and bids our sorrows cease,  
Sings music in the sinner's ears, brings life, and health, and peace.*

*Christ speaks, and listening to his voice new life the dead receive;  
The mournful waken to rejoice; the poor in heart believe.*

*My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.*

*To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever given  
By saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heaven.*

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, we confess that we have been timid and unreliable witnesses of Jesus Christ. Forgive us for the times we've stayed silent in the face of injustice and hate; for the times our actions have not matched our beliefs; for the times we've hoarded our abundance; for the times we've turned away from your children in need. For the many ways we fail to follow Jesus, forgive us. Invite us again to come and see, and to abide in your presence so that we may be transformed and renewed. Empower us to witness with our words and lives, to the love and grace we've experienced in Jesus Christ.**

*Silent Confession and Reflection*

\*Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

*Those coming forward for Faith Sharing are invited to move to the chancel area during the Response.*

\*Response 119

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (stanza 3)

MENDELSSOHN

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”*

**THE WORD**

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Melissa Eudy

ANTHEM

“He Comes to Us”

Jane M. Marshall

*He comes to us as one unknown, without a name, as of old,  
By the lakeside he came to those men who knew Him not.  
He speaks to us, He speaks the same word: Follow thou me!  
And sets us to the tasks which He has to fulfill for our time.*

*He commands, and to those who obey Him,  
Whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal Himself in the toils,  
The conflicts, the sufferings which they shall pass through in His fellowship.  
And, as an ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience who He is.*

*O Morning Star, how fair and bright, thou beamest forth in truth and light.  
O Sovereign meek and lowly, Thou Rose of Jesse, David's Son,  
My Lord and Master, Thou has won my heart to serve Thee. Thou are holy, fair, and  
Glorious, all victorious, rich in blessing, rule and might o'er all possessing*

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**God of wisdom, by the power of your Holy Spirit, invite us into your Word. Give us ears to hear, wisdom to understand, and courage to answer your call to us today. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[John 1:29-42](#)

pew Bible, page 86

SERMON

“What Are You Looking For?”

Rev. George

\*HYMN 726

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

KELVINGROVE

*Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?*

*Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?*

*Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?*

*Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?*

*Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.*

#### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The *Apostles' Creed*

**I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on 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.**

**RECEIVING OF THE OFFERING**

Offertory

\*Response 145

“What Child Is This” (stanza 3)

GREENSLEEVES

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.  
The King of Kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby,  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the Son of Mary!*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Generous God, we offer these gifts in gratitude for all we have received. Use them to strengthen the ministry of your church to meet the needs of your children. May these offerings bear witness to your love made known to us in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

**SENDING**

\*HYMN 744

“Arise, Your Light Is Come!”

FESTAL SONG

*Arise, your light has come! The Spirit's call obey;  
Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.*

*Arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door;  
Proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.*

*Arise, your light has come! All you in sorrow born,  
Bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.*

*Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.*

**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

“Sevenfold Amen”

John Stainer

\*POSTLUDE

*\*Please stand in body or spirit.*

***Bold print** indicates places where congregation reads or sings.*

PERMISSIONS: *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*, Text: Charles Wesley(1707-1788), 1739. Hymn tune: *Azmon*. Carl Gotthelf Gläser (1784-1829), 1828. arr. Lowell Mason, 1839. Public domain. *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*, Text: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), 1739. Hymn tune: *Mendelssohn*. Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) 1855. Public domain. *Will You Come and Follow Me*, Text: John L. Bell (b. 1949), Hymn tune: *Kelvingrove*, Scottish melody, arr. John L. Bell © 1987, *WGRG, Iona Community* (admin. *GIA Publications, Inc.*) All rights reserved. Used with permission under One License A-709512. *What Child Is This*, Text: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898), 1871. Hymn tune: *Greensleeves*. 16th Century English ballad. Public domain. *He Comes to Us*, Text: Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965), 1948. Jane M. Marshall (1924-2019) © 1957, *Carl Fischer, Inc.* All rights reserved. Used with permission under One License A-709512. *Arise Your Light Is Come*, Text: Ruth Duck (b. 1947), 1974. © 1992, *GIA Publications, Inc.* All rights reserved. Used with permission under One License A-709512. Hymn tune: *Festal Song*, William Henry Walter, 1894. Public domain. *Sevenfold Amen*, Music: John Stainer (1840-1901). Public domain.

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**Thank you** to Michelle Efird, Frank Poolos and Melissa Eudy for their leadership in worship today.

**The acolyte today is Carter Gibson.**

**The flowers in the sanctuary** are given to the glory of God and in honor of the birthdays of Vance Cole, Jacob Palmer, and Julia Cole.

**Ushers for January:** Jim Hesley (captain), Liz Bryson, Steve Cumming, Ella Cumming, Lee McLaurin, Laura McLeod, Leo McLeod, Jackson Palmer, John Palmer.

**Outside Ushers for January 15:** Wes Eudy, Jack Morton.

**Elder Greeters:** John Earnhardt, Sandy Rogers.

**Streaming Coordinator:** Evan Sanges      **Film:** Elizabeth Bryson      **Nursery:** Bailey Mitchell  
**Kids Crew:** Katherine Jolly

**There will be Children's Church today.**

\*\*\*\*\*  
**We ask that you keep these people in your prayers:** Claude Harwood, Wayne Palmer, Penny Welling (friend of the congregation), Gloria Bryson (Trinity Place), Ann Byrd (Home), Tim Rodgers, Doris Forte-Spring Arbor, Brayden Enzor (grandson of Gus & Pam Holbrook); (Home), Carole Yost (Home), Jean Rabe, Anita Gower, Nancy Jolly, Jane Scheer, Don Joines, Elizabeth Wilson, Ann Snuggs, Susan Pandich-breast cancer, Jason Miller (friend of the congregation), Laura Frazier, Debbie Hinson, Rita Morgan, Emma Gibson, Harriet Watkins (friend of the congregation), Mike Jewell (brother-in-law of Linda Anderson), Frankie Palmer. See newsletter for complete list.

\*\*\*\*\*

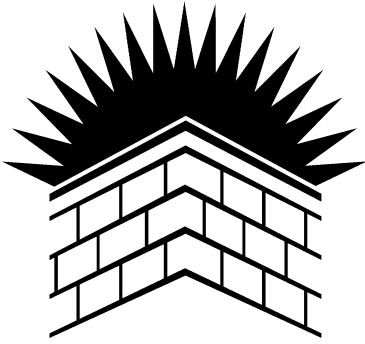
**Thanks to** Janet Schaefer, Marlene and Nathan Sanges, Carol Sasser, Nancy Joines. Linda Anderson, and Andy and Ruth Cotton for the Community Inn meal on Friday January 6, 2023.

\*\*\*\*\*

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION & CORPORATION  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 29  
FOLLOWING WORSHIP**



Session has established the date for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation as Sunday, January 29. The meeting will be held immediately following worship.



*The Christian Education Corner*

We encourage children to remain in worship!  
There are worship bags available for them in both lobbies of the church.  
Feel free to pick these up anytime before, during or after worship.

If you are not on the SPOND app please download it. That is the easiest way for all of us to keep in touch. Here is the link to join <https://group.spond.com/LTOXZ>

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Monday Night Bible Study** 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders at the home of Debby Johnston  
(1212 Heritage Dr.) Mondays at 8:30 pm.



\*\*\*\*\*  
**Faith Explorers**

Join us on Sunday, January 22 after worship as we bake goodies to deliver to our friends and families who are shut-in. We will work in the church kitchen to prepare goodies and then deliver them to very special folks. Please RSVP to Melissa if you can attend.



\*\*\*\*\*  
**YOUTH CLUB RETURNS!**

**When: January 18**

**Times: 3:30-5:30**

Join us for time of Bible study, arts, recreation, snack, music, and more. Most importantly, we will have lots of fun with our friends! Please let Melissa know if your child can attend!!



\*\*\*\*\*  
**Kids' Kirk**

Join us for Kids' Kirk (formerly known as Children's Church) today as we explore the elements of worship and what they mean.



**NEW BEGINNINGS – What is it that God is calling you to change? Are there things that you cannot change that need a change in attitude or perspective? How do I gain wisdom from God to help guide me in what I can and can't change? Please join Gayle Russell and Jane Snyder on Mondays at NOON at the Rosebriar during the month of January. Our meeting days will be January 16, 23 and 30<sup>th</sup> at NOON. Please note the change to meeting at the Rosebriar where lunch will be served. Please let Jane Snyder know you are coming! 704-438-3358 [jsnyder@fpcalbemarle.org](mailto:jsnyder@fpcalbemarle.org) If you would like to Zoom with us, please let Jane know ASAP so she can get the link to you.**

\*\*\*\*\*  
Gaither Endowment Submission Deadline: Noon on Monday January 23, 2003.





*Pantry needs*

Ketchup	Spam
Mayo	Pasta Side Dishes
Mustard	Toothbrushes
Sugar (1-2 lb bags)	Toothpaste
Canned Pineapple	Laundry detergent - (small sizes)
Cake Mix	Shampoo
Brownie Mix	Cleaning Supplies
Icing	Oatmeal
Pancake Mix	Grits
Syrup	

\*\*\*\*\*

**Backpack Food Program Donations Needed:**

Oatmeal Packets, Breakfast Cookies, Individual Bags of Goldfish, Large Cans of Soup, Saltine Crackers, Tuna Helper, Cans of Tuna, Chicken Helper, Cans of Chicken, Snack Crackers, Pineapple, or Fruit Cocktail Cups

A bin in the pit stop will receive your donation.



**Next Packing Date: Wednesday, January 25 at 10:30 a.m.**

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**DRIVE-THRU MEAL**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18- FROM 5:00 P.M.- 6:00 P.M.**

**RSVP BY 2:00 P.M. ON MONDAY, JANUARY 16**

**PICK-UP OR DELIVERY OF THE MEAL**

**Menu: Brunswick Stew, Cornbread and Cookies**

**call Anne Montgomery at 704-796-5841 or email Anne at**

**[johnandannemontgomery@yahoo.com](mailto:johnandannemontgomery@yahoo.com)**



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STANLY COUNTY  
EXTENSION & COMMUNITY  
ASSOCIATION

*Tea*

02 | 25 | 2023

AT 1:30 PM

STANLY COUNTY AGRI-CIVIC CENTER  
26032 NEWT RD. ALBEMARLE, NC 28001

\$25 DUE AT REGISTRATION  
LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE

RSVP BY JANUARY 14, 2023 TO  
LISA FORREST @704-983-3987

If you have any questions about the Tea, please contact Ruth Cotton 704-942-1381 or Ann Duckwall 704-983-3489

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

**Sunday, January 15**

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany*

8:45 am Diaconate

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am \*Worship

No SNL

**Monday, January 16**

*Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday*

*Church Office Closed*

10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

12:00 pm New Beginnings

8:30 pm High School Bible Study-home of Debby Johnson

**Tuesday, January 17**

7:00 pm-8:30 pm PNC

**Wednesday, January 18**

6:45 am Men's Prayer Breakfast

10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

3:30 pm to 5:30 pm Youth Club

5:00 pm Drive Thru Meal

6:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, January 19**

4:00 pm Zoom Bible Study with Catherine & Matt Moeller

**Sunday, January 22**

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany*

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am \*Worship

12:00 pm Faith Explorers Baking in Kitchen

6:00 on SNL

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

**January**

15- Julian Eudy

16- Debbie Hahn

19- Nancy Feather

21- Drew Melone

22- Jaycee Barbee

\*childcare provided

**Church Staff**

Transitional Pastor, Rev Catherine George  
Office Manager, Kyle Lambert  
Secretary, Beth Poolos  
Transitional Director of Christian Ed, Melissa Eudy  
Director of Fellowship/Congregational Care, Jane Snyder  
Director of Music, Dr. Frank Poolos  
Organist, Interim  
Facilities Manager, Shawn Graeff

**Elders**

Al Andrew, Ann Crutchfield, Bill Jolly,  
Mary Kesselman, Heather Kilde,  
Mike King, Lee McLaurin, Kim Marshall,  
Ronnie Michael, Catherine Moeller, Jackson Palmer  
Chris Whitley, Ellen Whitley

**Deacons**

Keith Bryson, Shannon Bullard, Michelle Cumming,  
Wes Eudy, Jim Hesley, Liz Jolly, Myron Lowder,  
Laura McLeod, Frank Poolos. Brett Richards,  
Carol Sasser, Billie Jean Snuggs

Tithes and offerings may be  
mailed to:  
First Presbyterian Church  
P.O. Box 1578  
Albemarle, NC 28002



Online giving can be done  
through the church's website  
([www.fpcalbemarle.org](http://www.fpcalbemarle.org)).  
Click on the GIVE button.

The offering as part of our worship is a response to God's grace. The plates will be passed by the ushers or you may make your gift by scanning the QR Code here. Thank you for your generosity.