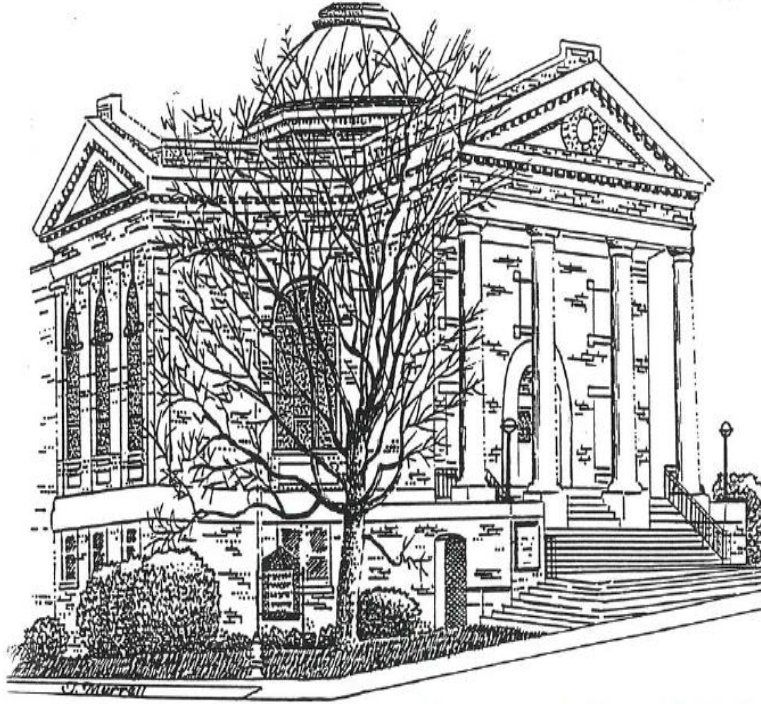


*First Presbyterian Church
Albemarle, North Carolina*



There are no experts in the company of Jesus. We're all beginners, necessarily followers, because we don't know where we are going. On reflection, it is difficult to understand how the term "laity" and the assumptions drawn from it continue to marginalize so many Christians from all-out participation in following Jesus.

After all, didn't Jesus call only lay persons to follow him?

Not a priest or professor among the twelve men and numerous women followers.

Eugene H. Peterson

The Jesus Way: A Conversation on the Ways Jesus is the Way

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

January 22, 2023

3rd Sunday After Epiphany

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please sign the guest register and pass it on.

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Melanie Hendrix, acolyte

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 27

Laura McLeod, Liturgist

The Lord is my light and my salvation; of whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

One thing I ask of the Lord, to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

“Come,” my heart says, “seek the face of the Lord.” Your face, Lord, do I seek.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, our light and our salvation, Jesus announced the nearness of your kingdom and called his disciples to be fishers of women and men. Give us the courage to follow in the way of Jesus, that our lives may bear witness to the good news of the kingdom at hand and our vocation serve to draw people to your salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*HYMN 620

“Praise My Soul the King of Heaven”

LAUDA ANIMA

*Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; to his feet your tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore his praises sing.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise the everlasting King!*

*Praise him for his grace and favor to his people in distress.
Praise him, still the same as ever, slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia, alleluia! Glorious in his faithfulness!*

*Fatherlike he tends and spares us; well our feeble frame he knows.
In his hand he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, alleluia! Widely yet his mercy flows!*

*Angels, help us to adore him; you behold him face to face.
Sun and moon, bow down before him, dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!*

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, we confess that we have not been faithful to you in our thoughts and actions. We’ve been selfish in our desires and quarrelsome in our relationships. We’ve allowed fear to divide us from those who seem different, and let distrust separate us from our sisters and brothers. Shine your light into our darkened hearts. Save us from our divisive ways. Unite us in the same mind as Jesus Christ, who dwells with you and the Holy Spirit in perfect harmony.

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

Emily Andrew

ANTHEM

“The Lord is My Light”

Pattie Drennan

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, illumine our minds by the power of the Holy Spirit, that as the scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, our eyes may see your kingdom, our ears may hear the call of Jesus, and our hearts may know the joy of your salvation. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Matthew 4:12-23](#)

pew Bible, page 3

SERMON

“Follow Me”

Rev. George

*HYMN 721

“Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore”

PESCADOR DE HOMBRES

Lord, you have come to the lakeshore looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones; you only asked me to follow humbly.

*O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me, and while smiling have spoken my name;
Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me; by your side I will seek other seas.*

You know so well my possessions; my boat carries no gold and no weapons; you will find there my nets and labor.

*O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me, and while smiling have spoken my name;
Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me; by your side I will seek other seas.*

You need my hands, full of caring, through my labors to give others rest, and constant love that keeps on loving.

*O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me, and while smiling have spoken my name;
Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me; by your side I will seek other seas.*

You, who have fished other oceans, ever longed for by souls who are waiting, my loving friend, as thus you call me.

*O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me, and while smiling have spoken my name;
Now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me; by your side I will seek other seas.*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

INSTALLATION

Sentences of Scripture

From 1 Corinthians 12

There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served.

God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God's purpose that is accomplished. **To each is given a gift of the spirit to be used for the common good.**

Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

*Profession 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

God of our salvation, receive these gifts we offer and bless them for the work of your kingdom, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING

*HYMN 170

“You Walk Along Our Shoreline”

WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN

You walk along our shoreline where land meets unknown sea. We hear your voice of power, “Now come and follow me. And if you still will follow Through storm and wave and shoal, then I will make you fishers but of the human soul.”

*You call us, Christ, to gather the people of the earth. We cannot fish for only those lives we think have worth.
We spread your net of gospel across the water's face, our boat a common shelter for all found by your grace.*

*We cast our net, O Jesus; we cry the kingdom's name; we work for love and justice; we learn to hope through pain.
You call us, Lord, to gather God's daughters and God's sons, to let your judgment heal us so that all may be one.*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

“God Be With You Till We Meet Again”

Ralph Vaughan Williams

*POSTLUDE

*Please stand in body or spirit.

Bold print indicates places where congregation reads or sings.

PERMISSIONS: *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*, Text: Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847), 1834. Hymn tune: *Lauda anima*. John Goss (1800-1880), 1869. Public domain. . *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*, Text: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), 1739. Hymn tune: *Mendelssohn*. Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) 1855. Public domain. *The Lord Is My Light*, Text based on Psalm 27: J. Paul Williams (1937-2010). Music: Patti Drennan. © 1996, *Beckenhorst Press*. All rights reserved. Used with permission under One License A-709512. *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*, Text and hymn tune: *Pescador de hombres*, Cesáreo Gabaráin (1936-1991), © 1979, 1987, 1989 Cesáreo Gabaráin, Published by *OCP*. 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. *You Walk Along Our Shoreline*, Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan © 1991, *GIA Publications, Inc.* All rights reserved. Used with permission under One License A-709512. Hymn tune: *Tune*, Composer (1900-2000), Public domain. *God Be With You Till We Meet Again*, Text: Jeremiah Eames Rankin (1828-1904), 1881. Hymn tune: *Randolph*. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), 1906. Public domain.

Thank you to Michelle Efird, Frank Poolos and Emily Andrew for their leadership in worship today.

The acolyte today is Melanie Hendrix.

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 22: Ronnie Michael, Jim Ivey.

Elder Greeters: John Earnhardt, Sandy Rogers.

Streaming Coordinator: Evan Sanges **Film:** Jackson Palmer **Nursery:** Bailey Mitchell
Kids Crew: Cidney Eudy

There will be no 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, Frank Poolos. Family of Billie Jean Snuggs, loss of her nephew James Nunn. See newsletter for complete list.

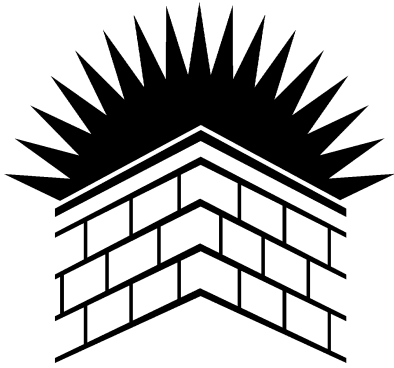
Lee McLaurin is being installed as Elder today.

There is a Called Session Meeting this morning at 9:00 am.



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 Middle School & High School SPOND app please download it. That is the easiest way for all youth to keep in touch. Here is the link to join <https://group.spond.com/LTOXZ>

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



Faith Explorers

Join us today, 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.



WANT TO HELP WITH YOUTH CLUB?

When: Wednesdays
Times: 3:30-5:30

If you would like to help with Bible study, arts, recreation, snack, music, and more, please let Melissa Eudy know!



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 23 and 30th 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 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.



Faith on the Fifth Offering on Sunday, January 29



The Mission Committee will receive a Faith on the Fifth Offering on Sunday, January 29 to help those in our community with heating assistance through SCCM.



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.



Frozen Food Items For Sale

- 4 Packages of Chicken & Wild Rice- Serves 4-6 People \$ 12 each
- 4 One Pound bags of BBQ \$ 8 each

These items are in the chest freezer located in the Pit Stop (inside storage room)

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 22

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

9:00 am Called Session Meeting

9:45 am Sunday School

12:00 pm Faith Explorers Baking in Kitchen

11:00 am *Worship

6:00 pm SNL

Monday, January 23

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 24

No PNC meeting

Wednesday, January 25

6:45 am Men's Prayer Breakfast

10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

10:30 am Packing of the Back Packs

3:30 pm to 5:30 pm Youth Club

6:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 19

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

Sunday, January 29

4th Sunday after Epiphany/Faith on the Fifth Offering/Congregational Meeting

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am *Worship

12:00 pm Congregational Meeting following Worship

12:00 pm Faith Explorers Baking in Kitchen

6:00 pm SNL

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

January

23- Susan Garrison

Kim Marshall

Ronnie Michael

24- Dennis Gower

26- Thomas Shedd

28- Kim Andrew

Gus Holbrook

*childcare provided

Church Staff

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