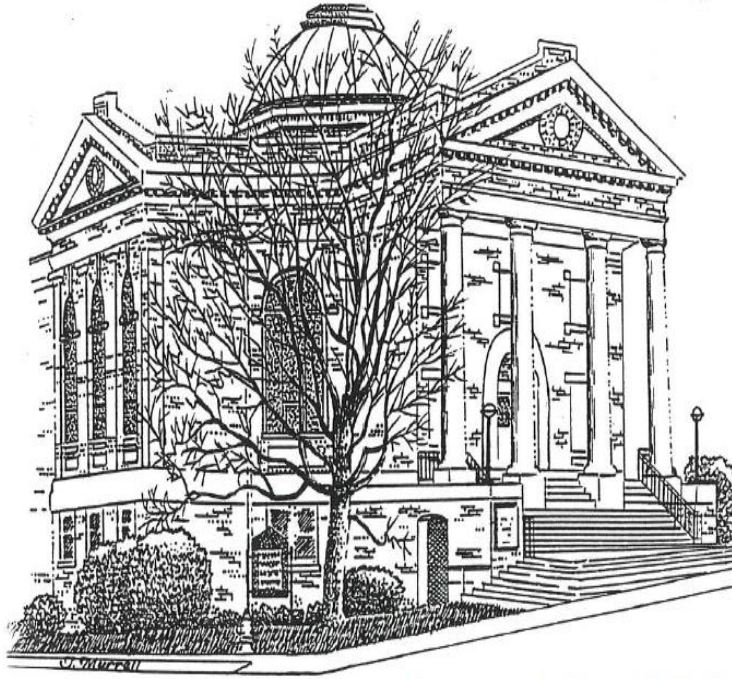


First Presbyterian Church Albemarle, North Carolina



*May 7, 2023
5th Sunday of Easter*

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please sign the Friendship Register

PRELUDE

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

Arr. Gary Prim

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Holden Taylor, acolyte

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 31

In you, O Lord, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame.

Incline your ear to me, rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.

You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake, lead me and guide me.
Into your hand, I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, in Christ, you have shown us the way, revealed to us your truth, and offered us everlasting life. Keep our eyes upon him, that we may see your path more clearly, know your truth more fully, and receive your life more abundantly; through Christ who dwells with you and the Holy Spirit in eternal glory. Amen.

***HYMN 275**

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

EIN' FESTE BURG

10 Cents-A-Meal Hunger offerings may be brought forward.

*A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing.
Our helper be, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe; His craft and power are great,
And armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.*

*Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
Were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he; Lord Sabaoth his name,
From age to age the same; and he must win the battle.*

*And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him; his rage we can endure,
For lo, his doom is sure; one little word shall fell him.*

*That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them abideth.
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also; the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still; his kingdom is forever!*

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Almighty God, your word offers freedom from sin, but we confess that we have not obeyed your word. We have harbored malice toward our enemies; we have been deceitful in our relationships; we have been insincere in our commitments; through gossip, we have slandered our friends. Forgive us our sins and lead us to genuine repentance. Help your children long for your pure, spiritual milk, that we may grow into the joy of salvation. Through Jesus Christ.

Silent Confession and Reflection

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

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

***Response 39**

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

FAITHFULNESS

(chorus)

*Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

THE WORD

ANTHEM

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

John Rutter

*For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies.
Lord of all to Thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.*

*For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light,
Lord of all to Thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.*

*For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child;
Friends on earth and friends above; for all gentle thoughts and mild.
Lord of all to Thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.*

*For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given;
Graces human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven:
Lord of all to Thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, as we listen to your holy Word, open our hearts to the power of your Spirit, call us out of darkness, and lead us into your marvelous light. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[John 14:1-14; 1 Peter 2:2-10](#)

pew Bible, pages 102 and 219

SERMON

“A Royal Priesthood”

Rev. George

*HYMN 761

“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

BEECHER

*Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring To fulfil God's chosen end.*

*Christ's example Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
Let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people young and old,
Blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.*

*Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense,
Help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge said with care,
Bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues free and fair*

*So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith thus giving hope and confidence and peace.*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

From *A Brief Statement of Faith*, (PC(USA)

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in God the Holy Spirit everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles 60 rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS 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.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Heather Kilde

RECEIVING OF THE OFFERING

Offertory

“Adagio”

Arr. Drummond Wolff

*Response 607

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

OLD HUNDRETH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Almighty God, receive the gifts we bring in gratitude for your astounding goodness. Make our lives to be an acceptable offering in unison with our risen Lord, who lives and reigns with you forever. Amen.

SENDING

*HYMN 361

“O Christ, the Great Foundation”

AURELIA

*O Christ, the great foundation on which Your people stand to preach your true salvation in every age and land:
Pour out Your Holy Spirit to make us strong and pure, to keep the faith unbroken as long as words endure.*

*Baptized in one confession, one church in all the earth, we bear our Lord's impression, the sign of second birth:
One holy people gathered in love beyond our own, by grace we were invited, by grace we make you known.*

*Where tyrants' hold is tightened, where strong devour the weak, where innocents are frightened, the righteous fear to speak,
There let You church awaking attack the powers of sin and, all their ramparts breaking, with you the victory win.*

*This is the moment glorious when he who once was dead shall lead his church victorious, their champion and their head.
The Lord of all creation his heavenly kingdom brings, the final consummation, the glory of all things*

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

*CHORAL RESPONSE

“The Lord Bless You and Keep You”

Peter C. Lutkin

*POSTLUDE

“Trumpet Tune”

Arr. Drummond Wolff

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

Bold print indicates places where congregation reads or sings.

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Thank you to Frank Poolos, Chancel Choir and Heather Kilde for their leadership in worship today.

The acolyte today is Holden Taylor.

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of our parents, Ronald and Norma Forsman and Robert and Virginia Schaefer.

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

Outside Ushers for May 7: Jim Ivey, John Earnhardt

Elder Greeters: Mike King; Ellen Whitley

Streaming Coordinator: Evan Sanges

Film: TBD

Nursery: Bailey Mitchell

Kids Crew: Karlyn Cox

There will be no Children’s Church or Faith Sharing today.

We ask that you keep these people in your prayers: Claude Harwood, Penny Welling (friend of the congregation), Gloria Bryson (Trinity Place), Ann Byrd (Home), Tim Rodgers, Doris Forte-Spring Arbor, Jean Rabe, Anita Gower, Nancy Jolly, Jane Scheer, Elizabeth Wilson, Tara Mackey (friend of Linda Anderson), Jason Miller (friend of the congregation), Laura Frazier, Debbie Hinson, Rita Morgan, Mike Jewell (brother-in-law of Linda Anderson), Marlene Sanges, Pam Knighten, Aza Hudson. See newsletter for complete list.



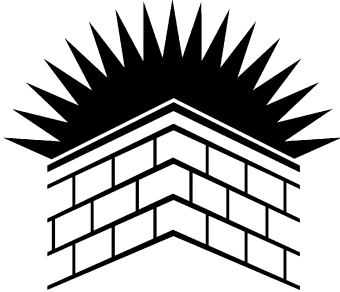
We will receive the Ten-Cents-A-Meal offering for hunger today.



Youth Sunday & Graduate Sunday May 14 during worship

Our youth will lead worship, and our graduates will be recognized on May 14. Please come, support, and pray for our youth as they lead in 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.





PLEASE REMEMBER TO SIGN THE REGISTER

The Membership Care Committee encourages you to be faithful in signing the Friendship Register in worship on Sundays and to register online if you worship there. It helps us know when you are not here, which is very important.



**LETTER WRITING TODAY SUNDAY, MAY 7 IN THE PIT STOP
9:00 A.M.-11:00 A.M. AND 12:00 P.M.-1:00 P.M
OFFERING OF LETTERS ON SUNDAY, MAY 21 IN WORSHIP**

Today is Letter Writing Sunday! Please join in writing to our North Carolina members of Congress, **urging them to support reauthorization of a farm bill that builds healthy, equitable, and sustainable food systems.** Sustainability addresses food waste (in the U.S. currently between 73 to 152 million metric tons annually, which is about one-third of all the food produced each year). It also addresses increased funding for agricultural research, conservation, and post-harvest food recovery. **If you need to pick up a packet and write your letters at home, remember to bring them back to the church for the Offering of Letters on May 21. The church will add postage and mail the letters.**

TO SEND AN OFFERING OF LETTER ONLINE- FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

Go to www.bread.org/ol

click **Blue Action box**

click **White Action box**

Enter your contact details (name, address, etc)

Check YES for offering of Letters, then type - First Presbyterian Church, Albemarle,, NC

Check I am NOT a robot



Scholarship Recognition
Sunday, May 21

Scholarship recipients will be recognized in worship on Sunday, May 21. The Scholarship Committee members are: Catherine Moeller, Chair, Shannon Bullard, Wes Eudy, Kim Marshall, and Lee McLaurin.

Support Your Local Food Pantry through the Letter Carriers' Food Drive

PANTRY NEEDS	
Canned Pasta <i>No Meat</i>	Flour (All-purpose & self-rising)
Ramen Noodles	Breakfast Bars
Cream of chicken/mushroom soups	Syrup
Pasta Sauces	Pancake Mix
Salad Dressing	Canned Pineapple
Cooking Oil	Mustard
Cereal	Mayonnaise
Canned meats	Ketchup
Chicken	Saltine Crackers
Spam	Side Pasta and Rice Dishes
Vienna	Household Goods
Tuna	Floss
Lima Beans	Soap, Bars & Liquid
Blackeyed Peas	Shampoo & Conditioner
Skillet Meals	Laundry Detergent
Hamburger Helper	Cleaning Supplies
Instant Potatoes	Diapers
	Wipes



LETTER CARRIERS' FOOD DRIVE

PUT YOUR NON-PERISHABLE DONATION IN A BAG BY YOUR MAILBOX. WE'LL DELIVER IT TO A LOCAL FOOD BANK.

National Partners:

The Letter Carriers' Food Drive will occur this year on May 13th. We hope you will join us in sharing this opportunity with your congregation and spreading the word on how we, as a community, can Stamp Out Hunger in Stanly County.



TESTING PROCTORS NEEDED
AT CENTRAL SCHOOL

EOG testing is set for May 26, May 31 and June 1 at Central School. **Proctors are desperately needed!** Testing starts at 9:00 am and will last 2 to 3 hours at most. If you can help, contact Erik Johnson at Erik.Johnson@stanlycountyschools.org or Kristi.bryson@stanlycountyschools.org

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 7

5th Sunday of Easter/ Ten Cents a Meal Offering

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am *Worship

6:00 pm SNL (TBD if having)

Monday, May 8

10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

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

Wednesday, May 10

6:45 am Men’s Prayer Breakfast

10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

1:00 pm Circle 5 in Pit Stop

6:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 11

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

Sunday, May 14

6th Sunday of Easter/Mother’s Day/Youth Sunday/Recognition of Graduates

8:45 am Diaconate

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am *Worship

6:00 pm SNL (TBD if having)

***childcare provided**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

May

08- Lee Snuggs

11- Elizabeth Boyle

Debbie Johnston

12- Skeet Ayscue

Alix Stewart

13- Laura Frazier

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

12- Rob & Catherine McIntyre

Keith & Martha Wolf

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, Michael Rowland

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.



MOTHER'S DAY ARRANGEMENTS

On Mother's Day, the arrangements in the sanctuary will be in honor/memory of mothers. Each name is \$2.00. Please mail, deliver, or place in the offering plate your money with the form below **NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, MAY 7**. Please make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church and designate for *Mother's Day Arrangements*. The names of donors and those being honored/remembered will be listed on **Mother's Day, May 14**. Any money collected over the cost of the arrangements will be donated to the Minister's Discretionary Fund.

MOTHER'S DAY ARRANGEMENTS

Please print below the information exactly as it is to appear in the bulletin.

In memory
of _____

Given
by: _____

In honor
of: _____

Given
by: _____