



The Weekly Bulletin
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Albemarle, North Carolina

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Church Offices: (704) 982-2722 Website: www.fpcalbemarle.org

March 18, 2018

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us with the power of your Spirit so we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you all our days. Amen.

PEALING OF THE BELLS

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Please sign and pass the Register of Friendship during this time.

GATHERING SONGS

Hymn 720

Jesus Calls Us

stanzas 1 and 4

Hymn 726

Will You Come and Follow Me

stanzas 1 and 5

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Be merciful to me, O God; be merciful to me,

People: For in you my soul takes refuge.

Leader: In the shadow of your wings, I will take refuge;

People: Until the destroying storms pass by.

All: God will send forth steadfast love and faithfulness.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Lord God, maker of heaven and earth, we gather together in your name. We come as living sacrifices, to offer you our worship and thanksgiving, our praise and prayers. Dwell among us, living Lord. Through the power of your Spirit, transform our hearts and minds so we may recognize your presence, hear your voice, know your will, and walk in your way. Amen.

***HYMN 697**

Take My Life

Hendon

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Silence

Unison

Lord, we confess that we crowd our lives with so much activity that it is hard to focus on your call. We become focused on ourselves, and we fill our spiritual emptiness with junk. Forgive us.

Choir and Congregation sing:

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

Open our eyes that we may see your new covenant in plain sight. Open our hearts that we may join you in serving the broken of the world. Open our love so we may pour it out abundantly and graciously.

Use the Prayer of Preparation to center your thoughts as you prepare for worship.

Psalm 57

Romans 12:1-8

The refrain used during the Prayer of Confession is hymn number 227 in the *Glory to God* hymnal.

This is a Scottish version of the Gloria Patri which can be found on page 580 of the *Glory to God* hymnal.

Today's anthem was composed by a college classmate of the Scheer's who took his inspiration from the way that Alexander McCurdy accompanied the singing of this hymn in chapel services at Westminster Choir College. Dr. McCurdy was Head of the Organ Department at Westminster, organist at First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, and one of Mr. Scheer's teachers.

The Belhar Confession was written in South Africa in 1986 to address the divisive nature of apartheid. It specifically addresses reconciliation and forgiveness. It was adopted by the PC(USA) in 2016.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

Glory Be to the Father

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Mr. Drumheller

Children will be invited to come forward. At the conclusion of the children's greeting, parents may take preschool children to the nursery. Children in grades K-2 may go to the chapel for Children's Church.

ANTHEM

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Gilbert M. Martin

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,

My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God;
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them through his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, in the words of Christ, reveal to us your truth. Help us hear your Word, that we may learn what it means to be disciples. In your Word, may we discover our hope. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

[Matthew 25:31-40](#)

Pew Bible, page 27

[Romans 12:1-13](#)

Pew Bible, page 151

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Serve

Rich Schaefer

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that the unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways: in that we love one another; that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another; that together we know and bear one another's burdens, thereby fulfilling the law of Christ that we suffer with one another; pray together; and together serve God in this world.

*HYMN 767

Together We Serve

San Anselmo

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Mary Kessleman

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory *Intermezzo* Hermann Schroder
*Doxology *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* hymnal, page 606
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Invitation 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.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Meal

Hymn 654 *In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful* Jacques Berthier
(The choir will sing the hymn once followed by the choir and congregation singing it twice.)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*HYMN 69 *I, The Lord of Sea and Sky* Here I Am

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Hymn 543 *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me* Green Tyler
**God, be the love to search and keep me;
God, be the prayer to move my voice;
God, be the strength to now uphold me;
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.**

*POSTLUDE *If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee* Jan Mulder

*All who are able may stand.

We rejoice that you are worshiping with us today. If you are a member of this church, please seek out those who are visiting and welcome them to this family of faith. If you are visiting and would like to know more about the church and membership here, please speak with one of the ministers following worship.

The acolyte today is Natalie Taylor. After extinguishing the Christ candle, the acolyte takes the light of Jesus Christ out into the world.

Thanks to Rich Schaefer for preaching in worship today.

We ask that you keep these people in your prayers: Diane Marks (diagnosed with breast cancer; mother of Kyle Marks). **See newsletter for complete list.**

We will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing offering next Sunday (March 25). Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God’s love with our neighbors in need around the world working to cast off the bonds of poverty and oppression. The One Great Hour of Sharing offering is the single largest way Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. This Lenten season, please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing.

The Lord’s Table is open to all who trust in Christ or who want to trust in him more. Communion will be served by intinction. When invited by the ushers, proceed to the nearest station. Break off a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, and then partake. Gluten-free elements are available upon request.

Ushers: Brett Richards, captain; Mark Donham, Jim Hesley, Judy Kilgore, Grace Richards, Danny Saltzman, Rose Saltzman **Outside Ushers:** Josh Campbell; TBD **Elder Greeters:** Mary Kesselman; Lynn White
Nursery: Sara Kate Thomas **Preschool Partners:** Laura Beth & Kyle Marks **Nana & Papa Team:** Sarah & Ronnie Michael **Children's Church:** Jacob Palmer; Frankie Palmer

COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES
AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ALBEMARLE
THEME: JESUS' QUESTIONS
WEDNESDAYS, MARCH 21 AT NOON IN THE SANCTUARY
LUNCH FOLLOWING IN THE GYM...COST: DONATION



First Presbyterian Church is hosting the Community Lent Worship Service. An offering will be received to support The Mary and Martha Center for Women and Community Care.

Wednesday, March 21 Preacher: Rev. Dr. Jim Bernacki, Rector of Christ Episcopal Church
Worship Leader: Rev. Ben Sloan, Pastor of Bethany United Methodist Church

FOOD FOR BODY & SOUL

ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21 AT 6:00 P.M.

This time together includes Evening Prayer at 5:45 p.m. in the chapel followed by dinner in the gym at 6:00 p.m. We will also have a time to reflect together on our Lenten theme, *Living the Word*, using both words and art. Dinner on March 21 will be sponsored by the Youth Club Trusty Travelers and their parents. The menu is: Ritz Chicken Casserole, Corn, Green Beans, and Various Desserts. **Donations will go to the God's Gift Sponsorship Program in Montaña de Luz (Honduras).**

Please visit the...

First Presbyterian Church Spring Art Gallery Exhibit
The Artwork of Central School Students



Easter Lilies...Deadline: Sunday, March 25



If you would like to contribute to the purchase of Easter Lilies as an Easter Memorial or Honorarium, please fill out the form below exactly as you wish the memorial or honorarium to read, **attach a check in the amount of \$15.00** and place in the offering plate or leave in the church office no later than **Sunday, March 25**. Checks should be payable to "First Presbyterian Church" and designated "Easter Lilies." All memorials/honorariums received by March 25 will be listed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, April 1.

Easter Lilies

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

In memory of: _____

Given by: _____

I plan to take my lily after worship on Easter.

I will leave my lily for delivery to a homebound member.

Palm Sunday Fair

Sunday, March 25

9:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m. in the Church Gym

Intergenerational Event for ALL!!!

Continental Breakfast

Educational stations for Children, Youth, & Adults

Join in the celebration of the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and prepare your hearts and minds for Holy Week.

Please bring travel-sized toiletry items for our Palm Sunday Fair service project for the Community Inn. Items may be brought between now and Sunday, March 25 and placed in the bin in the pit stop. Items needed: deodorant, dental floss, toothpaste, toothbrushes, hand sanitizer, comb/brush, shampoo/conditioner, lotion.

Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, March 25

4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. at City Lake Park



The youth will host an Easter Egg Hunt for congregation families at City Lake Park on Palm Sunday. Come enjoy some time outside, join in fellowship and food, and maybe find some Easter eggs! Families are asked to bring a bag of chips and/or a drink to share. **Anyone who would like to donate bags of candy, please drop off your donations at Matt's office by Wednesday, March 21. We do NOT need plastic eggs this year.** This is one of our favorite activities every year, so bring the family out for an afternoon of fun!

Easter Eve Cookout & Camping at Morrow Mountain State Park

Saturday, March 31



The Fellowship Committee extends a welcome to campers and non-campers at the group campsite around supertime on Easter Eve. Feel free to bring dinner to cook on the coals, or if you wish, you can bring supper from home or take out from your favorite restaurant. Smore's will be provided! Please bring your drinks and chairs along as well! Contact the office if you plan to join us (704-982-2722 or klambert@fpcalbemarle.org)!



From the Scholarship Committee...Scholarship applications are available on the counter in the church office. **The deadline to return completed applications is Monday, April 9.** If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask a scholarship committee member. Committee members for 2018 are: Lee McLaurin, Chair; Al Andrew, Heather Deese, and Taylor Johnston.

Bread for the World Letter Writing on Sunday, April 29

Question: What is the offering of letters?

Answer: It is a letter writing campaign which engages churches and other faith communities in writing to our congressional representatives. Each year for the campaign focus, we choose specific legislation or a legislative emphasis that can make a real difference to people struggling with hunger and poverty. Supported with prayer, these letters are a bold witness to God's justice and mercy. They continue to have a significant impact on the decisions made in Congress.



SAVE
the
DATE!



HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday (March 25)

9:30 a.m. Palm Sunday Fair

Reflect on Christ's final days using spirituality centers set up around the church.

11:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Worship

Worship will include a palm parade celebrating Christ's triumphal entry.

4:00 p.m. Easter Egg Hunt at City Lake Park

Monday-Friday

7:30 a.m. Perk & Pray

-8:30 a.m. Drive through the parking lot on First Street for a cup of coffee or a juice box and a prayer.

12:00 p.m. Noon Prayer

Spend time each day of Holy Week in intentional worship and prayer.

Maundy Thursday (March 29) in the Pit Stop at 6:00 p.m.

Bring a covered dish or two to share with your church family. We'll have a meal and then briefly worship as we celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper around the tables. Worship is child-friendly and a wonderfully tactile experience for children and the people who love them!

Good Friday (March 30)

10:30 a.m. Cross Walk (for all ages)

Meet outside the sanctuary (on North Street). We'll follow the cross through downtown Albemarle and pray for the people of our community.

12:00 p.m. Noon Prayer in the Chapel

8:00 p.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

The choir will lead this solemn service which focuses on the declining loyalty of the disciples and the fading light of the world as Jesus departs from it. We will share The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Childcare is provided.



Easter Sunday

April 1

7:00 a.m.

Gather at the shelter at the top of Morrow Mountain to celebrate the risen Christ. Dress for the weather and linger for fellowship and a light breakfast following worship.

9:45 a.m.

Sunday School for all ages.

11:00 a.m.

Worship will include seasonal music, guest musicians, and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 18

Fifth Sunday of Lent/The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

- 8:00 am Session
- 9:45 am *Sunday School
- *Traditional Discussion Group with Skeet Ayscue (Media Room-Basement)
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 12:00 pm-4:00 pm Faith Explorers' Field Trip to Lazy 5 Ranch
- 3:00 pm Hiking Group meets at Morrow Mountain State Park
- 5:30 pm Reading Group with Courtney Niederer & Kim Marshall (Parlor)
- 5:00 pm-7:30 pm Youth Group

Monday, March 19

- 7:00 pm Film Group with Nancy & Don Joines (Church Theatre-basement/children's building)
- 8:00 pm-9:00 pm Bible Study with Matt at Off the Square

Tuesday, March 20

First Day of Spring

- 9:30 am Cooking Group with Gayle Russell & Jane Snyder (Pit Stop/Kitchen)
- 11:00 am Walking Group with Mary Louise Sawyer in the Gym
- 12:00 pm April Newsletter Deadline
- 7:30 pm Yoga Group with Rebekah Ayscue & Alexis Poolos in Classroom 2 (Basement)

Wednesday, March 21

- 6:00 am Traditional Discussion Group & Breakfast with Steve Cumming
- 6:00 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 9:15 am-11:00 am *Pray & Play
- 12:00 pm Community Lenten Service at FPC
- 3:15 pm-5:15 pm Youth Cubs/Youth Club
- 5:15 pm-5:45 pm Youth Orff Ensemble (Grades K-2)
- 5:15 pm-5:45 pm Youth Handbells (Grades 3-5)
- 5:45 pm Food for Body & Soul Evening Prayer (Chapel)
- 6:00 pm Food for Body & Soul Dinner (Gym)
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 22

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
- 7:00 pm Fruit of the Vine Small Group

Sunday, March 25

Palm Sunday/One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Trusty Travelers & Faith Explorers Sing in Worship

The Sacrament of Baptism/Deadline for Easter Lilies Form

- 9:30 am *Palm Sunday Fair (Gym)
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 4:00 pm Easter Egg Hunt at City Lake Park

*childcare provided

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

MARCH

- 18-Kendall Taylor
- 19-Catherine McIntyre
- Chris Whitley
- 20-Bo Andrew
- Lee McLaurin
- 21-Sherrie Richards
- 22-Jane Hartsell
- Maggie Melone
- 24-Sam Holshouser

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

MARCH

- 19-Eric & Courtney Niederer
- 24-Nathan & Marlene Sanges

SCCM CHALLENGE

MARCH

- Boxed Pasta Meals (Hamburger Helper)
- Instant Potatoes
- Stuffing Mix

Backpack Food Program

UPDATED LIST OF DONATIONS

NEEDED:

- Breakfast Cookies
- Individual Bags of Goldfish
- Large Cans of Soup
- Canned Tuna
- Saltine Crackers
- A bin in the pit stop will receive your donation.

Next Packing Date:

Wednesday, March 28 at 10:30 a.m.

From the Senior Care Committee...The Senior Care Committee is seeking potential drivers to provide transportation for our seniors to allow them the mobility to go to church events, grocery stores, and doctor appointments. We need a pool we can call on to provide these services on an as needed basis. Please contact the church office (704-982-2722 or klambert@fpcalbemarle.org) to be placed on the Senior Transportation Drivers List. If you have any questions, contact Tom Norwood (704-983-3647 or fnorwood@vnet.net), Senior Care Committee Chair.