



The Weekly Bulletin
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Albemarle, North Carolina

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July 5, 2020

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

MORNING MEDITATION

*The longer I live, the more I realize that real strength has much to do with what is **not** seen. Real strength has to do with helping others.*

From
*The World According to
Mister Rogers*
by Fred Rogers.

PEALING OF THE BELLS

OPENING SENTENCES

It is good to declare God's steadfast love in the morning,
And God's faithfulness by night.

Psalm 92:2

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

ANTHEM

An American Hymn

Cecil Effinger

Recorded July 1, 2018

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet whose stern impassioned stress,
A thoroughfare of freedom beat across the wilderness!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine!

O beautiful for patriot dream that see beyond the years,
Thine alabaster cities gleam undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!

CALL TO WORSHIP

God calls to the lost, the least, and all who long for home;
God is in our midst and calls us to worship this day;
Though we are scattered, we gather us as the one body of Christ.
Let us joyfully worship God together.

Luke 15

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, you have shown your love for all things through the beauty of creation. As we worship you, may our hearts and lives be so transformed that we recognize beauty in ourselves, in our neighbors, and in the world. Turn our thoughts outward that we may love as you first loved us. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Reverend Drumheller

Silence

God of all creation, you have made us in your image and called us to love our neighbor. We want to love as you love; yet we find it easy to turn away from our neighbors, to stand apart from those who are not like us. The burden of loving one another is too heavy for us. We pray you will heal our brokenness, renew our spirit, and open our hearts through your love.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe the good news.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Glory to God hymnal,
page 582

RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Ken Knight

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of this global neighborhood, we pray your Holy Spirit will touch our hearts and open our minds to the truth of your love for all people and your call to community through Christ. Amen.

Sermons are posted on the church's website (www.fpcalbemarle.org).

You can usually find the previous Sunday's sermon by Wednesday.

GOSPEL READING

[Luke 15:1-6](#)

Ella Cumming, reader

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Lost, Lonely, Vulnerable

Reverend Ayscue

A Declaration of Faith was adopted by the Southern Presbyterian Church and the PCUSA in 1977 as a contemporary statement of faith.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Declaration of Faith

We acknowledge one God alone, whose demands on us are absolute, whose help for us is sufficient. That One is the Lord, whom we worship, serve, and love. Jesus broadened the definition of neighbor to include those ordinarily despised and excluded. His life in behalf of others led to persecution and death. He commanded his disciples to live the same way. We believe Christ gives us and demands of us lives that recognize all people in all cultures as our neighbors on this planet. Christ teaches us to go beyond legal requirements in serving and helping our neighbor, to treat our neighbor's needs as our own, to care passionately for the others good, to share what we have. It is part of our discipline to live in simplicity, avoiding greed and luxury that threaten our neighbor's survival. We are obligated to speak the truth in love, to listen with patience and openness, to love our enemies, to accept the risk and pain which love involves. Jesus is Lord! He has been Lord from the beginning. He will be Lord at the end. Amen.

HYMN 339 *Lift Every Voice and Sing* J. Rosemond Johnson
Ann Crutchfield, Soprano Andy Cotton, Baritone Frank Poolos, Piano

This text was originally written as a poem for a school assembly. Booker T. Washington spoke it on Abraham Lincoln's birthday in 1900. Both text and tune have gained national recognition among all those who seek liberation from oppression.

Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty.

Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies;
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of faith that the dark past has taught us;
Sing a song full of hope that the present has brought us.

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on, till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died.

Yet, with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our parents sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;

Thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;

Shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYER FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOOD Nancy Joines
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.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation

Offertory *This Is My Father's World* Dale Wood

Prayer of Dedication

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *America the Beautiful* Cecil Effinger

Recorded
July 1, 2018

Thank you to David Kilde and Skeet Ayscue for helping to create this morning's video. Thank you to Andy Cotton, Ann Crutchfield, Ella Cumming, Leah Kilde, Ken Knight, and Nancy Joines for helping with worship.

This week's worship video will become available at 10:00 a.m. To access the worship video, go to the church's website (www.fpcalbemarle.org) and click on the worship banner or search for the church on *YouTube* and click on the appropriate video.

As is our custom, we will receive the Ten-Cents-A-Meal Offering on the first Sunday of each month. Your generous support of this offering provides food for families in Stanly County and throughout our Presbytery. You may participate in the offering by giving online or mailing a check to the church.

Worship continues to take place at 10:00 a.m. during the summer months.

We ask that you keep these people in your prayers: The family of Mickie Smith (cousin of Pam Holbrook), Linda Richards (physical therapy at Forrest Oakes), Tom Bonekemper (cousin of Linda Anderson; pancreatic cancer), Jean Rabe, Jane Scheer, Don Joines, Jane Pickler. See newsletter for complete list.

On Mondays and Wednesdays, Matt and Elizabeth will lead Morning Prayer at 10:00 a.m. through Zoom. To access the meeting, go to the church's website (www.fpcalbemarle.org) and click on the *Morning Prayer* banner. You can also find the link through the Facebook event.

Mom's Group via Zoom...If you are a mom who could use some support from peers in the church, there is a group gathering on Zoom. Led by Melissa Eudy and Sandy Saunders, this group meets on Wednesday nights at 9:00 p.m. Please contact Melissa Eudy (the5eudys@gmail.com or 704-439-6747) for the Zoom details.



Digital Devotionals, based on the Psalms, are on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. If you have a Psalm you would like to have read, contact Elizabeth (eayscue@fpcalbemarle.org or 704-982-2722).

The Thursday afternoon Bible study which has been led by Catherine and Matt Moeller will not meet during July. Watch for new plans in the August NL.

First Presbyterian Church Storytime for Children



**Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. for PreK-Kindergarten
via YouTube livestream video**

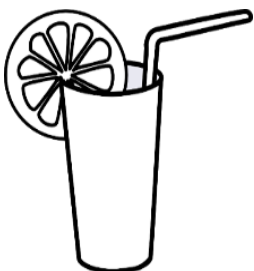
Matt or Elizabeth will livestream a video reading a children's book.
To access the video, go to the First Presbyterian Church website (www.fpcalbemarle.org) and click on the Storytime banner.

Tuesdays at 1:15 p.m. for 1st-3rd Graders via Zoom

Matt or Elizabeth will host a Zoom call with the 1st through 3rd graders to read a chapter book with them.
This will be about 20 minutes of reading time.

Email Matt (mdrumheller@fpcalbemarle.org) for the Zoom code and password.

Lemonade on the Lawn via Zoom



Join your friends in the summer tradition of Lemonade on the Lawn (online) immediately following worship. You are invited to bring your own lemonade or beverage of your choice and join others for conversation.

Gathering will be simple. Along with the information regarding access to Sunday worship, you will receive the zoom link to gain entry to Lemonade on the Lawn.

We hope to see you following worship on Sundays.

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE GRANTS

The Endowment Committee will accept applications for grants from the Gaither Endowment until **July 15**. Applications are available in the church office. If you have questions, contact the church office (704-982-2722 or klambert@fpcalbemarle.org). Applications may be submitted by individual church members or committee chairpersons. Once funding requests are received, the Endowment Committee will review the applications and determine which requests will be funded. Personal interviews may be requested if further information is needed regarding a funding request.

If you have questions about the application process, please contact the office. Endowment Committee members include: Debbie Bennett, chair; Elizabeth Ayscue, Patrick Currie, John Earnhardt, Bob Gaither, Mary Kesselman, Lee McLaurin, and Nathan Sanges.



SHOP & DROP FOR SCCM
Thursday, July 16 from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Drop your donations at the front steps of the church.
(126 West North Street, Albemarle)
Event will take place rain or shine.

The Mission Committee is sponsoring a *Shop & Drop* to help supply the food pantry at SCCM with needed food items as well as personal hygiene items, toiletries, and paper products.

Most needed items are:

Canned Fruit in Light Syrup, Canned Pasta Meals, Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Hygiene Items, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes (pkgs. no larger than 4), Bar Soap, Hand Soap, and Laundry Detergent (no larger than 100 oz.)

These items may be brought to the front steps of the church, 126 West North St., where there will be folks to assist you. This event will take place rain or shine. Let's try to cover the steps with nourishment and supplies for our neighbors!

As we, as a congregation, educate ourselves about systemic racism, you are invited to participate in the following zoom conversations:

Monday, July 27 at 7:00 p.m.

We will discuss the book *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving



In order to participate in either of these conversations, you will need to contact the office to express interest. Information regarding the link to the zoom call will then be emailed to you.



POPCORN & A MOVIE ON FRIDAY, JULY 17
STOP BY THE CHURCH FOR FRESHLY POPPED POPCORN
BEGINNING AT 2:00 P.M. AND UNTIL ALL POPCORN TUBS ARE GONE.
ENJOY IT WHILE YOU WATCH
A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD
STARRING TOM HANKS AS MISTER ROGERS.

You can find the movie on Starz, DIRECTV, Hulu, Sony Pictures, or for purchase on Amazon Prime.

Let's plan to watch from our homes at 7:00 p.m. and enjoy the connection of being together in different places.

For your safety, we will be wearing masks and gloves in making and distributing the popcorn. The outside of the tubs will be sanitized.

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, July 5

Ten-Cents-A-Meal Offering for Hunger

- 10:00 am Online Worship
- 11:00 am Lemonade on the Lawn via Zoom

Monday, July 6

- 10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

Tuesday, July 7

- 10:00 am Digital Devotional
- 1:00 pm Online Story Time (PreK-Kindergarten)
- 1:15 pm Online Story Time (1st-3rd Graders)

Wednesday, July 8

- 10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 9:00 pm Mom's Group via Zoom with Melissa Eudy & Sandy Saunders

Thursday, July 9

- 10:00 am Digital Devotional

Sunday, July 12

- 9:00 am Diaconate Meeting via Zoom
- 10:00 am Online Worship
- 11:00 am Lemonade on the Lawn via Zoom

**Your on-going support of First Presbyterian Church is essential to the mission and ministry of the church and to the well-being of our ministry partners, locally and globally.
Thank you for your generosity.**

**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.**

Magazine Donations... Jean Rabe requests the donation of your already read magazines to share with others at Trinity Place. You can either take them to the front desk at Trinity Place (24724 US 52 Business South, Albemarle) and ask that they be delivered to Jean or bring them by the church on Tuesday or Wednesday mornings for delivery.

All staff members are working at home whenever possible, and the church building is closed most of the time. The church's answering machine is being checked periodically; however, in case of an emergency, please contact Elizabeth (704.985.2945) or Matt (540.449.5319) directly.

The print devotionals, written by the congregation, will no longer appear regularly in your email. However, anyone inspired to write a devotional is invited to send it to Elizabeth for distribution (eayscue@fpcalbemarle.org). Many thanks to the writers who have made these devotionals available.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
JULY
07-Barbara Lindley
Stella Marks
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!
JULY
10-Don & Janice Abernathy