



The Weekly Bulletin
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Albemarle, North Carolina

Elizabeth McNair Ayscue, Pastor

Matt Drumheller, Associate Pastor

Frank Poolos, Director of Vocal and Handbell Music

Stanley Scheer, Organist

Gina Martin, Director of Christian Education

Kyle Lambert, Office Manager

Pam Knighten, Secretary

Church Offices: (704) 982-2722

Website: www.fpcalbemarle.org

E-mail: klambert@fpcalbemarle.org

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No. 12

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

O God, light of the minds that know you, life of the souls that love you, strength of the thoughts that seek you: Help us so to know you that we may truly love you, so to love you that we may fully serve you, whose service is perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PEALING OF THE BELLS

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

PRELUDE

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Lowell Mason

Youth Club Handbell Ensemble

arr. Margaret Tucker

Elizabeth Bryson, Oliver Henkenjohann, Merrin Kinley, Brent Lisk, Grant Lisk,

Addison Marks, Natalie Niederer, Abby Snuggs, Eli Snuggs, Natalie Taylor

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: The Lord is creating and forgiving,

People: Awaken to the love of God.

Leader: Jesus is healing and teaching,

People: Awaken to the presence of Christ.

Leader: The Spirit is breathing and inspiring,

People: Awaken to the movement of the Spirit.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY 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.

***HYMN 209**

My Song Is Love Unknown

Love Unknown

***CONFESSION OF SIN**

***Call to Confession**

Ben Jolly, Cantor

*Come, ye weary, heavy laden, lost and ruined by the fall;
If you tarry till you're better, you will never come at all.*

***Prayer of Confession**

Silence

Unison

Lord, though you have called us to be your followers, we have fallen asleep. Rather than remaining attentive to your presence, we have become complacent. Forgive us when we prefer to dwell in the darkness rather than waking up to your dawning light. Have mercy on us, O Lord, and forgive our sin. Awaken us to your life and your love.

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news,

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***Response to Forgiveness**

hymnal, page 415

(Refrain)

**I will arise and go to Jesus; he will embrace me in his arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.**

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

ANTHEM

For God So Loved the World

Rusty Edwards

God Is Great, God Is Good

Marty Parks

Oh, How He Loves You and Me

John 15:13; Kurt Kaiser

Faith Explorers: Hailey Biddle, Elizabeth Bryson, Hunter Josey, Merrin Kinley, Brent Lisk, Grant Lisk, Addison Marks, Aidyn Osborne, Jackson Palmer, Danny Saltzman, Abby Snuggs, Eli Snuggs, Natalie Taylor

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Penny Morton

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 are invited to go to Children's Church.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

In the truth of your Word, O Lord, reveal the truths of our lives. Illumine our hearts, refresh our lives, and renew a right spirit within us. Amen.

GOSPEL READING

[John 5:1-18](#)

Pew Bible, page 90

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

That Day Was a Sabbath

Mrs. Ayscue

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

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 Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God; preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. 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.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

Malcolm Archer

*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

Words of Institution

Serving of the Meal

**During the serving of the Lord's Supper, the congregation is invited to join in singing Let Us Break Bread Together.*

Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees)

Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees)

(Refrain)

When I Fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees)

Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees) (Refrain)

Let us praise God together on our knees; (on our knees)

Let us praise God together on our knees; (on our knees) (Refrain)

Thanksgiving

*HYMN 451

Open My Eyes, That I May See

Open My Eyes

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil

Hymn 750

(Choir & Congregation)

Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate;

Light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.

Victory is ours; victory is ours through God who loves us.

Victory is ours; victory is ours through God who loves us.

*POSTLUDE

If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee

Johann Sebastian Bach

*All that 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 Lord's Table is open to all who trust in Jesus Christ. Gluten free elements are available upon request.

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

Thanks to the Youth Club Handbell Ensemble and Faith Explorers for their participation in worship today.

We ask that you keep these people in your prayers: Meghan Niemann (friend of Rose Saltzman; breast cancer), Fred McInturff (father of Michelle Cumming; vision loss in one eye), Bruce Roney (uncle of Dona Lisk; breast cancer), Andy Cotton, Blue Honeycutt, Caroline West. **See newsletter for complete list.**

Ushers: Brett Richards, captain; Judy Kilgore, Jim Marshall, Mike McLeod, Grace Richards, Billie Jean Snuggs, Lee Snuggs **Elder Greeters:** Martha Sue Hall; Adam Jolly **Nursery:** Jana Sanderson **Toddler Room:** Cici Ly **Preschool Partners:** Jill Niebler; Isabel McLeod **Nana & Papa Team:** Sarah & Ronnie Michael **Children's Church:** Liz Jolly; Katherine Jolly; Jacob Palmer

COMMUNITY LENT WORSHIP AT CENTRAL UMC
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22 AT NOON IN THE SANCTUARY
THEME: BUILDING THE KINGDOM
LUNCH FOLLOWING IN THE GYM...COST: DONATION

Central United Methodist Church is hosting the Community Lent Worship Services. An offering will be received each week in support of the Habitat for Humanity Faith Build.

Wednesday, March 22

Preacher: Reverend Dr. James B. Bernacki, Rector of Christ Episcopal Church

Wednesday Worship at 5:50 p.m.

Using the familiar elements of word, song, prayer, and response, worship will take on new life as we explore John's gospel in new ways. Worship is family-friendly and interactive. Come in a suit, jeans, or gym gear for 20 mid-week minutes focused on the power of God and the importance of our faith community.

Wednesday Dinner Out

No gym?...No problem.

Table hosts will be available at local restaurants on March 22 to welcome you. Come after worship or meet at 6:20 p.m. You need only show up for these Dutch treat dinners with friends. Locations and table hosts will be announced on Wednesday.

From the Scholarship Committee...Scholarship applications are available on the counter in the church office. **The deadline to return completed applications is Monday, April 10.** If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask a scholarship committee member. Committee members for 2017 are: Heather Deese, Chair, Al Andrew, Anne Montgomery, Elizabeth Wilson, and Lee McLaurin, ex-officio.

Daily Scripture Reading and Prayer for Lent

The congregation is invited to read the gospel of John during Lent. Sermons and small group conversations will be based on texts from John.

Suggested scripture readings for the coming week are:

| | | | |
|----------|--------------|----------|---------------|
| March 19 | John 7:1-24 | March 23 | John 9:1-23 |
| March 20 | John 7:25-52 | March 24 | John 9:24-41 |
| March 21 | John 8:1-30 | March 25 | John 10:1-21 |
| March 22 | John 8:31-39 | March 26 | John 10:22-42 |

Questions to consider each day:

What is God saying to me through these words?

How will I respond?



**Coltrane L.I.F.E. Stanly County
Adult Day Care Health Center
Mini-Rock-A-Thon on Sunday, April 2
2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. at the Stanly County Senior Center
283 North 3rd Street, Albemarle**

Debbie Bennett is rocking in this event.
For every dollar she raises will be matched by \$1 – up to \$1,000.
Contact Debbie for more information (dbennett@stanlycountync.gov).

It's a New Sunday School Class!

- Where? In the Gathering Room on the Second Floor
- What? Any adult is welcome to attend. You'll find newcomers to the church
And many young adults and those who are young adults at heart will be there.
- What happens? Conversation about the Scriptures and encouragement for living the faith.
Sometimes, there's also food!

Leadership comes from the class – especially Greg Lisk & Wes Eudy.
For more information, contact Greg Lisk (704-519-5932 or liskgreg@aol.com).



**Tea & Conversation
Tuesday, March 21
2:00 p.m. in the parlor**

Theme: Spirited Game of *Finish the Sayings & Bible Verses*

Join other women in the congregation for conversation and laughter as we share life in this community. Bring a friend!

**SAVE!
the DATE!**

**Bread for the World
2017 Offering of Letters:
Doing Our Part
Sunday, April 30**



OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 19

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

Faith Explorers will sing in worship

- 9:30 am Youth Club Handbell Ensemble Rehearsal
- 9:45 am *Sunday School/Faith Explorers' Rehearsal (sanctuary)
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 12:00 pm Planned Giving Leaving a Legacy Luncheon
- 12:00 pm-2:30 pm Faith Explorers Lunch & St. Patrick's Day Snake Hunt w/pickup at the YMCA Park
- 3:00 pm Hiking Posse Small Group with Connie Wallace & Ken Knight meets at Morrow Mountain State Park
- 4:00 pm Classic Discussion Small Group at Elizabeth's
- 6:00 pm-8:00 pm Trivia Night

Monday, March 20

- 6:30 am-7:30 am Youth Breakfast at First Lutheran
- 12:00 pm Classic Discussion Small Group with Matt (Parlor)
- 8:00 pm-9:00 pm Lectionary Bible Study at Off the Square

Tuesday, March 21

- 6:30 am-7:30 am Youth Breakfast at First Lutheran
- 9:30 am-11:00 am *Taste & See* Cooking Crew Small Group (Kitchen)
- 12:00 pm April Newsletter Deadline
- 2:00 pm Tea & Conversation (Parlor)
- 7:00 pm Confirmation Class

Wednesday, March 22

No Youth Club

- 6:30 am-7:30 am Youth Breakfast at First Lutheran
- 6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 12:00 pm Community Lent Worship at Central UMC
- 5:50 pm *Wednesday Worship
- 6:15 pm *Classic Discussion Small Group with Dona & Greg Lisk (Church Kitchen)
- 7:15 pm *Chancel Choir

Thursday, March 23

- 6:30 am-7:30 am Youth Breakfast at First Lutheran
- 9:30 am *Pray & Play
- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
- 12:00 pm Foodie Fans Small Group

Friday, March 24 *Church Office Closed*

- 6:30 am-7:30 am Youth Breakfast at First Lutheran

Sunday, March 26

Fourth Sunday of Lent/The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper/Youth Sunday/Youth Cubs Sing/

Youth Orff Ensemble plays

- 9:45 am *Sunday School
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 3:00 pm Hiking Posse Small Group with Connie Wallace & Ken Knight meets at Morrow Mountain State Park
- 4:00 pm Classic Discussion Small Group at Elizabeth's
- 5:00 pm-7:30 pm Youth Connection

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

MARCH

- 19-Catherine McIntyre
Chris Whitley
- 20-Bo Andrew
Lee McLaurin
- 21-Sherrie Richards
Laney Smith
- 22-Jane Hartsell
- 24-Sam Holshouser
- 26-Philip Welch

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

MARCH

- 24-Nathan & Marlene Sanges

SCCM CHALLENGE FOR MARCH:

Canned Soup & Crackers

Visit the...

Spring Art Exhibit featuring works by
Students of Central Elementary School
Who Am I?: Self-Portraiture

***childcare provided**