



**The Weekly Bulletin**  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Albemarle, North Carolina

Elizabeth McNair Ayscue, Pastor    Matt Drumheller, Associate Pastor

Church Offices: (704) 982-2722    Website: [www.fpcalbemarle.org](http://www.fpcalbemarle.org)

August 26, 2018

**GATHERING BEFORE GOD**

**MORNING MEDITATION**

*The Christmas spirit is that hope which tenaciously clings to the hearts of the faithful and announces in the face of any Herod the world can produce and all the inn doors slammed in our faces and all the dark nights of our souls that with God all things still are possible, that even now unto us a Child is born!*

From  
*Kneeling in Bethlehem*  
by Ann Weems.

**PEALING OF THE BELLS**

**CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

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

**PRELUDE**

*Greensleeves*

Richard Purvis

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Christ is born!

**Alleluia!**

Jesus is among us!

**Alleluia!**

Shout with joy, give thanks, and sing!

**Christ is born!**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Gracious Lord, you come to us as Word, as light, as flesh. Teach us to know you so well that our lives may befriend this world you have made, in the name of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**\*HYMN 133**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

*Adeste fideles*

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy Incarnate God, by the light of your goodness and mercy, our failing to see your true light is clear: we have not loved you, we have not loved our neighbors, we have not loved ourselves. Our feet have not brought good news to the poor nor have our voices defended Earth and its creatures and plants. Forgive us, blind us with your holy honestly, so that we may more clearly see your will, and walk with sure steps into the way of wholeness and peace.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Friends, believe the good news.

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

**\*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS**

**O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

As we light the Advent candles, we awaken our spirits to the coming of God.

Living the Christmas story again,

**We light the candle of Christ.**

In Christ we pray and in Christ we sing,

**Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**RESPONSE TO THE CANDLELIGHTING**

**Come to Bethlehem and see, him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN  
AND BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**

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's Litany

**Unison Prayer**

**Holy God, we celebrate this time of new beginnings. As these children and youth return to school, we ask that you bless these backpacks which carry books and notebooks, markers, pens, pencils, hopes, and fears. We ask also your blessing upon teachers, assistants, and administrators. Make them fair and merciful as they lead with grace and compassion. And we pray loving God, that you will bless our cherished children whom we have promised to love and nurture since their baptism. Give them energy and encouragement, keep them safe, and remind them daily that you are with them. Amen.**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**By the light of the Holy Spirit shining in our midst, open our hearts and minds, O God, to your Word, present now and always for the sake of your holy name. Amen.**

**NEW TESTAMENT READING** [\*John 1:1-5; 14\*](#) Pew Bible, page 86

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** *Word Becomes Flesh* Mrs. Ayscue and Mr. Drumheller

Sermons are posted to the church's website ([www.fpcalbemarle.org](http://www.fpcalbemarle.org)). You can usually find the previous Sunday's sermon by Wednesday.

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

When the fullness of time came God sent his Son, his eternal wisdom, the substance of his own glory, into this world, who took the nature of humanity from the substance of a woman, a virgin, by means of the Holy Ghost. And so was born the *just seed of David, the Angel of the great counsel of God, the very Messiah promised, whom we confess and acknowledge to be Emmanuel, true God and true human, two perfect natures united and joined in one person.*  
Amen.

From *The Scots Confession*, which was written in 1560.

\*HYMN 137

*He Came Down*

He Came Down

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

TITHES AND OFFERING AND DEDICATION OF OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES

Invitation

Because God loved the world, God sent his Son into the world.

**In response to this good news, we offer songs of praise, tithes and offerings, and acts of service.**

Offertory

*In dulci jubilo*

Marcel Dupré

\*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 and The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.**

*My Offering* cards are in the pews.

As a regular practice, you are invited to take one, reflect on your giving, and place it in the offering plate when it comes to you.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation and Prayer

Words of Institution

Sharing the Meal

Prayer of Thanksgiving

\*HYMN 136

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

Go Tell It

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

*God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*

Wilbur Held

-----  
\*All who are able may stand

Worship continues with fellowship in the Pit Stop. Join others for fruit punch, Christmas cookies and conversation.

**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 Leah Kilde.** After extinguishing the Christ candle, the acolyte takes the light of Jesus Christ out into the world.

**There is no Children's Church today.** School-aged children are encouraged to remain in worship.

**We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper** on Sunday, August 26. The Lord's Table is open to all those who love Jesus Christ and to those who want to love him more. We will receive the bread and cup by intinction. Ushers will guide you to the table. Gluten-free elements are available at the front of the sanctuary upon request.

**The rose in the sanctuary** is in honor of the birth of Lanie Elizabeth Lentz, daughter of Kelly and Charlie Lentz, who was born on August 21.

**Ushers:** Jim Marshall, captain; Robbie Beard, Duncan Bryson, Elizabeth Bryson, Keith Bryson, Lachlann Currie, Mark Mabry, Kyle Marks, Laura Beth Marks, Mike McLeod, and Chris Whitley **Outside Ushers:** Mark Andrew; Jack Morton **Elder Greeters:** Debbie Wainwright; David Whitley **Nursery:** Grayson Harris **Preschool Partner:** Kristie Bryson; Elizabeth Bryson **Nana & Papa Team:** Gayle & Ned Russell

**We ask that you keep these people in your prayers:** Holly Norwood (recovering from shoulder replacement surgery-at home), Veronica Fraser(friend of Debby Johnston; pancreatic cancer), Jack Dickerson (father of Susan Pandich), Judy Murrell (Trinity Place), Jennie Green (sister of Kristie Bryson), Joan Bunn (health concerns; friend of Gina Martin), Kathy Miles Gordon (pancreatic cancer; friend of Ruth Goodwin), Sally Grantier (Trinity Place), Denise LaBoube (half-sister of Martha White; diagnosed with brain cancer – Astrocytoma), Sally Warburton (friend of Debbie & John Hahn), Hessie Clark. See newsletter for complete list.

\*\*\*\*\*

**New Address**

Polly Moose  
c/o Brookdale (Chandler Place) Senior Living  
745 Dilworth Lane, Apt. 124  
Rock Hill, SC 29732  
Phone: 803-372-8002

\*\*\*\*\*

**Circle 5 Meeting**

**Monday, August 27 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Gloria Bryson (811 Smith Street, Albemarle)**

Lesson 9 will be discussed and new study books will be available at the meeting. All are invited to join.

\*\*\*\*\*



**Blessing of the Backpacks on Sunday, August 26**

The Blessing of the Backpacks will take place in worship on Sunday, August 26. Students of all ages are invited to bring their backpack and participate in this ritual as they return to school.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Worship Workshop for Families on Sunday, August 26...**A workshop for children in 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grades and their parents is planned for Sunday, August 26 following worship. We will have activities that introduce the elements of worship and help children understand the meaning of worship. Please let Elizabeth or Matt (704-982-2722; eayscue@fpcalbemarle.org; mdrumheller@fpcalbemarle.org) know how many in your family will attend and/or if you need childcare.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PrimeTimers' Luncheon**

**Thursday, September 13 at Noon in the Pit Stop**

**Topic: Programs & Volunteer Opportunities with Central Elementary School**

**Lunch will be served prior to the program.**

**Menu: Sandwiches, Salads, Fruit, Desserts, & Beverages**

Please RSVP by Monday, September 10 to Kyle (704-982-2722 or [klambert@fpcalbemarle.org](mailto:klambert@fpcalbemarle.org)).





**LABOR DAY WORSHIP & BRUNCH**  
**Sunday, September 2 at 9:00 a.m. at the**  
**Charles Cannon Memorial YMCA Park (115 CB Crook Drive, Albemarle)**  
**Join us for a Labor Day worship service followed by a lite brunch and fellowship.**  
**Bring a chair if it's easy!**

**Menu: Fruit Salad, Sausage Balls, Mini-bagels & Cream Cheese, Mini-muffins,  
 Coffee, Bottled Water, and Orange Juice**

\*\*\*\*\*

**First Family Dinner**

Wednesday, September 5

Evening Prayer at 5:45 p.m. in the Chapel

Dinner at 6:00 p.m. in the Gym

Menu:

Country Style Steak, Rice, Pinto Beans, Mixed Green Salad, Rolls,  
 Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich Station, Assorted Desserts,  
 Tea, Coffee, Water, & Lemonade

Healthy Meal Alternative: Mixed Green Salad



Please RSVP to the church office (704-982-2722 or klambert@fpcalbemarle.org) by Thursday, August 30.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Volunteers Are Needed for First Family Gathering**



Dessert Crew: Tuesday, September 4 at 10:00 a.m.

Set up crew: Tuesday, September 4 at 12:00 p.m.

Sides crew: Wednesday, September 5 at 1:00 p.m.

Final Touches Crew: Wednesday, September 5 at 5:15 p.m.

Clean-up crew: Wednesday, September 5 at 6:45 p.m.

Please call Jane Snyder at the church 704-982-2722 or on her phone 704-438-3358 if you would like to help☺!

\*\*\*\*\*

**GRANDPARENTS' DAY FLOWERS**

On Grandparents' Day, the flowers in the sanctuary will be in honor/memory of grandparents. Each name is \$2.00. Please mail, deliver, or place in the offering plate your money with the form below **NO LATER THAN TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5**. Please make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church and designate for *Grandparents' Day Flowers*. The names of donors and those being honored/remembered will be listed on **Grandparents' Day, September 10**. Any money collected over the cost of the flowers will be donated to the Minister's Discretionary Fund.

**GRANDPARENTS' DAY FLOWERS**

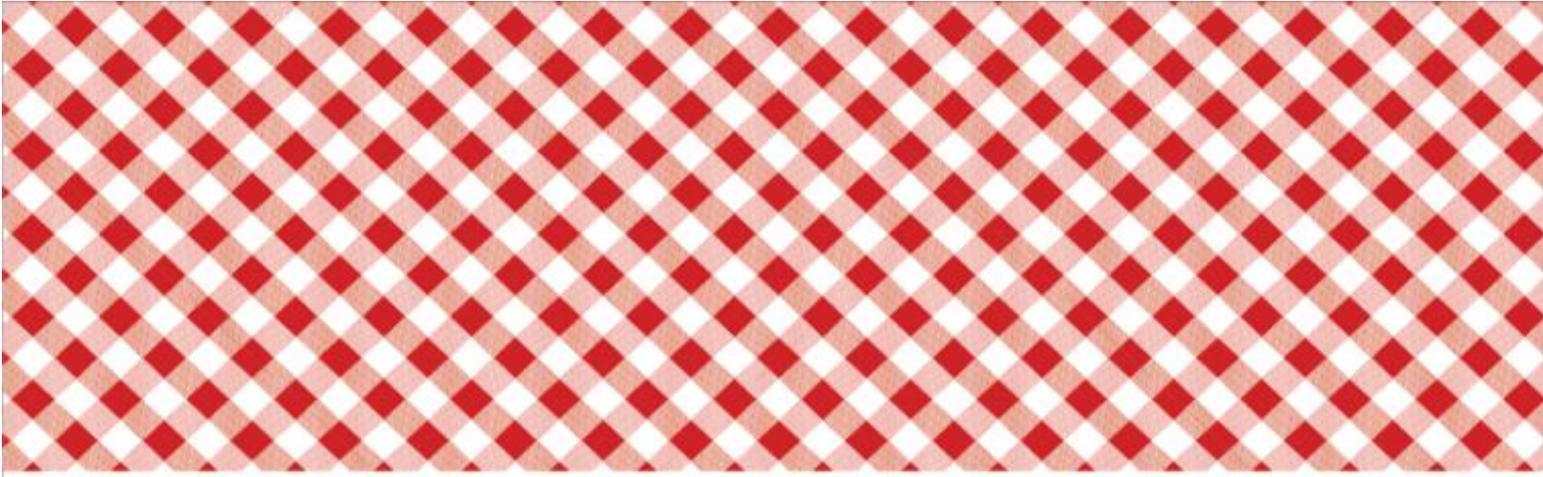
Please print below the information exactly as it is to appear in the bulletin.

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_



DANCING WITH YOUR FAITH

RALLY DAY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

9:30 A.M. IN THE GYM

The Christian Education Committee is planning a faith-filled morning to kick-off the new year in Christian Education. Games, Art, Music, & Much More!!! Come for a pancake breakfast with all the trimmings!

RALLY DAY EVENT

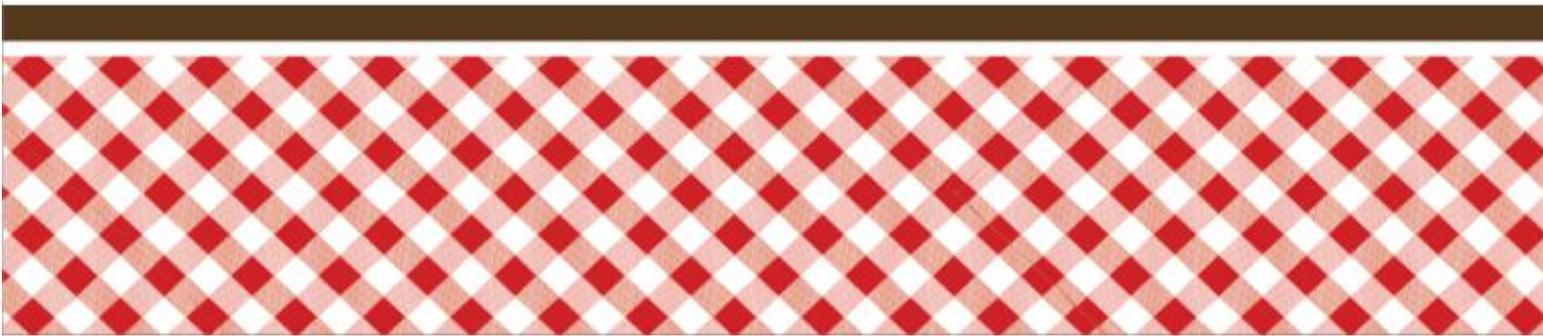
SQUARE DANCE & LINE DANCING

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

5:00 P.M. IN THE GYM

Pizza & Ice Cream available with a suggested donation of \$5.00 per person/\$15.00 per family.

5:00 p.m. Dance...6:00 p.m. Dinner





Operation Christmas Child boxes will be dedicated in worship on Sunday, August 26.

\*\*\*\*\*



**Women's Retreat**

Where? William Black Lodge  
When? September 28-30  
Theme: The Gift of Bread  
Cost: \$185 double occupancy  
\$240 single occupancy

Join others for fellowship, worship, Bible study, and lots of fun. Friends are welcome. Deposits (\$75.00) are needed by September 5.

\*\*\*\*\*



**First Presbyterian Church Congregational Retreat  
October 12-14  
Morrow Mountain State Park**

It's not too early to sign-up for First Presbyterian Church's congregational retreat on October 12-14 at Morrow Mountain State Park. See the bulletin board in the pit stop for more information.

\*\*\*\*\*

*What is Youth Cubs/Clubs?*

*An afternoon of Christian Education adventures for children ages 3-5<sup>th</sup> grade.*



**First Day of Youth Cubs/Youth Club is  
Wednesday, September 12 from  
3:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.**

**Orff (percussion) instruments for K-2<sup>nd</sup> graders led by Daniel Dickens from 5:15 p.m. -5:45 p.m.**

**Handbells for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders led by Frank Poolos from 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.**

**\*Childcare provided for preschoolers until 5:45 p.m. For more information, contact the church office (704-982-2722 or klambert@fpcalbemarle.org).**

**OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK**

**Sunday, August 26**

*Christmas in August*

*The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper*

*Dedication of Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes*

*Blessing of the Backpacks*

10:00 am \*Worship

11:00 am Christmas Cookies & Fruit Punch

11:30 am Worship Workshop for 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Graders  
& their families (meet in the sanctuary at the organ)

**Monday, August 27**

7:00 pm Circle 5 meets at the home of Gloria Bryson  
(811 Smith Street, Albemarle)

**Wednesday, August 29**

6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast

**Thursday, August 30**

10:00 am Staff Meeting

**Sunday, September 2**

*Ten-Cents-A-Meal Offering for Hunger*

9:00 am Labor Day Worship at the Charles Cannon Memorial  
YMCA Park (115 CB Crook Drive, Albemarle)  
Refreshments provided.

**\*childcare provided**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

**AUGUST**

29-Bede Karr

Melissa Lemons

30-Myra Land

Alex Wolf

31-Heather Kilde

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!**

**AUGUST**

26-John & Angie Earnhardt

28-Stephan & Leslie Kinley

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

**SEPTEMBER**

01-Frank Poolos

02-Betty Crook

03-Wayne Palmer

04-Margaret Ivey

06-Laura McLeod

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!**

**SEPTEMBER**

03-Miller & Teryn Morgan

05-Jim & Leslie Carter

**Attention College Students & Parents**

Please contact the church office

(klambert@fpcalbemarle.org or 704-982-2722)

with your college mailing address and email address.

**SCCM CHALLENGE FOR AUGUST**

Canned or Dried Beans, Canned Tomatoes, Rice

**SCCM CHALLENGE FOR SEPTEMBER**

Paper Goods

(Toilet Tissue, Paper Towels, Facial Tissue, Cleaning Supplies)

*shhh....  
it's a secret*

**Would You Like To Be A Silent Partner?**

First Presbyterian Church college students will soon begin the 2018-2019 school year. We need people to serve as a Silent Partner to these college students. Contact the church office at 704-982-2722 to sign-up to be a Silent Partner.