



The Weekly Bulletin  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Albemarle, North Carolina

Elizabeth McNair Ayscue, Co-Pastor  
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February 2, 2020

**GATHERING BEFORE GOD**

**MORNING MEDITATION**

*When I watch the light of dawn break forth anew each morning, I also know – in the deepest core of my being - that God is God, that God’s will for this world is for light and warmth and healing, and that the One who took on human flesh in all its crippling brokenness and pain will surely also embrace and encircle our brokenness with His own redemptive body.*

From *The Sun Still Rises*  
by Nora Tisdale,  
PCUSA pastor and  
theologian.

**PEALING OF THE BELLS**

**OPENING SENTENCES**

Know that the Lord is God.

**God made us and we belong to God.**

**CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

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

**GATHERING SONGS**

Hymn 336	<i>We Gather Together</i>	stanzas 1 and 2
Hymn 664	<i>Morning Has Broken</i>	stanzas 1 and 2

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

What does the Lord require of us?

**The Lord requires us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.**

May we encourage one another toward justice, kindness, and a humble walk with God.

**Let us worship God together.**

Micah 6:8

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Redeeming God, you come to us in Christ to rescue us from slavery and lead us out of captivity. Guide us by the wisdom of the cross, and show us how to live a life of justice, love, and blessedness. Amen.**

Micah 6:8  
I Corinthians 1:18-31  
Matthew 5:12

**\*HYMN 1**

*Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!*

Nicaea

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Silence

Unison

**Great God of the universe, we confess that we have not done what is blameless and right, nor spoken truth from the heart with love. We fail to keep your word. Our words and deeds cause pain and turmoil. Forgive us by the power of your mercy, that we might stand in the goodness of Christ and walk in the light of your love.**

Psalm 15:2-4

Glory to God hymnal,  
page 582

The congregation is encouraged to participate in the prayer with the children.

I Corinthians 1:18-31  
Matthew 5:1-12

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

The Brief Statement of Faith was written following the reunification of the Presbyterian Church in 1983.

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

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

**\*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**

Melissa Eudy

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

**ANTHEM**

*Hear My Prayer*

Moses Hogan

O Lord, please hear my prayer, in the mornin' when I rise.  
It's Your servant bound for glory. O dear, Lord, please hear my prayer.  
O Lord, please hear my prayer, keep me safe within Your arms.  
It's Your servant bound for glory, O dear, Lord, please hear my prayer.  
When my work on earth is done, and You come to take me home,  
Just to know I'm bound for glory, and to hear You say well done.  
Done with sin and sorrow, have mercy, mercy, Amen.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**Holy God, your blessings are abundant, and your wisdom exceeds our grasp. Fill us with your Spirit as we hear your word this day, that we may be justice seekers and peacemakers, sharing your life among those who are forgotten, weak or persecuted. Amen.**

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

[Matthew 5:1-12](#)

Pew Bible, page 4

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

[Micah 6:1-8](#)

Pew Bible, page 816

**SERMON**

*What About Kindness?*

Reverend Ayscue

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. 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.**

\*HYMN 769

*For Everyone Born*

For Everyone Born

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Reverend Drumheller

**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.**

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation

Offertory

*Offertory*

César Franck

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

\*HYMN 772

*Live Into Hope*

Truro

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

*God’s Wonderful Peace Be with You*

William M. Runyan

\*POSTLUDE

*Epilogue on ‘Dix’*

William H. Harris

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\*All who are able may stand.

**We are grateful for your presence 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 Seth Richards.** After extinguishing the Christ candle, the acolyte takes the light of Jesus Christ out into the world.

**The flowers in the sanctuary** are given to the glory of God and in honor of Jean Rabe.

**Ushers:** Jill Niebler, captain; Steve Cumming, Heather Deese, Melanie Hendrix, Katherine Jolly, and Lee McLaurin **Outside Ushers:** Wes Eudy, Tom Norwood **Elder Greeters:** Steve Coats; Ellen Snyder **Nursery:** Kate White **Kids Care Crew:** Kristie Bryson; Elizabeth Bryson **Children’s Church:** Taylor & Kyle Barbee

**We ask that you keep these people in your prayers:** The family of Gayle Meeks (sister of Lynn White), Debbie Gabriel (sister of Gayle Russell; diagnosed with breast cancer), Frank Green (Trinity Place), Carolyn Sharpe, Jean Rabe (Trinity Place), Jane Scheer (Spring Arbor), Don Joines, Mark Mabry, Jane Pickler. **See newsletter for complete list.**

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**Thank You for the Warm Gifts of Winter**

190 warm items were collected for our annual Warm Gifts of Winter and given to the Clothing Closet for distribution.

Thank you for your generosity to help our community.



### Hurray For Breakfast Bunch!!!

Who can come? 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> graders  
 What? Breakfast...muffins, fruit, yogurt, milk, juice, etc.  
 When? Sunday, February 2 at 9:00 a.m.  
 Where? Media Room  
 Why? To pray together & build strong community of faith  
 Please let Jill Niebler ([jlniebler@gmail.com](mailto:jlniebler@gmail.com)) know if you are able to join us.

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**On Sunday, February 2nd**, join us in participating in the 30th annual Souper Bowl of Caring canned soup drive! Bring chicken noodle soup if your usual worship seat is on the right side (choir loft side) of the middle section, the right section, choir loft, or the balcony. Bring tomato soup if your usual worship seat is: on the left side of the middle section, the left section, or the section near the sound board. Our youth will collect money and cans of food at the doors of the sanctuary following worship. See designated spaces in the Pit Stop for your soup. Let's see which section can collect the most soup for SCCM!



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### BACKPACK FOOD PROGRAM

Oatmeal Packets, Breakfast Cookies, Individual Bags of Goldfish, Large Cans of Soup, Saltine Crackers, Tuna Helper, Snack Crackers, Pineapple, or Fruit Cocktail Cups  
 A bin in the pit stop will receive your donation.

**Packing Dates: Wednesdays, February 5 & 26 at 10:30 a.m.**

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### FIRST FAMILY GATHERING WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5 AT 6:00 P.M.

#### Menu:

**Roasted Chicken, Macaroni & Cheese, Broccoli, Salad, Biscuits,  
 Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich Station, Assorted Desserts,  
 Tea, Lemonade, Coffee and Water.**



Contact the church office by Monday, February 3 to make reservations:  
 704-982-2722 or [klambert@fpcalbemarle.org](mailto:klambert@fpcalbemarle.org).

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### Volunteers Needed for First Family Gathering

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

Dinner & Salad Crew: Wednesday, February 5 at 10:00 a.m.

Set-up crew: Wednesday, February 5 at 4:30 p.m.

Clean-up crew: Wednesday, February 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☺





**Tea & Conversation  
Thursday, February 6  
at 2:00 p.m. in the Church Parlor**

Join other women for conversation and movement around the theme, *Holy Ground*. We'll also enjoy tea and a few of Jane's winter delicacies. Contact the church office to let us know you are coming (704-982-2722 or [pknighten@fpcalbemarle.org](mailto:pknighten@fpcalbemarle.org)).

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**With deep appreciation for all you do,  
the staff of First Presbyterian Church  
would like to invite you to a  
Volunteer Reception in your honor.  
Thursday, February 13  
10:00 a.m.-Noon in the church parlor**

RSVP to Pam Knighten ([pknighten@fpcalbemarle.org](mailto:pknighten@fpcalbemarle.org)) or  
Kyle Lambert ([klambert@fpcalbemarle.org](mailto:klambert@fpcalbemarle.org)) or call the church office (704-982-2722).

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**Rise Against Hunger Fundraiser Luncheon  
Hosted by the FPC Youth Group  
Sunday, February 16 following worship**

**Menu:**

**Baked Potato & Salad Bar**

**Everyone is encouraged to bring a potato topping to share.**

**February 23 at 3:00 p.m.**

**People of all ages can help with the packing.**

**Plan to be part of this afternoon.**

The three Presbyterian churches of Stanly County are going to partner with Rise Against Hunger to pack meals for hungry people around the world. Over the course of two hours, we will pack approximately 25,000 meals. Contact Matt Drumheller to sign-up!



## OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

### Sunday, February 2

*Souper Bowl of Caring/Ten-Cents-A-Meal Offering for Hunger*

- 9:00 am Breakfast Bunch (2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders in Media Room)
- 9:45 am \*Sunday School
- 11:00 am \*Worship
- 12:00 pm Mission Committee
- 12:00 pm Congregational Care Committee
- 5:00 pm-7:30 pm Youth Group

### Monday, February 3

- 7:00 pm Circle #5 meets at the home of Gloria Bryson  
(811 Smith Street, Albemarle)
- 8:00 pm Bible Study with Matt
- 8:30 pm High School Bible Study at Elizabeth's  
(1611 Bellamy Circle, Albemarle)

### Tuesday, February 4

- 9:00 am Lent Planning Committee
- 10:00 am First Family Dessert Crew

### Wednesday, February 5

- 6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 10:00 am First Family Dinner & Salad Crew
- 10:30 am Backpack Food Program
- 12:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (Parlor)
- 4:00 pm-6:00 pm Youth Club
- 4:30 pm First Family Set-Up Crew
- 6:00 pm First Family Dinner
- 6:45 pm First Family Clean-Up Crew
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, February 6

- 10:30 am Staff Meeting
- 12:00 pm Young Adult Lunch at Ly Cuisine  
(807A North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Albemarle)
- 2:00 pm Tea & Conversation (Parlor)

### Saturday, February 8

- 9:30 am Presbytery Meeting at Philadelphia Presbyterian Church (11501 Bain Rd., Mint Hill, NC)

### Sunday, February 9

- 8:45 am Diaconate
- 9:45 am \*Sunday School
- 11:00 am \*Worship
- 6:30 pm Youth Group eats at Hwy 55 Burgers, Shakes, & Fries  
(750-A Leonard Ave suite E)

**\*childcare provided**

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

### FEBRUARY

- 02-Lee Boone  
Penny Morton
- 03-Kellyn Poole Luna
- 04-Hugh Carpenter
- 05-Keith Byrd  
Robin Howell
- 06-Melissa Eudy  
Bob Johnston
- 07-Jennifer Mabry
- 08-Mellanie Morgan
- 09-Debbie Bennett

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

### FEBRUARY

- 06-Steve & Laura Blalock
- 09-Bill & Diane Stevenson

**Visit the  
Winter Art Gallery Exhibition  
featuring Photography by Andy Cotton**

## SCCM CHALLENGE FOR FEBRUARY

Canned Vegetables –  
Green Beans, Corn, Carrots, Peas, Beans,  
Mixed Vegetables (Veg-all), Canned Tomatoes