



The Weekly Bulletin  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Albemarle, North Carolina

Matt Drumheller, Pastor

Church Office: (704) 982-2722

Website: [www.fpcalbemarle.org](http://www.fpcalbemarle.org)

November 15, 2020

**GATHERING BEFORE GOD**

MORNING MEDITATION

*When you love you should not say, 'God is in my heart,' but rather, 'I am in the heart of God.' And think not you can direct the course of love, for love, if it finds you worthy, directs your course. Love has no other desire but to fulfil itself.*

From *The Prophet*  
by Kahlil Gibran

PRELUDE

*Prayer to the Holy Spirit*

Dietrich Buxtehude

PEALING OF THE BELLS

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Ella Cumming

OPENING SENTENCES

Surely God is our salvation;

**Trust in the Lord and do not be afraid.**

Isaiah 12:2

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

CALL TO WORSHIP

Nancy Joines, liturgist

Psalms 123

Lift up your eyes to the Lord, who is enthroned in the heavens.

**As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, so our eyes look to the Lord our God.**

Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

**We worship the Lord of heaven and earth!**

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 612

*We Praise You, O God*

Kremser

First Presbyterian Church  
Worship Archive  
October 25, 2015

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;

In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.

We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;

We bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;  
Through trial and tempest our guide you have been.

When perils o'er-take us, you will not forsake us,

And with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer

And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.

With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us.

To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Silence

**Lord, you have made us stewards of your creation and commissioned us to carry out your work to the best of our ability. But we have not served you with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love. We withhold our gifts and live in fear. Have mercy upon us, we pray.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe the good news.

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

RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

*Gloria Patri*

Meineke

**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, Amen.**

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Dedication of Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

*At the conclusion of the shoebox dedication, children in grades K-2<sup>nd</sup> are encouraged to join Duncan Bryson, Elizabeth Bryson, and Kristie Bryson for Children's Church via Zoom. The link for the Zoom call can be found in yesterday's worship email.*

ANTHEM

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

Maurice Bevan

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;

There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in Heaven;

There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.

For the love of God is broader than the measure of our mind;

And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

But we make God's love too narrow by false limits of our own;

And we magnify his strictness with a zeal he would not own.

There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed;

There is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.

There is grace enough for thousands of new worlds as great as this;

There is room for fresh creations in that upper home of bliss.

If our love were but more simple, we would take him at his Word;

And our lives would be all gladness in the joy of Christ our Lord.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

[Matthew 25:14-30](#)

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*While We Wait*

Reverend Drumheller

First Presbyterian Church  
Worship Archive  
May 17, 2015

First Presbyterian Church  
Worship Archive  
February 4, 2018

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.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

This affirmation is based on Philippians 2:6-11 which is often called the Christ Hymn. It is one of the earliest declarations of faith in Scripture.

HYMN 215

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

Wondrous Love

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,  
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;  
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM,  
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;  
While millions join the theme, I will sing!

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,  
And through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;  
And through eternity I'll sing on.

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation

Offertory

*Chorale*

Johann G. Walther

Prayer of Dedication

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*Benediction*

Peter Angela

God be with you till we meet again;  
By His counsels guide, uphold you,  
With His sheep securely fold you;  
God be with you till we meet again. Amen.

First Presbyterian Church  
Worship Archive  
May 28, 2017

First Presbyterian Church  
Worship Archive  
May 13, 2018

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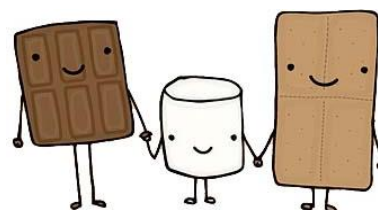
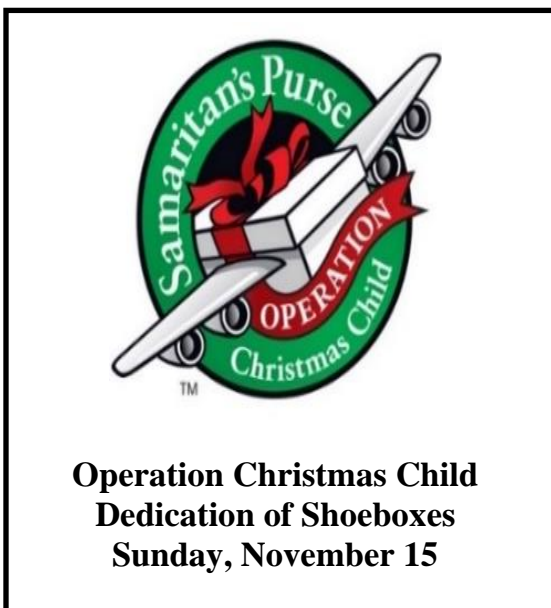
**Thank you to James Cotton, Wiley Crutchfield, and Adam Jolly for helping to create this morning's video, and to Nancy Joines for her participation in worship.**

**The acolyte today is Ella Cumming.**

**We ask that you keep these people in your prayers:** Ann Hatcher (mother of Ann Snuggs; recovering from fall), Gus Feather, Judy Ross (diagnosis of pancreatic cancer; friend of Tom & Holly Norwood), Lauren Reder (niece of Laura & Mike McLeod), Bede Karr, Sandy Saunders, Ann Upchurch, Banks Garrison, Yoder Whitley, Jean Rabe, Jane Scheer, Don Joines, Jane Pickler. See newsletter for complete list.

**Marlene and Bruce Mittendorf are moving to Cary.** Since we will not be together in worship, you are encouraged to stop by the church and sign a hymnal for them. Call before you to come to make sure someone is in the building (704-982-2722).

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**We have the ingredients...  
All we need is YOU!  
We want to see S'MORE of you!**

The Fellowship Committee and Youth have joined together for a socially distanced S'MORES night.

Join us on Sunday, November 15 for a S'MORES event!

Fire pits will be set up in the lower parking lot from 3:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. Reserve your space around the fire. Call or email Melissa 704-439-6747 or the5eudys@gmail.com. We can't wait to see you there!



**Backpack Food Program Donations Needed:**

Oatmeal Packets, Breakfast Cookies,  
Individual Bags of Goldfish, Large Cans of Soup, Saltine Crackers, Tuna Helper,  
Snack Crackers, Pineapple, or Fruit Cocktail Cups  
Donations may be dropped off at the church.

**Packing Dates: Wednesday, November 19 at 10:30 a.m.**

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**2020 Thanksgiving Offering for  
Children's Hope Alliance  
Sunday, November 22**

*Hope. Health. Healing.*

Children's Hope Alliance is the combination of Barium Springs and Grandfather Home for Children joining forces to serve children and families throughout North Carolina. The mission is to provide hope, health, and healing for generations. Ways to give during COVID19:

1. Write a check (in the memo designate Children's Hope Alliance) and mail to:  
First Presbyterian Church  
P.O. Box 1578  
Albemarle, NC 28002

2. Donate online at [childrenshopealliance.org](http://childrenshopealliance.org) and press the "DONATE" button.

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**Community Thanksgiving Online Worship on Sunday, November 22 at 7:00 p.m.**

Though we cannot gather as a community this year like we normally would to celebrate Thanksgiving, on Sunday, November 22 at 7:00 p.m., the Community Thanksgiving worship video will premiere. Ben Floyd, the new pastor at Main Street United Methodist Church will be preaching, and there will be worship and music led by pastors from around Albemarle. Please join us online to celebrate a season of Thanksgiving.

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**Alternative Christmas Gifts**

**Sunday, November 29 thru Sunday, December 20**

Alternative Gifts will be available at the Advent for All Drive-Thru event on Sunday, November 29. After that day, you may purchase Alternative Gifts in the church office. Sandy Rogers and Sandy Saunders are available to deliver your Alternative Gift order(s). A minimum donation of \$10.00 per card is requested. The charities benefitting are: The Community Care Clinic, Homes of Hope/The Community Inn, Stanly Community Christian Ministry (SCCM), and the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA).

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**DRIVE-THRU COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER**

**AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

**(202 N. 2<sup>ND</sup> STREET, ALBEMARLE)**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25 FROM 11:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M. OR  
UNTIL ALL BOXED MEALS ARE GONE**

**Donations Needed: Pound Cakes & Brownies (No Icing/Not Sliced)**

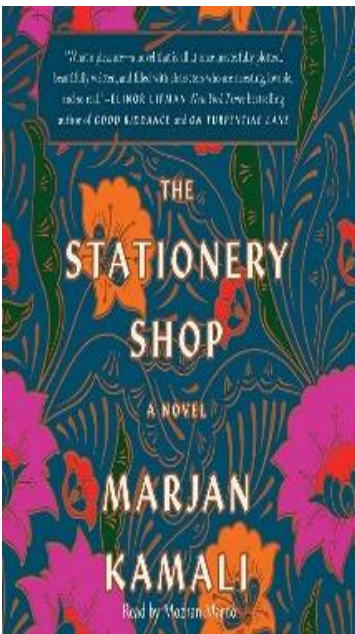
**Monetary Donations Accepted**

**(in the memo of your check designate "Community Christmas Dinner")**

**CONTACT MARTHA SUE HALL FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**(704-985-5821 OR HALLMSH@HOTMAIL.COM)**





**Book Conversation**

**Monday, November 16 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom**

**\*Please note date change.**

**Book: The Stationery Shop by Marjan Kamali**

We will meet via Zoom on Monday, November 16 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss *The Stationery Shop* by Marjan Kamali. This is the story of Roya, a dreamy, idealistic teenager living amid the political upheaval of 1953 Tehran, finds a literary oasis in kindly Mr. Fakhri's neighborhood stationery shop, stocked with books and pens and bottles of jewel-colored ink. Then Mr. Fakhri, with a keen instinct for a budding romance, introduces Roya to his other favorite customer—handsome Bahman, who has a burning passion for justice and a love for Rumi's poetry—and she loses her heart at once. Their romance blossoms, and the little stationery shop remains their favorite place in all of Tehran. We hope you'll join us.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78920583346>

Meeting ID: 789 2058 3346

Passcode: XbXXp8

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**Angel Tree 2020**

With Christmas right around the corner we will again be providing gifts for local children through the Angel Tree program.

This year the process will look a little different. On the following days this week, the angel tree will be placed outside the elevator under the vestibule in the side parking lot. You are invited to drive by the church and select and Angel from the Tree Instructions for buying and retuning gifts will be with the Angel Tree.

Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday: 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 9:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

**Angel Tree gifts are due back to the church by Sunday, December 6.** Please help make this Christmas special for our community.

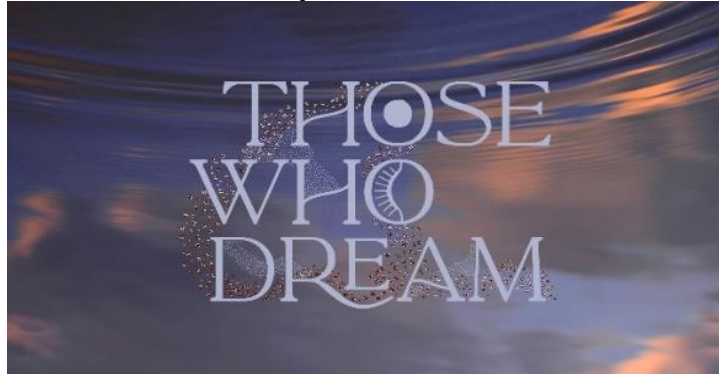


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**SCCM FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:**

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Peanut Butter          | Navy Beans              |
| Jelly                  | Great Northern Beans    |
| Mayonnaise             | Cannellini Beans        |
| Mustard                | Lima Beans              |
| Ketchup                | Kidney Beans            |
| Evaporated Milk        | Cream Corn              |
| Self-Rising Flour      | Chicken Broth           |
| All-Purpose Flour      | Beef Broth              |
| Tomato Soup            | Pre-Sweetened Cereal    |
| Cream of Mushroom Soup | Applesauce              |
| Cream of Chicken Soup  | Canned Pineapple        |
| Canned Potatoes        | Canned Peaches          |
| Spaghetti              | Canned Pears            |
| Black Eye Peas         | Canned Fruit Cocktail   |
| Sliced Carrots         | Canned Mandarin Oranges |
| Mixed Vegetables       | Beef Stew               |
| Green Beans            | Canned Chicken          |

**First Sunday of Advent  
Sunday, November 29**



As we begin the Advent season, there are several ways for you to be involved.

**Advent for All Drive-Thru Event**

After worship on November 29, you are invited to come drive thru the parking lot to get an after-worship treat and some supplies for the Advent season. You'll receive an art project for your family and a devotional guide for the season.

**Hanging of the Greenery**

Though we cannot do our Advent for All celebration this year, we still need your help getting the church ready for the season. After the first Sunday of Advent, our Chrismon Tree will be up in the sanctuary. You and your family can sign up for a time to come to the church and hang some Chrismons on the tree. Keep your eyes open for specific times and sign up instructions.

**Fellowship Drive-Thru**

After worship each Sunday (whether online or in person) you are invited to hop in your car and come drive thru the parking lot. You'll receive sweet treats and a chance to see some familiar faces. Also, you will have the opportunity to participate in our Alternative Gifts program, our Christmas Kitchen, and more.

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**Christmas Kitchen Drive-Thru Event  
Sunday, December 13 following worship**

This year's Christmas Kitchen will be on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> after worship. It will be a drive-thru event and we will have a way to pre-order the available items in advance. We are in need of volunteers to make their favorite casseroles, soups, cookies, cakes, pies, and other sweets to be sold at the Christmas Kitchen event. If you would like to contribute, please let Dorothy know ([dhart@fpcalbemarle.org](mailto:dhart@fpcalbemarle.org)) what you will be preparing by December 6th so that we can have it listed online for purchase. Don't forget to mark December 13th on your calendar to come shop! Proceeds from the Christmas Kitchen will go toward our youth program. Thank you for your support!

**OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK**

**Sunday, November 15**

*Dedication of Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes*

- 8:30 am Session Meeting via Zoom
- 9:45 am-10:30 am Adult Sunday School via Zoom
- 10:15 am Children & Youth Sunday School via Zoom
- 11:00 am Online Worship
- 1:00 pm-4:00 pm New Officer Training
- 3:30 pm-5:30 pm S'mores Event (lower parking lot)

**Monday, November 16**

- 10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 7:00 pm Book Conversation via Zoom with Courtney Niederer
- 8:00 pm Monday Night Bible Study with Matt
- 8:30 pm High School Bible Study with Debby Johnston & Jack Morton at the home of Debby & Bob Johnston (1212 Heritage Drive, Albemarle)

**Tuesday, November 17**

- 12:00 pm December Newsletter Deadline

**Wednesday, November 18**

- 6:45 am Men's Prayer Breakfast Zoom Meeting
- 10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 10:30 am Staff Meeting
- 1:00 pm Online Story Time (Preschoolers)
- 3:30 pm-4:00 pm Youth Club Trusty Travelers (K-3<sup>rd</sup> graders) via Zoom
- 4:00 pm-4:30 pm Youth Club Faith Explorers (4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders) via Zoom
- 7:00 pm Youth Group Virtual Game Night

**Thursday, November 19**

- 4:00 pm-5:00 pm Zoom Bible Study with Catherine & Matt Moeller

**Sunday, November 22**

*Christ the King Sunday*

*Thanksgiving Offering for Children's Hope Alliance*

- 9:45 am-10:30 am Adult Sunday School via Zoom
- 10:15 am Children & Youth Sunday School via Zoom
- 11:00 am Online Worship
- 7:00 pm Youth Group
- 7:00 pm Community Thanksgiving Online Worship

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**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 Matt (540.449.5319) directly.

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**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.**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

**NOVEMBER**

- 17-Taylor Johnston
- 18-Lee McManus
- 19-Gus Feather
- 21-Debbie Wainwright

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!**

**NOVEMBER**

- 17-Steve & Michelle Cumming
- Richard & Joyce Lambert
- 22-Ned & Gayle Russell

**This week's worship video** will become available at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. To access the worship video, go to the church's website ([www.fpcalbemarle.org](http://www.fpcalbemarle.org)) and click on the worship banner or search for the church on *YouTube* and click on the appropriate video.

**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](http://www.fpcalbemarle.org)). Click on the GIVE button.**