



The Weekly Bulletin
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Albemarle, North Carolina

Church Offices: (704) 982-2722

Website: www.fpcalbemarle.org

March 27, 2022
Fourth Sunday in Lent

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

PRELUDE

God So Loved the World

John Stainer

God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son.
That who so believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world,
but that the world through Him might be saved.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Nathaniel Eudy

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Shelley Shedd, liturgist

Psalm 32

Happy are those whose sin is forgiven, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

Therefore, let all who are faithful offer prayer to the God of deliverance.

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go, as you trust in the Lord.

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous; shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, seeker of the lost: draw your children back to your loving embrace, restore to us our inheritance as daughters and sons, and reconcile our hearts to you, that we may become ambassadors of your reconciling love to all the world. Amen.

*HYMN 804

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

Marion

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have strayed from your ways. Like the Prodigal Son, we have wasted our inheritance. You gave us the earth for our home, but we squandered earth's resources and hoard its bounty. You gave us neighbors to love, but we pursue selfish ambitions. You gave us the commandments that lead to human flourishing, but we break your law and forsake your love. Forgive us our sin and bring us to repentance. Draw our wandering hearts back to you that we may find freedom in obedience to your love. Through Christ our Lord we pray.

Silent Confession and Reflection

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

(The response will be sung by choir and congregation.)

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine with ten thousand beside!
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Cathy S. George

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-3 may go to the chapel for Children's Church.

ANTHEM

What Is the World Like

Sally Ann Morris

Frank Poolos, Oboe

arr. S.R. Scheer

What is the world like when God's will is done?
Mustard seeds grow more than we can conceive:
Roots thread the soil; branches reach for the sun.
This is how God moves us each to believe.

What is the world like when God's will is done?
Witness the wandering child coming home;
Watch as the parent breaks into a run.
This is how God longs for us when we roam.

What is the world like when God's will is done?
No more is neighbor just ally or friend;
Peace thrives in places where once there was none.
This is how God works when rivalries end.

What is the world like when God's will is done?
Ready for feasting, we watch through the night,
Tending our lamps till the new day's begun.
This is how God readies us for the light.

These are the stories that Jesus imparts,
Filled with the Spirit who joins us as one.
Born through our voices, our hands, and our hearts,
This is a new world where God's will is done.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit, open our minds and bodies to the re-creating power of your Word, that we may see the world through the mind of Christ and live in the world as a foretaste of your new creation. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[II Corinthians 5:18-21](#)
[Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32](#)

Pew Bible, page 170
Pew Bible, page 73

SERMON

The Zax and the Prodigal

Reverend Cathy S. George

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

God's redeeming work in Jesus Christ embraces the whole of (human) life. Biblical visions and images of the rule of Christ, such as a heavenly city, a father's house, a new heaven and earth, a marriage feast, and an unending day culminate in the image of the kingdom. The kingdom represents the triumph of God over all that resists his will and disrupts his creation. Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in (people) and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption. With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God. "Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

From
*The Confession
of 1967*

*HYMN 418 *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling* Softly and Tenderly

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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.

RECEIVING OF THE OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory

Ah, Holy Jesus

Dale Wood

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

hymnal 606

(The response will be sung by choir and congregation.) Old Hundredth

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*Prayer of Dedication

Loving God, all that we have comes from you. Receive this offering of our lives, for we return to you only what you have so graciously given. Use us for the sake of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

*HYMN 22 *God of the Sparrow* Roeder

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* Mark Schweizer

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face to shine upon you,
The Lord lift up His eyes to you and be gracious unto you and give you peace.
Amen.

*POSTLUDE *Fantasia* Johann Pachelbel

*All that are able may stand.

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Thank you to the Chancel Choir, Frank Poolos, Stan Scheer, and Shelley Shedd for their leadership in worship today.

The acolyte today is Nathaniel Eudy.

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in honor of Claude Harwood in celebration of his 90th birthday and his years of service for arranging and providing beautiful flowers for First Presbyterian Church. Flowers will be placed in the sanctuary in honor of Claude Harwood the last Sunday of March in years to come.

Ushers for March: Myron Lowder (captain), Al Andrew, Emily Andrew, Ella Cumming, Steve Cumming, and Jack Morton

Elder Greeters: Al Andrew; Kim Marshall

Outside Ushers for March 27: Jack Morton; Tom Norwood **Sound:** Evan Sanges; Leah Kilde

Film: James Cotton **Nursery:** Kate White **Kids Care Crew:** Carol Sasser

Children's Church: Liz Jolly

We ask that you keep these people in your prayers: Doris Forte (Atrium-Stanly; pneumonia), Donna Lehr (sister of Connie Wallace; cancer diagnosis), Brayden Enzor (grandson of Gus & Pam Holbrook), Robin Howell (Atrium- Northeast), Ken Frazier, Helen Melton (niece of Elizabeth Wilson), Carole Yost (Trinity Place), Tim Rodgers (friend of Thomas Hahn), Bill Cotton (brother of Andy Cotton), Debbie Hinson (mother of Melissa Eudy), Terry Morgan, Don Abernathy, Jean Rabe, Anita Gower, Gloria Bryson, Nancy Jolly, Claude Harwood, Jane Scheer, Don Joines, Jane Pickler. See newsletter for complete list.



**You are invited to a reception in honor of Claude Harwood
in celebration of his 90th birthday and his years of service
for arranging and providing beautiful flowers
for First Presbyterian Church
Sunday, March 27
following worship in the Pit Stop**



DRIVE-THRU LENT MEALS ON WEDNESDAYS

**MARCH 30 and APRIL 6
FROM 5:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.**

RSVP BY 2:00 P.M. ON THE MONDAY PRIOR TO THE MEAL

Lenten Meal Pick-up or Delivery is on Wednesdays during Lent: March 9, 16, 23, 30, and April 6. If you would like a Lenten meal, please RSVP by 2:00 p.m. on the Monday prior to the meal. We will have your meal ready for pick-up or delivery between 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. For your safety, kitchen staff will wear masks and gloves while preparing your plates.

The menu will be emailed in advance.

Menu for Wednesday, March 30:

Chicken Niçoise Salad

**(Grilled Chicken, Egg, Marinated Beans, Roasted Potatoes, Croutons over Mixed Greens),
and Pound Cake**

Suggested Donation: \$5 per person...Maximum of \$15 per family.

Please come with correct change or a check written to First Presbyterian Church.

All we need you to do is:

call Anne Montgomery at 704-796-5841 or email Anne at johnandannemontgomery@yahoo.com and let her know how many plates and desserts you need, and if it will be pickup or delivery (include address and any special instructions).

Community Lent Services

Wednesdays, March 30 & April 6 at Noon

Central United Methodist Church (172 North 2nd Street, Albemarle)

March 30: Rev. Cathy S. George, Transitional Pastor at First Presbyterian Church

April 6: Rev. Jill Rhinehart, Pastor at Central United Methodist Church

Lunch provided. Donations accepted with proceeds to benefit a community organization.

First Presbyterian Church is providing lunch on Wednesday, March 30.

From the Scholarship Committee...Scholarship applications are due in the church office by Tuesday, April 5. Applications are available in the church office and on the church's website: <http://www.fpcalbemarle.org/Scholarships.aspx>

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask a scholarship committee member. Committee members for 2022 are: Catherine Moeller, Chair, Shannon Bullard, Wes Eudy, Kim Marshall, and Lee McLaurin.





Easter Egg Hunt & Cookout

Sunday, April 10

City Lake Park

4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Sponsored by SNL

All children are invited to come celebrate Palm Sunday and Easter by hunting for Easter eggs, enjoying a delicious cookout, and playing outside together! Bring your Easter basket!

HOLY WEEK



Palm Sunday (April 10)

9:30 a.m. Palm Sunday Fair

Gather in the back parking lot (gym, if raining) for a continental breakfast, conversation around the table, and activities for children of ALL ages. Reflect on Christ's final days using Spirituality Centers set-up around the church.

11:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Worship

Worship will include a palm parade celebrating Christ's triumphal entry.

4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Easter Egg Hunt at City Lake Park

Come share food (hotdogs), fun, and fellowship. Bring an Easter basket and a friend!

Monday – Friday (April 11-15)

7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m. Perk & Pray

Drive-thru the parking lot on First Street for a cup of coffee or a juice box and a prayer.

Maundy Thursday (April 14)

6:00 p.m. We will worship in the sanctuary and share the Lord's Supper.

Good Friday (April 15)

10:30 a.m. Cross Walk (for all ages)

Meet outside the sanctuary (North Street). We'll follow the cross through downtown Albemarle and pray for the people of our community.

Easter Eve Cookout & Camping

Saturday, April 16 at Morrow Mountain State Park

Hardy souls are invited to camp out the night before Easter at Morrow Mountain. For those feeling less hardy, there will be plenty of time for a cookout and fellowship before the sun goes down. Campers and non-campers can arrive at the group campsite (5 & 6) around 5:00 p.m. Feel free to bring dinner to cook on the coals, or if you wish, you can bring supper from home or take out from your favorite restaurant. S'mores will be provided! Please bring your drinks and chairs along as well! Contact Ken Knight if you plan to join the gathering (kbknight17@gmail.com or 704-438-4686)!



The Talent Company presents...*Annie*

March 31 & April 1, 2 at 7:00 p.m. AND March 27 & April 3 at 3:00 p.m.

Albemarle Neighborhood Theater (219 East North Street, Albemarle)

Adult Ticket (14 and up) \$10 Youth Ticket (13 and under) \$5

www.TheTalentCompany.org

March Book Conversation on Monday, March 28 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor... The March book is *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge. We will meet in the parlor at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 28. *West with Giraffes* explores what it means to be changed by the grace of animals, the kindness of strangers, the passing of time, and a story told before it's too late.



First Presbyterian Church continues to provide dinner on the 1st Friday of the month at the Community Inn.

The next date to serve is April 1 at 6:30 p.m. Volunteers gather at 6:00 p.m. If anyone is interested in helping, please contact Ruth Cotton (hugawolf@hotmail.com).



Central School Backpack Food Program Donations Needed
Breakfast Bars, Peanut Butter Crackers, Individual Packs of Goldfish,
Large Cans of Soup, Saltine Crackers

Donations may be dropped off in the Pit Stop at the church.

UPDATED SCCM PANTRY NEEDS AS OF MARCH 16

Food Items Needed

**Sliced Carrots, Beef Stew, Mixed Vegetables, Hamburger Helper, Black Eye Peas,
Diced Tomatoes, Lima Beans, Pancake Mix & Syrup, Great Northern Beans, Mayonnaise,
Navy Beans, Mustard, Canned Potatoes, Ketchup**



For Sale in the Pit Stop Freezer (please leave money in the freezer):

- \$5.00 pint Homemade Salsa
- \$8.00 quart Homemade Salsa
- \$5.00 Marinara



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.



In lieu of Easter lilies, memorials and/or honorariums may be given to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in emergency response to the war in Ukraine. If you would like to contribute to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in memory and/or in honor of a loved one, fill out the form below exactly as you wish the memorial or honorarium to read. Please place in the offering plate or leave in the church office no later than **Sunday, April 10. Checks should be payable to "First Presbyterian Church" and designated "Presbyterian Disaster Assistance-Ukraine." All memorials/honorariums received by April 10 will be listed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, April 17.**

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance-Ukraine

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

In memory of: _____

Given by: _____

Palm Sunday Fair

Sunday, April 10

9:30 a.m.

Church Parking Lot

(*Rain Plan: Church Gym)

Intergenerational Event for ALL!!!

Continental Breakfast

Conversation around the Table

Activities for Children of ALL Ages

Spirituality Centers will be set-up around the church to reflect on Christ's final days.

Centers will remain in the church during Holy Week.

Join in the celebration of the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and prepare your hearts and minds for Holy Week.

From Tomato Plants to the White House

Claude Harwood has professionally graced this community in sensitive, thoughtful, and creative ways for decades as floral designer, arranger, and consummate caregiver. Thousands of people have received benefit from his talent and skill at generational family weddings, funerals, and special occasions. As a member of First Presbyterian Church for nearly seventy years, he has regularly enhanced and inspired weekly worship through the color, intensity, and pattern of God's wondrous gift of flowers.

Harwood Florist Co. opened in 1942 selling tomato plants in Albemarle. The city was bustling with mill workers and employees of other commercial ventures. The new company was soon overwhelmed with additional types of orders. Proms, Easter, Christmas, Mother's Day, and other special events had to be commemorated. Weekly arrangements at the Methodist, Episcopal, and Baptist churches had to be readied. The variety and demand of the new orders made for a busy schedule. There were many twenty-four hour long and sleepless preparation days for over five hundred deliveries on Mother's Day morning!

As the president of the local FTD district and later, the NC Floral Association, Claude competed in design contests sponsored by the organization. In 1978, he won the state, region, and national first place *America's Cup*. He then represented the United States in international competition in Melbourne, Australia where he placed in the twenty top designers from around the world!

His reputation and growing prestige caused him to be selected for assignment in Washington, DC on four separate occasions. He and his late wife Cathryn decorated the White House at Christmas for Presidents Ford, Carter, Reagan, and George H.W. Bush and the Inaugurations of Presidents Carter and Reagan.

This humble and understated member of our church has had an incredible journey and impact. He is still blessing this community with his unique gifts of an artist's perspective, imagination, creativity, and love for his calling. On this occasion of his ninetieth birthday, our church family chooses to come together to honor, express thanks for, and celebrate his life and ministry!!!

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 27 *4th Sunday in Lent*

- 9:30 am Faith, Fellowship, & Food at Glorybeans Coffee House (134 West Main Street, Albemarle)
- 9:45 am *Sunday School
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 3:00 pm Hiking Group (Morrow Mountain State Park)
- 6:00 pm-8:00 pm SNL Youth

Monday, March 28

- 10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 10:00 am Gratitude Group (Pit Stop)
- 2:00 pm RSVP Deadline Lenten Drive Thru Meal
- 4:00 pm Walking Group (Rock Creek Park)
- 7:00 pm Book Conversation in the Parlor
- 8:30 pm-9:30 pm High School Faith Conversations

Tuesday, March 29

- 6:00 pm Dinner Out Group (The Boardroom Restaurant)

Wednesday, March 30

- 6:45 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 12:00 pm Community Lent Service at Central UMC (172 North 2nd St.)
- 3:30 pm-5:30 pm Youth Club (K-5th Graders)
- 4:00 pm-4:45 pm Confirmation Class
- 5:00 pm-6:00 pm Lenten Drive-Thru Meal
- 5:00 pm-7:00 pm Lent Fest (Church Lower Parking Lot)
- 5:30 pm-6:00 pm Youth Club Handbells with Frank Poolos
- 6:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, March 31

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
- 2:00 pm Tea & Conversation Group (Church Parlor)
- 4:00 pm-5:00 pm Zoom Bible Study with Catherine & Matt Moeller

Friday, April 1

- 6:00 pm Meal for the Community Inn

Sunday, April 3 *Fifth Sunday in Lent/Ten Cents a Meal Offering for Hunger*

- 9:00 am Breakfast Bunch (K-5th Grades – Gym)
- 9:30 am Faith, Fellowship, & Food at Glorybeans Coffee House
- 9:45 am *Sunday School
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 2:30 pm SNL meets to see the play *Annie*
- 3:00 pm Hiking Group (Morrow Mountain State Park)

***childcare provided**

First Presbyterian Church, Albemarle

Amazingly Created Kid's Camp

Dates: Monday, June 20-Friday, June 24, 2022

9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Ages 4 years old – Rising 6th Graders

Please complete a form for each child.

Visit Link to Pre-Register: <https://tinyurl.com/bdetda4t>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

MARCH

- 27-Lachlann Currie
- 29-Claude Harwood
- 30-Ellie Niederer

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

APRIL

- 01-Leslie Kinley
- Kent Newport

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

APRIL

- 02-Michael & Kristen Laton
- Lynn & Martha White

Elders

- Al Andrew
- John Earnhardt
- Bill Jolly
- Mary Kesselman
- Mike King
- Ken Knight
- Kim Marshall
- Andy McLeod
- Catherine Moeller
- Sandy Rogers
- Ellen Snyder
- Chris Whitley
- Ellen Whitley

Deacons

- Emily Andrew
- Keith Bryson
- Shannon Bullard
- Michelle Cumming
- Wes Eudy
- Martha Sue Hall
- Lillie Hancock
- Jim Hesley
- Liz Jolly
- Myron Lowder
- Laura McLeod
- Lee Snuggs

