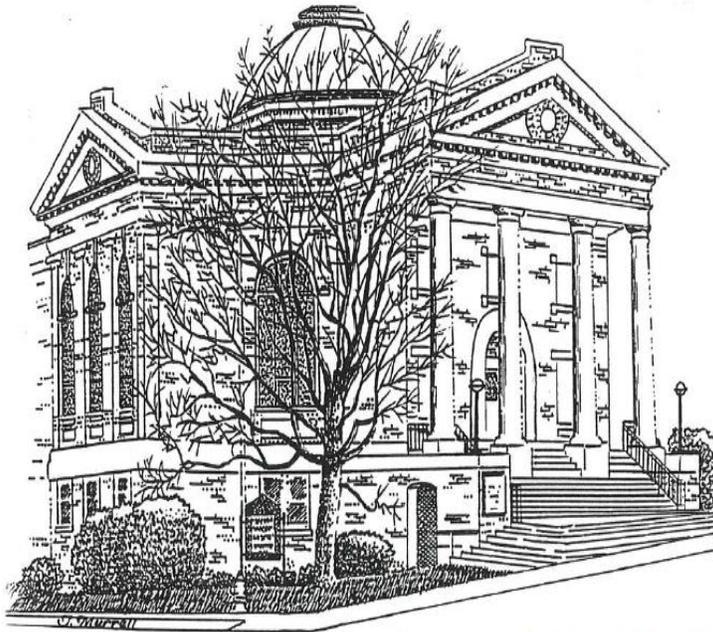


First Presbyterian Church Albemarle, North Carolina



*PO Box 1578
Albemarle, NC 28001
704.982.2722
www.fpcalbemarle.org*

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
September 18, 2022
15th Sunday After Pentecost

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*Sign and pass on the Friendship Register
"There is a Balm in Gilead"*

Robert Lau

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Madelyn Taylor, acolyte

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Psalm 79

Emily Andrew, liturgist

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name; deliver us, and forgive our sins, for your name's sake.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

You hear the cries of your people for justice and mercy, O God. You answer our prayers with the gift of your Son, who bears our burdens and sets us free. Speak your truth to us; purge and refine us; that we may love and serve you alone. Amen.

***HYMN 299**

“You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim”

HANOVER

*You servants of God, your Master proclaim, and publish abroad, Christ's wonderful name.
The name all victorious of Jesus extol, whose kingdom is glorious, who rules over all.*

*Ascended on high, almighty to save, he still remains nigh; his presence we have.
The great congregation his triumph shall sing, ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.*

*"Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!" let all cry aloud, and honor the Son;
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim, fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.*

*Then let us adore and give him his right: all glory and power, all wisdom and might,
All honor and blessing with angels above and thanks never ceasing for infinite love.*

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God, you lead us by the cords of compassion. We seek your forgiveness through Christ's intercession. Fill us anew with your Holy Spirit, so that we may faithfully obey your will. When we're vengeful, purge our thoughts of resentment and anger. When we bear false witness, turn us from deceit to truthfulness. Cleanse us of selfish desires, and free us to respond to your holy Word. In righteousness remake us and through Christ, restore us.

Silent Confession and Reflection

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***RESPONSE 232**

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” (stanza 4)

EASTER HYMN

*Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! Praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!*

THE WORD

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Leo McLeod

ANTHEM

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

John Rutter

*For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies.
Lord of all to Thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.*

*For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies.
Lord of all to Thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.*

*For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light,*

*Lord of all to Thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.
For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child;
Friends on earth and friends above; for all gentle thoughts and mild.
Lord of all to Thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.*

*For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given;
Graces human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven:
Lord of all to Thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Let the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer. As we approach your Word, may we be ready to receive the message you intend for us today. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Jeremiah 8: 18-9:1](#)

pew Bible, page #667

SERMON

“There is a Balm”

Rev. George

*HYMN 792

“There Is a Balm in Gilead”

BALM IN GILEAD

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole; there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sinsick soul.

*Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.
Refrain*

*Don't ever feel discourage, for Jesus is your friend,
And if you lack for knowledge, he'll not refuse to lend.
Refrain*

*If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus and say, 'He died for all.'*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From *A Brief Statement of Faith*, PC(USA)

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 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. 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. Amen.

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.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Emily Andrew, Deacon

RECEIVING OF THE OFFERING

Offertory

* Response 606 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" OLD HUNDRETH
*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

Holy God, these offerings are only a portion of all that you have given us. We gratefully present these gifts and entrust them to your work in this world. May our gifts share the Good News of the gospel to those who are in need. May these gifts help unburden those with the heaviest of loads. Amen.

SENDING

*HYMN 724 "O Jesus, I Have Promised" ANGEL'S STORY
*O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end; be thou forever near me, my Master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side, nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.*

*O let me feel thee near me! The world is ever near: I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me, around me and within; but, Jesus, draw thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.*

*O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still, above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control; O speak, and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.*

*O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee that where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be.
And, Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end; O give me grace to follow, my Master and my friend.*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE "A Gaelic Blessing" John Rutter

*POSTLUDE

*Please stand as you are able in body or spirit.

Bold print indicates places where congregation reads or sings.

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Thank you to Stan Scheer, Frank Poolos, Leo McLeod and Emily Andrew for their leadership in worship today.

The acolyte today is Madelyn Taylor.

Ushers for September: John Howell, captain: Derrick Huneycutt, Ken Knight, Natalie Neiderer, Chris Whitley, David Whitley.

Outside Ushers for September 18: Ronnie Michael; Lee Snuggs.

Elder Greeters Al Andrew, Ellen Whitley.

Sound: Evan Sanges **Film:** Elizabeth Bryson **Nursery:** Bailey Mitchell

There is no Children's Church during September. Children are encouraged to remain in worship.

We ask that you keep these people in your prayers: Claude Harwood-surgery, Wayne Palmer-(Atrium Stanly), Penny Welling (friend of the congregation), Gloria Bryson (Bethany Woods), Ann Byrd (Home), Tim Rodgers, Doris Forte-Spring Arbor, Brayden Enzor (grandson of Gus & Pam Holbrook); 2 brain tumors, starting six weeks radiation in Boston), Carole Yost (home), Don Abernathy, Jean Rabe, Anita Gower, Nancy Jolly, Jane Scheer, Don Joines, Jane Pickler, Elizabeth Wilson, Polly Moose-recovering from hip surgery, Joyce McLeod (ICU Wilkes Medical Center), Ann Snuggs, Susan Pandich-breast cancer. See newsletter for complete list.



Come and CHILL out with us!

Everyone is welcome!

YMCA Park at the Shelter

(Rain Location: FPC gym)

Sunday, September 18

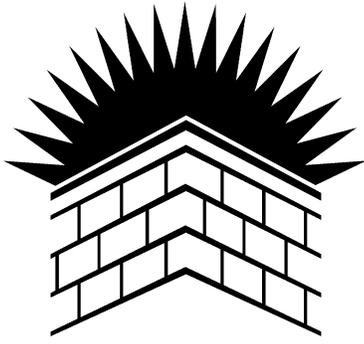
6:30-8:00 PM

If you would like to make some ice cream contact Lee Snuggs 704-512-8163

We will have popsicles too!



Children coming forward for the Faith Sharing Time are invited to move to the front of the sanctuary after the Assurance of Forgiveness, during the singing of the Response.



The Christian Education Corner

If you are not on the SPOND app please download it. That is the easiest way for all of us to keep in touch.

Here is the link to join <https://group.spond.com/LTOXZ>

Thanks to all who helped make Rally Day possible and to all of those who attended. What a great morning at FPC! Thanks to Mean Mug coffee for starting our day off with their awesome drinks.

Join us for SUNDAY SCHOOL starting this week!

- ❖ Children (K-5th graders) meet in the childcare area downstairs
- ❖ Youth (6th-12th graders) meet upstairs in the Youth Room
- ❖ The Wired Word meets in the Parlor
- ❖ Dr. Jolly's Discussion Class gathers in the Old Session Room
- ❖ Those who Love to Read meet in the Gaither Classroom.
- ❖ Questions & Conversations will meet upstairs in the Conversation Room.

SNL will meet with the Fellowship event this Sunday Sept 18 at the YMCA- no separate youth meeting. Monday Night Bible Study 9th-12th graders at the home of Debby Johnston (1212 Heritage Dr.) Mondays at 8:30 pm.



We will have a communion workshop for children grades K-2 on October 9 after worship. Children will learn more about the Lord's Supper and symbols of this sacrament. Please let Melissa know if you plan to attend.

For Central Elementary School...Backpack Food Program Donations Needed:

It's that time again! We are collecting food to send home with Central School students on weekends. Our needs for this important Backpack Program for the month of September are-saltine crackers, large cans of soup, fruit cups, peanut butter crackers, canned tuna and tuna helper. Thank you for your generous support.



Zoom Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer on Mondays and Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom

We are a small but dedicated group who pray for the needs of our church and its members as well as our country and world. We invite you to join us. Please email Deb Hahn at wolf lady520@gmail.com or text her at 704 985-9419 for the URL to our meeting.



We also welcome your requests for prayers of thanks for God's blessings and prayers of concerns or needs. Please send those to the email above or text them to the above telephone number.



DRIVE-THRU MEAL

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 FROM 5:00 P.M.- 6:00 P.M.

RSVP BY 2:00 P.M. ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

PICK-UP OR DELIVERY OF THE MEAL

Please RSVP by Monday, September 19 by 2:00 p.m., and we will have your meal ready for pick-up or delivery on Wednesday, September 21 between 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Menu: Country Style Steak, Rice, Pinto Beans, Mixed Green Salad, and Sweet Potato Cake

All we need you to do is: call Anne Montgomery at 704-982-7823 or email Anne at

johnandannemontgomery@yahoo.com and let her know: how many plates you need -if you would like dessert- and if it will be a pickup or delivery (include address and any special instructions)



PANTRY NEEDS

Canned Pasta <i>No Meat</i>	Flour (All-purpose & self-rising)
Ramen Noodles	Breakfast Bars
Cream of chicken/mushroom soups	Syrup
Pasta Sauces	Pancake Mix
Salad Dressing	Canned Pinnapple
Cooking Oil	Mustard
Cereal	Mayonnaise
Canned meats	Ketchup
Chicken	Saltine Crackers
Spam	Side Pasta and Rice Dishes
Vienna	<i>Household Goods</i>
Tuna	Floss
Lima Beans	Soap, Bars & Liquid
Blackeyed Peas	Shampoo & Conditioner
<i>Skillet Meals</i>	Laundry Detergent
Hamburger Helper	Cleaning Supplies
Instant Potatoes	Diapers
	Wipes

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

The Session has called for a meeting of the Congregation for Sunday, September 25th following Worship for the purpose of acting on a recommendation from the Officer Nominating Committee and the election of new Officers.



GOD WINKS - Do you see or hear God in this world? Where? When? How? Why? We will share our God experiences and learn how to see more of God in our world. Please join Gayle Russell and Jane Snyder on Mondays at NOON in the Pit Stop through the month of October.

Lunch will be served. Please let Jane Snyder know you are coming!
704-438-3358 jsnyder@fpcalbemarle.org

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, September 18

15th Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 am Session Meeting

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am *Worship

6:30 pm Ice Cream Social-YMCA Park

Monday, September 19

10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

8:30 pm Monday Night Bible Study 9th-12th grade –Home of Debby Johnston (1212 Heritage Dr)

Tuesday, September 20

12:00 pm Oct Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday, September 21

6:45 am Men's Prayer Breakfast

10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

5:00 pm 3rd Wednesday Drive Thru

6:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 22

10:00 am Staff Meeting

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

Sunday, September 25

16th Sunday after Pentecost

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am *Worship

12:00 pm Congregational Meeting

6:00 pm SNL

***childcare provided**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

September

19- Becky Miller

20- Angus Currie

21- Ben Andrew

Oliver Henkenjohann

22- Jake Whisnant

25- Kristie Bryson

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

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.

September 18, 2022



Consecration Sunday is November 6th

Stewardship Moment “For Such a Time as This”

November 6 will be consecration Sunday. This year our stewardship theme is “For Such A Time As This.” The verse from Esther reads: “For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?”

Mordecai was urging Esther to act, pointing her to a higher purpose. He was asking her to use her position, even in the face of death, to become God’s instrument of deliverance for the Jews in Persia. She could have done nothing but chooses to step out in faith, put her own interests aside, and accomplish God’s work. We can think of Stewardship as a call to a higher purpose. The treasure, time and talent we give helps to make our community a better place by enabling our Church to help others, to do the work that Christ not only wants but expects us to do.

Last Sunday, Jim Hesley, Deacon, shared with you how, because of the generosity of our congregation, we’ve made an impact on the **lives of children**. “Earlier this summer, in a collaborative effort with First Baptist and First Lutheran Churches, seventy-five children attended “Amazingly Created” camp in this building. Fourteen were from families with no definite congregation or church home. The theme of the camp was “How God Made the World...and Us!” The building was alive all week with happy noise as children went to their daily stations: Art and Bible projects, Nature, Music, Recreation, and a particularly enjoyable session, “Preparing Healthy Snacks.” They were entertained by a parrot that did tricks! On Thursday, the children in their art session made cards to be mailed to shut-ins in each of the three sponsoring Churches.

Over twenty-five volunteers tithed their time to staff and lead the camp for five hours all five days that week. Our creative Melissa Eudy, Christian Education Director, heard later in general adult conversation during the following week that the camp was “the talk of the town!” This is First Presbyterian Church at its best in the lives of children and adults! Because of your giving, our congregation worships together in a place of radical hospitality. The creativity and energy in this place brings welcome, relationship, and community to all who enter its doors! This is a place that touches and changes lives! Your faithful and generous giving has a direct impact on the mission and ministry of our Church! Thank you!”

Yes, stewardship asks you to give your time, talent, and treasure but those gifts paint a picture of God’s love to those that we should serve.... children and youth, those that hunger, the homeless, our seniors, each other and the Lord.

You will find baskets with marbles in them around the church (entrances to the sanctuary, the pit stop, outside of the office). These marbles remind us of the times we serve God in mission. Please take a marble if you don’t have one or another for someone else and let it serve to remind you of the call to respond to God’s Word and the way that Christ lived. Keep and carry that marble with you....in your pocket or in your purse.... anywhere to remind you that our stewardship call is a response to “such a time as this.”