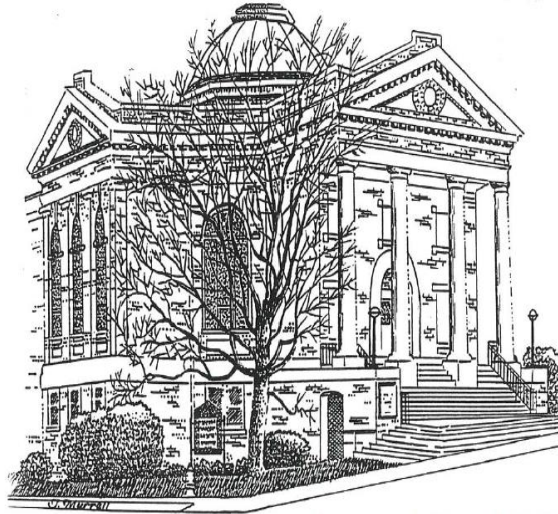


First Presbyterian Church Albemarle, North Carolina



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

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

October 2, 2022

World Communion Sunday

If you are worshipping with us online and would like to participate in the Lord's Supper, you can have bread and juice available so that you may participate with us. If you prefer the prepackaged elements we used during the pandemic, please notify the Church Office (704.982.2722) and we will provide them to you.

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please sign the Friendship Register on the website

PRELUDE

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

Wilbur Held

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Carter Gibson, acolyte

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Lamentations 3

Ellen Snyder, liturgist

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope.

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end;

They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

"The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, as we gather in worship on this World Communion Sunday, we ask that you send your Holy Spirit to fall afresh on us. We pray for your Spirit to awaken new hope in us. Help us to celebrate the glimpses of grace that you have given to each of us. Knit our hearts together in worship and communion so that we know we do not struggle alone in working for your peace and justice. We pray this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*HYMN 32

“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

ELLACOMBE

*I sing the mighty pow’r of God, that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God’s command, and all the stars obey.*

*I sing the goodness of the Lord, who filled the earth with food,
God formed the creatures through the Word, and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed, where’er I turn my eye,
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky.*

*There’s not a plant or flow’r below, but makes Thy glories known,
And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from Thy throne;
While all that borrows life from Thee is ever in Thy care;
And everywhere that we can be, Thou, God, art present there.*

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and Righteous God, amidst the violence and wrongdoing of the world, we struggle to live by faith. We treat suffering with contempt and seek power to serve ourselves. Gather us again to your table as you gathered the generations before us. Save us from the strife we start, and the contention we create. Rekindle within us the gifts you have given, revive our sense of your Holy Spirit. In new mercy, forgive us and increase our faith, that we may be faithful servants at your table. In the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, we pray.

Silent Confession and Reflection

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

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

Those coming forward for Faith Sharing are invited to move to the chancel area during the Response.

*RESPONSE

“Glory Be to the Father”

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.*

THE WORD

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Lori Ivey

ANTHEM

“O Living Bread of Heaven”

Lloyd Larson

*O living Bread of Heaven, how well You feed Your guest! The gift that You have given has filled my heart with rest.
O wondrous food of blessing, O cup that heals our woes! My heart, Your gift possessing, with praises overflows. O Lord, by faith You’ve led me to this most holy place; Your love and mercy feed me with treasures of your grace; For You have freely given what earth could never buy, the gift of life from heaven, that I shall never die. I receive You, Bread of Heaven, this food death can’t destroy. Your sacrifice has given the cup of endless joy. My Lord, I do not merit the favor You have shown, but humbly in spirit I bow before Your throne. Lord, grant me by Your mercy the strength that I shall need to follow in Your footsteps the path that You shall lead. And when You call my spirit to leave this world below, I will enter, by Your merit, where joys unending flow. Amen.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

In the quietness of this hour, we wait for your Spirit. Tune our ears to hear the promise of your salvation. Incline our hearts toward your message of peace. Summon our will to respond to your Word with justice and love, that we might go forth with joy; through Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Luke 17:5-10](#)

pew Bible, page 75

SERMON

“Increase Our Faith”

Rev. George

*HYMN 691

“Lord. When I Came Into This Life”

LAND OF REST

*Lord when I came into this life you called me by my name;
Today I come commit myself, Responding to Your claim*

*Within the circle of the faith, as member of Your cast,
I take my place with all the saints of future, present, past*

*In all the tensions of my life, between my faith and doubt,
Let Your great Spirit give me hope, sustain me lead me out*

*So help me in my unbelief, and let my life be true:
Feet firmly planted on the earth, my sights set high on You.*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Chris Whitley, Elder

RECEIVING OF THE OFFERING

Offertory

“Communion”

Richard Purvis

*Response 612

“We Praise You, O God: (stanza 1)

KREMSER

*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.*

*Prayer of Dedication

Jesus Christ our Savior, you grant us a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. Make our power serve you, make our love show you, make our acts of giving and self-discipline serve you, author and inspirer of all generosity. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.** We give you thanks and praise....with your heavenly chorus to sing: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.** We give you thanks...Great is the mystery of faith: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.** Through the gift of faith... through Christ our peace, who taught us to pray saying, **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.**

Communion of the People

Prayer After Communion

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation, you have united us with Christ and with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING

*HYMN 771

“What Is the World Like”

NEW WORLD

*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.*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE 746

“Send Me, Jesus”

Thuma mina

*Thuma mina. thuma mina. Thuma mina, Somandla.
Send me, Jesus; send me, Jesus; send me, Jesus; send me, Lord.
Lead me, Jesus; Lead me, Jesus; Lead me, Jesus; Lead me, Lord.
Fill me, Jesus; Fill me, Jesus; Fill me, Jesus; Fill me, Lord.*

*POSTLUDE

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Paul Fey

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

Bold print indicates places where congregation reads or sings.

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Thank you to Stan Scheer, Frank Poolos, Chris Whitley and Lori Ivey for their leadership in worship today.

The acolyte today is Carter Gibson.

Ushers for October : Jim Hesley,captain: Myron Lowder, Liz Jolly, Jim Ivey, Lee Snuggs, Leo McLeod.

Outside Ushers for October 2: Steve Cumming, Jim Marshall.

Elder Greeters Ellen Whitley, Ken Knight.

Sound: Evan Sanges **Film:** Andy McLeod **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, 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); (Home), 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, Ann Snuggs, Susan Pandich-breast cancer, Witt Snuggs (Home)
See newsletter for complete list.

The Nominating Committee is in the process of discerning a slate for the Pastor nominating Committee, which will be elected in October. If you would like to submit a name or names, please make sure that person will serve if elected and then pass the name on to Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Ken Knight.



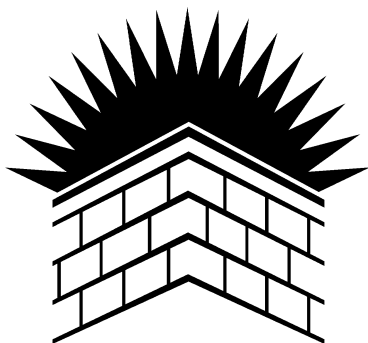
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**IN-PERSON FIRST FAMILY MEAL
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5 AT 6:00 P.M.
RSVP BY NOON ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4**

Menu: Chicken Pot Pie, Green Beans, Mixed Fruit, Homemade Rolls, Assorted Desserts, Tea, Coffee, Water and Lemonade.

Contact the church office 704-982-2722 or klambert@fpcalbemarle.org by noon on Tuesday, October 4 to say you're coming. You may also indicate in the Friendship Register how many will be attending. Please call Jane Snyder at 704-438-3358 or email her at jsnyder@fpcalbemarle.org if you would like to help. We will have activities for kids after dinner! Detailed info will be in the October Newsletter.



The Christian Education Corner

Join us for SUNDAY SCHOOL !

- ❖ Children (K-5th graders) meet in the childcare area downstairs (music 9:45-10:05 in choir room)
- ❖ 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.

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>

Faith Explorer Sunday Outing
Let's Go For a Hike!

Who: Faith Explorers (4th-5th graders)
When: Sunday, October 2 after worship
What: Bring your lunch. After eating, we will travel to Morrow Mt to hike.
Bring money to stop at Moonset General Store on the way back!



RSVP to Kate Gibson (336) 301-4564 or katherine.e.gibson@gmail.com



S'mores Night with Austin Coats

Join us Sunday, October 9 from 6:30-8pm for S'mores night at Morrow Mountain! Come explore new varieties of S'mores—or the classic—while listening to the musical talent of Austin Coats. Bring a chair and a friend. We'll have the fires ready!

Monday Night Bible Study 9th-12th graders at the home of Debby Johnston (1212 Heritage Dr.) Mondays at 8:30 pm.



Coming to the table is an open invitation for us all. Our Kindergarten through second graders and their families are invited to a Communion Workshop on Sunday, October 9. We will share lunch then learn about the very special sacrament centered around the table.

Please let Melissa know if you can attend (meudy@fpcalbemarle.org ; 704.439.6747)

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 October are- saltine crackers, large cans of soup, fruit cups, canned chicken and chicken helper, canned tuna and tuna helper. Thank you for your generous support.



Packing Date: Wednesday, November 2 at 10:30 a.m



We will receive the Ten-Cents-A Meal offering for hunger today, Sunday October 2.



SCCM's CARING and SHARING CAMPAIGN

It is time for SCCM's 2022 Caring and Sharing campaign!

Yellow cups are in the Pit Stop. Please return them by Saturday, December 31. Proceeds from this collection will be used to purchase food and supplies for the Community Tables and Food Pantry and will provide assistance with client needs. We appreciated your help so we can continue to provide services to people in need in our community in the future.

Everyday Essentials
Community Care Closet

When money is tight, and food and gas consume all the money people have, these items are often low on a person's list of priorities. The JPM Community Care Clinic strives to take care of people, not just their medical needs. Consider donating some of these "Everyday Essentials" to our Care Closet.

All donations stay here in Stanly County.
For online, monetary donations, visit our website at www.communitycareclinicbemarle.org.

Soap	Toothbrush	Paper Towels
Shampoo	Deodorant	Dish Detergent
Conditioner	Lotion	Toilet Paper
Toothpaste	Clothes Detergent	

Your help is needed for collecting essential care items for the
Essential Care Closet
Please drop off items in the designated bin in Pit Stop.
Thank you for your generous support!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16

The Session has called for a meeting of the congregation for October 16 at the close of worship for the purpose of acting on a recommendation from the Nominating Committee and the election of the Pastor Nominating Committee.



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 during the month of October. Lunch will be served. Please let Jane Snyder know you are coming! 704-438-3358 jsnyder@fpcalbemarle.org If you would like to Zoom with us, please let Jane know ASAP so she can get the link to you.



Today is World Communion Sunday, October 2.

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, October 2

17th Sunday after Pentecost
World Communion/ Ten Cents a Meal Offering
Peace & Global Witness Offering
The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
 9:45 am Sunday School
 11:00 am *Worship
 6:00 pm SNL

Monday, October 3

10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
 12:00 pm God Wink
 8:30 pm Bible Study 9th-12th grade –Home of Debby Johnston 1212 Heritage Dr.

Wednesday, October 5

6:45 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
 10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
 10:30 am Backpack food Program
 6:00 pm First Family Gathering
 6:45 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 6

10:00 am Staff Meeting
 4:00 pm Zoom Bible Study with Catherine & Matt Moeller

Sunday, October 9

18th Sunday after Pentecost
 8:45 am Diaconate
 9:45 am Sunday School
 11:00 am *Worship
 6:30 pm-8:00 pm S'mores at Morrow Mt.

***childcare provided**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
October
 01- Graham Chapman
 02- Joan Boling
 04- Andy McLeod
 05- Christine Andrew
 08- Robert Land

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!
October
 05- Mary and Steven Kesselman
 06- Anna and Peter Henkenjohann
 Catherine and Matt Moeller
 08- Kellyn Poole and Luis Luna

Church Staff

Transitional Pastor, Rev Catherine George
Office Manager, Kyle Lambert
Secretary, Beth Poolos
Transitional Director of Christian Ed, Melissa Eudy
Director of Fellowship/Congregational Care, Jane Snyder
Music Director, Frank Poolos
Organist, Stan Scheer
Facilities Manager, Shawn Graeff

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

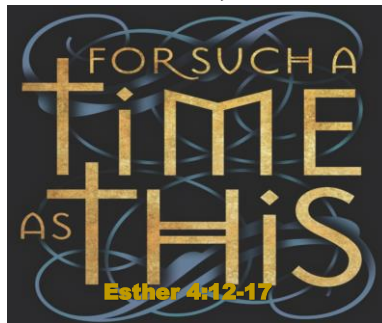
**Tithes and offerings maybe
mailed to:
First Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 1578
Albemarle, NC 28002**



**Online giving can be
done through the
church's website
(www.fpcalbemarle.org).
Click on the GIVE
button.**

The offering as part of our worship is a response to God's grace. The plates will be passed by the ushers or you may make your gift by scanning the QR Code here. Thank you for your generosity.

October 2, 2022



Consecration Sunday is November 6th

A Stewardship Moment

On Sunday, September 25, Martha Sue Hall, member of our Church and Deacon, described to us how our stewardship giving shelters those that need a home:

“Mary motioned to her three small children to be VERY quiet. They pressed up tightly against a wall behind their mother and tiptoed past the open den door. Inside the room, their emotionally and physically abusive father and husband was absent mindedly playing a video game. After years of such treatment, Mary had determined to leave. The little group safely opened the front door, noiselessly got into the old SUV in the driveway, and Mary drove away, never to return. She had no idea where to go or where to turn!

“Since its founding in 2005, First Presbyterian Church has made a sizable yearly investment in the facilities and programs of Homes of Hope, made possible only because of your generous weekly gifts of tithes and offerings. The only agency in Stanly County addressing the issues of homelessness, Homes of Hope owns or rents ten houses where homeless parent(s) and their children can live safely for six months. The houses are simply furnished but have the conveniences of washer and dryer. The adult(s) enter into a structured agreement with the agency program Director and participate during their tenure in a series of workshops, including financial literacy, budgeting, nutrition, and health. The objective is to give the parent(s) needed confidence and skill to renew and re-acclimate themselves into work and productive society.

“Homes of Hope also administers emergency overnight shelter at the Community Inn on First Street. Guests who have no place to sleep find lodging there, safe-haven, comfort, encouragement, and respect. Hundreds of church and community volunteers throughout Stanly County deliver evening meals and stay for dinner after the guests check in. First Presbyterian Church is one of the earliest, most faithful, and committed Meal Providers and has a dedicated monthly number of church members who serve, visit, and care.

“Today Mary rents her own lovely home, has found critical medical help for her two autistic children, her youngest child is a high school athletic standout, she is a customer service representative for a household products company, and she has a promising new career with the United States Post Office.

While the Stewardship campaign is about giving of our time, talent, and treasures, we sometimes forget that as we give to our Church, we are using those resources to promote wholeness and healing by directly supporting agencies and missions in our community like Homes for Hope.

So to remind you of the important work our Church provides in our community, every Sunday until October 30, there will be a Church leader “painting the stewardship picture” during the Offertory. We will connect how giving of your time and money make a difference in the lives of those we serve.... children, hungry, homeless, elderly, youth, each other, and the Lord. Please consider our mission and outreach to our community (like the example above) when you dedicate your pledge on November 6.

Finally, you may have seen baskets of marbles around the Church. 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.”