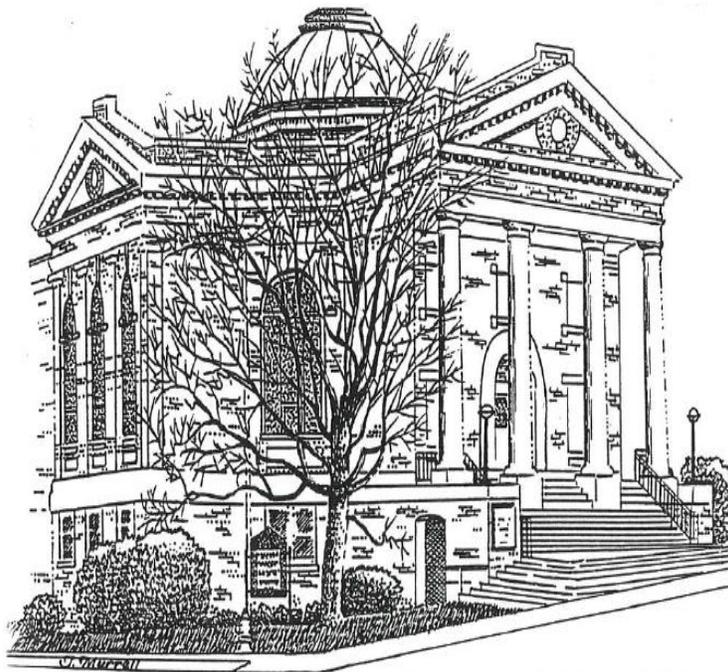


*First Presbyterian Church  
Albemarle, North Carolina*



*We have three jobs: Do justice, Love Kindness, Walk Humbly. When we do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God, our very lives and beings become a part of that picture Jesus shares. We will become living depictions of what God's presence in the world looks like.*

*SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY*

*January 29, 2023*

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Epiphany*

**GATHERING**

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

A Meditation on "O Perfect Love"

Arr. Charles Callahan

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Holden Taylor, acolyte

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 15

Catherine Moeller, liturgist

O Lord, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

**Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right; and speak the truth from their heart.**

Those who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends.

**Those who do these things will never be moved.**

\*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.**

\*HYMN 401

“Gather Us In”

GATHER US IN

*Here in this place new light is streaming; now is the darkness vanished away;  
See in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day.*

*Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
Call to us now and we shall awaken; We shall arise at the sound of our name*

*We are the young, our lives are a mystery, We are the old who yearn for your face.  
We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.*

*Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song*

*Here we will take the wine and the water; here we will take the bread of new birth.  
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.*

*Give us to drink the wine of compassion; give us to eat the bread that is you;  
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true*

*Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven light years away;  
But here in this place the new light is shining; now is the kingdom, now is the day.*

*Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own;  
Gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bones*

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**You have told us what is good, O God. Your hopes for us are clear. And yet we live as though it's unclear what you would have us do. We live as though we're not the recipients of grace upon grace. We've withheld what's not our own. We've judged where it was not our place. We've sinned by what we have done and what we have failed to do. We seek your forgiveness and your reconciliation and strength that we may follow in the way you would have us go. Cleanse us and guide us. We make this and all our prayers in reliance upon our faithful savior, Jesus Christ.**

*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 119

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (stanza 3)

MENDELSSOHN

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!*

*Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.*

*Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,*

*Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.*

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"*

## THE WORD

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Debby Johnston

ANTHEM

"When the Perfect Comes"

Carson P. Cooman

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, and revealing to all your glory. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

[Micah 6:1-8](#); [Matthew 5:1-12](#)

pew Bible, pages 816 & 4

SERMON

"#Blessed"

Rev. George

\*HYMN 172

"Blest Are They"

BLEST ARE THEY

*Blest are they, the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of God  
Blest are they, full of sorrow; they shall be consoled  
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you; holy are you;  
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the Kingdom of God*

*Blest are they, the lowly ones; they shall inherit the earth.  
Blest are they, who hunger and thirst; they shall have their fill.  
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you; holy are you;  
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the Kingdom of God*

*Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs.  
Blest are they, the pure of heart; they shall see God.  
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you; holy are you;  
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the Kingdom of God.*

*Blest are they who seek peace; they are the children of God.  
Blest are they who suffer in faith; the glory of God is theirs.  
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you; holy are you;  
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the Kingdom of God*

*Blest are you who suffer hate; all because of me.  
Rejoice, be glad; yours is the kingdom; shine for all to see.  
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you; holy are you;  
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the Kingdom of God.*

## 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. 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. 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.

#### PRAYER 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

Offertory "What Does the Lord Require of You" Jim Strathdee

\*Response 145 "What Child Is This" (stanza 3) GREENSLEEVES

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.  
The King of Kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby,  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the Son of Mary!*

#### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Holy God, we have received from your gracious hand abundance upon abundance, grace upon grace. Accept these offerings, we pray, and bless them and multiply them, that through these gifts we might see your kingdom at work among us. We pray all these things through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#### SENDING

\*HYMN 70 "What Does the Lord Require of You?" MOON

*What does the Lord require of you? What does the Lord require of you?*

*Justice, kindness, walk humbly with your God.*

*To seek justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.*

#### ANNUAL CONGEGATIONAL MEETING

#### \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE "God Be With You Till We Meet Again" Ralph Vaughan Williams

\*POSTLUDE "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" J.S. Bach

*\*Please stand in body or spirit.*

**Bold print** indicates places where congregation reads or sings.

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**Thank you** to Michelle Efird, Frank Poolos, Catherine Moeller and Debby Johnston for their leadership in worship today.

**The acolyte today is Holden Taylor.**

**Ushers for January:** Jim Hesley (captain), Liz Bryson, Steve Cumming, Ella Cumming, Lee McLaurin, Laura McLeod, Leo McLeod, Jackson Palmer, John Palmer.

**Outside Ushers for January 29:** Lee Snuggs, John Earnhardt.

**Elder Greeters: John Earnhardt, Sandy Rogers.**

**Streaming Coordinator:** Evan Sanges      **Film:** Andy McLeod      **Nursery:** Bailey Mitchell  
**Kids Crew:** Jackson Palmer

**There will be no Children's Church today.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**We ask that you keep these people in your prayers:** Claude Harwood, Wayne Palmer, Penny Welling (friend of the congregation), Gloria Bryson (Trinity Place), Ann Byrd (Home), Tim Rodgers, Doris Forte-Spring Arbor, Brayden Enzor (grandson of Gus & Pam Holbrook); (Home), Carole Yost (Home), Jean Rabe, Anita Gower, Nancy Jolly, Jane Scheer, Don Joines, Elizabeth Wilson, Ann Snuggs, Susan Pandich-breast cancer, Jason Miller (friend of the congregation), Laura Frazier, Debbie Hinson, Rita Morgan, Harriet Watkins (friend of the congregation), Mike Jewell (brother-in-law of Linda Anderson), Frankie Palmer. See newsletter for complete list.

\*\*\*\*\*

**We have Faith on the Fifth Offering today Sunday, January 29**



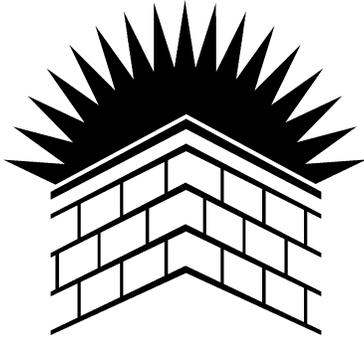
The Mission Committee will receive a Faith on the Fifth Offering today to help those in our community with heating assistance through SCCM.

\*\*\*\*\*



**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION & CORPORATION  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 29  
FOLLOWING WORSHIP TODAY**

**Today is the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation.  
The meeting will be held immediately following worship.**



We encourage children to remain in worship!  
 There are worship bags available for them in  
 both lobbies of the church.  
 Feel free to pick these up anytime  
 before, during or after worship.

*The Christian Education Corner*

If you are not on the Middle School & High School SPOND app please download it. That is the easiest way for all youth to keep in touch. Here is the link to join <https://group.spond.com/LTOXZ>

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



\*\*\*\*\*



**WANT TO HELP WITH YOUTH CLUB?**

**When: Wednesdays**

**Times: 3:30-5:30**

**If you would like to help with Bible study, arts, recreation, snack, music, and more, please let Melissa Eudy know!**

\*\*\*\*\*

**COMMUNITY YOUTH SKATING EVENT**

Sunday, February 5 the Youth will have skating at SK8City from 5 to 7 pm



\*\*\*\*\*



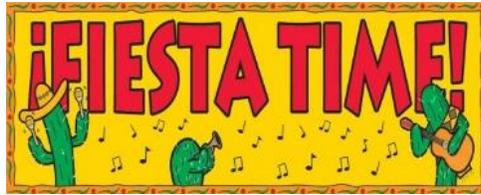
Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Wednesday, February 1 at 1:30 pm in the Parlor.  
 Contact Peggy Finley at 705-985-1136 or maf447@windstreamnet if you have questions.

\*\*\*\*\*

**ART GALLERY RECEPTION**

Badin Elementary School student artwork will be featured in February. The congregation of FPC is invited to meet the Badin Elementary artists at the Art Gallery Reception on Wednesday, February 1 from 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm in the church common area.





**FIRST FAMILY GATHERING WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> AT 6:00 PM IN GYM**

February Menu: Mexican Bar and assorted Desserts, Tea, Water and Lemonade.  
Contact the church office 704-982-2722 or [klambert@fpcalbemarle.org](mailto:klambert@fpcalbemarle.org) by noon on  
Tuesday, January 31 to say you're coming. Suggested Donation is \$6 per person.  
Maximum of \$20 per immediate family.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Backpack Food Program Donations Needed:**

Oatmeal Packets, Breakfast Cookies, Individual Bags of Goldfish, Large Cans of Soup,  
Saltine Crackers, Tuna Helper, Cans of Tuna, Chicken Helper, Cans of Chicken, Snack  
Crackers, Pineapple, or Fruit Cocktail Cups



A bin in the pit stop will receive your donation.

**Next Packing Date: Wednesday, March 1 at 10:30 a.m.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Frozen Food Items For Sale**



- Brunswick Stew \$ 8 each
- Marinara \$ 8 each
- 1 lb Wes BBQ \$ 8 each
- Chicken & Wild Rice \$ 12 each

These items are in the chest freezer located in the Pit Stop (inside storage room)

\*\*\*\*\*

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING- February 12**



Please help feed our Stanly County neighbors by participating in this year's  
Souper Bowl of Caring.

We will have a Soup and Grilled Cheese lunch after worship on Sunday,  
February 12. How Can you Contribute:

- Make a donation after worship in the soup pots
- Attend the Souper Bowl lunch and donate
- Make soup, stew or chili to share for the luncheon.

Please let Jane Snyder know what kind of soup you will bring and the amount.  
[jsnyder@fpcalbemarle.org](mailto:jsnyder@fpcalbemarle.org) or 704-438-3358

\*\*\*\*\*

**“HEY RINGERS!!”**

Adult handbells will meet on Sunday, February 5 at 9:00 am in the  
Choir room. If you're interested please email Frank Poolos  
[fpoolos@fpcalbemarle.org](mailto:fpoolos@fpcalbemarle.org) or just show up!  
Look forward to seeing you on the 5<sup>th</sup>!



OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

**Sunday, January 29**

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany/Faith on the Fifth Offering/Congregational Meeting*

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am \*Worship

12:00 pm Congregational Meeting following Worship

6:00 pm SNL

**Monday, January 30**

10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

12:00 pm New Beginnings

8:30 pm High School Bible Study-home of Debby Johnson

**Tuesday, January 31**

7:00 pm PNC meeting

**Wednesday, February 1**

6:45 am Men's Prayer Breakfast

10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

1:30 pm Prayer Shawl in Parlor

3:30 pm to 5:30 pm Youth Club

4:00 pm to 5:30 pm Art Gallery Reception

6:00 pm First Family Gathering Dinner in Gym

6:45 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, February 2**

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

**Sunday, February 5**

*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany/ Prayer Shawl Blessings*

9:00 am to 9:45 Adult Handbells

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am \*Worship

5:00 pm to 7:00 pm Community Youth Skating  
@SK8City

**\*childcare provided**

**Church Staff**

Transitional Pastor, Rev Catherine George

Transitional Director of Christian Ed,

Melissa Eudy

Dir Fellowship/Congregational Care, Jane Snyder

Director of Music, Dr. Frank Poolos

Organist, Interim

Office Manager, Kyle Lambert

Secretary, Beth Poolos

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

**January**

30- Linda Anderson

31- Garrett Chapman

**February**

01- Jean Rabe

02- Lee Boone

Penny Morton

03- Kellyn Poole Luna

04- Hugh Carpenter

05- Keith Byrd

**Elders**

Al Andrew, Ann Crutchfield, Bill Jolly,

Mary Kesselman, Heather Kilde,

Mike King, Lee McLaurin, Kim Marshall,

Ronnie Michael, Catherine Moeller, Jackson Palmer

Chris Whitley, Ellen Whitley

**Deacons**

Keith Bryson, Shannon Bullard, Michelle Cumming,

Wes Eudy, Jim Hesley, Liz Jolly, Myron Lowder,

Laura McLeod, Frank Poolos. Brett Richards,

Carol Sasser, Billie Jean Snuggs

**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.**

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.