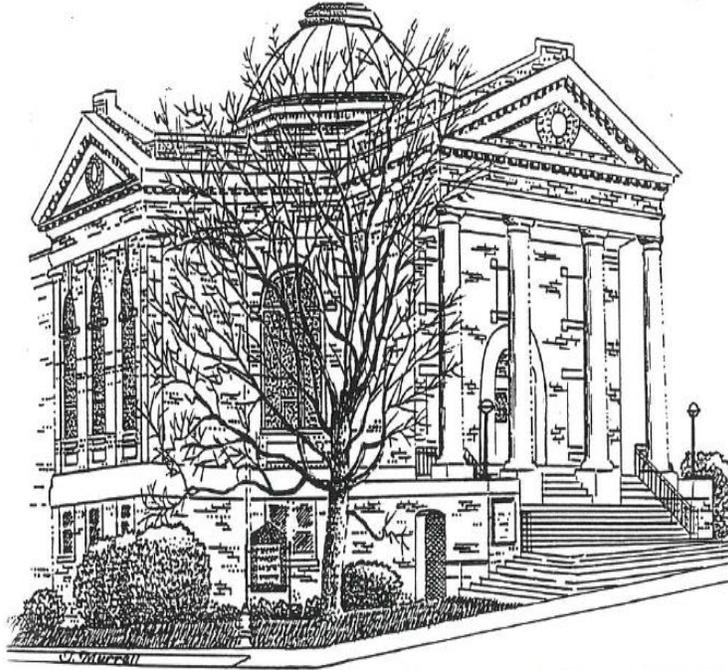


*First Presbyterian Church
Albemarle, North Carolina*



*SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
February 5, 2023
5th Sunday After Epiphany*

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" Arr. Ronald Arnatt

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE Melanie Hendrix, acolyte

*CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 112 Frank Poolos, liturgist

Praise the Lord! Happy are those who fear the Lord, who take great delight in God's commandments.

Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright; they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.

For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered forever.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, you gave the law to show your people the way of righteousness. Help us receive your commandments as grace and live as your obedient children, that your goodness may shine through us, to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN 12

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

ST. DENO

*Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.*

*Unresting, unbounding, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above; thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.*

*To all life thou givest, to both great and small; in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree, and wither and perish but naught changeth thee.*

*Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light. Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see 'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.*

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, you have called us to bring out the best in the world around us, to be bold in our faith, to share your love with those around us. We have failed your command. We choose conflict. We choose laziness. We choose excuses. Forgive us for rejecting the identity that you offer us freely, for rejecting the work of your Holy Spirit in our hearts.

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 582

“Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me”

GLORY TO GOD

(stanza 1)

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,

And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

THE WORD

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Melissa Eudy

ANTHEM

“Hear My Prayer”

Moses Hogan

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, open our understanding by the power of the Holy Spirit, that as the Word is proclaimed, we may receive holy wisdom to understand the gifts you have bestowed on us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Matthew 5:13-20](#)

pew Bible, page 4

SERMON

“Salt and Light”

Rev. George

*Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.*

*Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.*

*Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice.*

*Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.*

*Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed.*

*Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.*

*Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone.*

*Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.*

*Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come.*

*Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From *The Confession of Belhar*

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells. Jesus is Lord. To the one and only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.

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

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

Arr. Jerry Ray

*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

Loving God, we give thanks for all you have given to us and praise you for your astounding goodness. Receive the dedication of our hearts, minds, and bodies for the ministry of your church. Bless our offering for the work of your kingdom, and give us wisdom for the right us of all you have provided, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING

*HYMN

“A Little Bit of Salt”
("The God of Abraham Praise")

LEONI

*A little bit of salt will quickly show its worth; a little bit of faithfulness will change the earth.
God, make us worth our salt — a church that's glad to be the change that you desire in each community.*

*A lamp that's in a house gives safety, warmth and light; it's set upon a table where it shines so bright.
God, make your church a light that bravely takes a stand to bring your love and justice into all the land.*

*A garden is a place where so much beauty grows, where flowers bloom and food is raised and water flows.
When worship leads us out to care for the oppressed, O God, you say we're like a garden at its best.*

*When worship leads us out to love and serve the poor, to welcome in the refuge at our own door,
O God, then we'll be called "repairers of the breach," and we your church will be "restorers of the streets."*

*It's tempting to remain well-hidden, quiet, bland —yet, God, you make us salt and light to change this land.
You send us out to love, to build and to repair, till peace and justice flourish here and everywhere.*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

“Four Fold Amen”

John Stainer

*POSTLUDE

“Call to Commitment”

Lani Smith

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

Bold print indicates places where congregation reads or sings.

PERMISSIONS: *St. Columba*, Ancient Irish melody, Arranged for Organ by Ronald Arnatt (1930-2018), © 1979, *Augsburg Publishing House*. All rights reserved. Used with permission under One License A-709512. *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*, Text: Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908), 1867. Hymn tune: *St. Denio*. Welsh folk melody, published in *Caniadau y Cyssegr* (Hymns of the Sanctuary), 1839. Public domain. *Fairest Lord Jesus*, Hymn tune: *Crusaders' March*, Silesian Folk Melody; *Scheische Volkslieder, 1842*, Arranged for organ by Jerry Ray © 2002, *Alfred Publishing*. All rights reserved. Used with permission under One License A-709512. *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*, Traditional liturgical text adapt. and Music © 2008, Paul M. Vasile. All rights reserved. Used by permission of the composer. *Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness*, Text and hymn tune: *Christ, Be Our Light*, Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957), © 1993, *Bernadette Farrell* (published by OCP). All rights reserved. Used with permission under One License A-709512. *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*, Text: Thomas Ken (1637-1711), 1674. Hymn tune: *Old Hundredth*, Genevan Psalter, 1551. Public domain. *Hear My Prayer*, Text and Music: Moses Hogan (1957-2003) © 2001, *Hal Leonard Corp.* All rights reserved. Used with permission under One License A-709512. *Fourfold Amen*, Music: John Stainer (1840-1901). Public domain. *Call to Commitment*, Lani Smith (1934-2015) © 2010, *Lorenz Publishing*. All rights reserved. Used with permission under One License A-709512.

Thank you to Michelle Efird, Melissa Eudy, and Frank Poolos for their leadership in worship today.

The acolyte today is Melanie Hendrix.

Ushers for February: Myron Lowder (captain), Jim Hesley, Al Andrew, Steve Cumming, Jim Ivey, Jim Marshall.

Outside Ushers for February 5: Jim Ivey, John Earnhardt.

Elder Greeters: Lee McLaurin, Ronnie Michael.

Streaming Coordinator: Evan Sanges **Film:** James Cotton **Nursery:** Bailey Mitchell
Kids Crew: TBD

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.



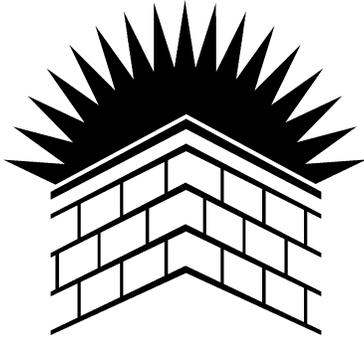
Circle Five Meeting February 8

Circle Five members will meet in the Pit Stop on Wednesday, February 8 at 1:00 pm
We will study Lesson 5 in "Celebrating Sabbath".



**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner
February 21 at 6:00 p.m. in the gym**

Come for pancakes hot off the griddle and some pre-Lent fun! Keith Bryson is coordinating the cooking so call if you want to help (704-984-0254). All proceeds will benefit the Backpack Program which provides weekend food for needy children at Central Elementary School.



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 9th-12th 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

Today!

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



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.





PLEASE REMEMBER TO SIGN THE REGISTER

The Membership Care Committee encourages you to be faithful in signing the Friendship Register in worship on Sundays and to register online if you worship there. It helps us miss you if you're not here, which is very important.



We will receive the Ten-Cents-A-Meal offering for hunger today. This monthly offering is used by the Presbytery of Charlotte to fund hunger programs and agencies (including SCCM) throughout the presbytery.



DRIVE-THRU MEAL WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15
FROM 5:00 P.M.- 6:00 P.M. RSVP BY 2:00 P.M. ON MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 13, PICK-UP OR DELIVERY OF THE MEAL
Menu: Potato Soup w/Shredded Cheese & Bacon (on side), Mixed Green
Salad, and Strawberry Cheesecake Cookies

Call Anne Montgomery at 704-796-5841 or email Anne at johnandannemontgomery@yahoo.com and let her know, how many plates, and if it is p/u or delivery.
 Suggested Donation is \$6 per person, Max of \$20 per immediate family.



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 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 or just show up!
 We will be meeting on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am.
 Look forward to seeing you on the 5th!



How is God Calling Me to Use My Gifts for Ministry?

Every one of us, as part of the Body of Christ, have gifts necessary for the body to function. That means you and your gifts are needed. Please consider the Committee Interest form insert, indicate the place where you feel God calling you, sign your name, and place the form in the Offering Plate.

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, February 5

5th Sunday after Epiphany/ Prayer Shawl Blessings/Ten Cents a Meal Offering

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

Monday, February 6

10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

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

Wednesday, February 8

6:45 am Men's Prayer Breakfast

10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

1:00 pm Circle Five in Pit Stop

3:30 pm to 5:30 pm Youth Club

6:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 9

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

Sunday, February 12

6th Sunday after Epiphany/ Souper Bowl of Caring

8:45 am Diaconate

9:00 am Adult Handbells

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am *Worship

12:00 pm Souper Bowl of Caring Lunch in Gym

6:00 pm SNL

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
February

06- Melissa Eudy
Bob Johnston
Jacob Palmer

08- Mellanie Morgan

09- Debbie Bennett

10- Susan Pandich

11- Katherine Jolly

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!
February

09- Bill & Diane Stevenson

***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
Facilities Manager, Shawn Graeff

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).
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.

How is God Calling Me to Use My Gifts for Ministry?

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Oversees the growth and spiritual health of the entire congregation

SENIOR CARE

Care for older adult members and provide fellowship opportunities.

MEMBERSHIP CARE

Stewardship of members' participation in the life of the church

FELLOWSHIP

Promote congregational fellowship

USHERING

Plan, administer, and review the ushering program for all worship services.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Development, implement, and evaluate a comprehensive plan for Christian Education.

MISSION COMMITTEE

Provide opportunities for the congregation to reach out to others with the love of Jesus Christ.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

All things related to good stewardship of the facilities.

STEWARDSHIP INTERPRETATION AND FINANCE

To encourage generosity and faithful stewardship among the members, develop the resources required for the church's Mission, and to manage the financial affairs of the church.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

To have oversight and responsibilities for all technology use in the church.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

To provide for meaningful worship experiences.

NAME _____