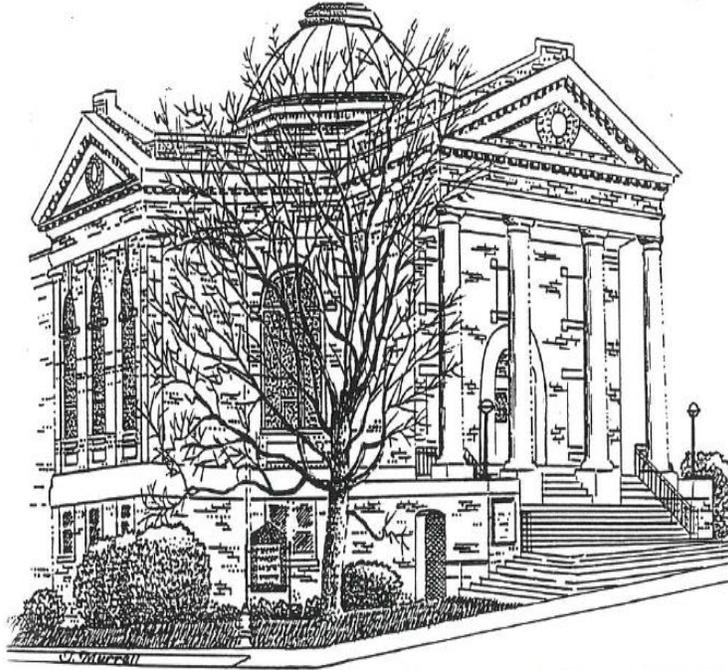


First Presbyterian Church Albemarle, North Carolina



Listen to your life. See it for the fathomless mystery that it is. In the boredom and pain of it no less than in the excitement and gladness: touch, taste, smell your way to the holy and hidden heart of it because in the last analysis all moments are key moments, and life itself is grace.

~Frederick Buechner

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

February 12, 2023

6th Sunday After Epiphany

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please sign the guest register and pass it on

PRELUDE

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

Arr. Jerry Ray

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Holden Taylor, acolyte

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 119

Jim Hesley, liturgist

Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.

Happy are those who keep the decrees of the Lord and walk in God's ways.

O that my ways be steadfast in keeping your statutes!
Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN 35

“Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”

LOBE DEN HERREN

*Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near; join me in glad adoration!*

*Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires ever have been granted in what He ordaineth?*

*Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.
Let the Amen sound from His people again, gladly for aye we adore Him.*

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

For our failure to appreciate and enjoy the good things you provide for our lives, in your mercy: **Lord, forgive us.** For our insensitivity to the needs of others, and for our oversensitivity when we're hurt by them, in your mercy: **Lord, forgive us.** For becoming consumed in the business of life, and for losing faith in your sovereignty and power, in your mercy: **Lord, forgive us.** For moods of disobedience and for outright rejection of your will, in your mercy: **Lord, forgive us.** For consenting to wrong practices by our cool silence, and for listening to scandal, in your mercy: **Lord, forgive us. Reform our will, reinforce our courage: create in us a new heart, O God, and put your righteousness in us; through 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 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

“Jesus Loves the Little Children”

Clare Woolston

“Jesus Loves the Little Ones”

Harry D. Loes

“Jesus Loves Me”

Anna B. Warner

Ella Averette, Maddie Averette, Julian Eudy

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Loving God, anoint us with your Holy Spirit, as we hear your Word this day. Fill us with your truth, that we may walk in the ways of God and to the glory of your kingdom. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Deuteronomy 30:15-20](#)

pew Bible, page 179

SERMON

“Choose Life”

Rev. George

*HYMN 53

“O God, Who Gives Us Life”

NOEL

*O God who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
Deliver us from fears that kill the life we have from you;
Help us to know your Spirit still is making all things new.*

*O God who calls your people out, to venture and to dare,
To plumb the bleak abyss of doubt and find you even there:
When we despair in wandering through wastes of empty lies,
Refresh us with the living spring of hope that never dies.*

*O God of covenant and law, revealed in cloud and flame,
Your mighty deeds evoke our awe; we dare not speak your Name.
Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your people prove,
As on our hearts you write anew the covenant of love.*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From *The Confession of 1967*

The church confesses its faith when it bears a present witness to God’s grace in Jesus Christ. God reveals his love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful humanity. God has created male and female and given them a life which proceeds from birth to death in a succession of generations and in a wide complex of social relations. Life is a gift to be received with gratitude and a task to be pursued with courage. “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.”

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

“This is My Father’s World”

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

Holy God, we offer you these gifts with thanks, so that together, we may plant and water the seeds of your new world. May we be your faithful servants as we cultivate your love, knowing that in all we accomplish, it is you who gives the growth. Amen.

SENDING

*HYMN 815

“Give to the Winds Thy Fears”

FESTAL SONG

*Give to the winds thy fears; hope and be undismayed.
God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears, God shall lift up thy head.*

*Through waves and clouds and storms, God gently clears the way;
Wait patiently; so shall this night soon end in joyous day.*

*Leave to God's sovereign sway to choose and to command;
So shalt thou, wondering, own that way, how wise, how strong this hand.*

*Let us in life, in death, thy steadfast truth declare,
And publish with our final breath thy love and guardian care.*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

“Four Fold Amen”

John Stainer

*POSTLUDE

“Prelude in Classic Style”

Gordon Young

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

Print indicates places where congregation reads or sings.

PERMISSIONS: *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*, Music by William B. Bradbury, Arranged for organ by Jerry Ray ©2003, *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. *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*, Text: Joachim Neander (1650-1680), 1680. Hymn tune: *Lobe den Herren*. Anonymous, 1665. Public domain. *Jesus Loves the Little Children*, Text: Clare H. Woolston (1856-1927). Hymn tune: *Tramp, Tramp, Tramp (We Go A-Marching)*, George F. Root (1820-1895), Public domain. *Jesus Loves the Little Ones*, Text: Harry Dixon Loes (1895-1965). Music: Sidney E. Cox (1887-1975), Public domain. *Jesus Loves Me*, Text: Anna B. Warner (1827-1915). Music: William B. Bradbury (1816-1868), Public domain. *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*, Text: Thomas Ken (1637-1711), 1674. Hymn tune: *Old Hundredth*, Genevan Psalter, 1551. Public domain. *O God, Who Gives Us Life*, Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944), 1990. Hymn tune: *Noel*, English melody, arr. Arthur S. Sullivan, 1874. Public domain. Text © 1990, *Hope Publishing Company*. All rights reserved. Used with permission under One License A-709512. *This Is My Father's World*, Hymn tune: *Terra beata*, Franklin L. Sheppard (1852-1930), 1915. Arranged for organ by Jerry Ray ©2003, *Alfred Publishing*. All rights reserved. Used with permission under One License A-709512. *Give to the Winds Thy Fears*, Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1653; trans. John Wesley, 1737, alt. Hymn tune: William H. Walter, 1872, Public domain, *Fourfold Amen*, Music: John Stainer (1840-1901). Public domain. *Prelude in Classic Style*, Gordon Young (1919-1998), Arranged by Dorothy Wells © 1991, *Lorenz Publishing*. All rights reserved. Used with permission under One License A-709512.

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

Thank you to Ella Averette, Maddie Averette, and Julian Eudy for singing today.
The acolyte today is Holden Taylor.

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

Outside Ushers for February 12: Steve Cumming, Jim Marshall.

Elder Greeters: Lee McLaurin, Ronnie Michael.

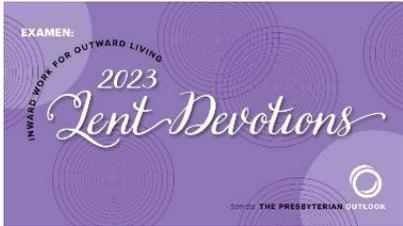
Streaming Coordinator: Evan Sanges **Film:** Elizabeth Bryson **Nursery:** Bailey Mitchell
Kids Crew: TBD

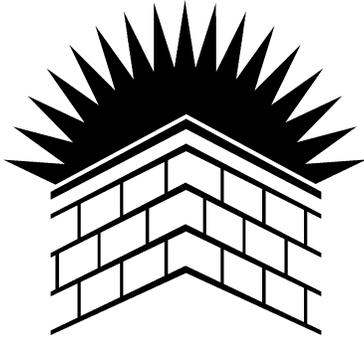
There will be no Children's Church today.

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, 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), Marlene Sanges.
See newsletter for complete list.

COMING SOON FOR LENT 2023

The daily devotions are entitled, *"Inward Work for Outward Living"* which will have us explore the ancient spiritual practice of *examen* that focuses on honest assessment and reflection. Each daily reflection will combine personal reflection with meditation, visualization and short prayers. You will receive an email copy of "Inward Work..." and printed copies can be mailed to those who do not have internet. Hard copies will be available at both church entrances.





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!

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.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE

Do not respond /send any \$\$, funds, items to any email or text claiming to be any staff person of FPC. No staff person would ever send such a message.

If the church needs something –someone will contact you personally to discuss it.





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

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

LUNCH TODAY- SOUPER BOWL OF CARING



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 today following worship.

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.





Ash Wednesday Service
February 22
Worship at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Plan to begin this season of penitence and preparation in worship. We will be reminded of our sin by the imposition of ashes.



We want to thank the following people for either providing food or helping serve at the Community Inn this past Friday February 3, 2023. Chris Mabry, Martha Sue Hall, Ann Crutchfield, Carol Sasser, Susan Garrison, Linda Anderson and Ruth Cotton.

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, February 12

6th Sunday after Epiphany/ Souper Bowl of Caring

- 8:45 am Diaconate
- 9:00 am to 9:45 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

14- Hunter Matthews
15- Emily Deese
16- Miller Morgan

Monday, February 13

- 10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 8:30 pm High School Bible Study-home of Debby Johnson

Wednesday, February 15

- 6:45 am Men’s Prayer Breakfast
- 10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm Youth Club
- 5:00 pm Drive Thru Meal
- 6:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

*childcare provided

Thursday, February 16

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

Sunday, February 19

Transfiguration of the Lord/ The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

- 8:30 am Session
- 9:00 am Adult Handbells
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 6:00 pm SNL

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

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

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.