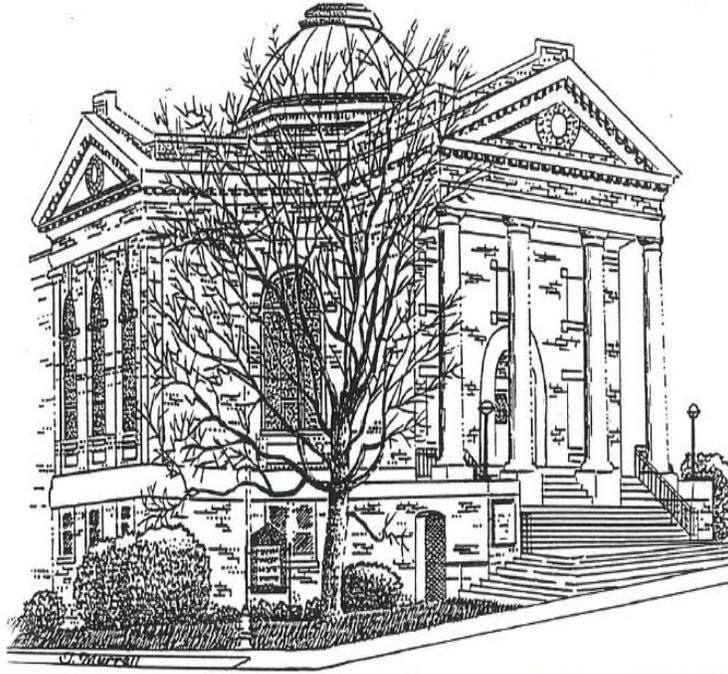


# *First Presbyterian Church Albemarle, North Carolina*



*People are coming to the well. They're looking for healing, looking for justice, looking for living water.  
And as followers of Christ, our first step should be to throw out the rule book of how society tells us to respond. We should meet them with compassion, rather than judgement. We should listen to them, rather than make assumptions, we should meet them with Christ-like empathy. We should break down any societal barriers separating us and listen to them fully as Christ would, so that we can understand their pain and learn how they've struggled. This is how healing begins. This is how people who've suffered begin to restore. This is how the world is saved.*

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

*March 12, 2023*

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent*

### **GATHERING**

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

“Be Merciful to me, O Lord”

J.S. Bach

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Thomas Shedd, acolyte

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 95

Michelle Cumming, liturgist

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

**We shall come into your presence with thanksgiving and make a joyful noise unto you with our songs of praise!**

O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker!

**For we are your people, the flock that you shepherd. We will know of your power as we listen for your voice.**

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Lord God, Great I Am, you are living water. As we worship you this day, show us who we are: channels of your love and vessels of your grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\*HYMN 638

“O Come and Sing unto the Lord”

IRISH

*O come and sing to God, the Lord, to God our voices raise;  
Let us in our most joyful songs, the Lord, our Savior, praise.*

*Before God's presence let us come with praise and thankful voice;  
Let us sing psalms to God with grace; with grateful hearts, rejoice.*

*The Lord our God is King of kings, above all gods emthroned;  
The depths of earth and mountains high by God alone are owned.*

*To God the spacious sea belongs, God made its waves and tides;  
And by God's hand the rising land was formed and still abides.*

*O come, and bowing down to God our worship let us bring;  
Yea, let us kneel before the Lord, Our Maker and our King.*

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God, you know who we are. You know everything we've ever done. We thirst for things that will never satisfy us. We commit ourselves to things that will never last. We worship things that will never bring salvation. Still, you offer us the gift of living water. Still, you offer us the gift of eternal life. Forgive us, O Lord, and give us this living water, so that we may never thirst again. Amen.**

*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 41

“O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!” (stanza 3)

LYONS

*Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail, in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;  
Your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end, O Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.*

**THE WORD**

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Ann Crutchfield

ANTHEM

“God So Loved the World”

John Strainer

*God so loved the world,  
That He gave His only begotten Son.  
That who so believeth in Him  
Should not perish, but have everlasting life.  
For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world,  
But that the world through Him might be saved.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Loving God, fountain of every blessing, open us to your life-giving Word, and fill us with your Holy Spirit so that living water may flow through our hearts — a spring of hope for a thirsty world. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[John 4:5-34, 39-42](#)

pew Bible, page 89

SERMON

“The Woman at the Well”

Rev. George

\*HYMN 182

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

KINGSFOLD

*I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Come unto me and rest;  
Lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast.”  
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;  
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.*

*I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Behold, I freely give  
The living water, thirsty one; stoop down and drink and live.”  
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;  
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.*

*I heard the voice of Jesus say, “I am this dark world's light.  
Look unto me; your morn shall rise and all your day be bright.”  
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;  
And in that light of life I'll walk till traveling days are done.*

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From *The Heidelberg Catechism*

Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

**That I am not my own, but belong – body and soul, in life and in death – to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him. 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.**

RECEIVING OF THE OFFERING

Offertory

“Lord Jesus, Think on Me”

J. Bert Carlson

\*Response 675

“All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night”

TALLIS CANON

(stanza 4)

*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.*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**O Lord, you are our God; we are the people of your pasture, the sheep of your hand. As you have fed us by your mercy, may it be our daily bread to do your will. Amen.**

SENDING

\*HYMN 475

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

NETTLETON

*Come Thou fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace  
Streams of mercy never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's redeeming love!  
Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;  
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;  
He to rescue me from danger interposed His precious blood*

*Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let that grace now like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, o take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

“The Lord Bless you and Keep You”

Peter Lutkin

\*POSTLUDE

“Prelude in G”

J.S. Bach

*\*Please stand in body or spirit.*

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

PERMISSIONS: *God So Loved the World*, Text: John 3:16-17, Music: John Stainer (1840-1901). Public domain. *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*, Text: Horatius Bonar(1808-1889), 1846. Hymn tune: English Country Songs, 1893; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906. Public domain. *O Come and Sing unto the Lord*, Text: *The New Metrical Version of the Psalms*, 1909. Hymn tune: Irish, pub. A Collection of Hymns and Sacred Poems, 1749. Public domain. *All Praise to Thee, My God This Night*, Text: Thomas Ken (1637-1711), 1674. Hymn tune: *Tallis' Canon*, Tomas Tallis (1508-1585), 1567. Public domain. *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*, Text: Robert Robinson (1735-1790), 1758. Hymn tune: Nettleton. Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second (1813). Public domain. *Lord Jesus, think on me*, Hymn tune: *Southwell*, William Daman (1579). Public Domain. Arrangement for organ by J. Bert Carlson (1937-2017 ), © 2000, Augsburg Fortress Publishing. Used with permission under One License A-709512.Public domain. *Be Merciful to me, O Lord*, Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750). Public domain. *Prelude in G*, Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750). Public domain. *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*, Text: Numbers 6:24, Music: Peter C. Lutkin (1858-1931). Public domain.

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**Thank you** to Michael Rowland, Frank Poolos, Michelle Cumming and Ann Crutchfield for their leadership in worship today.

**The acolyte today is** Thomas Shedd.

**Ushers for March:** Wes Eudy (captain), Cidney Eudy, Nathaniel Eudy, Seth Richards, Brett Richards.

**Outside Ushers for March 12:** John Earnhardt, Lee Snuggs

**Elder Greeters:** Al Andrew, Kim Marshall

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

**Kids Crew:** Carol Sasser

**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, 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.

\*\*\*\*\*



**Thank you to the following who helped with the Community Inn dinner on Friday March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Janet Schaffer, Chris Mabry, Peggy Finley, and Nancy Joines who brought food. Also, thanks to those who served the meal, Andy Cotton, Ruth Cotton and Peggy Finley.**

\*\*\*\*\*



## **PRIME-TIMERS' BOXED LUNCHES – DRIVE-THRU**

**Thursday, March 23 from Noon-12:30 p.m.**

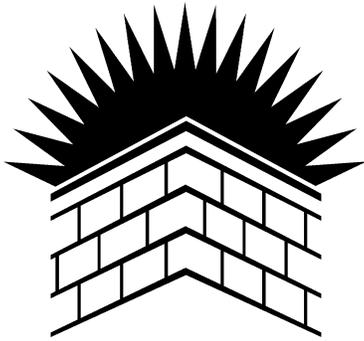
**Menu: Chicken Salad Croissant, Broccoli Cheddar Soup and Chocolate Silk Tart from Rosebriar. RSVP deadline is noon on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Myron**

**Lowder at 704-438-7628 (text or call) or email [lowderme@live.com](mailto:lowderme@live.com) \$5 donation.**

\*\*\*\*\*

*Welcome!*

We welcome Michael Rowland to our services as our interim organist!



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!**

\*\*\*\*\*

**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 know when you are not here, which is very important.

\*\*\*\*\*



First Presbyterian Church Scholarship Applications are available in the church office. Applications are also available from each area High School (see the guidance counselor). Gray Stone Day School and Stanly Community College also have applications available. Deadline for submission is April 4.

**SAVE-THE-DATE- CHANGED!**

Monday, June 12 through Thursday, June 15  
9:00 am – 1:00 pm



We are planning Cooking Camp this year for children in completed 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades (limited to 12 children)! If you would like to volunteer, please let Jane know as soon as possible (704)438-3358 or [jsnyder@fpcalbemarle.org](mailto:jsnyder@fpcalbemarle.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Lunch Outing to THE LOCAL ROOM in LOCUST**

**Thursday, March 16 at 11:30 am** Let's get together for lunch – Dutch Treat! We will meet at The Local Room in LOCUST at 11:30 am on Thursday, March 16. If you would like to carpool, meet at church at 11:00 am Let us know if you can join us! Jane Snyder 704-438-3358.





Lenten Meal- Wednesday, March 15  
 6:00 pm Dine in Gym  
 Please RSVP by 2:00 pm on Monday March 13.  
 Menu: Chicken Pot Pie and Dessert  
**We will have Lenten Meals each Wednesday in March.**

You may also sign up for Wednesday meals by putting number attending on guest register.

Volunteer's are needed for all Lenten meals during Lent- please call Jane Snyder at the church 704-982-2722 her phone 704-438-3358 or email her at jsnyder@fpsalbemarle.org if you would like to help.

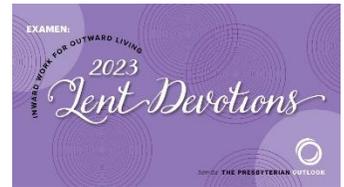


**Community Lent Services**  
**Wednesdays, March 15, 22, and 29 at Noon**  
**First Baptist Church (202 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Albemarle)**



**DAILY DEVOTIONS 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 a daily email devotion of “Inward Work...”, printed copies can be mailed to those who do not have internet. Hard copies will be available in the church office upon request.



**Easter Lilies...Deadline: Sunday, April 2**



If you would like to contribute to the purchase of eight large Easter Lilies as an Easter Memorial or Honorarium, please fill out the form below exactly as you wish the memorial or honorarium to read, **attach a check in the amount of \$ 5.00** and place in the offering plate or leave in the church office no later than **Sunday, April 2.** Checks should be payable to “First Presbyterian Church” and designated “Easter Lilies.” All memorials/honorariums received by April 2 will be listed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, April 9. **Following the service on April 9, all Easter Lilies will be delivered to the hospital and local nursing homes.**

**Easter Lilies**

**In honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Given by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Given by:** \_\_\_\_\_

## OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

### Sunday, March 12

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent /Daylight Saving Time

- 8:45 am Diaconate
- 9:00 am Adult Handbells
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am \*Worship
- 12:00 pm Faith Explorers Lunch & Tree Top Challenge
- 3:00 pm Hiking Group (Morrow Mt State Park)
- 6:30 pm SNL –Out about Dinner- Pancho Villas

### Monday, March 13

- 10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 12:00 pm Mindful Positivity Group (Old Session Room)
- 4:00 pm Walking Group (Rock Creek Park)
- 8:30 pm High School Bible Study-home of Debby Johnson

### Wednesday, March 15

- 6:45 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 12:00 pm Community Lenten Service & Lunch- First Baptist
- 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm Youth Club & The Innocence of Youth Group
- 6:00 pm Lenten Meal Gym
- 6:45 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, March 16

- 10:00 am Discussion Group (Church Parlor)
- 11:30 am Lunch Outing- The Local Room- Locust
- 4:00 pm Zoom Bible Study with Catherine & Matt Moeller
- 6:30 pm When Tough Stuff Happens Group (Location TBD)

### Sunday, March 19

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

- 8:30 am Session
- 9:00 am Adult Handbells
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 9:45 am Breakfast Bunch K-5<sup>th</sup> graders
- 11:00 am \*Worship
- 3:00 pm Hiking Group (Morrow Mt State Park)
- 6:00 pm SNL

#### 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, Michael Rowland  
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](http://www.fpcalbemarle.org)).  
Click on the GIVE button.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

#### March

- 12- Morgan Kinley
- 14- Leah Kilde  
Courtney Niederer
- 15- Kate Melone
- 16- Steve Coats
- 17- Bob Gaither  
Eric Niederer

The Congregation of FPC is invited  
to meet the Millingport  
Elementary artists at the Art  
Gallery Reception on Wednesday,  
March 22 from 4:00 pm to 5:30  
pm in the church common area.

#### 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

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.