



The Weekly Bulletin
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Albemarle, North Carolina

Elizabeth McNair Ayscue, Pastor

Matt Drumheller, Associate Pastor

Frank Poolos, Director of Vocal and Handbell Music

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THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

O God, light of the minds that know you, life of the souls that love you, strength of the thoughts that seek you: Help us so to know you that we may truly love you, so to love you that we may fully serve you, whose service is perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PEALING OF THE BELL

GATHERING SONGS

Hymn 475

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

stanzas 1 and 3

Hymn 720

Jesus Calls Us

stanzas 1 and 4

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Please sign and pass the Register of Friendship during this time.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: The Lord is creating and forgiving,

People: Awaken to the love of God.

Leader: Jesus is healing and teaching,

People: Awaken to the presence of Christ.

Leader: The Spirit is breathing and inspiring,

People: Awaken to the movement of the Spirit.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY 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.

***HYMN 435**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

In Babilone

*CONFESSION OF SIN

*Call to Confession

Andy Cotton, Cantor

*Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome; God's free bounty glorify,
True belief and true repentance, every grace that brings you nigh.*

*Prayer of Confession

Silence

Unison

Lord, though you have called us to be your followers, we have fallen asleep. Rather than remaining attentive to your presence, we have become complacent. Forgive us when we prefer to dwell in the darkness rather than waking up to your dawning light. Have mercy on us, O Lord, and forgive our sin. Awaken us to your life and your love.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: Friends, believe the good news,

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*Response to Forgiveness

hymnal, page 415

(Refrain)

**I will arise and go to Jesus; he will embrace me in his arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.**

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Mike McLeod

Children will be invited to come forward. At the conclusion of the children's greeting, parents may take preschool children to the nursery. Children in grades K-2 may go to the chapel for Children's Church.

ANTHEM

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Gilbert M. Martin

SERMON AND SCRIPTURE

Saved by Grace
[John 7:53-8:11](#)

Mrs. Ayscue and Mr. Drumheller

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from A Brief Statement of Faith

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. 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. Amen.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Chris Whitley

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

Intermezzo

Hermann Schroder

*Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

hymnal, page 606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Words of Institution

Serving of the Meal

**During the serving of the Lord's Supper, the congregation is invited to join in singing Let Us Break Bread Together.*

Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees)

Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees)

(Refrain)

When I Fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees)

Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees) (Refrain)

Let us praise God together on our knees; (on our knees)

Let us praise God together on our knees; (on our knees) (Refrain)

Thanksgiving

*HYMN 450

Be Thou My Vision

Slane

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil

Hymn 750

(Choir & Congregation)

**Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate;
Light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.
Victory is ours; victory is ours through God who loves us.
Victory is ours; victory is ours through God who loves us.**

*POSTLUDE

If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee

Jan Mulder

*All that are able may stand.

We rejoice that you are worshipping with us today. If you are a member of this church, please seek out those who are visiting and welcome them to this family of faith. If you are visiting and would like to know more about the church and membership here, please speak with one of the ministers following worship.

The Lord's Table is open to all who trust in Jesus Christ. Gluten free elements are available upon request.

The acolyte today is David Kilde. After extinguishing the Christ candle, the acolyte takes the light of Jesus Christ out into the world.

We ask that you keep these people in your prayers: The family of Roy Dearstyne (father of Holly Norwood), The family of Elworth Plyler, Meghan Niemann (friend of Rose Saltzman; breast cancer), Fred McInturff (father of Michelle Cumming; vision loss in one eye), Bruce Roney (uncle of Dona Lisk; breast cancer), Andy Cotton, Blue Honeycutt, Caroline West. **See newsletter for complete list.**

IN MEMORIAM
Elworth Bane Plyler
November 8, 1922-March 27, 2017

Ushers: Jim Hesley, captain; Duncan Bryson, Keith Bryson, Banks Garrison, Sandy Saunders, Harold Sharpe
Elder Greeters: Patrick Currie, Joyce Lambert **Nursery:** Jana Sanderson **Toddler Room:** Cora Harrison
Preschool Partners: Heather Deese; Anna Henkenjohann **Nana & Papa Team:** Debby Johnston; Mary Kesselman
Children's Church: Stephanie & Josh Campbell; Jacob Palmer

Congratulations to Kate and Steve Melone upon the birth of their daughter, Margaret (Maggie) Jordan, on March 22. She joins older brother, Drew. Proud grandparents are Kim and Mark Andrew.

Barbara and Chris Whitley announce the marriage on January 4, 2017, at a private ceremony, of their daughter, Catherine Ellen Hinson to Benjamin Hampton, son of Rick and Gay Hampton of Salisbury, North Carolina. Catherine and Ben are making their home in Salisbury.

COMMUNITY LENT WORSHIP AT CENTRAL UMC
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5 AT NOON IN THE SANCTUARY
THEME: BUILDING THE KINGDOM
LUNCH FOLLOWING IN THE GYM...COST: DONATION

Central United Methodist Church is hosting the Community Lent Worship Services. An offering will be received each week in support of the Habitat for Humanity Faith Build.

Wednesday, April 5 Preacher: Pastor Ray Sipe, Chaplain at Trinity Place

Wednesday April 5 Worship at 5:50 p.m.

Using the familiar elements of word, song, prayer, and response, worship will take on new life as we explore John's gospel in new ways. Worship is family-friendly and interactive. Come in a suit, jeans, or gym gear for 20 mid-week minutes focused on the power of God and the importance of our faith community.

Wednesday Dinner Out

No gym?...No problem.

Table hosts will be available at local restaurants on April 5 to welcome you. Come after worship or meet at 6:20 p.m. You need only show up for these Dutch treat dinners with friends. Locations and table hosts will be announced on Wednesday.

From the Scholarship Committee...Scholarship applications are available on the counter in the church office.

The deadline to return completed applications is Monday, April 10.

Bread Bakers Needed

Bread bakers (and shoppers) are needed for the April 30 bread sale to be held on Letter Writing Sunday. If you bake quick bread, sourdough, or yeast breads, call Ann Duckwall (704-983-3498) to tell her how you can help. Donations from the sale will be given to SCCM.

Post Church Lunch on April 9 in the Pit Stop

Please come!

BBQ Lunch with all your favorite fixins'

(baked beans, slaw, hushpuppies & homemade desserts)

Your donation for lunch will benefit the John P Murray Community Care Clinic.

Daily Scripture Reading and Prayer for Lent

The congregation is invited to read the gospel of John during Lent. Sermons and small group conversations will be based on texts from John.

Suggested scripture readings for the coming week are:

April 2	John 14:1-14	April 6	John 16:1-15
April 3	John 14:15-31	April 7	John 16:16-33
April 4	John 15:1-17	April 8	John 17:1-26
April 5	John 15:18-27	April 9	John 18:1-18

Questions to consider each day:

What is God saying to me through these words? How will I respond?



SERRV SALE ON SUNDAY, APRIL 2

SERRV items will be available in the pit stop before and after worship on April 2. Look for various fair trade items to fill your Easter baskets! The Spring 2017 SERRV Catalog will also be available to look through and place orders.

Journey to the Cross
An Intergenerational Experience for People of All Ages
Palm Sunday (April 9) at 9:30 a.m.
Walk Christ's journey during those final days...
Enjoy foods typical of those eaten in the time of Jesus.
Shepherds will guide you on the journey.

Easter Lilies...Deadline: Sunday, April 9

If you would like to contribute to the purchase of 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 \$15.00** and place in the offering plate or leave in the church office no later than **Sunday, April 9**. Checks should be payable to "First Presbyterian Church" and designated "Easter Lilies." All memorials/honorariums received by April 9 will be listed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, April 16.

Easter Lilies

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

In memory of: _____

Given by: _____

I plan to take my lily after worship on Easter.

I will leave my lily for delivery to a homebound member.



**EASTER EGG HUNT & COOKOUT
SUNDAY, APRIL 9 at CITY LAKE PARK
4:00 P.M.-6:00 P.M.**

SNL is hosting an Easter egg hunt for congregation families again this year. Come celebrate the season, join in the fellowship and food, and hunt for some Easter eggs! Families are asked to bring a bag of chips and/or drink to share. Anyone who would like to donate plastic eggs or bags of candy for the event, please drop off your donations at Matt's office by Wednesday, April 5. We appreciate your help! This is one of our favorite SNL activities each year, so bring the family out for an afternoon of fun!

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING
PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 9**

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. Thank you for your support of this life-changing offering. Please give generously.

Backpack Food Program Donation List

Needed:

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

A bin in the pit stop will receive your donation.

Packing Date: Wednesday, April 5 at 10:00 a.m.

Easter Eve Camping at Morrow Mountain on April 15

Some folks are interested in camping at Morrow Mountain on Easter Eve (April 15). If you would like to be part of this group, contact Ken Knight (704-985-6277 or kbknight17@gmail.com). We'll have a great evening of fellowship and trek to the sunrise service together. All are invited to participate for the campfire activities and bring along your hobo meal or supper and join in the fellowship...NO CAMPING REQUIRED!

**Bread for the World on Sunday, April 30
Doing Our Part to End Hunger**



Congress has two budget tools that can lead to drastic cuts or changes to anti-hunger programs: sequestration and budget reconciliation.

Sequestration. Enacted in 2011, sequestration- automatic budget cuts – imposes tight limits on the government's discretionary spending, capping funding for programs that need yearly funding, like WIC, humanitarian assistance, and global nutrition.

Budget Reconciliation. This is a legislative procedure that enables Congress to make big changes to many policies and programs at the same time. Reconciliation bills have fast-track privileges that allow them to more easily pass through Congress. Many in Congress are pushing to use this year's reconciliation bills to fundamentally change the structure and funding for Medicaid and SNAP.

Doing our part as Christians this year should include advocacy with our members of Congress for funding decisions that reduce and move us toward ending hunger. Plan to join letter writers in the pit stop on Sunday, April 30 to help end hunger.

Share A Bloom...

Support Hospice of Stanly and give a potted gerbera daisy to your mother, co-workers, staff, friends, wife, teachers, husband, or anyone!

You can pick up your daisies at the Hospice office or we'll deliver for you!

For delivery, all orders must be received by April 6th

Free delivery available in Stanly County, 9am-5pm

April 11th & 12th



\$10

Each gerbera daisy
will be in a wrapped
4 1/2" pot

Courage
Blooms

Your gift to Hospice allows us to continue our focus on the comfort of our patients—and the spiritual, emotional, psychological support we provide to both patient and family alike.



For more information call Hospice at 704-983-4216

How To Order?

- Mail orders to Hospice:
960 N First St. Albemarle, NC 28001
Checks payable to: Hospice of Stanly
- Phone: The Hospice office
(704) 983-4216 & place your order
with a credit/debit card
- Online at hospiceofstanly.org

To: _____

Where to deliver: _____

From: _____

Phone: _____

To: _____

Where to deliver: _____

From: _____

Phone: _____

To: _____

Where to deliver: _____

From: _____

Phone: _____

To: _____

Where to deliver: _____

From: _____

Phone: _____

OR

I will pick up my purchased gerbera daisies at the Hospice office Wednesday, April 12th.

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 2

Fifth Sunday of Lent/The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper/Ten-Cents-A-Meal

SERRV Items for sale in the pit stop

- 9:00 am Breakfast Bunch
- 9:45 am *Sunday School
- 10:30 am SERRV Items for sale & Spring Catalog in the pit stop
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 12:00 pm SERRV Items for sale & Spring Catalog in the pit stop
- 12:00 pm Mission Committee (Session Room)
- 3:00 pm Hiking Posse Small Group with Connie Wallace & Ken Knight meets at Morrow Mountain State Park
- 4:00 pm Classic Discussion Small Group at Elizabeth's

Monday, April 3

- 12:00 pm Classic Discussion Small Group with Matt (Parlor)
- 7:00 pm Circle #5 at the home of Peggy Finley (1205 Colonial Dr., Albemarle)
- 8:00 pm-9:00 pm Lectionary Bible Study at Off the Square
- 8:30 pm High School Bible Study at Elizabeth's

Tuesday, April 4

- 9:30 am-11:00 am *Taste & See* Cooking Crew Small Group (Church Kitchen)
- 7:00 pm Confirmation Class meets with Session

Wednesday, April 5

- 6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 10:00 am Backpack Food Program
- 12:00 pm Community Lent Worship at Central UMC
- 3:15 pm-5:15 pm Youth Cubs/Youth Club
- 5:15 pm-5:45 pm Youth Club Handbells & Orff Rehearsals
- 5:50 pm Wednesday Worship
- 6:15 pm Classic Discussion Small Group with Dona & Greg Lisk (Church Kitchen)
- 7:00 pm *Chancel Choir

Thursday, April 6

- 9:30 am *Pray & Play
- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
- 12:00 pm Young Adult Lunch at Coach's Neighborhood Grill
- 12:00 pm Foodie Fans Small Group meets in the kitchen/pit stop
- 2:00 pm Palm Sunday set-up

Friday, April 7 *Church Office Closed*

Saturday, April 8

- 9:00 am-1:00 pm Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Recycling Collection at Stanly County Agri-Civic Center (Rear Parking Lot)

Sunday, April 9 *Palm Sunday/Journey to the Cross/Presentation of the Confirmation Class of 2017/*

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering/Easter Lilies Form Deadline

- 8:45 am *Diaconate
- 9:15 am *Faith Explorers' rehearsal with the chancel choir
- 9:30 am *Journey to the Cross
- 9:45 am *Sunday School
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 12:00 pm BBQ lunch to support the John P. Murray Community Clinic
- 12:00 pm-3:00 pm Faith Explorers Hiking at Morrow Mountain
- 4:00 pm Easter Egg Hunt & Cookout at City Lake Park
- 6:00 pm Worship Committee
- 7:00 pm *Session

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

APRIL

- 04- Wes Eudy
- 05- Steve Blalock
- 07- Angie Earnhardt
Russell Karr
- 08- Joyce Lambert
- 09- Hailey Brown
Ashley Maust

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

APRIL

- 02- Michael & Kristen Laton
Lynn & Martha White
- 07- Thomas & Salem Taylor

SCCM CHALLENGE

FOR MARCH:

Canned Soup & Crackers

Visit the...

**Spring Art Exhibit featuring
works by Students of
Central Elementary School**

*Who Am I?:
Self-Portraiture*

***childcare provided**