



The Weekly Bulletin
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Albemarle, North Carolina

Church Offices: (704) 982-2722

Website: www.fpcalbemarle.org

March 20, 2022

Third Sunday in Lent

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

PRELUDE

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Margaret R. Tucker

Youth Club Handbell Ensemble

Carter Gibson, Emma Gibson, Ayla Hahn,

Leni Henkenjohann, Melanie Hendrix, Sydney Wilhelm

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Ella Cumming

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mike King, liturgist

Psalm 63

O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirst for you.

So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: 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 610

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Azmon

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess that we have grown complacent in our response to you. You set before us a rich feast of blessing, but we're drawn to lesser things that cannot satisfy. You call us to attend to urgent needs in the world, but we indulge our own desires. Our ways are not your ways; our thoughts do not ascend to your thoughts. Forgive us when we fall short of your claim upon our lives. Disturb our complacency and quicken our desire for a more fruitful life. Be patient, we pray, as we amend who we are, in the hope of becoming who you intend us to be. We ask this in the name of our Savior, your Son, Jesus Christ.

Silent Confession and Reflection

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*RESPONSE TO ASSURANCE

hymnal 39, stanza 3

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Faithfulness

(The response will be sung by choir and congregation.)

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine with ten thousand beside!*

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see.

All I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

ANTHEM

Simple Gifts

Lord of the Dance

Our Father, Which Art in Heaven West Indian Folk Melody

Youth Club Trusty Travelers and Faith Explorers

Ella Averette, Russ Carpenter, Julian Eudy, Carter Gibson,

Emma Gibson, Ayla Hahn, Melanie Hendrix, Leni Henkenjohann,

Will Lentz, Drew Melone, Maggie Melone, Madelyn Taylor, Sydney Wilhelm

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Melissa Eudy

Children will be invited to come forward. At the conclusion of the Faith Sharing with Children, parents may take preschool children to the nursery. Children in grades K-3 may go to the chapel for Children's Church.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the scripture is read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us this day. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Luke 13:1-9](#)

Pew Bible, page 71

SERMON

The Parable of the Fig Tree

Reverend Cathy S. George

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION 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. We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. 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. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. 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.

*HYMN 435

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

In Babilone

From
*A Brief Statement
of Faith,*
PC(USA)

*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

Invitation

Offertory

Aria in F Major

George Frederic Handel

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

hymnal 606

(The response will be sung by choir and congregation.) Old Hundredth

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

God of wilderness and Promised land, in days of want and in days of plenty, you have been with us. By these gifts we now share, may others know of your providence and care. Send us -- not just our offerings, but our very selves -- to console and comfort, to lift up and reach out, to listen and sit beside your children everywhere; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN 703

Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me

St. Catherine

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Mark Schweizer

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face to shine upon you,

The Lord lift up His eyes to you and be gracious unto you and give you peace.

Amen.

*POSTLUDE

Toccata in F Major

Dietrich Buxtehude

*All that are able may stand.

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Thank you to the Youth Club Handbell Ensemble, the Youth Club Trusty Travelers and Faith Explorers, the Chancel Choir, Frank Poolos, Stan Scheer, Melissa Eudy, and Mike King for their leadership in worship today.

The acolyte today is Ella Cumming.

Ushers for March: Myron Lowder (captain), Al Andrew, Emily Andrew, Ella Cumming, Steve Cumming, and Jack Morton

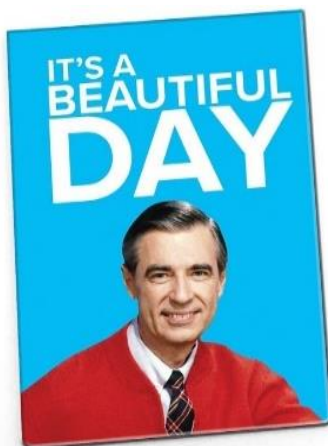
Elder Greeters: Al Andrew; Kim Marshall

Outside Ushers for March 20: Steve Cumming; John Howell **Sound:** Evan Sanges; Leah Kilde

Film: Andy McLeod **Nursery:** Kate White **Kids Care Crew:** Penny Morton

Children's Church: Liz Jolly

We ask that you keep these people in your prayers: The family of Betty Hall Stancik (sister of Bill Hall), Brayden Enzor (grandson of Gus & Pam Holbrook), Robin Howell (Atrium- Northeast), Ken Frazier, Helen Melton (niece of Elizabeth Wilson), Carole Yost (Trinity Place), Tim Rodgers (friend of Thomas Hahn), Bill Cotton (brother of Andy Cotton), Debbie Hinson (mother of Melissa Eudy), Terry Morgan, Don Abernathy, Jean Rabe, Anita Gower, Gloria Bryson, Nancy Jolly, Claude Harwood, Jane Scheer, Don Joines, Jane Pickler. See newsletter for complete list.



!!! It's Mr. Rogers Day !!!

!!! Join us for an Intergenerational Sunday School !!!

Who: All Ages

What: Neighboring Sunday in honor of Mr. Rogers

When: Sunday, March 20 from 9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m.

Where: Pit Stop

Wear a cardigan if you have one!

**Join us for coffee, juice, muffins, and conversation
surrounding what it means to**

Be a Neighbor!

Volunteer Camera Operators Needed

Training Session for All Volunteers

Today at 5:00 p.m.

A training session will be held in the sanctuary for current and prospective volunteers this afternoon at 5:00 p.m. If you are interested in assisting the church in this area of ministry, rsvp to the church office (704-982-2722 or pknighten@fpcalbemarle.org).





You are invited to a reception in honor of Claude Harwood
in celebration of his 90th birthday and his years of service
for arranging and providing beautiful flowers for First Presbyterian Church
Sunday, March 27 following worship in the Pit Stop



DRIVE-THRU LENT MEALS ON WEDNESDAYS
MARCH 23, 30 and APRIL 6
FROM 5:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

RSVP BY 2:00 P.M. ON THE MONDAY PRIOR TO THE MEAL

Lenten Meal Pick-up or Delivery is on Wednesdays during Lent: March 9, 16, 23, 30, and April 6. If you would like a Lenten meal, please RSVP by 2:00 p.m. on the Monday prior to the meal. We will have your meal ready for pick-up or delivery between 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. For your safety, kitchen staff will wear masks and gloves

while preparing your plates.

The menu will be emailed in advance.

Menu for Wednesday, March 23:
Chicken Pot Pie and Pound Cake
!!! SNL Youth Fundraiser !!!

Suggested Donation: \$5 per person....Maximum of \$15 per family.

Please come with correct change or a check written to First Presbyterian Church.

All we need you to do is:

call Anne Montgomery at 704-796-5841 or email Anne at johnandannemontgomery@yahoo.com and let her know how many plates and desserts you need, and if it will be pickup or delivery (include address and any special instructions).



In lieu of Easter lilies, memorials and/or honorariums may be given to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in emergency response to the war in Ukraine. If you would like to contribute to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in memory and/or in honor of a loved one, fill out the form below exactly as you wish the memorial or honorarium

to read. Please place in the offering plate or leave in the church office no later than **Sunday, April 10**. Checks should be payable to "First Presbyterian Church" and designated "Presbyterian Disaster Assistance-Ukraine." All memorials/honorariums received by April 10 will be listed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, April 17.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance-Ukraine

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

In memory of: _____

Given by: _____



!!! Hurray For Breakfast Bunch for K-5th Graders !!!

Who can come? K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th graders

What? Gathering as friends to enjoy breakfast

When? *** Today at 9:00 a.m. ***Note change of date!

Where? Stage in the gym – We can spread out for eating.

Why? To pray together & build strong community of faith

Please let Gina Martin (gmartin@fpcalbemarle.org) or Katherine Jolly (kat6420@gmail.com) know if you are able to join us. *Muffins, yogurt, fruit and juice provided.



Faith Explorers' Lazy 5 Ranch Outing Today from Noon-4:00 p.m.

Faith Explorers...Please join us on Sunday, March 20 for an outdoor animal adventure at the Lazy 5 Ranch in Mooresville. We will eat some lunch at church before heading to the ranch. Pick-up will be at 4:00 p.m. at the church. RSVP to Kate Gibson 336-301-4564 or Katherine.e.gibson@gmail.com to let her know that your Faith Explorer will attend.



The Talent Company presents...Annie

March 25, 26, 31 & April 1, 2 at 7:00 p.m. AND March 27 & April 3 at 3:00 p.m.

Albemarle Neighborhood Theater (219 East North Street, Albemarle)

Adult Ticket (14 and up) \$10 Youth Ticket (13 and under) \$5

www.TheTalentCompany.org

March Book Conversation on Monday, March 28 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor... The March book is *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge. We will meet in the parlor at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 28. *West with Giraffes* explores what it means to be changed by the grace of animals, the kindness of strangers, the passing of time, and a story told before it's too late.



Community Lent Services

Wednesdays, March 23, 30 & April 6 at Noon

Central United Methodist Church (172 North 2nd Street, Albemarle)

March 23: Rev. Ben Floyd, Pastor at Main Street United Methodist Church

March 30: Rev. Cathy S. George, Transitional Pastor at First Presbyterian Church

April 6: Rev. Jill Rhinehart, Pastor at Central United Methodist Church

Lunch provided. Donations accepted with proceeds to benefit a community organization.



For Sale in the Pit Stop Freezer:

\$5.00 pint Homemade Salsa

\$8.00 quart Homemade Salsa

\$5.00 Marinara

Please leave money in the freezer.



Central School Backpack Food Program Donations Needed
 Breakfast Bars, Peanut Butter Crackers, Individual Packs of Goldfish,
 Large Cans of Soup, Saltine Crackers
Donations may be dropped off in the Pit Stop at the church.

UPDATED SCCM PANTRY NEEDS AS OF MARCH 16

Food Items Needed

<p>Sliced Carrots</p> <p>Mixed Vegetables</p> <p>Black Eye Peas</p> <p>Lima Beans</p> <p>Great Northern Beans</p> <p>Navy Beans</p> <p>Canned Potatoes</p>	<p>Beef Stew</p> <p>Hamburger Helper</p> <p>Diced Tomatoes</p> <p>Pancake Mix & Syrup</p> <p>Mayonnaise</p> <p>Mustard</p> <p>Ketchup</p>
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From the Scholarship Committee...Scholarship applications will be available Tuesday, March 1 on the church website (www.fpcalbemarle.org) and in the church office. **The deadline to return completed applications is Tuesday, April 5.** If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask a scholarship committee member. Committee members for 2022 are: Catherine Moeller, Chair, Shannon Bullard, Wes Eudy, Kim Marshall, and Lee McLaurin.

Your on-going support of First Presbyterian Church is essential to the mission and ministry of the church and to the well-being of our ministry partners, locally and globally. Thank you for your generosity.

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.

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 20 *3rd Sunday in Lent/Mister Rogers Day/
Neighboring Sunday/Youth Club Handbell Ensemble rings in worship/
Youth Club Trusty Travelers & Faith Explorers sing in worship*

- 8:30 am Session Meeting
- 9:00 am Breakfast Bunch for K-5th Graders (Gym)
- 9:45 am *Intergenerational Sunday School – Mister Rogers Day
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 12:00 pm-4:00 pm Faith Explorer's Lazy 5 Ranch Outing
- 3:00 pm Hiking Group (Morrow Mountain State Park)
- 5:00 pm Camera Operator Training (Sanctuary)
- 6:00 pm-8:00 pm SNL Youth

Monday, March 21

- 10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 10:00 am Gratitude Group (Pit Stop)
- 2:00 pm RSVP Deadline Lenten Drive Thru Meal
- 4:00 pm Walking Group (Rock Creek Park)
- 8:30 pm-9:30 pm High School Faith Conversations

Tuesday, March 22

- 6:00 pm Dinner Out Group (Pizzantica)

Wednesday, March 23

- 6:45 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 12:00 pm Community Lent Service at Central UMC
(172 North 2nd St.)
- 3:30 pm-5:30 pm Youth Club (K-5th Graders)
- 4:00 pm-4:45 pm Confirmation Class
- 5:00 pm-6:00 pm Lenten Drive-Thru Meal
- 5:00 pm-7:00 pm Lent Fest (Church Lower Parking Lot)
- 5:30 pm-6:00 pm Youth Club Handbells with Frank Poolos
- 6:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, March 24

- 2:00 pm Tea & Conversation Group (Church Parlor)
- 4:00 pm-5:00 pm Zoom Bible Study with Catherine & Matt Moeller

Sunday, March 27

4th Sunday of Lent

- 9:30 am Faith, Fellowship, & Food at Glorybeans Coffee House
(134 West Main Street, Albemarle)
- 9:45 am-10:30 am The Wired Word Sunday School Class (Zoom)
- 9:45 am *Sunday School
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 3:00 pm Hiking Group (Morrow Mountain State Park)
- 6:00 pm-8:00 pm SNL Youth

***childcare provided**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! MARCH

- 20-Bo Andrew
Lee McLaurin
- 22-Jane Hartsell
Maggie Melone
- 24-Sam Holshouser
- 27-Lachlann Currie

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY! MARCH

- 24-Nathan & Marlene Sanges

Elders

- Al Andrew
- John Earnhardt
- Bill Jolly
- Mary Kesselman
- Mike King
- Ken Knight
- Kim Marshall
- Andy McLeod
- Catherine Moeller
- Sandy Rogers
- Ellen Snyder
- Chris Whitley
- Ellen Whitley

Deacons

- Emily Andrew
- Keith Bryson
- Shannon Bullard
- Michelle Cumming
- Wes Eudy
- Martha Sue Hall
- Lillie Hancock
- Jim Hesley
- Liz Jolly
- Myron Lowder
- Laura McLeod
- Lee Snuggs