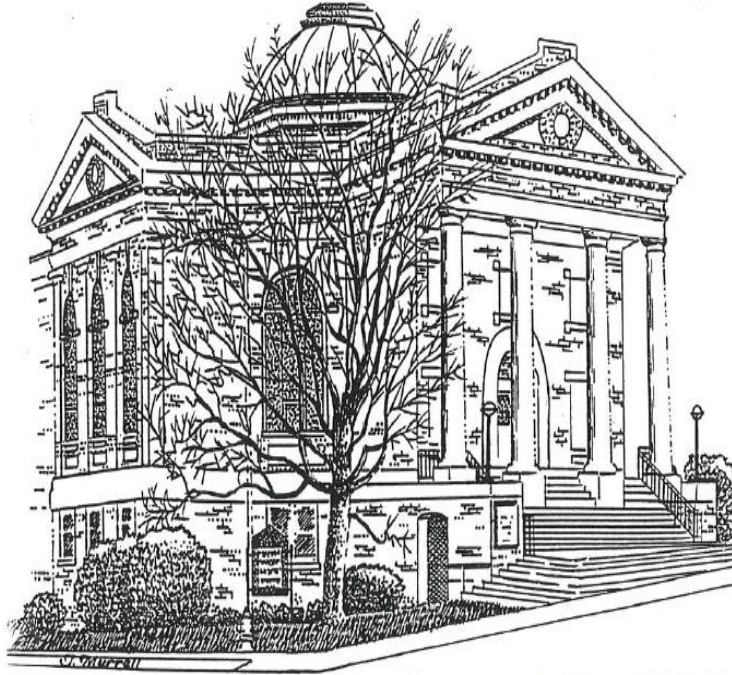


*First Presbyterian Church
Albemarle, North Carolina*



As we enter the Lenten Season this week, we should hold fast to the vision that we've been given. With the disciples, we need to hold firmly on to memories of holy encounter in difficult days when we doubt the very presence of God in our lives. The road ahead leads to Jerusalem, where there will be denial, betrayal, and death. There will be the kind of anxious fear that always seems to follow our descent from the mountaintop. All this awaits Jesus and his disciples, and us.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

February 19, 2023

Transfiguration of the Lord

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Be Thou My Vision”

Arr. Carol Tornquist

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Seth Richards, acolyte

CALL TO WORSHIP

2 Peter

Liz Jolly, liturgist

Prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you.

As he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct.

For it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

Trust in God who raised him and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, in the transfiguration of your Son, you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah; and in the voice from the cloud, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us, with Christ, heirs of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*HYMN 81

"Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken"

AUSTRIAN HYMN

*Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God.
God, whose word can not be broken, formed thee for a blest abode;
On the rock of ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.*

*Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear
For a glory and a covering, showing that the Lord is near.
Thus deriving from their banner light by night and shade by day;
Safe they feed upon the manna which God gives them when they pray.*

*See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters and all fear of want remove:
Who can faint when such a river ever flows, their thirst assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord the giver, never fails from age to age.*

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of compassion, in Jesus Christ, you reveal the light of your glory, but we turn away, distracted by our own plans. We confess that we speak when we should listen, and act when we should wait. Forgive our aimless enthusiasms. Grant us wisdom to live in your light and to follow in the way of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

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

Penny Morton

ANTHEM

“If Ye Love Me”

Philip Wilby

*If Ye Love Me, keep my commandments,
And I will pray the Father and He shall give you another comforter.
That he may abide with you forever, even the spirit of truth.
And ye know Him, for He dwelleth with you and shall be in you.
I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of shining splendor, your voice makes the earth tremble in wonder. Overshadow us with your Spirit so that we may hear your Word and live as faithful disciples and covenant people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Matthew 17:1-9](#)

SERMON

“The One About the Transfiguration”

Rev. George

*HYMN 193

“Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain”

UNSER HERRSCHER

*Jesus, take us to the mountain, where, with Peter, James and John,
We are dazzled by your glory, light as blinding as the sun.
There prepare us for the night by the vision of that sight.*

*What do you want us to see there, that your close companions saw?
Your divinity revealed there fills us with the self-same awe.
Clothed in flesh like ours you go, matched to meet our deadliest foe.*

*What do you want us to hear there, that Your dear disciples heard?
Once again the voice from heaven says of the Incarnate Word:
"Listen, listen ev'ryone; this is My beloved Son!"*

*Take us to that other mountain where we see you glorified.
Where You shouted, "It is finished!" Where for all the world You died.
Hear the stunned centurion: "Truly this was God's own Son!"*

*We who have beheld Your glory, risen and ascended Lord,
Cannot help but tell the story, all that we have seen and heard,
Say with Peter, James, and John: "You are God's beloved Son!"*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Sentences of Scripture

Ephesians 4

Hear these words from scripture: There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, **one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.**

*Profession of Faith

The *Apostles' Creed*

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Welcome and Response

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds” (stanza 1)
*Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.*

DENIS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

EUCCHARIST

RECEIVING OF THE OFFERING

Offertory

“Spirit of God, Descending Upon My Heart”

Arr. Mark Hayes

*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

God of mountaintops and valleys, be our vision of you clouded or brilliantly clear, we faithfully add our gifts to those given all around us. Bless these offerings, that they may be transfigured into your presence in the world. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.** It is truly right...into the way of righteousness and peace: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.** You are holy...Great is the mystery of faith: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.** Gracious God...Now hear us as we are bold to pray together the prayer taught to us by our Lord, saying, **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.**

SENDING

*HYMN 191

“We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding”

HYFRYDOL

*We have come at Christ's own bidding to this high and holy place,
Where we wait with hope and longing for some token of God's grace.
Here we pray for new assurance that our faith is not in vain,
Searching like those first disciples for a sign both clear and plain.*

*Light breaks through our clouds and shadows; splendor bathes the flesh-joined Word,
Moses and Elijah marvel as the heavenly voice is heard.
Eyes and hearts behold with wonder how the law and prophets meet:*

Christ, with garments drenched in brightness, stands transfigured and complete.

*Strengthened by this glimpse of glory, fearful lest our faith decline,
We like Peter find it tempting to remain and build a shrine.
But true worship gives us courage to proclaim what we profess,
That our daily lives may prove us people of the God we bless.*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

“The Lord Bless You and Keep You”

Peter C. Lutkin

*POSTLUDE

“Lead On, O King Eternal”

Lancashire

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

Bold print indicates places where congregation reads or sings.

PERMISSIONS: *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*, Text: John Newton (1725-1807), 1775. Hymn tune: *Austrian Hymn*. Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809), 1791. *Be Thou My Vision*, Text: Mary Bryne 1905 and Elenor Hull 1912. Hymn tune: *Slane* Traditional Irish. Mark Hamilton Dewey (1980). Public domain. *We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding*, Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944), © 1988, *Hope Publishing Company*. Hymn tune: *Brewer*; David Ashley White(b. 1944), © 1991, *Selah Publishing Co., Inc.* All rights reserved. Used with permission under One License A-709512. Public domain. *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. *Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain*, Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda (1919-2008), © 1991, *Concordia Publishing House*. All rights reserved. Used with permission under One License A-709512. Hymn tune: *Unser Herrscher*, Joachim Neander (1650-1680), 1680. Harm. *The Chorale Book for England*, 1863. Public domain. *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*, Text: Thomas Ken (1637-1711), 1674. Hymn tune: *Old Hundredth*, Genevan Psalter, 1551. Public domain. *Blest Be the Tie that Binds*, Text: John Fawcett (1740-1817), 1782. Hymn tune: *Dennis*. Johann Georg Nägeli (1773-1836), 1828, arr. Lowell Mason, 1845. Public domain. *Lead On, O King Eternal*, Text: Ernest Warburton Shurtleff (1862-1917), 1888. Hymn tune: *Lancashire*, Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879), c. 1835. Public domain. *If Ye Love Me*, Text: John 14:15-18. Philip Wilby (b. 1949) © 1992, *Banks Music Publications*. *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*, Text: Numbers 6:24, Music: Peter C. Lutkin (1858-1931). Public domain.

Thank you to Michelle Efird, Frank Poolos, Penny Morton, and Liz Jolly for their leadership in worship today.

The acolyte today is Seth Richards.

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

Outside Ushers for February 19: John Howell, Wes Eudy

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, 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.

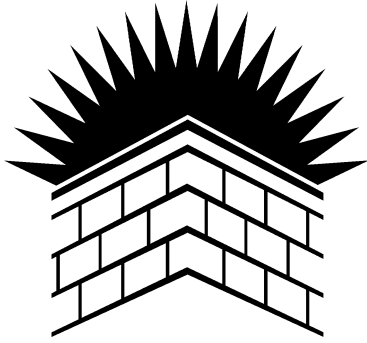
We welcome active membership today to Mike and Claudine Burleson.



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.





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.



First Presbyterian Church Scholarship Applications will be available in the church office beginning February 23. Applications are also available from each area High School (see the guidance counselor). Graystone Day School and Stanly Community College also have applications available.

 The Church Office will be closed on Monday, February 20 in observance of President's Day

We will celebrate the Transfiguration of the Lord with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper today.

**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.

Lillie Ann

First Presbyterian Church

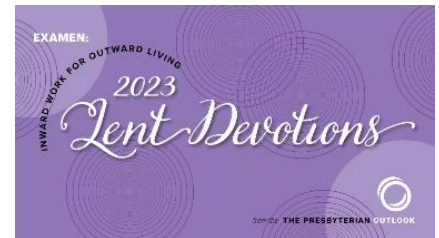


**Lunch Outing to Lillie Ann Home Cooking
Thursday, February 23 at 11:30 am**

Let's get together for lunch – Dutch Treat! We will meet at Lillie Ann Home Cooking (formerly Lucky Tusk & FPC) Hwy 52 N at 11:30 am on Thursday, February 23. Let us know if you can join us! Jane Snyder 704-438-3358

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.



PNC UPDATE

We are pleased to report that our Ministry Information Form (MIF) has been completed by the PNC, approved by Session, and approved by the Charlotte Presbytery Committee on Ministry and PCUSA. Our MIF is now listed on the PCUSA Church Leadership Connection website where Presbyterian Pastors search for open positions. A copy of our MIF is available for you to view in the church office. We have received detailed information sheets called Personal Information Forms (PIFs) on a number of candidates who may, on paper, be a match for our open position. Your PNC committee members are now going through an in-depth review of each candidate's background, experience, and interests to determine if there might be a good fit for us. If there is, we will research them further via the internet and then potentially move onto the interviewing process. If we do not see a good fit, we will continue to search for a good match.

If anyone in our congregation is aware of a Presbyterian Pastor that you feel may be a good candidate for us, please provide their contact information to PNC Chair Rich Schaefer (richard.schaefer@gmail.com) and he will confidentially reach out to them. We ask you to continue to keep the work of the PNC in your prayers.

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

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

Monday, February 20

President's Day/Church office closed

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

Tuesday, February 21

- 6:00 pm Shrove Tuesday in gym

Wednesday, February 22

Ash Wednesday

- 6:45 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm Youth Club
- 6:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (following service)

Thursday, February 23

- 11:30 am Lunch Outing at Lillie Ann Home Cooking
- 4:00 pm Zoom Bible Study with Catherine & Matt Moeller

Sunday, February 26

1st Sunday in Lent

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

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
February**

- 20- Ashley Deese
Peter Henkenjohann
- 21- Nora Carpenter
Spencer McIntyre
- 22- Will Lentz
Myron Lowder
- 25- Robbie Stevenson
Ann Upchurch

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.