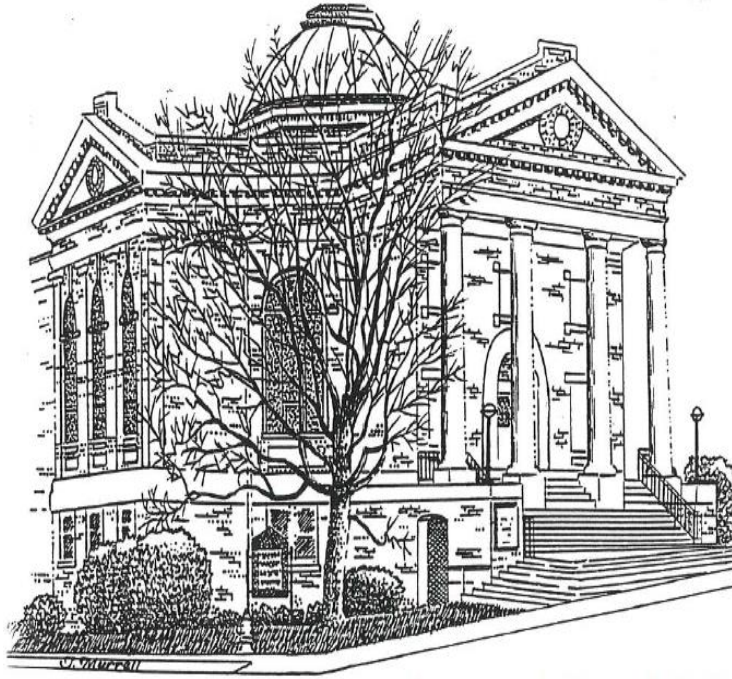


First Presbyterian Church Albemarle, North Carolina



The sovereign God who told Abram “to go” is the same God Who tells us to move on into new experiences of faith and service and generosity. He’s the same God Who through His Son provided the means for our salvation; the same God Who loves us so thoroughly as to entrust us with being His voice and arms and feet to a culture confused and falling apart.

*March 5, 2023
2nd Sunday in Lent*

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please sign the guest register and pass it on

PRELUDE

“Solemn Meditation”

Alexandre Guilmant

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Carter Gibson, acolyte

From where will our help come?

Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Who is our keeper?

The Lord is our keeper, by day and by night.

How long will God protect us?

God will keep our going out and our coming in from this time on and forevermore.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

God our helper, our shade, our protector, you are able to give life to the dead, to call into being things that do not exist. We trust in your power to make all things new; to keep us in sunlight and moonlight, along rocky paths and pathways unknown; until all our going and coming brings us at last to your kingdom promised in Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

*HYMN 51

“To Abraham and Sarah”

LLANFYLLIN

10 Cents-A-Meal Offerings may be brought forward.

To Abraham and Sarah the call of God was clear: 'Go forth and I will show you a country rich and fair. You need not fear the journey for I have pledged my word: that you shall be my people and I will be your God.'

From Abraham and Sarah arose a pilgrim race, dependent for their journey on God's abundant grace. And in their heart was written by God this saving word: that you shall be my people and I will be your God.'

We of this generation on whom God's hand is laid, can journey to the future secure and unafraid, Rejoicing in God's goodness and trusting in this word: that you shall be my people and I will be your God.'

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we come before you in need of forgiveness and grace. You call us to trust in you completely, but we do not. We are timid and fearful as we follow your lead. We justify our actions and words, though we know they're not what you require. We struggle to understand the new life Christ offers, preferring old habits to risky change. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to be born again into the life of Christ, trusting that you have included us by grace in the family of faith. In Christ's name we pray.

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, or Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.*

THE WORD

ANTHEM

“Dear Lord and Father of Mankind”

C. Hubert H. Parry

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of signs and wonders, we come to your word again and again, seeking understanding and the new life it offers. By the power of your Holy Spirit, illumine our hearts and minds so that we may believe this testimony and have eternal life. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Genesis 12:1-9](#)

pew Bible, page 9

SERMON

“Moving On”

Rev. George

*HYMN 45

“I to the Hills Will Lift My Eyes”

DUNDEE

*I to the hills will lift my eyes; from whence shall come my aid?
My help is from the Lord alone, who heav'n and earth has made.*

*God will not let your foot be moved, your guardian never sleeps.
God's watchful and unslumb'ring care protects and safely keeps.*

*Your faithful keeper is the Lord, your shelter and your shade.
'Neath sun or moon, by day or night, you shall not be afraid.*

*From evil God will keep you safe, provide for all you need.
Your going out, your coming in, God will forever lead.*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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

In life and in death we belong to God. 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. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. 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.

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

“Be Thou My Vision”

Noel Rawsthorne

*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

Gracious God, we dedicate to you not only these gifts, but also ourselves, in deep gratitude – for your call on our lives, your guidance in the baptismal journey, and for blessing us that we may be a blessing to others. Accept what we bring for your good purposes. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

SENDING

*HYMN 722

“Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak”

CANONBURY

*Lord, speak to me that I may speak in living echoes of your tone.
As you have sought, so let me seek your erring children, lost and lone.*

*Oh, lead me, Lord, that I may lead the wand'ring and the wav'ring feet.
Oh, feed me, Lord, that I may feed your hungry ones with manna sweet.*

*Oh, teach me, Lord, that I may teach the precious truths which you impart.
And wing my words that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart.*

*Oh, fill me with your fullness, Lord, until my very heart o'erflow
In kindling thought and glowing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.*

*Oh, use me, Lord, use even me, just as you will, and when, and where
Until your blessed face I see, your rest, your joy, your glory share.*

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

“The Lord Bless You and Keep You”

Peter C. Lutkin

*POSTLUDE

“Rigaudon”

Andre Campra

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

Bold print indicates places where congregation reads or sings.

PERMISSIONS: *Solemn Meditation*, Music: Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911). Public domain. *O Worship the King, All Glorious Above*, Text: Robert Grant (1779-1838), 1833. Hymn tune: *Lyons*, Joseph Martin Kraus (1756-1792), 1784. Public domain. *To Abraham and Sarah I will Be Your God*, Text: Judith A. Fetter (b. 1944), 1984. Hymn tune: *Welsh melody*. Public domain. Text © 1984, All rights reserved. Used with permission under One License A-709512. *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*, Text: Sir Charles Hubert H. Parry (1848-1918), Hymn Tune: *Repton*, Hubert H. Parry (1848-1918) arr. by Sue Mitchell Wallace (b.1944) Theodore Presser Co. Public domain. *I to the Hills Will Lift My Eyes*, Text: paraphrase of Psalm 121, *The New Metrical Version of the Psalms*, 1909. Hymn tune: *Dundee*. Scottish Psalter, 1615. Public domain. *Be Thou My Vision*, Hymn tune: *Slane*, Irish folk tune, Public domain. Arranged for organ by Noel Rawsthorne (1929-2019) © 1992 Kevin Mayhew, Ltd.. All rights reserved. Used with permission under One License A-709512. *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. *Lord, Speak to Me that I May Speak*, Text: Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879), 1872. Hymn tune: *Canonbury*. Robert Schumann (1810-1856), 1839. Public domain. *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*, Text: Numbers 6:24, Music: Peter C. Lutkin (1858-1931). Public domain. *Rigaudon* from “*Idoménée*”, André Campra (1660-1744), 1712. Public domain.

Thank you to Lee Northcutt, Frank Poolos, Michelle Cumming, and Lori Ivey for their leadership in worship today.

The acolyte today is Madelyn Taylor.

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

Outside Ushers for March 5: Chris Whitley, Ronnie Michael

Elder Greeters: Al Andrew, Kim Marshall

Streaming Coordinator: Evan Sanges **Film:** James Cotton **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. Sympathy to Cathy King and family upon the loss of her sister Irene Adair Kleiss. See newsletter for complete list.



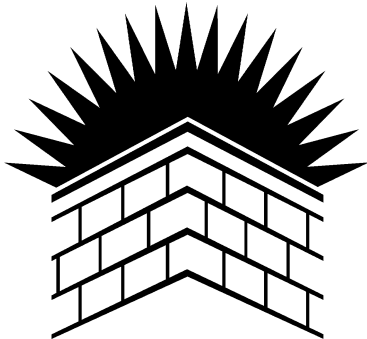
The Session is calling for a meeting of the congregation following worship today March 5 for the purpose of electing Members-at-Large to the Nominating Committee. Members -at-Large to be presented will be Ken Knight, Emily Andrew, Gayle Russell and Kim Andrew.

Nominations will be accepted from the floor. Please check with the

person you wish to nominate to make sure she or he will serve if elected.



We will receive the Ten-Cents-A-Meal offering for hunger today, March 5. This monthly offering is used by the Presbytery of Charlotte to fund hunger programs and agencies (including SCCM) throughout the presbytery.



The Christian Education Corner

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.

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!



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.



Circle members will meet in the Pit Stop on March 8 at 1:00 pm. We will study Lesson 5 in "Celebrating Sabbath".



Remember to *spring forward* one hour in the early morning hours of March 12 (or before you go to bed on March 11).

Check out the Lenten Groups in the Pit Stop and sign up!!





**Lenten Meal- Wednesday, March 8
6:00 pm Dine in Gym**

**Please RSVP by 2:00 pm on Monday March 6.
Menu: ACP (Arroz Con Pollo- Chicken & Rice)
Black Beans and Dessert.**

We will have Lenten Meals each Wednesday in March.

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.

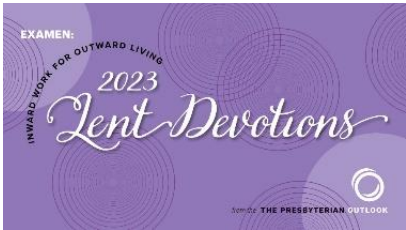
REFLECTIVE ADVANCE
Lenten Lunches
 Wednesdays in Lent
 Starts March 1
 First Baptist Church
 Service at Noon
 Lunch at 12:30 pm

Community Lent Services
Wednesdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 at Noon
First Baptist Church
(202 North 2nd 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 several 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 \$15.00** 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 5

2nd Sunday in Lent /Ten Cents a Meal Offering

- 9:00 am Adult Handbells
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 12:00 pm Congregational meeting following worship
- 3:00 pm Hiking Group (Morrow Mt State Park)
- 6:00 pm SNL

Monday, March 6

- 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 8

- 6:45 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 12:00 pm Community Lenten Service & Lunch- First Baptist Church
- 1:00 pm Circle Five in Pit Stop
- 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 9

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

Sunday, March 12

3rd Sunday in Lent /Daylight Saving Time Begins

- 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)
- 6:00 pm SNL

***childcare provided**

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

March

- 05- Becky Andrew
- 06- Keith Andrew
Robert Ivey
- 07- Chris Mabry
- 09- Cidney Eudy
David Whitley
- 10- Russ Carpenter
- 11- Jim Carter
Nancy Jolly

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 10- David & Carroll Holbrook

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

YOUTH FUNDARIASER

In service today, March 5, you will receive an M&M Minis container. We ask that you enjoy the special treats inside. As you do, we ask that you remember a few things:

1. Youth come in all varieties like the various colors of candy coatings on the M&Ms.
2. Youth are a smaller version of adults, but the recipe of what is inside is still the same! They are being molded into the amazing creative adults God planned them to be.
3. There are containers youth are placed into in their worlds: school, home, church, jobs, sports. All of these provide safety and security, but sometimes can be a bit stifling and unsteady.
4. Labels-oh, the labels that youth deal with! Labels are everywhere and pervade their ability to be themselves.

With these four things in mind, we ask that you pray for our youth as you enjoy sweet treats. Then, if you feel so led, place a donation in the container and return it to the offering plate during worship any Sunday during the month of March. These monies will help send 20 of our youth to Montreat Youth Conferences where all they learn and grow through these four components of their lives-and much more!

If you choose to fill your container with quarters, this will be a \$20 donation. You can also prayerfully place cash or check into the container.

We are so grateful for all that you pour into the lives of our children and youth. Without you, their lives would be so much more drab!



40 days 40 food items



Help Stock our Pantries for summer, 40 days of Donations for Lent.

In observance of the Lent season, many people choose to give up something they enjoy as they enter a period of reflection. Perhaps during this time of reflection or in addition to your sacrifice, you might consider taking on something new. Please consider contributing shelf stable food to our local food pantry. You can collect an item for each day of Lent- 40 days yields 40 much-needed items to help stock our pantry for the summer.

Thank you for your consideration.

1. Mayonaise
2. Boxed Potatoes
3. Hamburger Helper
4. Skillet Meals
5. Sugar (2 lb Bags)
6. Canned Pineapple
7. Cake Mix
8. Cereal (low sugar)
9. Nutritional Shakes
10. Nutritional Meal Bars
11. Oatmeal
12. Grits
13. Chia Seeds
14. Canned Spam
15. Canned Tuna
16. Canned Chicken
17. Nuts
18. Flax Seeds
19. Brownie Mix
20. Pancake Mix
21. Flour (2lb Bags)
22. Syrup
23. Grape Jelly
24. Strawberry Jelly
25. Canned meals
26. Pork and Beans
27. Low Sugar Sauces
28. Mustard
29. Ketchup
30. Can Pasta meals
31. Rice Side dishes
32. Gravy
33. Cookie Mix
34. Deodorant
35. Paper Towels
36. Toothbrushes
37. Laundry soap
38. Shampoo
39. Dish soap
40. All purpose Cleaner