



The Weekly Bulletin
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Albemarle, North Carolina

Elizabeth McNair Ayscue, Co-Pastor
Church Offices: (704) 982-2722

Matt Drumheller, Co-Pastor
Website: www.fpcalbemarle.org

March 1, 2020

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

MORNING MEDITATION

Going through Lent is a listening. When we listen to the word, we hear where we are so blatantly unliving. If we listen to the word, and hallow it into our lives, we hear how we can so abundantly live again.

From
Kneeling in Jerusalem
by Ann Weems.

PEALING OF THE BELLS

OPENING SENTENCES

Show me your way, O Lord. That I may follow in your truth.

Give me an undivided heart that I may praise your name.

Psalm 86:11

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

GATHERING SONG

Hymn 716 *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* stanza 1

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One thing I ask of the Lord, that will I seek after:

I will dwell in the Lord's house all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and inquire in the Lord's temple.

Wait for the Lord, be strong and let your heart take courage.

Wait for the Lord!

Based on Psalms 22 & 27

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

God our help, you have given your angels charge over us to guard us in all our ways. Make known your presence with us throughout these forty days that we may find even in the wilderness, your springs of living water, your touch that makes us whole. Amen.

***HYMN 166** *Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days* St. Flavian

The Ten-Cents-A-Meal offering for hunger may be brought forward at this time.

***CALL TO CONFESSION** *There Is a Balm in Gilead*

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;

There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

Glory to God hymnal,
page 792

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Silence

Unison

Merciful God, we confess that we have not responded to your generosity. We withhold from others the grace you give us. We take for granted the bodies you created from dust. We destroy and corrupt the world you formed. We neglect our talents and waste the precious gift of time. We store up in silos the treasures you provide. We forsake valuable relationships and distance ourselves from your people. Forgive us, God, when we fall short of your call.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Friends, believe the good news.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS** *Here On Jesus Christ I Will Stand*
(The choir will lead the response, and the congregation will sing on cue.)

**It is not the work of my hands that has washed away all my sins.
I'm redeemed, and all of my days, Jesus Christ will be my heart's praise.**

**Here on Jesus Christ I will stand. He's the solid rock of my life.
He's the solid rock of my life. He's the solid rock of my life.**

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The congregation is encouraged to participate in the prayer with the children.

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN Melissa Eudy
Children will be invited to come forward. At the conclusion of Faith Sharing, parents may take preschool children to the nursery. Children in grades K-2 are encouraged to worship with their parents.

ANTHEM *Fairest Lord Jesus* Derek Hakes
Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nations, O thou of God and man the Son.
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor, Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
and all the twinkling starry host;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer, than all the angels heaven can boast.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations! Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be Thine! Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Merciful God, your Word is our way of truth and life. Create in us hearts that are clean and put your Holy Spirit within us, so that we may receive your grace and declare your praise forever. Amen.

Sermons are posted on the church's website (www.fpcalbemarle.org). You can usually find the previous Sunday's sermon by Wednesday.

GOSPEL READING [Ephesians 2:8-9](#) Pew Bible, page 181

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON *The Gift of God's Grace*
Reverend Ayscue and Reverend Drumheller

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Lord, When I Came into This Life* (sung)
**Lord, when I came into this life you called me by my name;
Today I come, commit myself, responding to your claim.**

Glory to God
hymnal, page 691

The Brief Statement of Faith was written following the reunification of the Presbyterian Church in 1983.

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.

*HYMN 649 *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* Amazing Grace
RESPONDING TO THE WORD

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation

Offertory

Aria

Flor Peeters

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

hymnal, page 60

**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

The Lord's table is open to all those who trust in Jesus Christ and all those who want to trust him more.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Meal

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Communion will be served in the pews. All of the elements are gluten free.

*HYMN 697

Take My Life

Hendon

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Lord, When I Came into This Life

**In all the tensions of my life, between my faith and doubt,
Let your great Spirit give me hope, sustain me, lead me out.**

Glory to God
hymnal, page 691

*All who are able may stand.

We are grateful for your presence 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 acolyte today is Thora Kilde. After extinguishing the Christ candle, the acolyte takes the light of Jesus Christ out into the world.

There is no Children's Church today. Children in grades K-5 are encouraged to remain in worship.

Ushers: John Howell, captain; Rebekah Ayscue, Duncan Bryson, Bill Hall, Jim Hesley, Derreck Huneycutt, and Ken Knight **Outside Ushers:** John Howell; Greg Lisk **Elder Greeters:** Gayle Russell; Rich Schaefer **Nursery:** Kate White **Kids Care Crew:** Becky Andrew; Angie Earnhardt

We ask that you keep these people in your prayers: Lee Snuggs (shoulder replacement), Judy Portner (sister of Billie Jean Snuggs; stage 4 brain tumor), Jane Lisk, Gene Freshly (husband of Jill Freshly; recovering from mild stroke), Debbie Gabriel (sister of Gayle Russell; diagnosed with breast cancer), Frank Green, Carolyn Sharpe, Jean Rabe, Jane Scheer, Don Joines, Jane Pickler. **See newsletter for complete list.**

**First Presbyterian Church presents the
2020 Spring Art Gallery Exhibit
Central Elementary School Students' Art Collection**

Central Elementary School is thrilled to share this year's student art work with First Presbyterian Church. The work is from students in kindergarten through 5th grade. You will see some winter themed work, as well as art that reaches into the realm of math. Marion McClure is the Visual Arts Teacher at Central Elementary School.

**You Are Invited to a Meet & Greet Reception for
Congregation, Central School Staff, Artists, and their families
on Tuesday, March 3 from 3:45 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church Common Area (Basement)**



COMMUNITY
Lenten Services

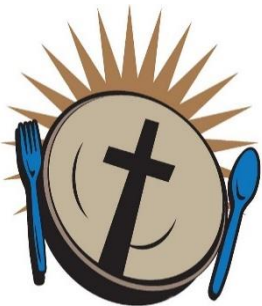
**COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES
AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, ALBEMARLE
(202 NORTH 2ND STREET, ALBEMARLE)
WEDNESDAYS AT NOON**

LUNCH FOLLOWING IN THE GYM...COST: DONATION

The downtown churches will gather as a single worshipping community on Wednesday during Lent. Worship will take place at noon at First Baptist on Wednesdays March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1. Each worship service will focus on a Psalm and lunch will be provided following worship.

Wednesday, March 4 Preacher: Rev. Jacob Waldrip, Associate Pastor of Family Ministries at First Baptist Church, Albemarle

 Liturgist: Rev. Nina Miller, Pastor at Bethany United Methodist Church, Albemarle



**Lenten Dinner & Table Talk
Wednesday, March 4**

**Menu: Chicken Casserole, Green Beans, Salad, Homemade Desserts
Host: Adult Bible Discussion Sunday School Class**



**PrimeTimers' Luncheon
Thursday, March 12**

Topic: Health Heroes of Stanly County (1850-1950)

Presented by:

Dr. Eric Johnsen & Dr. Steve Seltzer

Menu: Pizza, Salad, Fruit, & Dessert

Contact the church office (704-982-2722 or klambert@fpcalbemarle.org) by Monday, March 9.



Prayer Vigil

As part of our Lenten practice this year, the church will host a prayer vigil. Members of First Presbyterian Church will be present in the chapel of the church for 24 hours praying for our community and the world. We will begin at 12:00 p.m. on March 14, and we will conclude with corporate prayer in worship on March 15 at 11:00 a.m. You are welcome to sign up for as much time as you'd like for this prayer vigil and bring friends. A sign-up board can be found in the Pit Stop.

**LENT 2020
RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE**



Sunday, March 8 at 2:00 p.m.

It's a congregational gathering at Rock Creek Park for all ages.

Wear your play clothes and meet at the shelter. We'll enjoy the walking trail, a scavenger hunt for all ages, a cornhole tournament, and other lawn games. Bring a lawn chair and outdoor games to share.

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 1

First Sunday of Lent

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Ten-Cents-A-Meal Offering for Hunger

9:00 am Breakfast Bunch (2nd & 3rd Graders in Media Room)

9:45 am *Sunday School

11:00 am *Worship

12:00 pm Mission Committee

5:00 pm-7:30 pm Youth Group

Monday, March 2

7:00 pm Circle #5 meets at the home of Ann Duckwall
(609 North 6th Street, Albemarle)

8:00 pm Bible Study with Matt

8:30 pm High School Bible Study at Elizabeth's
(1611 Bellamy Circle, Albemarle)

Tuesday, March 3

3:45pm-5:30 pm Central School Art Gallery Reception
(Common Area – Basement)

Wednesday, March 4

6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast

12:00 pm Community Lent Worship at First Baptist Church
(202 North 2nd Street, Albemarle)

12:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (Parlor)

4:00 pm-6:00 pm Youth Club

6:00 pm Lent Dinner & Table Talk

7:00 pm Youth Group Guest Speaker

7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 5

10:30 am Staff Meeting

12:00 pm Young Adult Lunch at Ly Cuisine
(807A North 2nd Street, Albemarle)

Saturday, March 7

8:30 am Faith Explorers meet at the church for trip to Greek Orthodox Monastery in Troy, NC

1:00 pm-5:00 pm Low-Key Youth Day

Sunday, March 8

Second Sunday of Lent

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Daylight Saving Time

8:45 am Diaconate

9:45 am *Sunday School

11:00 am *Worship

2:00 pm Lent Opportunity: Congregational Gathering at Rock Creek Park

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! MARCH

02-Al Andrew

Jordan Davis

Luke Davis

Natalie Niederer

Ellen Snyder

05-Becky Andrew

06-Keith Andrew

Robert Ivey

07-Chris Mabry

SCCM CHALLENGE FOR MARCH

Boxed Pasta Meals (Hamburger Helper),
Instant Potatoes, Stuffing Mix

***childcare provided**