



The Weekly Bulletin
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Albemarle, North Carolina

Church Offices: (704) 982-2722

Website: www.fpcalbemarle.org

September 5, 2021

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

PRELUDE *Partita for Oboe and Organ* Georg Philipp Telemann

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE Jordan Hesley

PEALING OF THE CHIMES

OPENING SENTENCES Elizabeth Bryson, liturgist

Leader: Like every day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it...all day.

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH Elizabeth Bryson

*CALL TO WORSHIP Elizabeth Bryson, liturgist

Leader: We come, so God might open our eyes,

People: That we may discover the wonders surrounding us.

Leader: We gather, so Christ might widen our hearts;

People: That we may sing the melodies of hope.

Leader: We are here, so the Spirit might teach us the ways of humility;

People: That we may walk that road called Faithfulness.

Leader: Let us worship God as the people of God.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Elizabeth Bryson, liturgist

Eternal God, we wait quietly before you, taking in your majesty in the midst of familiar words and faces. In this hour, focus us on the Risen Christ, who calls us to worship in Spirit and in truth, with patience and with hope, praying our our Lord taught us...

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 410 *God Is Calling through the Whisper* W Żłobie Leży

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

God is calling through the whisper of the Spirit's deepest sighs,
Through the thrill of sudden beauties that can catch us by surprise.
Flash of lightning, crash of thunder; hush of stillness, rush of wonder:
God is calling – can you hear? God is calling – can you hear?

God is calling through the voices of our neighbors' urgent prayers,
Through their longing for redemption and for rescue from despair.
Place of hurt or face of needing; strident cry or silent pleading:
God is calling – can you hear? God is calling – can you hear?

God is calling through the music of sublime and human arts,
Through the hymns of earth and angels, and the carols of our hearts.
Lift of joy and gift of singing; days and nights our praises bringing:
God is calling – and we hear! God is calling – and we hear!

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Elizabeth Bryson, liturgist

God who knows us better than we know ourselves, we yearn for your presence in our lives, yet turn away from you time and again. We want to serve others, but become obsessed with our own desires. We need your Word to fill our emptiness, yet let it be silenced by the noise of our world. Our hearts are clogged with foolishness of our lives, and often struggle to beat in the rhythm of steady faithfulness. In this silence, and in the depths of our hidden souls, come to us and make us whole.

Silence for Personal Confession

Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Elizabeth Bryson, liturgist

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*RESPONSE TO ASSURANCE

Glory to God

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me
**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.**

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Reverend Steve Mitchell

Children will be invited to come forward. At the conclusion of Faith Sharing with Children, parents may take preschool children to the nursery.

SOLO

Partita for Oboe and Organ

Georg Philipp Telemann

Frank Poolos, Oboe

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Reverend Steve Mitchell

God who is full of grace, as your Spirit spoke to those who first wrote these words, speak to us again in these moments, that we may receive what you have revealed, and do what you have commanded. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

[James 2:1-10](#)

Reverend Steve Mitchell

GOSPEL READING

[Mark 7:24-30](#)

Reverend Steve Mitchell

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Reverend Steve Mitchell

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Reverend Steve Mitchell

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. 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.

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

From
*A Brief
Statement of
Faith*

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
It satisfies my longings as nothing else could do.

Refrain

***I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.***

I love to tell the story; 'tis pleasant to repeat
What seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
The message of salvation from God's own holy Word. (Refrain)

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'Twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. (Refrain)

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Elizabeth Bryson, liturgist

PASTORAL PRAYER

Reverend Steve Mitchell

*HYMN 756

O God of Every Nation

Llangloffan

O God of every nation, of every race and land,
Redeem the whole creation with your almighty hand.
Where hate and fear divide us and bitter threats are hurled,
In love and mercy guide us and heal our strife-torn world.
From search for wealth and power and scorn of truth and right,
From trust in bombs that shower destruction through the night,
From pride of race and station and blindness to your way,
Deliver every nation, eternal God, we pray.
Lord, strengthen those who labor that all may find release
From fear of rattling saber, from dread of war's increase;
When hope and courage falter, your still small voice be heard;
With faith that none can alter, your servants undergird.
Keep bright in us the vision of days when war shall cease,
When hatred and division give way to love and peace,
Till dawns the morning glorious when truth and justice reign
And Christ shall rule victorious o'er all the world's domain.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Reverend Steve Mitchell

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Ralph Vaughan Williams

God Be With You Till We Meet Again

God be with you till we meet again, by his counsels guide, uphold you,
With his sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again.

POSTLUDE

Rigaudon from 'Idomènee

Andre Campra

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Thank you to Wiley Crutchfield and Katherine Jolly for helping with audio and visual worship production this morning. Thank you Elizabeth Bryson, Frank Poolos, and Stan Scheer for their leadership in worship today.

The acolyte today is Jordan Hesley.

We welcome Rev. Steve Mitchell to the pulpit this morning.

We will receive the Ten-Cents-A-Meal offering for hunger today.

Ushers for September: John Howell (captain), Duncan Bryson, Keith Bryson, and Jim Hesley

Outside Ushers for September 5: John Earnhardt; Jack Morton

Nursery: Kate White **Kids Care Crew:** Kate Gibson



Worship resumes at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 5.

We ask that you keep these people in your prayers: Don Abernathy, Betty Lambert (mother of Penny Morton), Jean Rabe (recovering from surgery for broken hip; Trinity Place Room F1), Anita Gower (recovering from eye surgery), Marshall Rogers (recovering from back surgery), Gloria Bryson, Anna Hartsell (colon cancer; daughter of Janet & Gary Hartsell), Ann Snuggs, Nancy Jolly (Trinity Place), Claude Harwood, Jane Scheer, Don Joines, Jane Pickler. See newsletter for complete list.

In an effort to keep the newsletter prayer list updated, please notify the church office (704-982-2722 or pknighten@fpcalbeamarle.org) or Martha Sue Hall (704-985-5821 or hallmsh@hotmail.com) of changes.

Thank you for your assistance in assembling six emergency flood buckets for Haiti.



**Chancel Choir Rehearsals Resume
beginning Wednesday, September 8
at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**



Please join us for a morning of celebration as we kick off our Christian Education year!

Rally Day...Sunday, September 12th from 9:30 a.m.-10:40 a.m.

Location: Side Parking Lot (elevator area) Rain location: Gym

Commissioning of Teachers and Leaders in Christian Education during worship (11:00 a.m.)

Location: Sanctuary

We can't wait to see you!

IMPORTANT COVID INFORMATION- UPDATED

The church COVID Task Force met on Thursday, August 12. After much discussion, for the health and welfare of our members and our community, and with GREAT emphasis placed on keeping our children safe, the committee has set the following guidelines:

BEGINNING SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 2021

- ❖ Masks are required for all individuals, 2 years of age and up, at ALL FPC indoor functions /activities/SS/ Worship, etc.
- ❖ There is NO limit on numbers at this time. Please be thoughtful in your actions.
- ❖ Masks will always be provided at the church for adults and children in case they are needed.
- ❖ After worship, the Supply Minister will stand outside the door at the sanctuary so “crowding” will not take place.
- ❖ Hand sanitizer is available. Please use it.
- ❖ Bulletins will continue to be available.
- ❖ Singing will continue.
- ❖ Communion will be given with prepackaged elements.
- ❖ Acolyte can wear robe.
- ❖ No Elders Greeters.
- ❖ Ushers will continue their duties.
- ❖ All volunteers and paid employees involved in any children’s program(s) are required to be vaccinated.
- ❖ No activity in the Education Building other than Sunday childcare & Wednesday Youth Club.
- ❖ All toys, chairs, tables and bathrooms, (used that day) are to be wiped clean with a Clorox wipe or sprayed and wiped clean.
- ❖ **UPDATE:** Individually packaged snacks/drinks will be provided for Youth Club children on Wednesdays.
- ❖ **UPDATE:** First Family meals will be drive-thru.
- ❖ Church Committees, Community Committees/groups are welcome to use the main building for meetings. However, any child that might accompany a parent to a meeting must stay in the same room with the parent at all times.
- ❖ All surfaces (chairs and tables and bathrooms if used) have to be wiped clean (with spray or wipes) after any committee meets.
- ❖ NO gym use EXCEPT FOR WEDNESDAY YOUTH CLUB.

Your patience and flexibility are appreciated as we continue to deal with the pandemic.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the church office (704-982-2722).

COVID TASK FORCE: Ellen Snyder, Debbie Bennett, Ben Jolly, Bob Johnston



Faith Explorers

**Our 4th & 5th graders are invited to a Pool Party & Pizza
after worship on Sunday, September 12 at the home of Penny & Jack Morton**

Text Taylor Barbee (704-796-8302) by Friday, September 10 to let her know your Faith Explorer will attend. Bring your bathing suit, towel, and sunscreen to church. We'll carpool from church to the Morton's home. Pick-up time: 3:00 p.m. at the Morton's home (40313 Hoops Court, Albemarle)



PrimeTimers' Boxed Lunches

Drive-Thru or Delivery

Thursday, September 16 from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Menu:

**Debbie Wainwright's Chicken Salad, Croissant, Grapes,
Chips, Oatmeal Cookie, Water**

Please RSVP to Laura McLeod by Noon on Monday, September 13.

Call or text: 704-796-0487 Email: mcleod2@windstream.net



Pfeiffer Pfriends... If you are interested in participating in the Pfeiffer Pfriend program (similar to our Silent Partner program), please contact Martha Sue Hall (at hallmsh@hotmail.com or call her at 704-985-5821).

For Your Information...

Pastoral Emergencies

Rev. Ardy Skidmore, minister at Locust Presbyterian Church, will be our contact for pastoral emergencies. Please call Laura McLeod, 704-796-0487 or Martha Sue Hall, 704-985-5821, and they will contact Rev. Skidmore.

Who do I contact now that we don't have a Head of Staff?

Pastoral Care & Pastoral Emergencies:

Laura McLeod, 704-796-0487 or Martha Sue Hall, 704-985-5821

Prayer Concerns for the Bulletin:

704-982-2722, share the information with a church volunteer or Pam Knighten

General Christian Education Questions & Kids Crew:

Kim Marshall, 980-621-6577 or Gayle Russell, 704-438-2779

Sunday School & Youth Club: Gina Martin, 704-982-2722 or 704-244-0186

Youth Group: Melissa Eudy, 704-439-6747

Morning Prayer (Monday and Wednesday): Debbie Hahn, 704-985-9419

Signing up to be a Silent Partner: Emily Andrew, 704-322-5510

As a reminder, Kyle Lambert is now our only full-time staff member. Pam Knighten, Gina Martin, and Jane Snyder continue their work for our church part time. Please be mindful of asks of our staff during this time of transition.



DRIVE-THRU MEAL
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 FROM 5:00 P.M.- 6:00 P.M.
RSVP BY 2:00 P.M. ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
PICK-UP OR DELIVERY OF THE MEAL

We had such great success with our drive-thru meals last year, we have decided to add a drive-thru meal on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. Please contact Jane Snyder (jsnyder@fpcalbemarle.org or 704-438-3358) to let her know if you would like to volunteer in any capacity. This will not work without volunteers! Drive-Thru Meal Pick-up or Delivery is on Wednesday, September 15! Please RSVP by Monday, September 13 at 2:00 p.m., and we will have your meal ready for pick-up or delivery on Wednesday, September 15 between 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. For your safety, the kitchen staff wears masks and gloves while preparing your plates.

Menu:

Spaghetti and Meatballs with Marinara, salad, garlic bread and Skeet Ayscue's Chocolate Chip Cookie

Vegetarian Option: No meatballs, just marinara

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 you need, if you would like the vegetarian option and if it will be a pickup or delivery (include address and any special instructions).

!!! YOUTH CLUB IS BACK !!!



The theme for the year ahead, *Welcome All* loving God and others by practicing what Jesus told his followers to do, will focus on four aspects of Christian hospitality:

Welcome others as God welcomes you.

See Christ in every person: friend, stranger, enemy.

Know your gifts of hospitality and encourage others' gifts.

Challenge othering.

Youth Club 2021-2022 begins Wednesday, September 15 from 3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

Kindergarten-3rd grade (Trusty Travelers) 4th-5th grade (Faith Explorers)

Join us each week for recreation, snack, Bible time, art/activity, mission, & music!

Handbells led by Mr. Frank Poolos will be offered to children in grades 3-5 from 5:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Contact Gina Martin for more information (gmartin@fpcalbemarle.org).

GRANDPARENTS' DAY FLOWERS



On Grandparents' Day, the flowers in the sanctuary will be in honor/memory of grandparents. Each name is \$2.00. Please mail, deliver, or place in the offering plate your money with the form below **NO LATER THAN TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7**. Please make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church and designate for *Grandparents' Day Flowers*. The names of donors and those being honored/remembered will be listed on **Grandparents' Day, September 12**.

GRANDPARENTS' DAY FLOWERS

Please print below the information exactly as it is to appear in the bulletin.

In memory of: _____

Given by: _____

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____



Sunday School is for Everyone from 9:45 a.m.-10:40 a.m. beginning September 19

The children and youth of the church will be using a brand new curriculum published by PCUSA called **Follow Me-Bible Practices for Faithful Living**. *Follow Me* is a curriculum that helps people of all ages follow Jesus. This up-to-date study is for lifelong Christians and those beginning to ask questions. Each unit centers around something Jesus told his followers to do. Jesus took these practices (behaviors, feelings & attitudes) and showed those around him how we can love God and love others. Participants will discover how we can take this practice out into the world and share faith in our community and beyond.

Sunday School groupings are as follows:

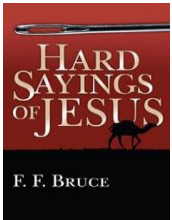
<u>Class</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Teachers</u>
Preschool (3-5 yr olds)	Preschool Room	Becky Andrew; Hannah Domenech; Angie Earnhardt
Grades K-3rd	Children's Church Room	Kim Andrew; Adrienne Averette; Taylor Barbee
Grades 4th-5th	2 nd Floor Classroom	Heather Hatley; Penny Morton; Jill Niebler
Grades 6th-12th	Teen Room	Al Andrew; Emily Andrew

Substitutes:

Carol Sasser (Preschool-5th Grades) Billie Jean & Lee Snuggs; Steve Cumming (6th-12th grades)

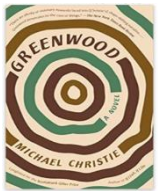
Sunday Morning Adult Faith Formation from 9:45 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Lee McLaurin will serve as Sunday School attendant.



Seeker's Class (Old Session Room-Basement) Led by: Dr. Bill Jolly

Like his original hearers, many people today find Jesus' sayings hard. Some sayings are hard because they are difficult to understand, others because the demands they make on us are only too clear. F. F. Bruce examines seventy of the hard sayings of Jesus to clear away the cultural and historical difficulties which keep us from grappling with the real challenge of Jesus' message. Participants will look at a different hard saying each week and discuss.



Book Study Sunday School Class (Classroom 2-Basement)

Led by: Kim Marshall and Courtney Niederer

Books provided.

A shining, intricate clockwork of a novel, Greenwood is a rain-soaked and sun-dappled story of the bonds and breaking points of money and love, wood, and blood—and the hopeful, impossible task of growing toward the light.

Greenwood Reading Schedule (from the paperback version):

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| September 12 - Rally Day, overview of the book | October 3 - Discuss pages 213 - 314 |
| September 19 - Discuss pages 1 - 102 | October 10 - Discuss pages 315 - 394 |
| September 26 - Discuss pages 103 - 212 | October 17 - Discuss pages 395 - 501 |

The Wired Word Sunday School Class (Church Parlor)

Led by: Various Facilitators



The class meets each week and discusses current events and Bible verses that relate to that event. Every Thursday morning, an email is sent to class members from *The Wired Word* organization (a non-denominational group) that contains three key elements: 1) a two-page summary of a specific current event or news item, 2) a few *key questions* to stimulate your thinking about the article and 3) several Bible verses which relate directly to issues in the news article or the key questions. Because the lesson is different every week, it does not matter if you miss a week or more at a time for whatever the reason. Please come and give it a try!

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, September 5

Ten-Cents-A-Meal Offering for Hunger

11:00 am *Worship

Monday, September 6

Labor Day/Church Office Closed

Tuesday, September 7

Deadline for Grandparent's Day Flower Form

Wednesday, September 8

6:45 am Men's Prayer Breakfast

10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

1:30 pm Circle #5 meets in the Pit Stop

7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, September 9

4:00 pm-5:00 pm Zoom Bible Study with Catherine & Matt Moeller

Sunday, September 12

Rally Day/Commissioning of Teachers & Leaders in Christian Education/Grandparent's Day

8:45 am Diaconate Meeting In-Person & via Zoom

9:30 am-10:40 am Rally Day

11:00 am *Worship

12:00 pm-3:00 pm Faith Explorers (4th & 5th Graders) Sunday Pool Party Outing at the home of Penny & Jack Morton (40313 Hoops Court, Albemarle)

6:30 pm-8:00 pm SNL

***childcare provided**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
SEPTEMBER
05-Emily Jones
06-Laura McLeod
10-Grace Richards
11-Kelly Lentz
Ned Russell

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!
SEPTEMBER
05-Jim & Leslie Carter
09-Myron & Nancy Lowder
10-Rich & Janet Schaefer
12-Mike & Heather Hatley

Attention College Students & Parents...Please contact Emily Andrew (em.andrew21@gmail.com or 704-322-5510) with your college mailing address and email address. Thank you.

SILENT PARTNERS NEEDED
First Presbyterian Church college students will begin the 2021-2022 school year soon. We need people to serve as a Silent Partner to these college students. Contact Emily Andrew (em.andrew21@gmail.com or 704-322-5510) to sign-up to be a Silent Partner.

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.