



The Weekly Bulletin  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Albemarle, North Carolina

Elizabeth McNair Ayscue, Pastor Matt Drumheller, Associate Pastor

Church Offices: (704) 982-2722

Website: [www.fpcalbemarle.org](http://www.fpcalbemarle.org)

December 31, 2017

**GATHERING BEFORE GOD**

PEALING OF THE BELLS

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O praise the Lord of heaven!

**People: Praise Him in the heights!**

Leader: Praise Him in the depths!

**People: Praise Him all you angels!**

Leader: Praise Jehovah.

**People: O praise the Lord of Heaven!**

Leader: Praise Him sun and moon, and praise Him comets.

**People: Fire and hail, snow and frost,**

Leader: Mountains and all hills, wild animals, creeping things, and flying birds!

**People: Men and women, young and old alike,**

**All: Let them praise the name of the Lord!**

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

\*HYMN 141

*On This Day Earth Shall Ring*

Personent hodie

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Silence

Unison

**Merciful God, in great love you have claimed us as your children. We confess that we have not loved you as we might. We have not loved our sisters and brothers as you intend. Forgive us, especially when we fail to protect your children, those most vulnerable in your sight. Help us to praise you by living in harmony and peace. Strengthen us and set us free from fear that we may wholly trust in you. We pray in the name of Jesus who was born into the world as one of us.**

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.

**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

\*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

**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.**

*Psalm 148*

*Isaiah 61:10*

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

### FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Mr. Drumheller

*Children will be invited to come forward. At the conclusion of the children's greeting, parents may take preschool children to the nursery. Children in grades K-2 may go to the chapel for Children's Church.*

*John 1:5, 14*

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### SCRIPTURE READING

[Luke 2:22-40](#)

Pew Bible, page 55

#### SERMON

*A New Hope*

Mr. Drumheller

#### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Westminster Confession of Faith

**The Son of God, the second Person in the Trinity, being very and eternal God, of one substance, and equal with the Father, did, when the fullness of time was come, take upon him human nature, with all the essential properties and common infirmities thereof; yet without sin: being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the Virgin Mary, of her substance. Which person is very God and very man, yet one Christ, the only Mediator between God and humans. Amen.**

#### \*HYMN 132

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

In dulci jubilo

*Written in England in 1649, the Westminster Confession addressed political and religious debates. It was adopted by Puritans who brought Presbyterianism to the colonies.*

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

#### PASTORAL PRAYER 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.**

#### PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

##### Offertory

##### \*Doxology

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* hymnal, page 606

**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

#### \*HYMN 119

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Mendelssohn

*John 1:7-9*

#### \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

#### \*POSTLUDE

-----

\*All who are able may stand.

**We rejoice that you are worshipping 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 Katherine Jolly.** After extinguishing the Advent candle, the acolyte takes the light of Jesus Christ out into the world.

**Thank you** to our college students for their leadership and participation in this worship service.

**Ushers:** Jim Hesley, captain; Duncan Bryson, Keith Bryson, Banks Garrison, Sandy Saunders, Harold Sharpe  
**Outside Ushers:** Steve Coats; Stephan Kinley **Elder Greeters:** Adam Jolly; Dona Lisk **Nursery:** Sara Kate Thomas **Preschool Partners:** Laura & Mike McLeod **Nana & Papa Team:** Bede & Russell Karr  
**Children's Church:** Liz Davis; Grace Richards

**We ask that you refer to the newsletter** for a complete list of those in need of prayer.

\*\*\*\*\*



**Faith on the Fifth Offering on Sunday, December 31 for SCCM Winter Heating Assistance**

The Faith on the Fifth offering on December 31st will be donated to SCCM's Winter Heating Assistance Fund. These funds are shared with our neighbors in need throughout Stanly County. With many cold weeks ahead of us and many folks coming into SCCM for assistance, SCCM's funds depletes quickly. The Mission Committee asks that you give from your heart to help those in need.

\*\*\*\*\*



**Occurring on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas, Epiphany is the day the church recognizes the visit of the magi to Jesus. Youth Club children will help lead us in worship to celebrate the revelation of Jesus to the world. Come join us for dinner and a brief worship service in the gym.**

*First Family Dinner*

*Wednesday, January 3 at 6:00 p.m. in the gym*

**You're invited to bring warm gifts to place in the manger – mittens, scarves, hats, socks, and gloves will be donated to the Clothing Closet.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**FIRST FAMILY GATHERING**  
**DINNER & EPIPHANY WORSHIP SERVICE IN THE GYM**  
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3 AT 6:00 P.M.**

**Menu: Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Corn, Green Beans, Rolls, Mixed Green Salad, King's Cake, Tea, Lemonade, Coffee and Water.**

Contact the church office by Tuesday, January 2 to make reservations:  
704-982-2722 or klambert@fpcalbemarle.org.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Volunteers Needed for First Family Gathering**

- Dessert Crew: Tuesday, January 2 at 10:00 a.m.
- Salad and Sides Crew: Wednesday, January 3 at 10:00 a.m.
- Set up crew: Wednesday, January 3 at 3:45 p.m.
- Final Touches crew: Wednesday, January 3 at 5:00 p.m.
- Clean-up crew: Wednesday, January 3 at 6:45 p.m.

Please call Jane Snyder at the church 704-982-2722, on her phone 704-438-3358 or email her at [jsnyder@fpcalbemarle.org](mailto:jsnyder@fpcalbemarle.org) if you would like to help!

\*\*\*\*\*

**PrimeTimers' Dutch Treat Luncheon**  
**Thursday, January 11 at Noon at the Rosebriar Restaurant**  
**(528 Wiscassett Street, Albemarle)**

Join us for a Dutch Treat lunch at the Rosebriar Restaurant on Thursday, January 11 at noon. We'll eat lunch, engage in conversation, and enjoy the company of each other on a cold January day. **Call the church office (704-982-2722) by noon on Monday, January 8 to make your reservation!**

## OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

### Sunday, December 31

*Faith on the Fifth Offering for*

*SCCM Winter Heating Assistance*

11:00 am \*Worship

### Monday, January 1

*New Year's Day/Church Office Closed*

### Tuesday, January 2

10:00 am First Family Dessert Crew

### Wednesday, January 3

*Epiphany Worship/Gifts of Winter*

6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast

9:15 am-11:00 am \*Pray & Play

10:00 am First Family Salad & Sides Crew

10:30 am Backpack Food Program

12:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (Parlor)

3:15 pm-5:15 pm Youth Cubs/Youth Club

3:45 pm First Family Set-up Crew

5:00 pm First Family Final Touches Crew

5:15 pm-5:45 pm Youth Orff Ensemble (Grades K-2)

5:15 pm-5:45 pm Youth Handbells (Grades 3-5)

6:00 pm Epiphany Worship & Dinner (Gym)

6:45 pm First Family Clean-up Crew

### Thursday, January 4

10:00 am Staff Meeting

12:00 pm Young Adult Lunch at Little Tokyo  
(Hwy. 52 location)

### Sunday, January 7

*The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper/Ten-Cents-A-Meal*

9:00 am Breakfast Bunch

9:45 am \*Sunday School

11:00 am \*Worship

12:00 pm Faith Explorers' to Cici's Pizza &  
Defy Gravity

5:00 pm-7:30 pm Youth Group

\*childcare provided



Visit the Winter Art Gallery Exhibit  
Featuring Paintings by Matt Moeller

There will be no  
Sunday School on  
December 31.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

### DECEMBER

31-Mildred Andrew

Adrienne Robinson

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

### JANUARY

03-Mike McLeod

Sandy Rogers

04-Sandy Saunders

05-Austin Coats

Miriam Russell

06-Shannon Lisk

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

### JANUARY

05-John & Debbie Hahn

## SCCM CHALLENGE

### DECEMBER

Canned Vegetables  
Green Beans, Corn, Carrots, Peas,  
Beans, Canned Tomatoes,  
Mixed Vegetables... Vegall

## SCCM CHALLENGE

### JANUARY

Canned Fruit  
(Lite or No Sugar Added)



## Backpack Food Program

### UPDATED LIST OF

### DONATIONS NEEDED:

Breakfast Cookies, Individual Bags of  
Goldfish, Large Cans of Soup, Canned  
Tuna, and Saltine Crackers.

A bin in the pit stop  
will receive your donation.

### Next Packing Date:

Wednesday, January 3 at 10:30 a.m.