



The Weekly Bulletin
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Albemarle, North Carolina

Elizabeth McNair Ayscue, Pastor
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April 29, 2018

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

MORNING MEDITATION

Just when I thought there would be no more light in the Jerusalem sky, the Bright and Morning Star appeared and the darkness has not overcome it.

From *Easter* by
Ann Weems

PEALING OF THE BELLS

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

PRELUDE *Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain* arr. Margaret R. Tucker
Gabriel Beamon, Elizabeth Bryson, Merrin Kinley, Anya McSwain,
Natalie Niederer, Kezia Redfearn

Youth Club
Handbell Ensemble

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

In the wilderness, water brings life.

Seek us out, O God, and take us to the water.

In the Word of God, the good news gives light.

Seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.

In the bread and the wine, the body of our Savior nourishes everyone.

Seek us out, O God, and give us yourself.

Here is the water of life, the word that feeds, the food of eternity. Come and praise the vine that gives all goodness.

We will worship God together.

***CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP**

Karl P. Harrington

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

***PRAYER OF THE DAY AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 240**

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

Alleluia No. 1

The Faith on the Fifth Offering will be received during the first hymn.

This offering will support the Habitat for Humanity Build as we partner with First Presbyterian Church, Norwood and Locust Presbyterian Church.

Based on John 15:5

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Silence

Unison

God of mercy, we confess that we have not borne the fruit of the Spirit. We have not loved others as you have loved us. We have denied the promises of baptism and cut ourselves off from you. Forgive us, restore us, that we may abide in your love and live into your mercy, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Friends, believe the good news.

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.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

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.

ANTHEM

I Choose You

Deborah Bovenor

Frank Poolos, Oboe

When I am weak and heavy laden,
Christ comes to me and I can hear Him say,
Lean on me, I am your refuge; trust in me and do not be afraid.

*I choose you to be My beloved, I choose you to be My joy.
I choose you to live with Me forever; I choose you, I choose you.*

When days are dark and nights seem endless;
when I am lost and cannot find my way,
Christ is my light, my hope, my comfort;
I call on Him and then I hear Him say,

*I choose you to be My beloved, I choose you to be My joy.
I choose you to live with Me forever; I choose you, I choose you.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

hymnal, page 288

Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

GOSPEL READING

[John 15:1-8](#)

Pew Bible, page 103

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

For the Good of the Body

Mrs. Ayscue

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

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

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

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. 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.

*HYMN 450

Be Thou My Vision

Slane

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Taylor Jolly

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

Throughout the prayer, following the words of the leader...God who makes us one, the congregation will respond by saying...Hear our prayer.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation

We do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

With gratitude for the Word of Life, let us offer our lives and gifts to God.

Offertory

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Dale Wood

*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 721

Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

Pescador de Hombres

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Peace I Give to You

Robert Lehman

*POSTLUDE

Joyous Processional

Garry A. Cornell

*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 Danny Saltzman. After extinguishing the Christ candle, the acolyte takes the light of Jesus Christ out into the world.

Thanks to the Youth Club Handbell Ensemble for their musical leadership in worship.

Ushers: Jim Marshall, captain; Duncan Bryson, Elizabeth Bryson, Keith Bryson, Lachlann Currie, Kyle Marks, Laura Beth Marks, Mark Mabry, Mike McLeod, Chris Whitley **Outside Ushers:** Mark Andrew; Jack Morton **Elder Greeters:** Jim Marshall; Sarah Michael **Nursery:** Sara Kate Thomas **Preschool Partners:** Laura & Mike McLeod **Nana & Papa Team:** Bede & Russell Karr **Children's Church:** Michelle Cumming

From *A Brief Statement of Faith*; this confession was written following the reunion of the northern and southern Presbyterian churches in 1983.

We ask that you keep these people in your prayers: Kathy Miles Gordon (tumor on pancreas; friend of Ruth Goodwin), John Montgomery (at home-recovering from hip replacement), Pam Myers (at home-recovering from heart valve replacement), Tommy Murrell, Ben Kierstead (nephew of Leslie Carter; recovering from surgery). **See newsletter for complete list.**



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

Bread for the World ...Bread for You

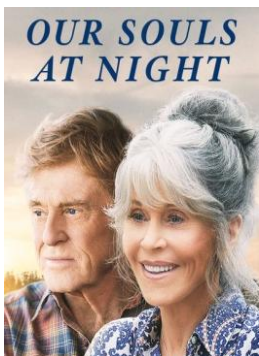
Sunday, April 30 in the Pit Stop 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. & Following Worship

Today is Letter Writing Sunday! Please read the bulletin insert from Bread for the World! One side shows a sample letter – write your own or copy the sample, using the packet of writing material on tables in the pit stop. The packet includes envelopes addressed to our two Senators and one Representative. Letters written today or during the week will be mailed following the **Offering of Letters on Sunday, May 6.**

ON MISSION WITH STANLY COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



On April 29, we will receive a *Faith on the Fifth* offering to support Habitat for Humanity. This collection will kick-off our fundraising efforts as we join with Presbyterian churches in Norwood and Locust to sponsor the construction of a home in Stanly County. Our three churches will join together to both fund the house and provide many labor hours for the construction process. We expect construction on this project to begin late summer or early fall. Please help support this important ministry in Stanly County. Our financial commitment to this project is \$10,000.



Movie Night... *Our Souls at Night*

on Sunday, April 29 at 7:00 p.m. in the church theatre

Come for a fun movie night for adults. We'll gather in our very own theatre to watch *Our Souls at Night*. The movie (which has received excellent reviews) is based on the book of the same title by Kent Haruf and stars Robert Redford and Jane Fonda. Heartbreak and hope are partners in this story which brings long-time neighbors, widow Addie Moore, and widower Louis Waters, together. Watchers of the movie say the movie has a more satisfying ending than the book does! Come and see for yourself.



**Please join us for Homes of Hope's
Spring Hearty Breakfast Fundraiser
Friday, May 4...6:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.**

Central United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall (172 N. 2nd Street, Albemarle)

Donations will be accepted!

Enjoy a Hearty Breakfast of:

Pancakes, Bacon, Scrambled Eggs, Coffee, Cereal, Sausage, Grits, Gravy, Biscuits, Juice, and Fruit

Sponsored by: Uwharrie Bank

Homes of Hope is a Stanly County United Way agency.

**SAVE THE DATE
CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT AT MORROW MOUNTAIN
OCTOBER 12-14
MORE DETAILS COMING SOON**

**FIRST FAMILY DINNER ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 2 AT 6:00P.M. IN THE CHURCH GYM
THIS WILL BE OUR LAST FIRST FAMILY MEAL TOGETHER UNTIL SEPTEMBER
SO LET'S ENJOY SOME GOOD EATS TOGETHER
BEFORE HEADING OUT ON OUR SUMMER ADVENTURES**

MENU:

GRILLED CHICKEN and BBQ CHICKEN SLIDERS (with all the fixins)
MIXED GREEN SALAD, BLACK BEAN SALAD, FRESH FRUIT, MAC-N-CHEESE,
ASSORTED CUPCAKES, PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY STATION, TEA, LEMONADE, AND COFFEE

HEALTHY MEAL ALTERNATIVE:

Grilled Chicken over Mixed Green Salad with Low-Fat Dressing and Fresh Fruit.
Please RSVP to the church office ([704-982-2722](tel:704-982-2722) or klambert@fpcalbemarle.org).

Volunteers Needed for First Family Dinner

Dessert Crew: Tuesday, May 1 at 9:00 a.m.

Salad Crew: Tuesday, May 1 at 1:00 p.m.

Fruit and Mac-n-Cheese Crew: Wednesday, May 2 at 10:00 a.m.

Set-up Crew: Wednesday, May 2 at 11:30 a.m.

Last Touches Crew: Wednesday, May 2 at 5:00 p.m.

Clean-up Crew: Wednesday, May 2 at 6:45 p.m.

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

PRIMETIMERS' LUNCHEON ON THURSDAY, MAY 10 AT NOON

CITY LAKE PARK (850 CONCORD RD., ALBEMARLE)

SPEAKER: KEN KNIGHT TOPIC: WILDLIFE DAMAGE CONTROL

The menu will be fried chicken, potato salad, deviled eggs, green beans, fruit, tea and dessert. In case of inclement weather, the picnic will be held at the church. Please call the office by May 8 to let us know you are coming and/or if you need transportation ([704-982-2722](tel:704-982-2722) or klambert@fpcalbemarle.org). Join us for a fun luncheon at the park!

MOTHER'S DAY ARRANGEMENTS



On Mother's Day, the arrangements in the sanctuary will be in honor/memory of mothers. Each name is \$2.00. Please mail, deliver, or place in the offering plate your money with the form below **NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, MAY 6**. Please make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church and designate for *Mother's Day Arrangements*. The names of donors and those being honored/remembered will be listed on **Mother's Day, May 13**. Any money collected over the cost of the arrangements will be donated to the Minister's Discretionary Fund.

MOTHER'S DAY ARRANGEMENTS

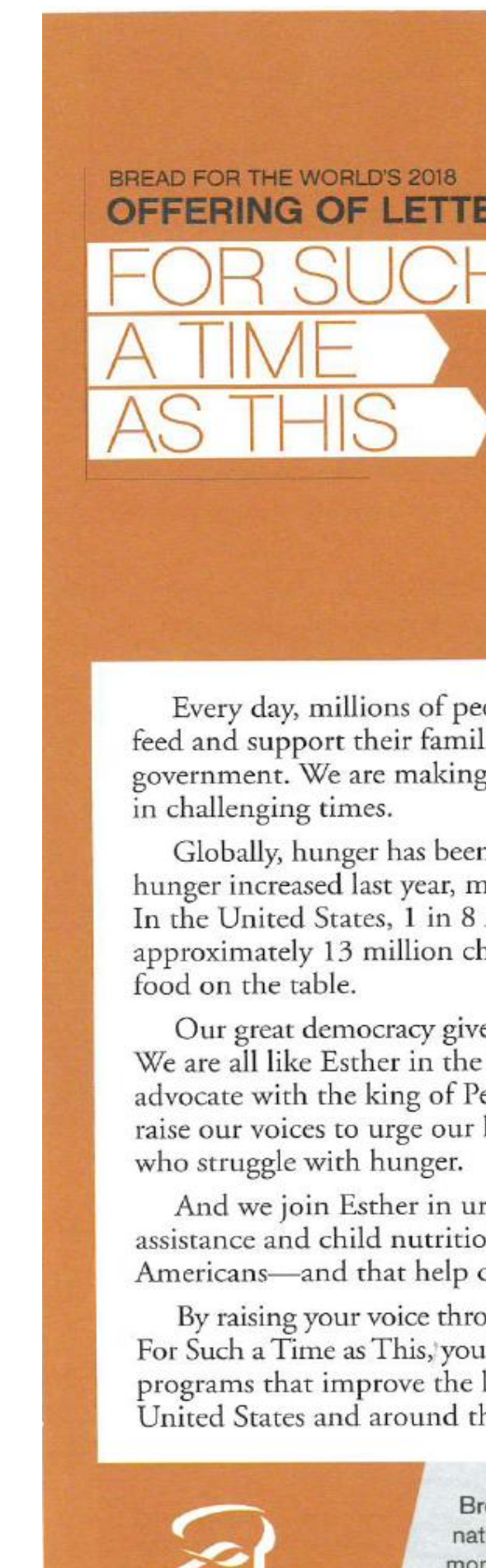
Please print below the information exactly as it is to appear in the bulletin.

In memory of: _____

Given by: _____

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____



BREAD FOR THE WORLD'S 2018

OFFERING OF LETTERS:

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

Every day, millions of people in the United States and around the world feed and support their families through lifesaving programs funded by our government. We are making progress toward the end of hunger, but we live in challenging times.

Globally, hunger has been cut in half over the past 25 years. However, world hunger increased last year, mainly due to a surge in violence in some countries. In the United States, 1 in 8 Americans lives with the risk of hunger, including approximately 13 million children. Too many Americans still struggle to put food on the table.

Our great democracy gives all Americans access to powerful decision makers. We are all like Esther in the Old Testament. Just as Esther was called to be an advocate with the king of Persia for her threatened people, we are called to raise our voices to urge our leaders in Congress to protect programs for people who struggle with hunger.

And we join Esther in urging our nation's leaders to sustain the food assistance and child nutrition programs that are a lifeline to millions of Americans—and that help children do better in school and in life.

By raising your voice through Bread for the World's 2018 Offering of Letters: For Such a Time as This, you can urge Congress to continue investments in programs that improve the lives of people struggling with hunger in the United States and around the world.



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. For more than 40 years, Bread for the World's members have helped win bipartisan support for measures that address the causes of hunger. Each year, thousands of churches from many different faith traditions take part in the Offering of Letters.

BREAD FOR THE WORLD'S 2018

OFFERING OF LETTERS:

FOR SUCH
A TIME
AS THIS

You can provide hope and opportunity for people living with hunger.

You can help persuade Congress to invest in programs that help overcome hunger and poverty. Handwritten letters are still the most effective way to make your voice heard in Washington, D.C. And your letter will be amplified by the tens of thousands of letters written by others as part of Bread for the World's 2018 Offering of Letters.

SAMPLE LETTER

[Date]

Dear Senator _____, or Dear Representative _____,

As Congress works on the fiscal year 2019 budget and spending bills, I ask you to invest in and protect key programs that will reduce hunger and poverty.

Our country and the world have made progress against hunger and poverty in recent decades. I want you to continue to invest in programs like SNAP and tax credits for low-income workers. Continued funding for programs that reduce hunger and poverty around the world are also important to me.

My faith calls me to urge you to make public investments that will move us toward the end of hunger.

Sincerely,

[your name]

[your address]

[city, state, ZIP]

- I want to join others who have committed to praying for an end to hunger. Please send me—free of charge—*Daily Prayers for an End to Hunger*.
- Enclosed is my gift of \$_____ to support the work of Bread for the World.

NAME (please print) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____
(will not be exchanged or sold)

Please mail this coupon to the address at right. You may use our toll-free number or visit our website to request or download free resources and sign up for email updates. Thank you!



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

425 3rd Street SW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20024
800-822-7323 bread.org

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OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 29

Bread for the World Letter Writing & Bread Sale/Youth Club Handbell Ensemble Rings/Faith on the Fifth Offering for Habitat for Humanity Faith Build

9:00 am-11:00 am Bread for the World Letter Writing & Bread Sale in the Pit Stop

9:45 am *Sunday School

11:00 am *Worship

12:00 pm-1:00 pm Bread for the World Letter Writing & Bread Sale in the Pit Stop

5:00 pm-7:30 pm Youth Group SCCM Food Collection

7:00 pm Movie Night in the church theatre – *Our Souls at Night*

Tuesday, May 1

9:00 am First Family Dessert Crew

1:00 pm First Family Salad Crew

Wednesday, May 2

6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast

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

10:00 am First Family Fruit & Mac-n-Cheese Crew

10:30 am Backpack Food Program

11:30 am First Family Set-up Crew

12:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (Parlor)

4:45 pm Congregational Retreat Planning Committee

5:00 pm First Family Last Touches Crew

5:45 pm Evening Prayer in the Chapel

6:00 pm First Family Dinner

6:45 pm First Family Clean-Up Crew

7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 3

National Day of Prayer

10:00 am Staff Meeting

12:00 pm Young Adult Lunch at Coach's Neighborhood Grill (720 NC 24-27, Albemarle)

Friday, May 4

6:30 am-9:30 am Homes of Hope Spring Hearty Breakfast Fundraiser at Central UMC Fellowship Hall (172 North 2nd Street, Albemarle)

Sunday, May 6

Recognition of Teachers & Leaders in Christian Education/Ten-Cents-A-Meal Offering/The Sacrament of Baptism/Bread for the World Offering of Letters/Deadline for Mother's Day Flower Arrangement Forms

9:00 am Breakfast Bunch (for 2nd & 3rd Graders)

9:45 am *Sunday School

11:00 am *Worship

5:00 pm-7:00 pm Youth Group

***childcare provided**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

APRIL

29-Harold Sharpe

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

APRIL

29-Steve & Elaine Coats

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

MAY

01-David Holbrook

03-Carole Yost

04-Brad Boone

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

MAY

02-Bob & Donna Gaither

SCCM CHALLENGE FOR APRIL

Toiletries & Household Items:

Shampoo, Conditioner, Deodorant,
Toothpaste, Laundry Detergent,
Bar Soap, Feminine Hygiene

SCCM CHALLENGE FOR MAY

Canned Soup & Crackers

Backpack Food Program

UPDATED LIST OF DONATIONS NEEDED:

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

A bin in the pit stop
will receive your donation.

Next Packing Date:

Wednesday, May 2 at 10:30 a.m.