



**The Weekly Bulletin**  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
Albemarle, North Carolina

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January 12, 2020

## GATHERING BEFORE GOD

## PEALING OF THE BELLS

## OPENING SENTENCES

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.  
**God's mercies never end.**

## CONCERN OF THE CHURCH

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

**CHORAL INTROIT      *As with Gladness, Men of Old***      15<sup>th</sup> Century Carol  
arr. S.R. Scheer

## \*LITANY FOR THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

In the beginning, darkness covered the deep, and God said: Let there be light.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

Through the words of the prophet, the Lord said: When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

Do not fear, says the Lord, I am with you. I have called you by name, you are mine.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

When Jesus was baptized by John, suddenly the heavens were opened.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

And as Jesus was coming out of the water, the Spirit of God rested on him like a dove.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

And a voice said: You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY 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**

\*HYMN 482

## *Baptized in Water*

Bunessan

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Silence

Unison

**Merciful God, in baptism you promised forgiveness and new life, making us part of the body of Christ. We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves, separated from one another. We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges, and show reluctance to welcome one another. We allow the past to hold us captive. In your loving kindness, have mercy on us, and free us from sin.**

Matthew 3:17

### \*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

Melissa Eudy

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

ANTHEM

*A Welcome Song: A Song for Baptism*

J. Jerome Williams

Welcome newborn lambs, who in his pastures dwell;  
Where caring shepherds bring them gently to the well;  
For living waters will their thirst relieve.

Leading to the waters, wond'ring shepherds sing  
The songs of new creation, Ev'ry living thing,  
when drinking deeply, will this song receive.

Heard in Eden's garden when the world was new.  
Heard again in Bethl'em by a thirsty few.  
And those who hear the song of Life, believe.

Here the newborn lambs may see the Savior's face.  
With heads bent low, partaking of his perfect grace.  
And fin'ly rising from the water, live!

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Saving God, source of our calling, your Word is full of power and glory. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us so that we may receive your grace and live as your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Sermons are posted  
on the church's  
website. You can  
usually find the  
previous Sunday's  
sermon by  
Wednesday.

SCRIPTURE READING

*Matthew 3:13-17*

Pew Bible, page 2

HOMILY

*Claimed*

Reverend Drumheller

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Sentences of Scripture

Profession of Faith

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

**I do.**

Who is your Lord and Savior?

**Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.**

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?

**I will, with God's help.**

\*Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\*Thanksgiving for Baptism

\*Hymn 475      *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*      Nettleton

*During the hymn, two people will move throughout the sanctuary sprinkling water over the worshipers as a reminder of their baptism.*

### PASTORAL PRAYER

### TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation

Offertory    *O Morning Star How Fair and Bright*    Johann Christoph Bach

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 546      *Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing*      Sicilian Mariners

### BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE      *Fourfold Amen*      John Stainer

\*POSTLUDE    *How Brightly Shines the Morning Star*    Dietrich Buxtehude

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\*All who are able may stand.

The Reaffirmation of Baptism reminds us that we are created and claimed by God. This trust is affirmed whenever we remember our own baptism or bear witness to the baptism of another.

Aspersion is an ancient practice of the church used to remind us of our baptism.

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

**The flowers in the sanctuary** are given to the glory of God and in honor of the birthdays of Vance and Julia Cole and Jacob Palmer.

**Elizabeth** is preaching and moderating session and congregational meetings at Macedonia Presbyterian Church in Candor this morning.

**Ushers:** Jim Marshall, captain; Al Andrew, Robbie Beard, Duncan Bryson, Elizabeth Bryson, Keith Bryson, Mike McLeod, Chris Whitley, and David Whitley **Outside Ushers:** Lee McManus; Ronnie Michael **Elder Greeters:** Steve Coats; Rich Schaefer **Nursery:** Kate White **Kids Care Crew:** Becky Andrew; Angie Earnhardt

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**We ask that you keep these people in your prayers:** Frank Green, Carolyn Sharpe, Sally Grantier, Jean Rabe (Trinity Place), Jane Scheer (Spring Arbor), Don Joines, Mark Mabry, Jane Pickler. **See newsletter for complete list.**  
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**If you have a sanctuary listening device at home,** please let the church office know so that we can be sure we have enough for everyone who needs one.  
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**Coffee House at Norwood Presbyterian Church  
Sunday, January 12 at 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall**

**What is it?**

**Norwood Presbyterian Church is hosting an informal coffeehouse, with music provided by Leslie and Steve Gretz.**

**What else?**

**The Gretzs are singer/songwriters whose music is influenced by folk, gospel, and contemporary genres. Come for an afternoon of fellowship with Stanly County Presbyterians. Refreshments will be provided.**

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#### **Gaither Endowment Grant Application**

The Endowment Committee will accept applications for grants from the Gaither Endowment until January 15. Applications are available in the church office. If you have questions, contact the church office (704-982-2722 or [klambert@fpcalbemarle.org](mailto:klambert@fpcalbemarle.org)).

## **Grandparent and Grandchild Retreat**

Sunday, January 26, 2020 from 12:00 to 2:30 pm

For children K-5<sup>th</sup> grade and their grandparents (of any age).

Join us with your grandchildren or grandparents for an afternoon of fun and Christian Education.

Lunch in the gym will be followed by activities around the church.

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**February 23, 2020 at 3:00 pm**

The three Presbyterian churches of Stanly County are going to partner with Rise Against Hunger to pack meals for hungry people around the world. Over the course of 2 hours we will plan to pack about 25,000 meals. We need your help to raise the money necessary to host this program and to pack the meals. Look for more information or contact Matt Drumheller to sign up!

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**On Sunday, February 2nd**, join us in participating in the 30th annual Souper Bowl of Caring canned soup drive! Bring chicken noodle soup if your usual worship seat is on the right side (choir loft side) of the middle section, the right section, choir loft, or the balcony. Bring tomato soup if your usual worship seat is: on the left side of the middle section, the left section, or the section near the sound board. Our youth will collect money and cans of food at the doors of the sanctuary following worship. See designated spaces in the Pit Stop for your soup. Let's see which section can collect the most soup for SCCM!

## OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

### Sunday, January 12

- 9:45 am \*Sunday School
- 11:00 am \*Worship
- 12:15 pm Faith Explorers to Urban Air Trampoline Park  
in Mint Hill, NC
- 3:30 pm Youth meet to travel to Norwood for Coffeehouse
- 4:00 pm Coffeehouse at Norwood Presbyterian Church  
in the Fellowship Hall  
(207 South Main Street, Norwood)

### Monday, January 13

- 8:00 pm Bible Study with Matt
- 8:30 pm High School Bible Study at Elizabeth's  
(1611 Bellamy Circle, Albemarle)

### Wednesday, January 15

*Deadline for Gaither Endowment Grant Applications*

- 6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 10:30 am Backpack Food Program
- 4:00 pm-6:00 pm Youth Club
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, January 16

- 10:30 am Staff Meeting

### Sunday, January 12

- 9:45 am \*Sunday School
- 11:00 am \*Worship

\*childcare provided

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

JANUARY

15- Julian Eudy

16- Debbie Hahn

SCCM CHALLENGE FOR  
JANUARY

Canned Fruit –  
Lite Syrup or No Sugar Added

Visit the  
Winter Art Gallery Exhibition  
featuring Photography by Andy Cotton