



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Albemarle, North Carolina

Reverend Cathy George, Transitional Pastor

Frank Poolos, Director of Vocal and Handbell Music

Stan Scheer, Organist

Jane Snyder, Director of Fellowship & Congregational Care

Gina Martin, Interim Director of Christian Education

Kyle Lambert, Office Manager

Pam Knighten, Secretary

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March 2022

From Where I Sit

Dear Friends,

I always appreciate the season of Lent, which will begin on March 2 with Ash Wednesday. The season of Lent—the 6 weeks leading up to Holy Week and Easter (not including Sundays because we understand every Sunday to be a celebration of the resurrection) — is traditionally a time for remembering Christ's death and resurrection and for measuring our lives against His. We can neither remember nor measure for long without coming up against the awful and persistent fact of human sin: the way we care more about ourselves than about others, our greediness and self-indulgence, our stubbornness, our anger, our hypocrisy and pride, our tendency to lie and cheat and steal and betray.

What's going to happen to Jesus in Jerusalem is no accident; it's the inevitable result of One who is without sin coming among all the rest of us who are so very much *with* sin. Lent invites us to acknowledge that we were there when they *crucified my Lord*, and that given the chance, we'd be there again. We're human and we're stuck in this mess of mortality, and we have no way out, except by the grace of God. Lent is also a time for remembering the grace of God, remembering that Easter will come. We can acknowledge our sin and repent of it because we have confidence in God's mercy and God's promises of new life to all who open themselves to it. Yes, our sin is serious, but God's creative love is stronger still.

I love what Frederick Buechner writes. He says, *that Jesus went off alone into the wilderness where he spent 40 days asking himself the question what it meant to be Jesus. During Lent, we're supposed to ask what it means to be ourselves. When you look at your face in the mirror, what do you see in it that you most like and what do you see in it that you deplore? If you only had one last message to leave to the handful of people who are most important to you, what would it be in 25 words or less? Of all the things you've done in your life, which is the one that you would most like to undo? Which is the one that makes you happiest to remember? If this were the last day of your life, what would you do with it? To hear yourself try to answer questions like these is to begin to hear something not only of who you are but of both what you are becoming and what you are failing to become. (Whistling in the Dark)*

My prayer is that you will take advantage of the opportunities for worship and preparation during this Lenten season. Be reminded of your humanness and finitude when the ashes are placed on your head; instead of giving up something, take up a spiritual discipline by faithfully reading your daily devotional; walk with this community as we make our way to Jerusalem where we'll remember the night Jesus was betrayed and arrested and the light of Christ is snuffed out; then you'll really be ready for an Easter celebration. To quote Buechner again, *It can all be a pretty depressing business. But if sackcloth and ashes are at the start of it, something like Easter may be at the end.*

And that's very good news from where I sit.

Cathy



IMPORTANT COVID UPDATED INFORMATION

UPDATED ON DECEMBER 8, 2021

For the health and welfare of our members and our community, the COVID Task Force Committee has set the following guidelines with the following updates:

FROM THE COVID TASK FORCE (FEBRUARY 28, 2022)...

1. With improving community COVID positivity rate, masks will be **OPTIONAL** beginning February 27.
2. Outside groups may use facilities.
3. Communion will continue with pre-packaged elements for the foreseeable future.
4. Congregational meals will remain on hold until positivity rate remains consistently below 8% for 2 weeks.

The COVID Task Force will continue to monitor community positivity rate and adjust recommendations as needed.

- ❖ Masks will always be provided.
- ❖ Hand sanitizer is available. Please use it.
- ❖ If you are sick, please stay at home.
- ❖ Communion will be given with prepackaged elements.
- ❖ All volunteers and paid employees involved in any children's program(s) are required to be vaccinated.
- ❖ All toys, chairs, tables and bathrooms, (used that day) are to be wiped clean with a Clorox wipe or sprayed and wiped clean.
- ❖ First Family meals will be drive-thru.
- ❖ All surfaces (chairs and tables and bathrooms if used) have to be wiped clean (with spray or wipes) after any committee/group meets.

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

2022 Flower Calendar

The 2022 flower calendar is posted in the pit stop. If you wish to put flowers in the church in honor or memory of someone or just to provide beauty to the service, please sign up on the calendar. **Flowers may be ordered from any local florist.** Contact Emily Andrew (704-322-5510 or em.andrew21@gmail.com) for more information and to make arrangement



WORSHIP

Sunday, March 6

First Sunday of Lent/The Ten-Cents-A-Meal Offering

The Ten-Cents-A-Meal offering for hunger will be received.

Sunday, March 13

Second Sunday of Lent

Sunday, March 20

Third Sunday of Lent

The Youth Club Handbell Ensemble rings in worship. The Youth Club Trusty Travelers and Faith Explorers sing in worship.

Sunday, March 27

Fourth Sunday of Lent

10 CENTS A MEAL

We will receive the Ten-Cents-A-Meal offering for hunger on March 6. This monthly offering is used by the Presbytery of Charlotte to fund hunger programs and agencies (including SCCM) throughout the presbytery. We received a total of \$181.00 for Ten-Cents-A-Meal for January 2022.

LENT DEVOTIONS 2022

Making the Road: Walking through Lent

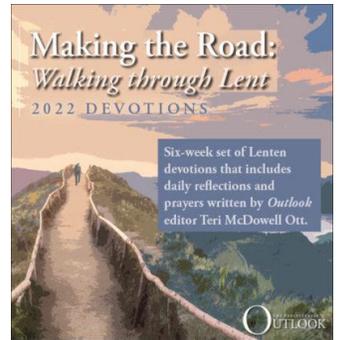
These devotions are based on the Spanish poet Antonio Machado's poem, *Walker*. Machado writes: *Walker, there is no road, the road is made by walking.*

Machado's poem resonates because it feels as if there is no road in front of us. The soil of our well-worn Lenten path has been overturned by the pandemic. If we want to follow Christ this Lent, we'll need to prepare the way and make the road. We'll need to rethink and recreate our Lenten practices.

This 6-week set of Lenten devotions includes daily reflections and prayers written by *Outlook* Editor, Teri McDowell Ott. Each week, we will make the road to Jerusalem through the following themes:

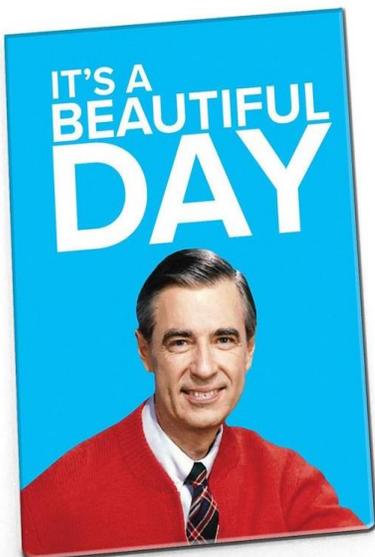
Walking through Lent, Walking in the Wilderness, Walking in Prayer, Walking with Others, Walking in Hope, Walking through Holy Week

You will receive a daily email devotion of *Making the Road: Walking through Lent*. Printed copies will be mailed to those who do not have access to the internet, and some will be available at both entrances to the church for visitors.



!!! It's Mr. Rogers Day !!!

!!! Join us for an Intergenerational Sunday School !!!



Who: All Ages
What: Neighboring Sunday in honor of Mr. Rogers
When: Sunday, March 20 from 9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m.
Where: Pit Stop

Wear a cardigan if you have one!
Join us for coffee, juice, muffins, and conversation
surrounding what it means to
Be a Neighbor!



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Drive-Thru Tuesday, March 1 from 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. RSVP by 2:00 p.m. on Monday, February 28

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner Pick-up or Delivery is on Tuesday, February 16! If you would like a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Meal, please RSVP by Monday, February 28 at 2:00 p.m., and we will have your meal ready for pick-up or delivery on Tuesday, March 1 between 5:00 p.m.-6:00pm. For your safety, kitchen staff will wear masks and gloves while packaging your plates. Keith Bryson is coordinating the cooking – contact Keith if you want to help (704-984-0254). All proceeds will go toward the *10-Cents-a-Meal* program.

Menu: Pancakes and Syrup, Link Sausage and Fruit

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 704-982-7823 or email Anne at johnandannemontgomery@yahoo.com
and let her know how many plates you need, and
if it will be a pickup or delivery (include address and any special instructions).**



Ash Wednesday Service

March 6

Worship at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Plan to begin this season of penitence and preparation in worship. We will be reminded of our sin by the imposition of ashes. Childcare provided.



Community Lent Services

Wednesdays, March 9, 16, 23, 30 & April 6 at Noon

Central United Methodist Church (172 North 2nd Street, Albemarle)

March 9: Preacher: TBA

March 16: Preacher: Pastor James Laurence, Pastor at First Lutheran Church

March 23: Preacher: Rev. Ben Floyd, Pastor at Main Street United Methodist Church

March 30: Preacher: Rev. Cathy S. George, Transitional Pastor at First Presbyterian Church

April 6: Preacher: Rev. Jill Rhinehart, Pastor at Central United Methodist Church

Lunch provided. Donations accepted with proceeds to benefit a community organization.



**DRIVE-THRU LENT MEALS ON WEDNESDAYS
MARCH 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6
FROM 5:00 P.M.- 6:00 P.M.**

RSVP BY 2:00 P.M. ON THE MONDAY PRIOR TO THE MEAL

Lenten Meal Pick-up or Delivery is on Wednesdays during Lent: March 9, 16, 23, 30, and April 6. If you would like a Lenten meal, please RSVP by 2:00 p.m. on the Monday prior to the meal. We will have your meal ready for pick-up or delivery between 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. For your safety, kitchen staff will wear masks and gloves while preparing your plates.

The menu will be emailed in advance.

**Menu for Wednesday, March 9:
Pasta with Marinara, Garlic Bread, and Pound Cake**

**Menu for Wednesday, March 16:
The Eudy's Smoked Chicken, Baked Beans, Red Slaw, and Pound Cake**

**Menu for Wednesday, March 23:
Chicken Pot Pie and Pound Cake
SNL Youth Fundraiser**

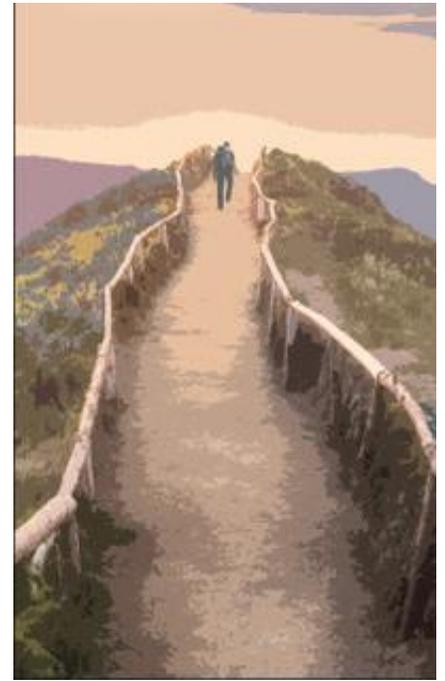
**Menu for Wednesday, March 30:
Chicken Niçoise Salad
(Grilled Chicken, Egg, Marinated Beans, Roasted Potatoes, Croutons over Mixed Greens), and Pound Cake**

**Menu for Wednesday, April 6:
Baked Potato with Cheese, Sour Cream, Butter, and Bacon on the side, and Pound Cake**

**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 and desserts you need, and if it will be pickup or delivery
(include address and any special instructions).**

Making the Road: Walking through Lent



Lent Small Groups

During Lent, small groups will gather weekly for activity and light conversation around the daily devotional from *Making the Road: Walking through Lent*.

Hiking Group

Led by Connie Wallace and Ken Knight, this group will meet on Sundays (beginning March 6) at 3:00 p.m. at Morrow Mountain State Park.

Gratitude Group

Led by Gayle Russell and Jane Snyder, this group will meet on Mondays (beginning March 7) at 10:00 a.m. in the Pit Stop. Each week, a participant will bring a dish to share with a special story and it will be served alongside some gratitude sharing from the group.

Walking Group

Led by Kim Andrew, Chris Mabry, and Gina Martin, this group will meet on Mondays (beginning March 7) at 4:00 p.m. at Rock Creek Park. They will have group conversation on the go as they incorporate walking into their conversation.

Dinner Out Group

Led by Emily Andrew and Ben Jolly, this group will gather at local restaurants on Tuesdays (beginning March 8) at 6:00 p.m. (limit 12 people).

Tuesday, March 8	Five Points Public House (304 E. Main St.)
Tuesday, March 15	Jalapeños (1416 US 52 Hwy)
Tuesday, March 22	Pizzantica (780 Leonard Ave. Suite T)
Tuesday, March 29	The Boardroom Restaurant (135 West Main St.)
Tuesday, April 5	Badin Brews (124 S. 1 st St.; Food at Hilltop Seafood-outside)

Lent Fest

Led by Ken Knight, Leo McLeod, Billie Jean & Lee Snuggs, this group will tailgate in the lower parking lot at First Presbyterian Church on Wednesdays (beginning March 9) from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Grab your Lenten drive-thru meal or bring something from home and join the group to enjoy music, food, fellowship, and activities for the children. Drinks provided. Bring your lawn chair.

Tea & Conversation

Led by Ann Duckwall and Lynn Poplin, this group will gather in the parlor on Thursdays (beginning March 10) at 2:00 p.m. to enjoy light refreshments, fellowship, and conversation.

HOLY WEEK



Palm Sunday (April 10)

9:30 a.m. Palm Sunday Fair

Gather in the back parking lot for a continental breakfast, conversation around the table, and activities for children of ALL ages. Reflect on Christ's final days using Spirituality Centers set-up around the church.

11:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Worship

Worship will include a palm parade celebrating Christ's triumphal entry.

4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Easter Egg Hunt at City Lake Park

Come share food (hotdogs), fun, and fellowship. Bring an Easter basket and a friend!

Monday – Friday

7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m. Perk & Pray

Drive-thru the parking lot on First Street for a cup of coffee or a juice box and a prayer.

Maundy Thursday (April 14)

6:00 p.m. We will worship and share the Lord's Supper.

Good Friday (April 15)

10:30 a.m. Cross Walk (for all ages)

Meet outside the sanctuary (North Street). We'll follow the cross through downtown Albemarle and pray for the people of our community.



Easter Eve Cookout & Camping

Saturday, April 16 at Morrow Mountain State Park

Hardy souls are invited to camp out the night before Easter at Morrow Mountain. For those feeling less hardy, there will be plenty of time for a cookout and fellowship before the sun goes down. Campers and non-campers can arrive at the group campsite (5 & 6) around 5:00 p.m. Feel free to bring dinner to cook on the coals, or if you wish, you can bring supper from home or take out from your favorite restaurant. S'mores will be provided! Please bring your drinks and chairs along as well! Contact Ken Knight if you plan to join the gathering (kbknight17@gmail.com or 704-438-4686)!





H E I S R I S E N
C E L E B R A T E T H E R E S U R R E C T I O N

Easter Sunday

April 17

7:00 a.m.

Gather at the shelter at the top of Morrow Mountain to celebrate the risen Christ. Dress for the weather and linger for fellowship and a light breakfast following worship.

9:45 a.m.

Sunday School for all ages.

11:00 a.m.

Worship will include seasonal music and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.



One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Sunday, April 17

On April 17, we will receive a special offering for One Great Hour of Sharing. This special offering is the single, largest way that Presbyterians join to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world. Each gift helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen their families and communities. The Presbyterian Hunger Program receives 36% of undesignated gifts, while Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance each receives 32%. Please join in God's call to share our bread with the hungry, to aid and shelter people overcoming catastrophe and conflict, and to resource communities working to cast off the bonds of poverty and oppression.

STEPS OF THE INSTALLED PASTOR SEARCH



You'll see that nothing new has been crossed off of the list to this point but that doesn't mean that important stuff isn't happening. Even now, God is working; preparing the hearts of those who will be called to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee; preparing the heart of your next pastor to hear, receive, and accept the call to serve with you; preparing your hearts to receive, welcome, and be willingly lead by that new pastor. So, pray. Pray for that person who will be your next installed pastor. Pray for the soon-to-be-elected Pastor Nominating Committee. Pray for this congregation as it continues its important ministry during this transitional time.

COM = Committee on Ministry; PNC = Pastor Nominating Committee

MIF = Ministry Information Form (church's resume); PIF = Personal Information Form (candidate's resume).

And here are the Steps of the Installed Pastor Search:

1. ~~Transitional Pastor Called~~
2. COM approves the formation of the PNC.
3. Once elected, COM liaison conducts orientation/training of the PNC.
4. Mission Study/Creation of MIF.
5. MIF must be approved by the Session of the church and by the COM to determine that it accurately reflects who the congregation is and the nature of the call.
6. MIF posted on the PCUSA Church Leadership Connection and one of the COM co-moderators will approve the MIF to upload.
7. Review of potential candidates.
8. When the PNC narrows to a few candidates and begins planning face to face visits, General Presbyter the performs an "exec check".
9. PNC selects final candidate and conducts interviews and extends a call.
10. The COM approves the transfer of the candidate, reviewing the PIF and the terms of call.
11. The PNC gets permission to go to their Session to request a congregational meeting be held to vote on their recommendation.
12. Installed Pastor is called and installed.

Facilities Maintenance Coordinator

The church is in great need of a Facilities Maintenance Coordinator. This position recently received a pay upgrade and requires approximately 10 hours per week. The ideal person would be able to open/prepare and close the church on Sundays and as needed for scheduled events. The position involves operating and assisting in routine maintenance of the building systems including lighting, heating, air conditioning, plumbing, etc. The coordinator will work closely with the Property Committee chair, minister, and office manager to determine long-term maintenance needs. A job description for this position can be requested from the church office. If you know someone who might be interested, please contact the church office (704-982-2722).

Church Staff Opening

Prayer & Bible Study Opportunities

Morning Prayer on Mondays and Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom

Morning Prayer meets on Monday and Wednesday mornings at 10 am via Zoom. For the Zoom link, please email Debbie Hahn at hahnjdt@ctc.net. Please use this email address also to prayers for both joys and concerns.



Bible Study and Conversation

Meets via Zoom on Thursdays from 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Matt and Catherine Moeller continue to lead Bible study on Thursdays from 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. on Zoom. Each week, we discuss the Scripture that will be used as the basis for the sermon the following weekend. We analyze the Scripture reading itself and discuss how to apply it in our lives. We also have a time in prayer. Please join us. If you have any questions, please contact Matt and Catherine (MattandCatherine@hotmail.com).



STEWARDSHIP AND SUCH...JANUARY 2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

GENERAL FUND

Actual:	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Budget-to-Date</u>
Total Income Received:	62,876.85	41,766.42
Total Expenses:	53,100.65	59,479.90
(Shortage)/Surplus	9,776.20	(17,713.48)

GENERAL FUND BUDGET

	<u>2022</u>
Pledges:	494,764
Total Income:	503,697
Total Expenses:	503,697

Weekly Amount Needed to Keep Commitments: \$9,687 We are ahead \$18,139 in pledges. Souper Bowl Offering: \$155.00
 Average Weekly Amount Received in January: \$12,575 Ten-Cents-A-Meal for January: \$181.00

The Gaither Family Endowment Fund

The Endowment Committee has met to distribute earnings from the Gaither Family Endowment Fund. This fund was established from the estate of Frances Breerwood and Frank Howard Gaither. The amount distributed from the Gaither Family Endowment Fund was \$5,955. The projects funded were:

From the Christian Education CommitteeCooking Camp 2022 to purchase supplies & food items

From the Worship CommitteeThe purchase of a Christmas Tree storage bag

From Matt DrumhellerDigital Soundboard to provide clean & clear livestream

From the Volunteer Youth DirectorFunding Middle School & High School Summer Youth Conferences; Fees & Housing

We would like to thank the Gaither family for their generosity and support. The Endowment Committee is comprised of: Session – John Earnhardt, Chair & Al Andrew; Members-At-Large: Mark Mabry and Connie Wallace; and Ex-Officio Members: Rev. Cathy George (minister), Dr. Bob Gaither (member), and Lee McLaurin (treasurer).

**First Presbyterian Church Art Gallery Is Now Open for Viewing
 GHA Autism Supports Creative Arts Program Presents**

POP ART





First Presbyterian Church continues to provide dinner on the 1st Friday of the month at the Community Inn. The next date to serve is March 4 at 6:30 p.m. Volunteers gather at 6:00 p.m.

If anyone is interested in helping, please contact Ruth Cotton (hugawolf@hotmail.com).

Central School Backpack Food Program Donations Needed

Oatmeal Packets, Breakfast Cookies, Individual Bags of Goldfish, Large Cans of Soup, Saltine Crackers, Tuna Helper, Cans of Tuna, Chicken Helper, Cans of Chicken, Snack Crackers, Pineapple, or Fruit Cocktail Cups

Donations may be dropped off in the Pit Stop at the church. Next Backpacking Date: Wednesday, March 16 at 10:30 a.m.



Quarter Ministry for The Mary & Martha Center for Women & Community Care

The Mary & Martha Center for Women & Community Care is collecting quarters to assist women with laundromat expenses. Your donation of quarters can be dropped in jars located at the sanctuary entrances. Your quarters make a difference!



UPDATE on Our Afghani Neighbors in Stanly County

Thanks to the generosity of several groups and individuals, our new neighbors have become established in our community. The funds raised covered one months rent, private ESL classes for two months, a cell phone to share and, a retainer fee for the Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy who will work with these men as they seek to get their families to the US. A significant donation from First Norwood Church also allowed for the purchase of a used car at cost through the help of a Locust PC member.

Both men (A.S. and J.H.) have found full time employment. In fact, A.S. has been already been promoted to supervisor at the company where they both work. In addition, they both have secured weekend jobs from another employer as they continue to work on their English proficiency. A.S. has a Masters Degree in Water Management and is interested in making connections in that field.

How wonderful it is that we are part of a connectional church!

Submitted by: Peggy Finley



SCCM PANTRY NEEDS
Updated February 14, 2022

Food Items Needed

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Mixed Vegetables | Whole or Sliced Potatoes |
| Sliced Carrots | Chili Beans with Meat |
| Black Eye Peas | Chili No Beans |
| Cream-style Corn | Sliced Pears |
| Lima Beans | Peanut Butter |
| Butter Beans | Jelly & Jam |
| Great Northern Beans | Self-Rising Flour |
| Navy Beans | (2 or 3 pound bags) |
| Kidney Beans | |

Cleaning Supplies Needed:

Dish Detergent, Laundry Detergent, Paper Towels, All-Purpose Spray Cleaner

Items Not Needed: Canned Whole Kernel Corn, Canned Cut Green Beans, Pinto Beans, Sweet Peas, Spaghetti Noodles & Other Pasta Noodles, Tomato Soup & Chicken Noodle Soup, Canned Pasta, Mac & Cheese



Memorials and Honorariums

Congregational Care Committee Fund:

In memory of Martha Elson, given by Betsy & Bruce McLean.
In memory of Martha Elson, given by Susan Phillips.
In memory of Martha Elson, given by The Hawthorn Garden Club.

Minister's Discretionary Fund:

In memory of Martha Elson, given by Dr. & Mrs. Tom Norwood.
In memory of Rev. Gus Feather, given by John & Debbie Hahn.
In memory of Rev. Gus Feather, given by Bill & Diane Stevenson.
In memory of Joan Sharp, given by Mildred Andrew.
In memory of Joan Sharp, given by Dr. & Mrs. Tom Norwood.
In memory of Joan Sharp, given by Miriam Russell.
In honor of Sally Grantier, given by John & Debbie Hahn.
In honor of Miriam Russell, given by John & Debbie Hahn.

Music Fund:

In memory of Bill Rogers, given by Mary Green.

Sympathy

To Jane Hartsell and family upon the death of her husband, Jeff Hartsell, on February 8.

New Address

Peggy Rogers
402 20th Ave. South
North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582-4138

Polly Moose
Harbor Chase Riverwalk
749 Dunkins Ferry Road
Apt. 2136
Rock Hill, SC 29730

Session Notes...At its stated meeting on Sunday, February 20, 2022, Session examined Wes Eudy for the position of deacon. Representatives to the quarterly meeting of the Charlotte Presbytery reported on the meeting held on February 12. Session approved a recommendation from the worship committee to cancel communion at the Ash Wednesday service and just distribute ashes. The Christian education committee announced plans for the Grandparents' Retreat on Sunday, May 15; for the intergenerational event, Food for the Spirit, on Sunday, March 20; and for children's cooking camp, the week of June 13-16. Session approved updated job descriptions presented by the personnel committee for facilities maintenance coordinator, office manager, secretary, and director of fellowship and congregational care. The Gaither Endowment committee reported that all grants that were submitted for the January meeting were approved.

Submitted by Mary N. Kesselman, Clerk of Session



Thanks to the following people for helping at the church recently: Linda Anderson, Mildred Andrew, Ann Duckwall, John Earnhardt, Donna Gaither, John Hahn, Jim Hesley, John Howell, Ken Knight, Lee McLaurin, Frankie Palmer, Evan Sanges, and Rich Schaefer.

Thanks to the following people who helped make food for the Community Inn Meals in January and February: Linda Anderson, Andy Cotton, Ruth Cotton, Ann Crutchfield, Debbie Hahn, Martha Sue Hall, Nancy Joines, Jennifer Mabry, Marlene Sanges, Nathan Sanges, Carol Sasser, Janet Schaefer

Volunteer Thanks from Jane Snyder (Director of Fellowship & Congregational Care)

for First Family Drive-Thru Meal, 3rd Wednesday Drive-Thru Meal, and Tiffany's Lunch Drive-Thru Meal

These are the incredible, patient, hard-working volunteers that showed up AGAIN to help at our drive-thru meals! Linda Anderson, Ruth Cotton, Ann Duckwall, Peggy Finley, Susan Garrison, Jim Hesley, John Howell, Margaret Ivey, Chris Mabry, Lee McLaurin, Frankie Palmer, Ned Russell, Gayle Russell, Jim Sawyer, and Lee Snuggs. Thank you so much for your help, your energy, your ideas, your positive attitudes and your generous spirit. Your presence and enthusiasm are a rich blessing to our church! We appreciate you!!!
Jane Snyder, Director of Fellowship & Congregational Care

A special thank you to all the restaurants that made our Partnership Lunches a success: Second Street Sundries, Ly Cuisine, Glory Beans, Off the Square, and Tiffany's at the Boardroom. A huge thank you to Off the Square and Tiffany's at the Boardroom for their donation of the food. This was such a nice and generous surprise. Please visit all of these local restaurants and show your support and appreciation!

I would like to thank the congregation of First Presbyterian for their generous support of OASIS in the past months. Our organization is entirely volunteer-run, and the donations received from the Christmas Eve offering and the Alternative Gifts program were much needed and very much appreciated. The gifts we received from the members of First Presbyterian have allowed us already this year to build three wheelchair ramps for underprivileged older adults. Navigating life is difficult for us all during a pandemic, but particularly hard for a nonprofit, and we are grateful for your generosity.

Kimberly Marshall, President of the Board of Directors of Older Adult Services in Stanly

NEWS & NOTES

A Very
Special
Thank You



In an effort to keep the prayer list updated, we would appreciate your help. Please notify the church office (704-982-2722 or pknighnten@fpcalbemarle.org) or Martha Sue Hall (704-985-5821 or hallmsh@hotmail.com) of changes.

Thank you.



Do you ever see a name on the prayer list and think, *Now who is that?* Or forget what the relationship is? You are not alone as many folks have asked for help with this. The *Prayer List Connection* will refresh all our memories. Folks with chronic needs will be listed for a month in the bulletin. Following that month, we will keep them on the newsletter's *Prayer List Connection* for as long as we are requested to do so. Critical prayer concerns will be added weekly to the prayer list in the bulletin.

Friends of the Congregation:

Debra Barnard, daughter of Gloria Bryson; chemotherapy treatment for liver cancer.
David & Marsha Bell, friends of Debbie & John Hahn; David has cancer.
Tom Bonekemper, cousin of Linda Anderson; pancreatic cancer.
Lindsey Clark, wife of Mark Clark, friend of Debbie Hahn; metastatic breast cancer.
Calvin Hall, friend of Ruth Goodwin; kidney cancer – physical therapy for stroke.
Lindsey (Whitley) Harward, daughter of Carolyn & Mel Whitley.
Anna Hartsell, daughter of Janet & Gary Hartsell; colon cancer.
Ann Hatcher, mother of Ann Snuggs.
Debbie Hinson, mother of Melissa Eudy.
Betty Hunsucker, mother of Gina Martin; Hospice Care.
Denise LaBoube, half-sister of Martha White; Glioblastoma.
Molly Amelia Lowder, low immunity health concerns.
Wendy McInturff, mother of Michelle Cumming.
Maddie McRae, daughter of Renee & Keith McRae; diagnosis & treatment for a brain tumor.
Bryanna Medlin, Hodgkins Lymphoma.
Helen Melton, niece of Elizabeth Wilson; Atrium-Stanly ICU.
Bern Morehead, III, son of Sally Pleasant & Dr. Bernard “Bernie” Morehead; diagnosed with brain tumor.
James Nunn, nephew of Billie Jean Snuggs; continuing health concerns.
Sally Ormand, friend of Ruth Goodwin; cancer treatment.
Susan & John Prevatte.
Tim Rodgers, friend of Thomas Hahn.
Judy Ross, friend of Tom & Holly Norwood; diagnosis of pancreatic cancer.
Jane Scheer, spouse of Stan Scheer; Spring Arbor.
Johnny Sharp, father of Cathy George.
Brad Slusher, half-brother of Martha White; pancreatic cancer & COPD.
Betty Stancik, sister of Bill Hall; continuing health concerns.
Garin Stepp, Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.

Members of the Congregation:

Don Abernathy, multiple myeloma.
Gloria Bryson.
Anita Gower.
Claude Harwood.
Robin Howell.
Don Joines.
Nancy Jolly, Trinity Place.
Dick Liles.
Terry Morgan.
Jane Pickler.
Jean Rabe.
Carole Yost, Trinity Place.



- | | | | |
|-----|------------------|-----|--------------------|
| 02- | Al Andrew | 14- | Leah Kilde |
| | Jordan Davis | | Courtney Niederer |
| | Luke Davis | 15- | Kate Melone |
| | Natalie Niederer | 16- | Steve Coats |
| | Ellen Snyder | 17- | Bob Gaither |
| 05- | Becky Andrew | | Eric Niederer |
| 06- | Keith Andrew | 19- | Catherine McIntyre |
| | Robert Ivey | | Chris Whitley |
| 07- | Chris Mabry | 20- | Bo Andrew |
| 09- | Cidney Eudy | | Lee McLaurin |
| | David Whitley | 22- | Jane Hartsell |
| 10- | Russ Carpenter | | Maggie Melone |
| 11- | Jim Carter | 24- | Sam Holshouser |
| | Nancy Jolly | 27- | Lachlann Currie |
| 12- | Morgan Kinley | 29- | Claude Harwood |
| | | 30- | Ellie Niederer |



- 10-David & Carroll Holbrook
19-Eric & Courtney Niederer
24-Nathan & Marlene Sanges



Sunday Night Live

Sunday, March 6
Sunday, March 13
Sunday, March 20
Sunday, March 27

SNL Youth
SNL Youth Bowling
SNL Youth
SNL Youth

6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
Details Coming Soon
6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.



High school

When: July 10-16

Where: Montreat

Who: Rising 9th graders- Seniors

What: An amazing experience to meet people from around the United States who gather to worship, play games, build fellowship, and share meals. Deadline to sign up is March 27. \$100 deposit required.

Let Melissa (the5eudys@gmail.com or 704-439-6747) or

Liz Jolly (jollymom2@gmail.com or 704-699-6699)

know if you would like to sign up!

Middle school

When: July 20-24

Where: Maryville College

Who: Rising 6th-8th graders

High School Faith Conversations for 9th-12th graders
with Steve Cumming & Debby Johnston
at the home of Debby Johnston
(1212 Heritage Drive, Albemarle)
Mondays from 8:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Debby Johnston.
(704-322-8139 or debbyjohnston@hotmail.com)

happy
birthday!

03-02 Natalie Niederer

03-09 Cidney Eudy

03-14 Leah Kilde

03-30 Ellie Niederer

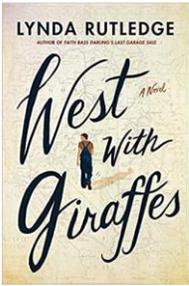
Prayer Shawl Ministry



The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Wednesday, March 2 at 1:30 p.m. in the Parlor. Please contact Peggy Finley at 704-985-1136 or maf447@windstream.net if you have questions.

Scholarships

From the Scholarship Committee...Scholarship applications will be available Tuesday, March 1 on the church website (www.fpcalbemarle.org) and in the church office. **The deadline to return completed applications is Tuesday, April 5.** If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask a scholarship committee member. Committee members for 2022 are: Catherine Moeller, Chair, Shannon Bullard, Wes Eudy, Kim Marshall, and Lee McLaurin.



March Book Conversation

Monday, March 28 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor

The March book is *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge. We will meet in the parlor at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 28.

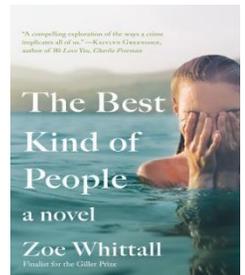
West with Giraffes explores what it means to be changed by the grace of animals, the kindness of strangers, the passing of time, and a story told before it's too late.

April Book Conversation

Monday, April 25 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor

The April book is *The Best Kind of People* by Zoe Whittall. We will meet in the parlor at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 25.

A local schoolteacher is arrested, leaving his family to wrestle with the possibility of his guilt, in this exquisite novel about loyalty, truth, and happiness.





The April Newsletter Deadline is **Tuesday, March 15.**

Early submissions are always welcome!
If you type your items in Microsoft Word, please email them as an attachment to:
pknighen@fpcalbemarle.org.

Youth Sunday April 24



EASTER EGG HUNT SUNDAY, APRIL 10 4:30 P.M.-6:30 P.M. CITY LAKE PARK

Calling children of ALL ages!
Join us Sunday, April 10 from 4:30
p.m.-6:30 p.m. at City Lake Park for
the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Come
share food (hotdogs), fun, and
fellowship. Bring an Easter basket
and a friend.



!!! Coming Soon !!!

Grandparent & Grandchild Retreat
Sunday, May 15
Noon-3:00 p.m.

Partnering in Christian Education
Grandparents & Grandchildren of ANY age ...
Lunch at the New London Memorial Park
(220 N. Main St., New London)

!!! Activities for all ages !!!

Call or email the church office to sign-up (704)
982-2722 or gmartin@fpcalbemarle.org.

Rain Date Sunday, May 22

COOKING CAMP



Save the Date

Monday, June 13 through Thursday, June 16
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

We are planning Cooking Camp this year for children in completed 4th-6th grades
(limited to 12 children)!

If you would like to volunteer, please let Jane know as soon as possible (704-438-3358 or
jsnyder@fpcalbemarle.org).



SAVE THE DATE

KIDS CAMP

AGES 4 THRU COMPLETED 5TH GRADE

JUNE 19-24

For many years, Music and Arts camp has brought the children
of FPC to life. While we enjoy that experience, time has come to
re-envision our summer camp slightly. As our committee works
toward planning a great summer experience, we are looking for

children 4 years of age up to those who have finished 5th grade to participate. Please let Melissa
Eudy know if you know of a child this age to put on the contact list as updates come about. (704-
439-6747 or the5eudys@gmail.com)



Youth Club in March

Youth Club kicks off the month of March with an Ash Wednesday experience with Pastor Cathy during Bible Time. This interactive experience will include the imposition of ashes and initial preparation for Lent. In art, the children will create a take home Lenten devotional to be used daily during the forty days of Lent to encourage families to pray, fast and give during this season in response to what Christ did for us. Activities during Lent will focus on practicing spiritual disciplines: Fasting, Praying, Listening to God, Embracing Simplicity and Unplugging. The Lord's Prayer will be a major focus during this month, and they will sing *The Lord's Prayer* in music.

Trusty Travelers (K-3rd graders) will learn of Queen Esther's courage to stand up for what she knew was right for the Jewish people and how we can fast from many things: food, arguing, screen watching, complaining and even toys.

Faith Explorers (4th & 5th graders) will keep a *Spiritual Discipline Journal* weekly to record reflections on fasting, praying and listening to God. They will share their feelings, prayers and how they are turning their focus on Jesus during this season.

The children will sing to the glory of God during worship on Sunday, March 20.



Faith Explorers' Lazy 5 Ranch Outing

Sunday, March 20 from Noon-4:00 p.m.

Emus, antelope, and zebras, oh my!!!

Faith Explorers...Please join us on Sunday, March 20 for an outdoor animal adventure at the Lazy 5 Ranch in Mooresville. We will eat some lunch at church before heading to the ranch. Pick-up will be at 4:00 p.m. at the church. RSVP to Kate Gibson 336-301-4564 or Katherine.e.gibson@gmail.com to let her know that your Faith Explorer will attend.

!!! Hurray For Breakfast Bunch for K-5th Graders !!!



Who can come? K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th graders
What? Gathering as friends to enjoy breakfast
When? *** March 20, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. ***Note change of date!
Where? Stage in the gym – We can spread out for eating.
Why? To pray together & build strong community of faith
Please let Gina Martin (gmartin@fpcalbemarle.org) or Katherine Jolly (kat6420@gmail.com) know if you are able to join us. *Muffins, yogurt, fruit and juice provided.

**The Talent Company presents
*Annie***

**March 25, 26, 31 & April 1, 2
at 7:00 p.m.**

March 27 & April 3 at 3:00 p.m.

**Albemarle Neighborhood Theater
(219 East North Street, Albemarle)**

Adult Ticket (14 and up) \$10

Youth Ticket (13 and under) \$5

www.TheTalentCompany.org





A wonderful washing

David's prayer of repentance reveals a desire to be cleansed of his sin.

Directions: Unscramble the words on the left. Then match them with the correct phrases from Psalm 51 (NIV) on the right.

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------|--|
| ETRCAE _ _ _ _ _ | _____ | out my transgressions (v. 1) |
| HSAW _ _ _ _ _ | _____ | away all my iniquity (v. 2) |
| RSEEROT _ _ _ _ _ | _____ | me with hyssop, and I will be clean (v. 7) |
| WNERE _ _ _ _ _ | _____ | me, and I will be whiter than snow (v. 7) |
| TLBO _ _ _ _ _ | _____ | your face from my sins (v. 9) |
| DIHE _ _ _ _ _ | _____ | out all my iniquity (v. 9) |
| NATRG _ _ _ _ _ | _____ | in me a pure heart (v. 10) |
| LNSECAE _ _ _ _ _ | _____ | a steadfast spirit within me (v. 10) |
| LBTO _ _ _ _ _ | _____ | to me the joy of your salvation (v. 12) |
| WHTA _ _ _ _ _ | _____ | me a willing spirit, to sustain me (v. 12) |



Tuesday, March 1

5:00 pm-6:00 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Drive-Thru Meal

Wednesday, March 2

Ash Wednesday

6:45 am Men's Prayer Breakfast

10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

1:30 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (Parlor)

3:30 pm-5:30 pm Youth Club (K-5th Graders)

5:30 pm-6:00 pm Youth Club Handbells with Frank Poolos

6:00 pm *Ash Wednesday Service (Sanctuary)

Thursday, March 3

10:00 am Staff Meeting

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

Friday, March 4

6:00 pm Meal for the Community Inn

Sunday, March 6

1st Sunday of Lent

Ten Cents a Meal Offering for Hunger

9:30 am Faith, Fellowship, & Food at Glorybeans Coffee House
(134 West Main Street, Albemarle)

9:45 am-10:30 am The Wired Word Sunday School Class (Zoom)

9:45 am *Sunday School

11:00 am *Worship

3:00 pm Hiking Group (Morrow Mountain State Park)

6:00 pm-8:00 pm SNL Youth

Monday, March 7

10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

10:00 am Gratitude Group (Pit Stop)

2:00 pm RSVP Deadline Lenten Drive Thru Meal

4:00 pm Walking Group (Rock Creek Park)

8:30 pm-9:30 pm High School Faith Conversations at the home of
Debby Johnston (1212 Heritage Dr., Albemarle)

Tuesday, March 8

6:00 pm Dinner Out Group (Five Points Public House)

***childcare provided**



Because your
steadfast love
is better than
life, my lips
will praise
you. PSALM 63:3

**Wednesday, March 9**

- 6:45 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 12:00 pm Community Lent Service at Central UMC
(172 North 2nd St.)
- 1:30 pm Circle #5
- 3:30 pm-5:30 pm Youth Club (K-5th Graders)
- 5:00 pm-6:00 pm Lenten Drive-Thru Meal
- 5:00 pm-7:00 pm Lent Fest (Church Lower Parking Lot)
- 5:30 pm-6:00 pm Youth Club Handbells with Frank Poolos
- 6:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, March 10

- 2:00 pm Tea & Conversation Group (Church Parlor)
- 4:00 pm-5:00 pm Zoom Bible Study with Catherine & Matt Moeller

Sunday, March 13

2nd Sunday of Lent

SNL Youth Bowling (TBD)

- 8:45 am Diaconate Meeting
- 9:30 am Faith, Fellowship, & Food at Glorybeans Coffee House
(134 West Main Street, Albemarle)
- 9:45 am-10:30 am The Wired Word Sunday School Class (Zoom)
- 9:45 am *Sunday School
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 3:00 pm Hiking Group (Morrow Mountain State Park)

Monday, March 14

- 10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 10:00 am Gratitude Group (Pit Stop)
- 2:00 pm RSVP Deadline Lenten Drive Thru Meal
- 4:00 pm Walking Group (Rock Creek Park)
- 8:30 pm-9:30 pm High School Faith Conversations at the home of
Debby Johnston (1212 Heritage Dr., Albemarle)

Tuesday, March 15

- 12:00 pm April Newsletter Deadline
- 6:00 pm Dinner Out Group (Jalapeños)

Wednesday, March 16

- 6:45 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 10:30 am Backpack Food Program
- 12:00 pm Community Lent Service at Central UMC
(172 North 2nd St.)
- 3:30 pm-5:30 pm Youth Club (K-5th Graders)
- 4:00 pm-4:45 pm Confirmation Class
- 5:00 pm-6:00 pm Lenten Drive-Thru Meal
- 5:00 pm-7:00 pm Lent Fest (Church Lower Parking Lot)
- 5:30 pm-6:00 pm Youth Club Handbells with Frank Poolos
- 6:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, March 17

St. Patrick's Day

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
- 2:00 pm Tea & Conversation Group (Church Parlor)
- 4:00 pm-5:00 pm Zoom Bible Study with Catherine & Matt Moeller

***childcare provided**



Sunday, March 20

3rd Sunday of Lent

Mister Rogers Day/Neighboring Sunday

Youth Club Handbell Ensemble rings in worship

Youth Club Trusty Travelers & Faith Explorers sing in worship

8:30 am Session Meeting

9:00 am Breakfast Bunch for K-5th Graders (Gym)

9:30 am Faith, Fellowship, & Food at Glorybeans Coffee House
(134 West Main Street, Albemarle)

9:45 am-10:30 am The Wired Word Sunday School Class (Zoom)

9:45 am *Intergenerational Sunday School – Mister Rogers Day

11:00 am *Worship

12:00 pm-4:00 pm Faith Explorer's Lazy 5 Ranch Outing

3:00 pm Hiking Group (Morrow Mountain State Park)

6:00 pm-8:00 pm SNL Youth

Monday, March 21

10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

10:00 am Gratitude Group (Pit Stop)

2:00 pm RSVP Deadline Lenten Drive Thru Meal

4:00 pm Walking Group (Rock Creek Park)

8:30 pm-9:30 pm High School Faith Conversations at the home of
Debby Johnston (1212 Heritage Dr., Albemarle)

Tuesday, March 22

6:00 pm Dinner Out Group (Pizzantica)

Wednesday, March 23

6:45 am Men's Prayer Breakfast

10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

12:00 pm Community Lent Service at Central UMC
(172 North 2nd St.)

3:30 pm-5:30 pm Youth Club (K-5th Graders)

4:00 pm-4:45 pm Confirmation Class

5:00 pm-6:00 pm Lenten Drive-Thru Meal

5:00 pm-7:00 pm Lent Fest (Church Lower Parking Lot)

5:30 pm-6:00 pm Youth Club Handbells with Frank Poolos

6:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, March 24

2:00 pm Tea & Conversation Group (Church Parlor)

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

Sunday, March 27

4th Sunday of Lent

9:30 am Faith, Fellowship, & Food at Glorybeans Coffee House
(134 West Main Street, Albemarle)

9:45 am-10:30 am The Wired Word Sunday School Class (Zoom)

9:45 am *Sunday School

11:00 am *Worship

3:00 pm Hiking Group (Morrow Mountain State Park)

6:00 pm-8:00 pm SNL Youth

***childcare provided**



MARCH

Monday, March 28

- 10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 10:00 am Gratitude Group (Pit Stop)
- 2:00 pm RSVP Deadline Lenten Drive Thru Meal
- 4:00 pm Walking Group (Rock Creek Park)
- 7:00 pm Book Conversation in the Parlor
- 8:30 pm-9:30 pm High School Faith Conversations at the home of Debby Johnston (1212 Heritage Dr., Albemarle)

Tuesday, March 29

- 6:00 pm Dinner Out Group (The Boardroom Restaurant)

Wednesday, March 30

- 6:45 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 12:00 pm Community Lent Service at Central UMC (172 North 2nd St.)
- 3:30 pm-5:30 pm Youth Club (K-5th Graders)
- 4:00 pm-4:45 pm Confirmation Class
- 5:00 pm-6:00 pm Lenten Drive-Thru Meal
- 5:00 pm-7:00 pm Lent Fest (Church Lower Parking Lot)
- 5:30 pm-6:00 pm Youth Club Handbells with Frank Poolos
- 6:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday, March 31

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
- 2:00 pm Tea & Conversation Group (Church Parlor)
- 4:00 pm-5:00 pm Zoom Bible Study with Catherine & Matt Moeller

***childcare provided**



THOSE WHO SERVE IN MARCH

Ushers: Myron Lowder (captain), Al Andrew, Emily Andrew, Steve Cumming, Ella Cumming, and Jack Morton

Elder Greeters: Al Andrew; Kim Marshall

Acolytes:

March 6: Hugh Carpenter
March 13: Ellie Niederer
March 20: Ella Cumming
March 27: Nathaniel Eudy

Outside Ushers:

March 6: TBD
March 13: TBD
March 20: TBD
March 27: TBD

Sound:

March 6: Evan Sanges; Leah Kilde
March 13: Evan Sanges; Leah Kilde
March 20: Evan Sanges; Leah Kile
March 27: Evan Sanges; Leah Kilde

Filming:

March 6: Andy McLeod
March 13: Katherine Jolly
March 20: Andy McLeod
March 27: James Cotton

Nursery for March: Kate White

Kids Care Crew:

March 6: Becky Andrew; Emily Andrew
March 13: Penny Morton
March 20: Sarah Michael
March 27: Carol Sasser

Children's Church for March

March 6: Laura McLeod
March 13: Laura McLeod
March 20: Liz Jolly
March 27: Liz Jolly

Church Website Address & Staff Email Addresses

Church Website Address:

www.fpcalbemarle.org

Church Email Address:

klambert@fpcalbemarle.org

Rev. Cathy George:

cgeorge@fpcalbemarle.org

Kyle Lambert:

klambert@fpcalbemarle.org

Pam Knighten:

pknighten@fpcalbemarle.org

Jane Snyder:

jsnyder@fpcalbemarle.org

Stan Scheer:

sscheer@fpcalbemarle.org

Gina Martin:

gmartin@fpcalbemarle.org

