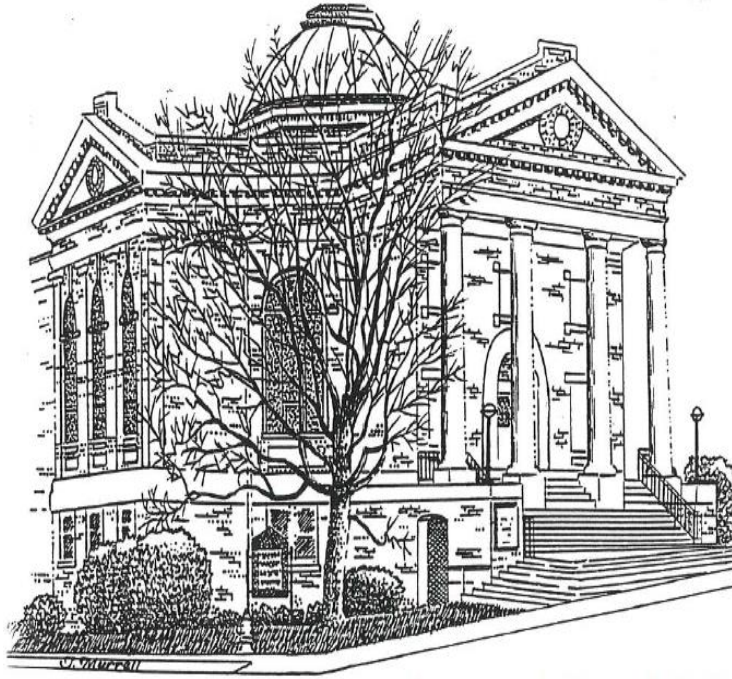


First Presbyterian Church

Albemarle, North Carolina



Lent invites each one of us to acknowledge that we were there when they crucified my Lord, and that given the chance—the right coming together of events—we would 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 to remember the grace of God, remember that Easter will come.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

February 26, 2023

1st Sunday in Lent

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please sign the guest register and pass it on

PRELUDE

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

Arr. Gary Prim

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Madelyn Taylor, acolyte

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 25

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. Lead the humble and teach them your way.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

For you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.

Your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness for those who keep your decrees.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Loving God, you have made covenant with us and with every living creature. We give you thanks for the sign of the rainbow, as it reminds you and us of your promise: that the flood of destruction will not be the last word. We thank you, too, for the waters of baptism, the sign that we're raised as children of the covenant. We thank you for the sign of the dove, the promise of your Holy Spirit. Hovering over the dawn of creation, descending upon your beloved Son, your Spirit also hovers over and descends upon us. With the whole creation, we give you all glory and honor. Amen.

*HYMN 22

“God of the Sparrow”

ROEDER

*God of the sparrow God of the whale God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe How does the creature say Praise*

*God of the earthquake God of the storm God of the trumpet blast
How does the creature cry Woe How does the creature cry Save*

*God of the rainbow God of the cross God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace How does the creature say Thanks*

*God of the hungry God of the sick God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care How does the creature say Life*

*God of the neighbor God of the foe God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love How does the creature say Peace*

*God of the ages God near at hand God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy How do your children say Home*

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, we begin this Lenten season in confession. We do not live according to your ways, but according to our own. We condone violence, participate in systems of injustice, and use power to our own advantage at the expense of others. Forgive us, we pray, when we're tempted to follow paths other than those you've set before us. Teach us your commandments; help us turn from evil in its many disguises, and turn us toward your kingdom drawing near. In covenantal love, remember us, we pray, and be for us, once more and always, an ark of safety and new life. In Christ's name we pray.

Silent Confession and Reflection

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

Those coming forward for Faith Sharing are invited to move to the chancel area during the Response.

*Response 582 “Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me” GLORY TO GOD
(stanza 1)

*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.*

THE WORD

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Penny Morton

ANTHEM

“Think On These Things”

Craig Courtney

*Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest
Whatsoever things are just and pure, lovely, of good repute;
If there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things,
And the God of peace shall be with you. Amen*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, in rushing waters and in dry wilderness, in every season and circumstance, we need your sustaining word. By the power of your Holy Spirit, proclaim the good news among us today so that we may repent and believe and see anew how the time is fulfilled and the kingdom has come near; in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Genesis 9: 8-17](#)

pew Bible, page 6

SERMON

“The Promise of the Rainbow”

Rev. George

*HYMN 833

“O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go”

ST. MARGARET

*O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee.
I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.*

*O Light that follows all my way, I yield my flick’ring torch to thee.
My heart restores its borrowed ray, that in thy sunshine’s blaze its day may brighter, fairer be.*

*O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee.
I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain, that morn shall tearless be.*

*O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee.
I lay in dust, life’s glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red, life that shall endless be.*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From *A Brief Statement of Faith*, PC(USA)

In life and in death we belong to God. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. 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. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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.

RECEIVING OF THE OFFERING

Offertory

“Adagio”

Henry Purcell

*Response 606

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

OLD HUNDRETH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of steadfast love and faithfulness, we're humbled as we try to do what's right and to walk in your ways. Receive these offerings and use them for your good purposes in the church and in all creation. Amen.

SENDING

*HYMN 836

“Abide With Me”

EVENTIDE

*Abide with me, fast falls the eventide. The darkness deepens Lord, with me abide!
When other helpers fail and comforts flee, help of the helpless, oh, abide with me*

*Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see. O Thou who changest not, abide with me.*

*I need thy presence every passing hour; what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be? Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.*

*I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless; ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory? I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.*

*Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes; shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee; In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

“The Lord Bless You and Keep You”

Peter C. Lutkin

*POSTLUDE

“Trumpet Tune”

Henry Purcell

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

Bold print indicates places where congregation reads or sings.

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Thank you to Frank Poolos and Penny Morton for their leadership in worship today.

The acolyte today is Madelyn Taylor.

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in memory of Maude Boysworth.

Ushers for February: Myron Lowder (captain), Jim Hesley, Al Andrew, Steve Cumming, Jim Ivey, Jim Marshall.

Outside Ushers for February 26: Tom Norwood, Jack Morton

Elder Greeters: Lee McLaurin, Ronnie Michael.

Streaming Coordinator: Evan Sanges **Film:** Andy McLeod **Nursery:** Bailey Mitchell
Kids Crew: TBD

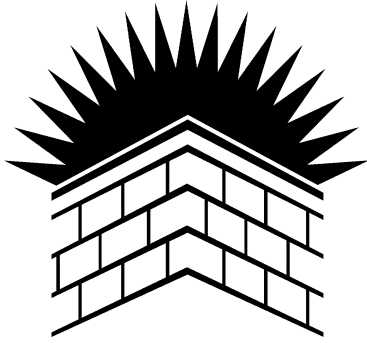
There will be no Children’s Church today.

We ask that you keep these people in your prayers: Claude Harwood, Wayne Palmer, Penny Welling (friend of the congregation), Gloria Bryson (Trinity Place), Ann Byrd (Home), Tim Rodgers, Doris Forte-Spring Arbor, Jean Rabe, Anita Gower, Nancy Jolly, Jane Scheer, Don Joines, Elizabeth Wilson, Ann Snuggs, Susan Pandich-breast cancer, Jason Miller (friend of the congregation), Laura Frazier, Debbie Hinson, Rita Morgan, Harriet Watkins (friend of the congregation), Mike Jewell (brother-in-law of Linda Anderson), Marlene Sanges. The family of Carol Yost. See newsletter for complete list.

IN MEMORIAM
Carol Yost
May 3, 1936 – February 20, 2023



The Session is calling for a meeting of the congregation following worship on March 5 for the purpose of electing Members-at-Large to the Nominating Committee. Nominations will be accepted from the floor. Please check with the person you wish to nominate to make sure she or he will serve if elected.



We encourage children to remain in worship!
 There are worship bags available for them in
 both lobbies of the church.
 Feel free to pick these up anytime
 before, during or after worship.

The Christian Education Corner

If you are not on the Middle School & High School SPOND app please download it. That is the easiest way for all youth to keep in touch. Here is the link to join <https://group.spond.com/LTOXZ>

Monday Night Bible Study 9th-12th graders at the home of Debby Johnston
 (1212 Heritage Dr.) Mondays at 8:30 pm.





WANT TO HELP WITH YOUTH CLUB?

When: Wednesdays
Times: 3:30-5:30

If you would like to help with Bible study, arts, recreation, snack, music, and more, please let Melissa Eudy know!

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



A bin in the pit stop will receive your donation.

Next Packing Date: Wednesday, March 1 at 10:30 a.m.



PLEASE REMEMBER TO SIGN THE REGISTER

The Membership Care Committee encourages you to be faithful in signing the Friendship Register in worship on Sundays and to register online if you worship there. It helps us know when you are not here, which is very important.



First Presbyterian Church Scholarship Applications are available in the church office. Applications are also available from each area High School (see the guidance counselor). Gray Stone Day School and Stanly Community College also have applications available. Deadline for submission is April 4.

We will have Lenten Meals each Wednesday in March.

Volunteer's are needed for all Lenten meals during Lent- please call Jane Snyder at the church 704-982-2722 her phone 704-438-3358 or email her at jsnyder@fpsalbemarle.org if you would like to help.



Lenten Meal- Wednesday, March 1
 6:00 pm Dine in Gym
 Please RSVP by 2:00 pm on Monday February 27.
 Menu: Chicken and Noodles, Crackers and Dessert.

REFLECTION, REPENTANCE, RENEWAL

Lenten Lunches

Wednesdays in Lent Starts March 1

First Baptist Church
 Service at Noon
 Lunch at 12:30 pm

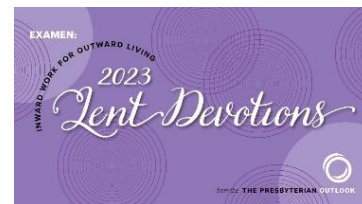
Sponsored by the Greater Albemarle Ministerial Association

Community Lent Services
Wednesdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 at Noon
First Baptist Church
(202 North 2nd Street, Albemarle)



STARTING TODAY FOR LENT 2023

The daily devotions are entitled, *“Inward Work for Outward Living”* which will have us explore the ancient spiritual practice of *examen* that focuses on honest assessment and reflection. Each daily reflection will combine personal reflection with meditation, visualization and short prayers. You will receive an email copy of *“Inward Work...”* and printed copies can be mailed to those who do not have internet. Hard copies will be available in the church office upon request.





The Prayer Shawl Ministry
 will meet on Wednesday, March 1 at 1:30 pm in the Parlor.

Check out the Lenten Groups in the Pit Stop and sign up!!
 Group descriptions and contact info are also provided on insert.
 The Young Adults Groups will have their first gathering hosted by Gina & Roger Martin on Friday, March 3 at 6:30 pm-at Martin Gallery.
 Contact Gina at 704-244-0186 if attending.



OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, February 26

1st Sunday in Lent

- 9:00 am Adult Handbells
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 3:00 pm Hiking Group (Morrow Mt State Park)
- 6:00 pm SNL

Monday, February 27

- 10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 8:30 pm High School Bible Study-home of Debby Johnson
- 12:00 pm Mindful Positivity Group (Old Session Room)
- 4:00 pm Walking Group (Rock Creek Park)

Wednesday, March 1

- 6:45 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
- 12:00 pm Community Lenten Service & Lunch- First Baptist Church
- 1:30 pm Prayer Shawl Parlor
- 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm Youth Club & The Innocence of Youth & The Importance of the Table Group
- 6:00 pm Lenten Meal Gym
- 6:45 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 2

- 10:00 am Discussion Group (Church Parlor)
- 4:00 pm Zoom Bible Study with Catherine & Matt Moeller
- 6:00 pm When Tough Stuff Happens Group (Location TBD)

Friday, March 3

- 6:30 pm Young Adult Group Gathering (Martin Gallery)

Sunday, March 5

2nd Sunday in Lent / Ten Cents a Meal Offering for Hunger

***childcare provided**

- 9:00 am Adult Handbells
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 3:00 pm Hiking Group (Morrow Mt State Park)
- 6:00 pm SNL

Church Staff

Transitional Pastor, Rev Catherine George
 Transitional Director of Christian Ed, Melissa Eudy
 Dir Fellowship/Congregational Care, Jane Snyder
 Director of Music, Dr. Frank Poolos
 Organist, Interim
 Office Manager, Kyle Lambert
 Secretary, Beth Poolos

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

February

- 26- Calvin Huneycutt
- 28- Carroll Holbrook

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

March

- 02- Al Andrew
- Jordan Davis
- Luke Davis
- Natalie Niederer
- Ellen Snyder

Elders

Al Andrew, Ann Crutchfield, Bill Jolly,
 Mary Kesselman, Heather Kilde,
 Mike King, Lee McLaurin, Kim Marshall,
 Ronnie Michael, Catherine Moeller, Jackson Palmer
 Chris Whitley, Ellen Whitley

Deacons

Keith Bryson, Shannon Bullard, Michelle Cumming,
 Wes Eudy, Jim Hesley, Liz Jolly, Myron Lowder,
 Laura McLeod, Frank Poolos. Brett Richards,
 Carol Sasser, Billie Jean Snuggs

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.

The offering as part of our worship is a response to God's grace. The plates will be passed by the ushers or you may make your gift by scanning the QR Code here. Thank you for your generosity.

Lenten Groups 2023

As we enter the season of Lent, we invite you to find a group to share the season and spirit with. Contact the group leader for more information.

Hiking Group

3 pm on Sunday afternoons

Morrow Mountain

Come explore the glory of God by being surrounded by nature. Bring a water bottle and wear comfy shoes!

Ken Knight and Connie Wallace

Mindful Positivity Group

Noon on Mondays (Feb 27, Mar 6, 13, 20, 27)

Old Session Room

Contact: Jane Snyder 704-438-3358.

This class will go deeper into positivity within ourselves where Christ resides. Lunch will be provided the first week.

Jane Snyder and Gayle Russell

Walking Group

4 pm on Monday afternoons

Rock Creek Park

This group enjoys fellowship and conversation while moving our bodies in mindfulness of how intricately created we are. We were created to move, so come move with us!

Gina Martin and Mary Kesselman

The innocence of youth & The importance of the Table

Wednesday afternoons from 3:30-5:30

Contact: Melissa 704-439-6747

What better way to think through Lent than through the eyes of a child? This group will join with our Youth Club while learning more about the young people of our church. No experience necessary, just come watch and behold the beauty of the minds of children.

Youth Club

Discussion Group

10 am on Thursday mornings – Church Parlor

We still need a leader for this group. Reach out to Melissa if you would like to help!

TBA

Young Adults Group

Dates, Times, and Locations TBA

Contact: Gina 704-244-0186

This group is geared toward our 20-30 year olds. Get to know those your age. No heavy lifting, just fellowship!

Gina Martin

When Tough Stuff Happens

6:30 pm on Thursday evenings

Locations will vary

Contact: Karlyn 828-507-0865 or Melissa 704-439-6747

Come dig into the situations in the Scriptures that weren't so pleasant. Then join us as we discuss God's will for us to deal with the times when these situations plague our own lives.

Karlyn Cox and Melissa Eudy

Movies and Discussion

Dates and times TBA

Contact: Kim 980-621-6577 This group will gather in the church theater for movies and discussion surrounding them. Contact Kim to help get this group going.

Kim Marshall