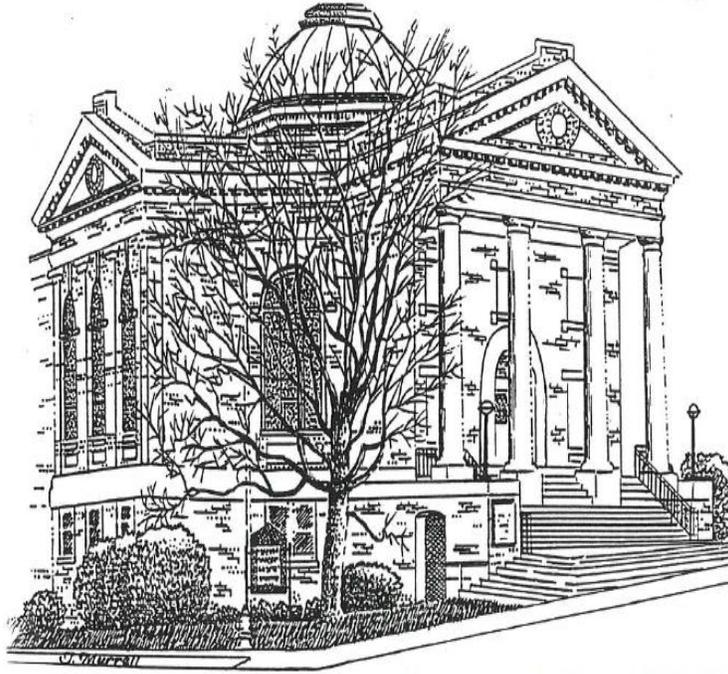


First Presbyterian Church Albemarle, North Carolina



We are people of life in the midst of the death in the world. You and I are painters of the resurrection and our tools are many. We paint sometimes with hope-filled words that remind dry-boned people of God's promises. Other times, we paint with loving deeds.

*We paint the picture of resurrection through generosity, and through prayer,
and sometimes by just standing with people, sometimes with people with whom no one else will stand.*

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

March 26, 2023

5TH Sunday in Lent

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please sign the guest register and pass it on

PRELUDE

“Antiphon III”

Marcel Dupré

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Jordan Hesley, acolyte

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Psalm 130

Heather Kilde, liturgist

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

Hope in the Lord! For with the Lord, there is steadfast love, and great power to redeem.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits; and in the word of the Lord, I hope.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Lord God, Great I Am, you are resurrection and life. As we worship you this day, show us who we are: bearers of good news, messengers of resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN 17**

“Sing Praise to God, You Heavens!”

WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN

*Sing praise to God, you heavens! Sing praise each shining light! Sing, planets in your orbits; sing stars all burning bright!
Sing praise, you winds and tempests, you driving rain and snow! Sing, clouds that race and billow and shadow earth below!*

*Sing praise, O earth, sing praises! Sing praises, hill and plain, you mountains thrusting skyward, you valleys ripe with grain!
Sing praise, each fragrant flower; your fairest hues display. Sing praise, you trees of autumn in glowing, glad array!*

*Sing praises, all you creatures in whom God takes delight: you whales that roam the oceans, you eagles in your flight!
Sing praise, you sheep on hillsides, you cattle in the stall! Though wordless, sing your praises to God who made you all!*

*Sing praises now, God’s people; your gift of speech employ to praise the Lord, your Maker, with thankfulness and joy!
Sing with the whole creation; a cosmic chorus raise: “To God alone be glory and everlasting praise!”*

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of mercy, if you held our sin against us, who could live? Who could stand? We seem to have more faith in death than hope in your promise of life. We seek peace through war and find security in weapons. We abandon the hungry, sick, and dying, and pursue wealth by making others poor. And even so, you love us; still, there is forgiveness with you; for you alone, O Lord, can save us from death and redeem us from our sin.

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 41**

“O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!” (stanza 3)

LYONS

*Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail, in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
Your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end, or Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.*

THE WORD

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Wes Eudy

ANTHEM

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Gilbert M. Martin

*When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.*

*Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them through his blood.*

*See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?*

*Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O Lord, we wait for you, and in your Word we trust. By the power of your Spirit, set our hearts and minds on the source of life and peace: Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

[Ezekiel 37:1-14](#)

pew Bible, page 759

SERMON

“Life in the Boneyard”

Rev. George

*HYMN 286

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

TRENTHAM

*Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew,
That I may love what Thou dost love, and do what Thou wouldst do.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,
Until with Thee I will one will, to do and to endure.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly Thine,
Until this earthly part of me glows with Thy fire divine.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die,
But live with Thee the perfect life of Thine eternity.*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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

In life and in death we belong to God. We trust in God the Holy Spirit everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!” 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

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Robert B. Farlee

*Response 675

“All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night”

TALLIS CANON

(stanza 4)

*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.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, giver of life, we thank you for raising us up and joining us together as one people, your people, flesh and bone in the body of Christ. As you have delivered us from death, use our lives to proclaim the good news of new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING

*HYMN 366

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

HYFRYDOL

*Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav'n, to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art.
Visit us with thy salvation; enter ev'ry trembling heart.*

*Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast;
Let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be.
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.*

*Come, Almighty, to deliver, let us all thy life receive.
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.*

*Finish, then, thy new creation; true and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

“The Lord Bless You and Keep You”

Peter Lutkin

*POSTLUDE

“Antiphon V”

Marcel Dupré

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

Bold print indicates places where congregation reads or sings.

PERMISSIONS: *Antiphon III, V*, Marcel Dupré (1886-1971) © 1920, *H. W. Gray*. Public Domain. *Sing Praise to God, You Heavens*, Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr. (1923-2007), 1998. © 2006, *GIA Publications Inc*. All rights reserved. Used with permission under One License A-709512. Hymn tune: *Wie lieblich ist der Maien*, Johann Steurlein (1546-1613), 1575, public domain. *All Praise to Thee, My God This Night*, Text: Thomas Ken (1637-1711), 1674. Hymn tune: *Tallis' Canon*, Tomas Tallis (1508-1585), 1567. Public domain. *O Worship the King, All Glorious Above*, Text: Robert Grant (1779-1838), 1833. Hymn tune: *Lyons*, Joseph Martin Kraus (1756-1792), 1784. Public domain. *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*, Text: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), Hymn tune: *Hamburg*, Lowell Mason (11792-1872). Public domain. Choral setting by Gilbert M. Martin (b. 1941) © 1971, *Theodore Presser Company*. All rights reserved. Used with permission under One License A-709512. *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*, Text: Edwin Hatch (1835-1889), 1878. Hymn tune: *Trentham*, Robert Jackson (1840-1914), 1888. Public domain. *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*, Text: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), 1707. Hymn tune: *Rockingham*, Robert Buckley Farlee (b.1950). Public domain. Augsburg Organ Library: Lent ISBN, Copyright © 2000 *Augsburg Fortress*. All rights reserved. Used with permission under One License A-709512. *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*, Text: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), 1747. Hymn tune: *Hyfrydol*. Rowland Hugh Pritchard (1811-1887), 1831. Public domain. *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*, Text: Numbers 6:24, Music: Peter C. Lutkin (1858-1931). Public domain.

Thank you to Michael Rowland, Frank Poolos, Heather Kilde, and Wes Eudy for their leadership in worship today.

The acolyte today is Jordan Hesley.

Ushers for March: Wes Eudy (captain), Cidney Eudy, Nathaniel Eudy, Seth Richards, Brett Richards.

Outside Ushers for March 26: Jim Ivey, Ronnie Michael

Elder Greeters: Jim Marshall, Jack Morton

Streaming Coordinator: Evan Sanges **Film:** Jackson Palmer **Nursery:** Bailey Mitchell

Kids Crew: Chris Mabry

There will be no Children's Church today.

We ask that you keep these people in your prayers: Claude Harwood, 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 Wayne Palmer.

See newsletter for complete list.



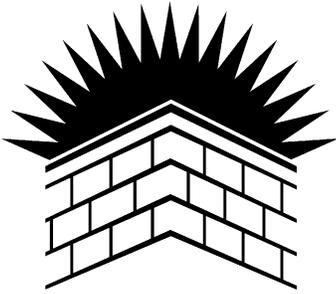
**Maundy
 Thursday
 April 6**

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

**Easter Sunday
 April 9**



7:00 am- Gather at the shelter at the top of
 Morrow Mt. to celebrate the risen Christ.
 9:45 am –Sunday School for all ages.
 11:00 am- Worship will include seasonal music
 and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.



The Christian Education Corner

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.

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!



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.

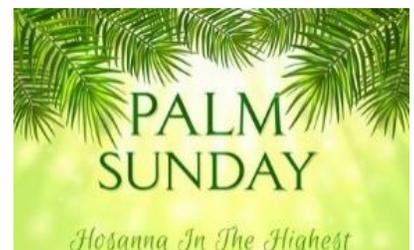
SNL ADVENTURE OUTING

Meet at church at 6 pm for dinner and we will travel to a fun destination! Bring \$20 to help cover expenses.



Palm Sunday, March 2

Palm Processional at 11:00 am Worship Service
We will share the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.





Lenten Meal- Wednesday, March 29

6:00 pm Dine in Gym

Please RSVP by 2:00 pm on Monday March 20.

Menu: Chicken Nicoise Salad and Dessert

This will be our last Lenten Meal and there will not be a First Family meal next week on Wednesday.

You may also sign up for Wednesday meals by putting number attending on guest register.

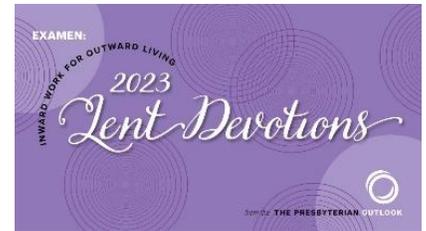
Volunteer's are needed for all Lenten meals during Lent- please call Jane Snyder at the church 704-982-2722 her phone 704-438-3358 or email her at jsnyder@fpsalbemarle.org if you would like to help.

**Community Lent Services
Wednesday, March 29 at Noon
First Baptist Church (202 North 2nd Street, Albemarle)**



DAILY DEVOTIONS 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 a daily email devotion of *“Inward Work...”*, printed copies can be mailed to those who do not have internet. Hard copies will be available in the church office upon request.



Easter Lilies...Deadline: Sunday, April 2



If you would like to contribute to the purchase of eight large Easter Lilies as an Easter Memorial or Honorarium, please fill out the form below exactly as you wish the memorial or honorarium to read, **attach a check in the amount of \$ 5.00** and place in the offering plate or leave in the church office no later than **Sunday, April 2**. Checks should be payable to “First Presbyterian Church” and designated “Easter Lilies.” All memorials/honorariums received by April 2 will be listed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, April 9. **Following the service on April 9, all Easter Lilies will be delivered to the hospital and local nursing homes.**

Easter Lilies

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

In memory of: _____

Given by: _____

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 26

5th 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 Adventure Outing- Dinner at church and travel to fun destination

Monday, March 27

10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

12:00 pm Mindful Positivity Group (Old Session Room)

4:00 pm Walking Group (Rock Creek Park)

8:30 pm High School Bible Study-home of Debby Johnson

Wednesday, March 29

6:45 am Men's Prayer Breakfast

10:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom

12:00 pm Community Lenten Service & Lunch- First Baptist Church

3:30 pm to 5:30 pm Youth Club & The Innocence of Youth Group

6:00 pm Lenten Meal Gym

6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 30

10:00 am Discussion Group (Church Parlor)

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

6:30 pm When Tough Stuff Happens Group (Location TBD)

Sunday, April 2

Palm Sunday/The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper/Holy Week Begins/ Ten Cents a Meal Offering

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am *Worship

3:00 pm Hiking Group -Morrow Mt State Park

6:00 pm SNL

***childcare provided**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

March

29- Claude Harwood

30- Ellie Niederer

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, Michael Rowland
Office Manager, Kyle Lambert
Secretary, Beth Poolos
Facilities Manager, Shawn Graeff

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.