



The Weekly Bulletin  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Albemarle, North Carolina

Elizabeth McNair Ayscue, Pastor Matt Drumheller, Associate Pastor

Church Offices: (704) 982-2722 Website: www.fpcalbemarle.org

February 25, 2018

**GATHERING BEFORE GOD**

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

*God of all times and places, in Jesus Christ you opened for us the path to eternal life. Grant that we, being born of water and the spirit, may joyfully serve you in newness of life and faithfully walk in your holy ways. Amen.*

PEALING OF THE BELLS

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

PRELUDE

*Prelude on 'Adoro te devote'*

Everett Titcomb

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mr. Drumheller

Isaiah 58:60-8

Leader: Is not this the fast I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice

**People: To share your bread with the hungry;**

Leader: To bring the homeless poor into your house;

**People: When you see the naked, to clothe them?**

Leader: Then your light shall break forth like dawn,

**People: And your healing shall spring up quickly.**

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Matthew 18:21-35

**Holy God, when we look over our shoulders at fear shadowing us today, you go before us into tomorrow making a path through the sea of yesterday's doubts. When we turn our heart into a desert of stony bitterness, you transform it into an oasis of joy. When we would clasp old worries to our hearts, you open our eyes to the hope which paves the path ahead. God of grace, we offer our hearts to you. Amen.**

\*HYMN 415

*Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*

Restoration

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Silence

Unison

**God of our ancestors in the faith, we are a people who have known the hurt of broken promises and have spoken words we cannot keep. We are quick to condemn and withhold forgiveness from others, but desire mercy for ourselves. Teach us to practice forgiveness as passionately as we accept it.**

*Choir and Congregation Sings:*

*Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.*

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Use the Prayer of Preparation to center your thoughts as you prepare for worship.

The refrain used during the Prayer of Confession is hymn number 227 in the *Glory to God* hymnal.

This is a Scottish version of the Gloria Patri which can be found on page 580 of the *Glory to God* hymnal.

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.

**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

**\*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS**

*Glory Be to the Father*

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.**

**Amen.**

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

**FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN**

Mr. Drumheller

*Children will be invited to come forward. At the conclusion of the children's greeting, parents may take preschool children to the nursery. Children in grades K-2 may go to the chapel for Children's Church.*

**ANTHEM**

*Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*

C. Hubert H. Parry

Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways;

Reclothe us in our rightful mind, in purer lives Thy service find,

In deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard, beside the Syrian sea,  
The gracious calling of the Lord, let us, like them, without a word,  
Rise up and follow Thee.

Drop Thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease;  
Take from our souls the strain and stress, and let our ordered lives confess  
The beauty of Thy peace.

Breath through the heat of our desire Thy coolness and Thy balm;  
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire; speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,  
O still, small voice of calm.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**Lord, in the words of Christ, reveal to us your truth. Help us hear your Word, that we may learn what it means to be disciples. In your Word, may we discover our hope. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

[Matthew 18:21-35](#)

Pew Bible, page 19

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

*Forgive*

Leah Beamon

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another. We believe that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously, a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought. To the one and only God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be the honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.**

*The Belhar*

*Confession* was written in South Africa in 1986 to address the divisive nature of apartheid. It specifically addresses reconciliation and forgiveness. It was adopted by the PC(USA) in 2016.

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

Offertory *Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley* Dale Wood

\*Doxology *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* hymnal, page 606

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

**Amen.**

\*Prayer of Dedication

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

Invitation

Words of Institution

Sharing the Meal

Prayer of Thanksgiving

\*HYMN 372

*O for a World*

Azmon

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Hymn 543 *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me* Green Tyler  
(stanza 4)

\*POSTLUDE

*Ah Holy Jesus*

Johannes Brahms

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\*All who are able may stand.

**We rejoice that you are worshiping 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 Addison Marks.** After extinguishing the Christ candle, the acolyte takes the light of Jesus Christ out into the world.

**Thanks to Leah Beamon** for her leadership in worship this morning.

**We ask that you keep these people in your prayers:** Diane Marks (diagnosed with breast cancer; mother of Kyle Marks), Tommy Murrell (home), Doris Forte, Debi Medlin (breast cancer; stepsister of Dona Lisk). **See newsletter for complete list.**

**Ushers:** Jack Morton, captain; Duncan Bryson, Jim Ivey, Robert Ivey, Taylor Jolly, Greg Lisk, Penny Morton, and Jeff Robertson **Outside Ushers:** John Howell; Kyle Marks **Elder Greeters:** Lee McLaurin; Gayle Russell **Nursery:** Emily Andrew **Preschool Partners:** Becky Andrew; Taylor Jolly **Nana & Papa Team:** Bede & Russell Karr **Children’s Church:** Angie Earnhardt, Kelly Lentz, Adrienne Averette

The Lord’s Table is open to all who trust in Christ or who want to trust in him more. Communion will be served by intinction. When invited by the ushers, proceed to the nearest station. Break off a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, and then partake. Gluten-free elements are available upon request.



FOOD FOR BODY & SOUL  
ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28  
AT 6:00 P.M.

This time together includes Evening Prayer at 5:45 p.m. in the chapel followed by dinner in the gym at 6:00 p.m. We will also have a time to reflect together on our Lenten theme, *Living the Word*, using both words and art. Dinner on February 28 will be sponsored by *The Wired Word Sunday School Class*. The menu is: Lasagna, Salad, and Desserts.

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**COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES  
AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ALBEMARLE  
THEME: JESUS' QUESTIONS  
WEDNESDAYS, FEBRUARY 28, MARCH 7, 14, and 21  
AT NOON IN THE SANCTUARY**

**LUNCH FOLLOWING IN THE GYM...COST: DONATION**

First Presbyterian Church is hosting the Community Lent Worship Services this year. An offering will be received to support The Mary and Martha Center for Women and Community Care.

Wednesday, February 28 Preacher: Rev. Earl Bradshaw, Pastor of Central United Methodist Church  
Worship Leader: Rev. Ray Sipe, Chaplain at Trinity Place

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**Come & Join Us for the Young Adult Lunch  
Thursday, March 1 at Five Points Public House  
(304 East Main Street, Albemarle)**

Each month, young adults from the church and the community are invited to gather for lunch on the first Thursday at a local restaurant. We rotate around to a number of different delicious options each month, so make plans to join us if you can!

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**PRIMETIMERS' LUNCHEON  
THURSDAY, MARCH 8  
AT NOON IN THE PIT STOP  
Guest Speaker: Mr. Bill Stevenson**



The PrimeTimers will meet in the pit stop on Thursday, March 8 at noon to enjoy a delicious meal and fellowship together. Along with lunch, the group will be treated with a look back in time and another place with Mr. Bill Stevenson. He will share his experience as a youth growing up in England during the war.

The menu for lunch is: Bean Soup, Chicken Noodle Soup, & Tomato Soup, along with mini-sandwiches, vegetables, fruit, and desserts.

Please RSVP to the church office (704-982-2722 or [klambert@fpcalbemarle.org](mailto:klambert@fpcalbemarle.org)) by Tuesday, March 6 that you are coming and/or if you need transportation.

**First Presbyterian Church  
Welcomes to the Art Gallery Spring Exhibit  
The Artwork of Central School Students**

We are excited to be sharing the 2018 Central Elementary School art collection with you. This will be a compilation of works that our Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students have been creating all year. You may see a bit of math, social studies, or science hidden in these pieces as we try to integrate our subjects for optimal learning, or you may recognize a favorite book character swinging from the vines on our papers. We learn about a variety of artists and their styles in our art room, so you will see those reflected in some of these masterpieces as well.

Our hope is that you will recognize the hard work our students have put in to each piece and that you will be visually stimulated by the fun we have had in the process. Thank you for your support of our school and our art program.

Tammy Palmer, Art Teacher

**You Are Invited to a Meet & Greet Reception for  
Congregation, Central School Staff, Artists & their families on  
Tuesday, March 6  
3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.  
First Presbyterian Church Common Area  
(Basement)**

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**!!! Hurray For Breakfast Bunch !!!  
For 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders**

**Sunday, March 4 at 9:00 a.m. in the Media Room**

Attention 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> graders!!! Our next Breakfast Bunch will meet before Sunday School on March 4 at 9:00 a.m. in the media room. Come join us for a breakfast of milk, juice, muffins, yogurt, and fruit while we get to know each other better and join together in prayer. This is a really fun and unique time of fellowship for our 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, and a great chance for them to deepen relationships with one another. Please let Jill Niebler ([jlniebler@gmail.com](mailto:jlniebler@gmail.com)) know if you are able to join us or if you have questions.

## OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

### Sunday, February 25

*Second Sunday of Lent/The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper*

- 9:45 am \*Sunday School  
\*Classical Discussion Group with Skeet Ayscue  
(Media Room -Basement)
- 11:00 am \*Worship
- 3:00 pm Hiking Group meets at Morrow Mountain State Park
- 3:00 pm Reading Group with Courtney Niederer & Kim Marshall (Parlor)
- 5:30 pm-7:30 pm Youth Group

### Monday, February 26

- 7:00 pm Book Discussion (Parlor)
- 7:00 pm Film Group with Nancy & Don Joines  
(Church Theatre-basement/children's building)
- 8:00 pm-9:00 pm Bible Study with Matt at Off the Square

### Tuesday, February 27

- 9:30 am Cooking Group with Gayle Russell & Jane Snyder (Pit Stop/Kitchen)
- 7:30 pm Yoga Group with Rebekah Ayscue & Alexis Poolos in Classroom 2  
(Basement)

### Wednesday, February 28

- 6:00 am Traditional Discussion Group & Breakfast with Steve Cumming
- 6:00 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 9:15 am-11:00 am \*Pray & Play
- 10:00 am Walking Group with Mary Louise Sawyer in the Gym
- 10:30 am Backpack Food Program
- 12:00 pm Community Lenten Service at FPC
- 3:15 pm-5:15 pm Youth Cubs/Youth Club
- 5:15 pm-5:45 pm Youth Orff Ensemble (Grades K-2)
- 5:15 pm-5:45 pm Youth Handbells (Grades 3-5)
- 5:45 pm Food for Body & Soul Evening Prayer (Chapel)
- 6:00 pm Food for Body & Soul Dinner (Gym)
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, March 1

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
- 12:00 pm Young Adult Lunch at Five Points Public House  
(304 East Main Street, Albemarle)
- 7:00 pm Fruit of the Vine Small Group

### Sunday, March 4

*Third Sunday of Lent/The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper*

*Ten-Cents-A-Meal*

- 9:00 am Breakfast Bunch
- 9:45 am \*Sunday School  
\*Classical Discussion Group with Skeet Ayscue in the Media Room  
(Basement)
- 11:00 am \*Worship
- 12:00 pm Mission Committee Meeting
- 3:00 pm Hiking Group meets at Morrow Mountain State Park
- 3:00 pm Reading Group with Courtney Niederer & Kim Marshall (Parlor)
- 5:00 pm-7:00 pm Youth Group Game Night

\*childcare provided

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

### FEBRUARY

- 25- Robbie Stevenson  
Ann Upchurch
- 26- Calvin Huneycutt
- 28- Carroll Holbrook
- 29- Cathryn Harwood

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

### MARCH

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

### Community Participation Needed

You are requested to complete the 2018 Community Health Assessment survey. This is the survey the Stanly County Health Department and Carolinas HealthCare System Stanly conduct to determine what our major priorities are for the next three years by analyzing community responses and State data. The information in this report is, also, used to get grants for agencies and non-profits. The survey can be done through February 28. For more information, contact Debbie Bennett at [dbennett@stanlycountync.gov](mailto:dbennett@stanlycountync.gov) or 704-982-9171.

The link is:

<https://goo.gl/forms/u0c06jntFJeY1Sc32>  
or visit the Stanly County Health Department website at [health.stanlycountync.gov](http://health.stanlycountync.gov)

### SCCM CHALLENGE

#### FEBRUARY

Canned Vegetables  
Green Beans, Corn, Carrots, Peas, Beans,  
Canned Tomatoes,  
Mixed Vegetables (Vegall)

### SCCM CHALLENGE

#### MARCH

Boxed Pasta Meals (Hamburger Helper),  
Instant Potatoes, Stuffing Mix

### Backpack Food Program

#### UPDATED LIST OF DONATIONS NEEDED:

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

A bin in the pit stop will receive your donation.

**Next Packing Date: Wednesday, February 28 at 10:30 a.m.**