



**The Weekly Bulletin**  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Albemarle, North Carolina

Elizabeth McNair Ayscue, Pastor

Matt Drumheller, Associate Pastor

Frank Poolos, Director of Vocal and Handbell Music

Stanley Scheer, Organist

Gina Martin, Director of Christian Education

Kyle Lambert, Office Manager

Pam Knighten, Secretary

Church Offices: (704) 982-2722

Website: [www.fpcalbemarle.org](http://www.fpcalbemarle.org)

E-mail: [klambert@fpcalbemarle.org](mailto:klambert@fpcalbemarle.org)

Vol. 50

April 30, 2017

No. 18

---

**THE ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**GATHERING BEFORE GOD**

PEALING OF THE BELLS

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

PRELUDE

*Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

Trentham

Youth Club Handbell Ensemble

Elizabeth Bryson, Ollie Henkenjohann, Merrin Kinley, Brent Lisk, Grant Lisk,

Addison Marks, Natalie Niederer, Abby Snuggs, Eli Snuggs, Natalie Taylor

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Followers of Jesus, by his cross we are redeemed from the futility of sin.

**People: Alleluia!**

Leader: By his rising we are free from the fear of death.

**People: Alleluia!**

Leader: By his love we are made new in the living and enduring Word of God.

**People: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

\*CHORAL INTROIT

*O Come, Let Us Sing Unto the Lord*

Donald Moore

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Risen Christ, whose absence leaves us paralyzed but whose presence is overwhelming: Breathe on us with your abundant life, that where we cannot see, we may have courage to believe that we may be raised with you. To you belong honor and glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

\*HYMN 248

*Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*

Hymn to Joy

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Silence

**Unison**

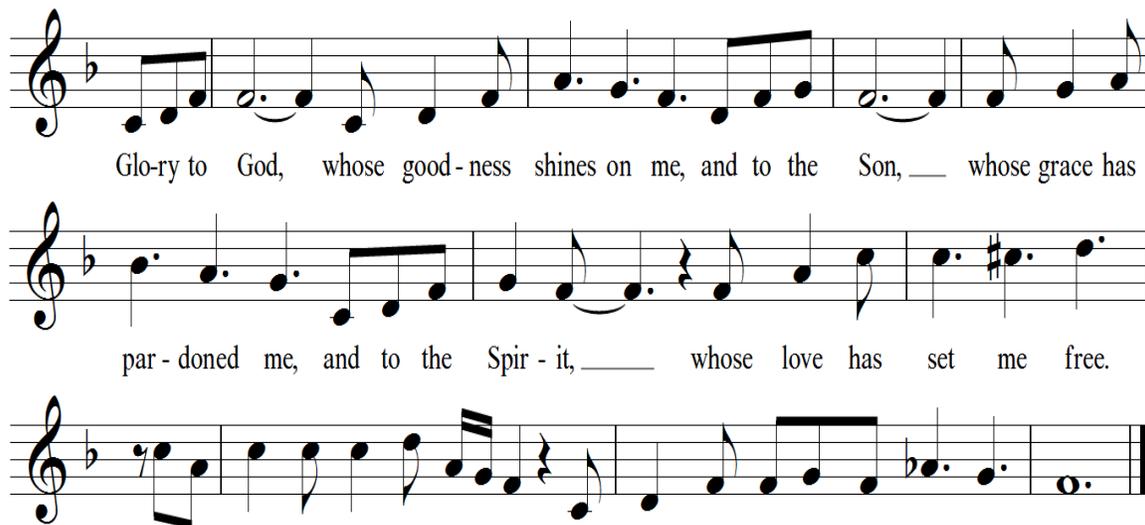
**God, you have made known to us the ways of life. Yet, too often, we put other things above you and turn away from the ways of life and toward the ways of death. Forgive us and guide us back into your presence, that we may know the fullness of joy.**

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Believe the good news.

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

**\*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS**



Glo-ry to God, whose good-ness shines on me, and to the Son, — whose grace has  
par-doned me, and to the Spir-it, — whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the be-gin-ning, is now and ev-er shall be. A - men.

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

**FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN**

*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.*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**Almighty God, by the power of your Spirit roll away the stone and reveal to us the Word of Life.  
Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

[Psalm 116:12-19](#)

Pew Bible, page 533

*The leader will read the even numbered verses; the congregation will respond by reading the odd numbered verses.*

**ANTHEM**

*Beautiful Savior*

Robert Lee

**GOSPEL READING**

[Luke 24:13-35](#)

Pew Bible, page 108

**Leader:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

*Jesus Comes Near*

Mrs. Ayscue

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*from A Brief Statement of Faith*

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. 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. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**\*HYMN 254**

*That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright*

*Puer nobis nascitur*

*During the hymn, ushers will collect your written prayers to be included in the Prayers of the People.*

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Mr. Drumheller

**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.**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

*Blessed Jesus at Thy Word*

Johann G. Walther

\*Doxology

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

hymnal, page 606

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

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*HYMN 744

*Arise, Your Light Is Come!*

Festal Song

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

*Fourfold Amen*

John Stainer

\*POSTLUDE

*Processional*

Martin Shaw

-----

\*All that 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 Graham Chapman.** After extinguishing the Christ candle, the acolyte takes the light of Jesus Christ out into the world.

**Thanks to the Youth Club Handbell Ensemble** for their participation in worship.

**We ask that you keep these people in your prayers:** Sandy Rogers (hip replacement on May 2), Rowena Warren (sister of Jim Carter; rehab at Stanly Manor Room 305), Eddie Wilson (brother of Elizabeth Wilson), Meghan Niemann (friend of Rose Saltzman; breast cancer), Andy Cotton, Caroline West. **See newsletter for complete list.**

**Ushers:** Jim Hesley, captain; Duncan Bryson, Keith Bryson, Banks Garrison, Sandy Saunders, Harold Sharpe

**Elder Greeters:** Patrick Currie, Joyce Lambert **Nursery:** Cora Harrison **Toddler Room:** Samantha

Wangler **Preschool Partners:** Laura McLeod; Ben McLeod **Nana & Papa Team:** Bede & Russell Karr

**Children's Church:** Stephanie & Josh Campbell; Jacob Palmer

**The 10 cents a meal offering** provides to 60 agencies/programs throughout the Presbytery of Charlotte (including our own SCCM) which provide nutritional food for children and adults. We will receive this offering next Sunday. Your generosity eases the burden of families who are hungry. Please give generously.

**Bread for the World ...Bread for You**

**Sunday, April 30**

**Pit Stop 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. & Following Worship**

Today is Letter Writing Sunday! Please read the bulletin insert from Bread for the World!

On one side meet two persons who have received help from government safety net programs and now are able to help others. The opposite side is a sample letter – write your own or copy the sample, using the packet of writing material on tables in the pit stop. The packet includes envelopes addressed to our two Senators and one Representative. Letters written today or during the week will be mailed following the Offering of Letters on Sunday, May 7.



ARMFUL ORGANISMS IN  
PHILIPPINE RICEFIELDS



## DOING OUR PART TO END HUNGER

Once poor and a domestic worker outside her country, Mercedita Cubar is today a leader among Filipino farmers. She is helping others grow more food for their families and communities, thanks to a World Bank program supported through funding from the U.S. government.

Here in the United States, Dawn Pierce was able to put her life back together after losing her job. With SNAP (formerly food stamps), she was able to buy groceries for herself and her son while she looked for another job. Now she's a licensed practical nurse, caring for senior citizens in seven assisted living facilities in Boise, Idaho.

These two women were able to succeed, in large part, because people in churches around the United States took a few minutes to write their members of Congress. Their letters urged Congress to adopt and fund programs that have helped people move out of poverty and feed their families. These hunger-fighting programs save money in the long run, and they reduce conflicts and instability caused by hunger and poverty.

In the fall of 2015, our country along with other nations committed to ending extreme hunger and poverty by 2030. To get on track to reach this goal, people from many religious traditions are urging Congress to pass a budget that sustains programs that help people get enough to eat.

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus took five loaves and two fish and shared them with more than 5,000 people so that "all ate and were filled" (Matthew 14:20). In the end, there was such an abundance that 12 baskets were full of leftovers. As we rejoice in Christ's abundant grace in our lives, we are called to share in God's vision of a world where all people "will hunger no more" (Revelation 7:16).



**Y**ou can help persuade Congress to make funding decisions that enable people in our country and around the world to feed their families. Handwritten letters are still the most effective way to make your voice heard in Washington. And your letter will be amplified by the tens of thousands of letters written by others as part of **Bread for the World's 2017 Offering of Letters.**

DOING OUR PART TO END  
**HUNGER**

## SAMPLE LETTER

U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_ or Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_,

As Congress works on the 2018 budget and spending bills, I ask you to make funding decisions that will put us on track to end hunger by 2030.

I urge you to invest in programs like WIC, SNAP, tax credits for low-income workers, and international development assistance. These programs help millions of people escape from hunger.

We have made great progress in reducing hunger and poverty in our own country and around the world, but our work remains unfinished. My faith calls me to urge you to make investments that will reduce and end hunger.

Sincerely,  
[your name],  
[your address, City, State, ZIP]

I want to join others who have committed to praying for an end to hunger. Please send me—free of charge—*Daily Prayers for an End to Hunger*.

Enclosed is my gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support the work of Bread for the World.

NAME (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

(will not be exchanged or sold)

OL17BI

*Please mail this coupon to the address at right. You may use our toll-free number or visit [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org) to request or download free resources and sign up for email updates. Thank you!*



**breadfortheworld**  
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

425 3rd Street SW, Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20024  
800-822-7323 [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org)



**Faith on the Fifth Offering on Sunday, April 30  
Designated for the Crisis Assistance Fund**

Please help us provide the resources so greatly needed by people in crisis in our community by giving generously.

Debby Johnston, Crisis Assistance Fund Board Member

\*\*\*\*\*



**We will pack backpacks once more before school ends  
and are in need of all the following items:**

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

**Please bring a couple with you when you're at the church next.**

**A bin in the pit stop will receive your donation.**

\*\*\*\*\*



**Teachers and Leaders of the Christian Education Program  
Recognition on Sunday, May 7**

\*\*\*\*\*

**It is time to turn in your application for the trip to Montana de Luz on July 19-26.** The application fee is \$100. If you have any questions, please contact Skeet (704-984-2883 or aayscuel@live.com).



**Please join us for**  
**Homes of Hope's Spring Hearty Breakfast Fundraiser**  
**Friday, May 5...6:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.**  
**Central United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall**  
**(172 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Albemarle)**

**Donations will be accepted!**

*Enjoy a Hearty Breakfast of:*  
*Pancakes, Bacon, Scrambled Eggs, Coffee, Cereal, Sausage, Grits, Gravy,*  
*Biscuits, Juice, and Fruit*

*Sponsored by:*



Homes of Hope is a Stanly County United Way agency.



\*\*\*\*\*

**MOTHER'S DAY ARRANGEMENTS**

On Mother's Day, the arrangements in the sanctuary will be in honor/memory of mothers. Each name is \$2.00. Please mail, deliver, or place in the offering plate your money with the form below **NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, MAY 7**. Please make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church and designate for *Mother's Day Arrangements*. The names of donors and those being honored/remembered will be listed on **Mother's Day, May 14**. Any money collected over the cost of the arrangements will be donated to the Minister's Discretionary Fund.

**MOTHER'S DAY ARRANGEMENTS**

Please print below the information exactly as it is to appear in the bulletin.

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

## OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

### Sunday, April 30

*Bread for the World Letter Writing & Bread Sale*

*Faith on the Fifth Offering for Crisis Assistance Fund*

*Youth Club Handbell Ensemble Rings in Worship*

9:00 am-11:00 am Bread for the World Letter Writing & Bread Sale  
(pit stop)

9:45 am \*Sunday School  
Youth Club Handbell Ensemble Rehearsal (sanctuary)

11:00 am \*Worship

12:00 pm-1:00 pm Bread for the World Letter Writing & Bread Sale (pit stop)

5:00 pm-7:30 pm Youth Connection

### Monday, May 1

7:00 pm Circle #5 at the home of Iris Coggins (811 Sylvania Ave., Albemarle)

8:00 pm-9:00 pm Lectionary Bible Study at Off the Square

8:30 pm High School Bible Study at Elizabeth's

### Wednesday, May 3

6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast

7:00 pm \*Chancel Choir

### Thursday, May 4

*National Day of Prayer*

9:30 am \*Pray & Play

10:00 am Staff Meeting

12:00 pm Young Adult Lunch at The Goody Shop Café (241 West Main St., Albemarle)

### Friday, May 5

*Church Office Closed*

6:30 am-9:30 am Homes of Hope Spring Hearty Breakfast Fundraiser at Central UMC Fellowship Hall

### Sunday, May 7

*Bread for the World Offering of Letters*

*Recognition of Teachers & Leaders in Christian Education*

*Ten-Cents-A-Meal*

*Deadline for Mother's Day Flower Arrangement Forms*

8:45 am \*Diaconate

9:00 am Breakfast Bunch

9:45 am \*Sunday School

11:00 am \*Worship

12:00 pm Mission Committee  
(Session Room)

5:00 pm-7:30 pm Youth Connection

6:00 pm Worship Committee

7:00 pm \*Session

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

MAY

01-David Holbrook

03-Carole Yost

04-Brad Boone

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

MAY

02-Bob & Donna Gaither

### SCCM CHALLENGE APRIL:

Macaroni & Cheese, Rice, Pasta, Stuffing,  
Instant Potatoes, Tomato Sauce

### SCCM CHALLENGE MAY:

Canned Vegetables  
Corn, Green Beans, Peas, Carrots, Beans

**\*childcare provided**