



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

Albemarle, North Carolina  
Elizabeth McNair Ayscue, Pastor  
Matt Drumheller, Associate Pastor  
Frank Poolos, Director of Vocal & Handbell Music  
Stanley Scheer, Organist  
Jane Snyder, Director of Christian Education & Fellowship  
Leah Beamon, Christian Education Program Coordinator  
Pam Knighten, Secretary  
Church Offices: (704) 982-2722

Kyle Lambert, Office Manager

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

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

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**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

*Prélude modale*

Jean Langlais

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Witt Snuggs

Leader: Whether we embrace God's call in our lives or try to avoid it,

**People: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Leader: Whether we are longtimers or latecomers in the life of faith,

**People: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Leader: Whether our lives in Christ are comfortable or bringing hardship,

**People: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

**All: We praise God's name forever and ever!**

\*CHORAL INTROIT

*O Be Joyful in the Lord*

Donald Moore

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY 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.**

\*HYMN 634

*To God Be the Glory*

To God Be the Glory

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Silence

Unison

**God of abundant goodness, we confess that we want your grace for ourselves, but we often wish punishment or exclusion on others. We judge the efforts and motives of others while ignoring our own faults. Forgive us, we pray when we let jealousy overtake us. Forgive us when we are petty in the presence of your generosity. Forgive us when we feel slighted by you. Please help us to seek your mercy, and to offer mercy to one another.**

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.

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

\*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

**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.**

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Matt 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.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Almighty God, reveal yourself to us in your Word. Holy Spirit, move in our midst and open our hearts.  
Jesus Christ, teach us to live and love as your disciples. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

[Jonah 3:10-4:11](#)

Pew Bible, page 811

ANTHEM

*Immortal Invisible, God Only Wise*

Eric H. Thiman

GOSPEL READING

[Matthew 20:1-16](#)

Pew Bible, page 20

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*Fair*

Mr. Drumheller

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *The Confession of 1967*

**God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of human minds. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men and women. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love. Amen.**

\*HYMN 351

*All Who Love and Serve Your City*

Charlestown

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

PASTORAL PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory

*Cantilena*

William M. Runyan

\*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 724

*O Jesus, I Have Promised*

Angel's Story

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

*Peace, God's Wonderful Peace*

William M. Runyan

\*POSTLUDE

*Toccata in Seven*

John Rutter

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\*All that are able may stand.

**We rejoice that you are worshipping 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 Andy McLeod.** After extinguishing the Christ candle, the acolyte takes the light of Jesus Christ out into the world.

**Thanks to Witt Snuggs** for serving as liturgist today.

**Ushers:** Steve Cumming, captain; Brad Boone, Michelle Cumming, Jim Ivey, Mark Mabry, Kyle Marks  
**Outside Ushers:** Jim Marshall; Chris Whitley **Elder Greeters:** Adam Jolly; Bob Johnston **Nursery:** Cora Harrison **Toddler Room:** Mckenzie Hinson **Preschool Partners:** Jane & Brad Boone **Nana & Papa Team:** Cathy King; Teresa Taylor **Children's Church:** Melissa & Wes Eudy; Grace Richards

**We ask that you keep these people in your prayers:** Molly Amelia Lowder (continuing health concerns), Glynn Fowler (possible nerve damage and failed rotator cuff surgery), Cathy Dunlap (sister of Jill Freshley; recovering from heart attack), Dale Benson (brother of Ann Crutchfield), Marlene Sanges. **See newsletter for complete list.**

**The 10 cents a meal offering for hunger will be received on Sunday, October 1.** This offering provides funds to 60 agencies/programs throughout the Presbytery of Charlotte (including our own SCCM) which provide nutritional food for children and adults. Your generosity eases the burden of families who are hungry. Please give generously.

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*Live a Generous Life*

Live a generous life! God calls us to live generous lives by loving, sharing, giving, and caring. Thank you for living generous lives by offering your prayers, time, talents, and financial support to our church and community. Stewardship season will be underway soon. Pledge cards will be mailed in mid-October. Thank you for considering your pledge for 2018.

*The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.  
(Psalm 24:1)*

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**Communion Workshop for Children  
Sunday, September 24 from Noon-2:30 p.m.**

A Communion Workshop is planned for children in Kindergarten – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and their parents for the afternoon of Sunday, September 24. During this time, children and families will learn more about the Lord's Supper and symbols of this sacrament. Plan to stay for lunch and conversation.



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**QUARTER MINISTRY  
FOR THE MARY & MARTHA CENTER FOR WOMEN**

Our Quarter Jar is in the pit stop. Quarters will be donated to the Mary & Martha Center for their clients to use at the laundromat. Want to know more about this new ministry for women in our community? Contact Kim Marshall (704-983-1378 or [bookworm284@live.com](mailto:bookworm284@live.com)).

**OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK**

**Sunday, September 24**

*Women's Retreat at William Black Lodge (Montreat, NC)*

9:45 am \*Sunday School

11:00 am \*Worship

12:00 pm \*Communion Worship for grades K-2

5:00 pm-7:30 pm Youth Group

**Monday, September 25**

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

**Wednesday, September 27**

6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast

9:15 am-11:00 am \*Pray & Play

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)

7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, September 28**

10:00 am Staff Meeting

**Friday, September 29**

*Church Office Closed*

**Sunday, October 1**

*World Communion Sunday*

*Ten-Cents-A-Meal Offering for Hunger*

*SCCM Caring & Sharing Yellow Cup Campaign*

9:15 am Ecumenical Worship at the Courthouse Square Park

9:45 am \*Sunday School

11:00 am \*Worship

12:00 pm Mission Committee (Session Room)

5:00 pm-7:30 pm Youth Group

**\*childcare provided**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

**SEPTEMBER**

24-Aidyn Osborne

25-Kristie Bryson

27-Carter Gibson

Caroline West

28-Ruth Goforth

29-Al Taylor

30-Hannah Martin

Jordan Morgan

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!**

**SEPTEMBER**

26-Joe & Ann Snuggs

27-John & Jessica Palmer

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

**OCTOBER**

01-Graham Chapman

Eston West

**SCCM CHALLENGE**

**SEPTEMBER:**

Canned or Dried Beans

Canned Tomatoes

**SCCM CHALLENGE**

**OCTOBER:**

Canned Meat

(tuna, chicken, spam, salmon)

**Fall Art Exhibit at First Presbyterian Church**

*Mixed Media Madness*

**Featuring works by GHA Autism Supports**