



The Weekly Bulletin
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Albemarle, North Carolina

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March 24, 2019

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

MORNING MEDITATION

Forty days, Lord. Forty days we seek to follow you closely, serve you humbly, praise you fully. Take what we bring, bless our gifts, break our expectations, use our discipline, and remake us in ways that show your glory to the world. Send your Spirit so that when we come to Jerusalem, we are still with you, knowing that in the end is our beginning. Amen.

PEALING OF THE BELLS

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT

Hymn 401 *Here in This Place* stanza 1

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

In the midst of our wilderness journey, proclaim,
Praise the Lord, who gives life to the dead.
The Lord is merciful and gracious,
Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Psalm 103:8

***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 223** *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* Hamburg

***CALL TO CONFESSION** *Lord, Have Mercy* hymnal, page 551



***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Silence

Merciful God, you fill us with your Holy Spirit, and prepare us for the wilderness. Yet we become famished in search of worldly satisfaction. You strengthen us for the journey, but we succumb to the temptations whirling around us. Forgive us Lord, for we are broken.

Jill Duffield, editor,
Presbyterian
Outlook

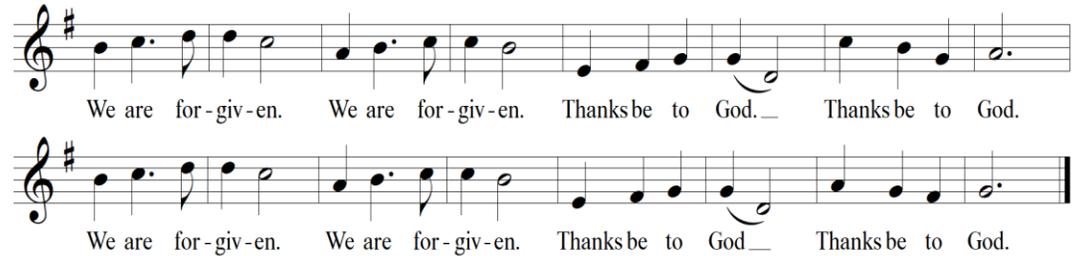
Kyrie eleison is a Greek phrase from Scripture which translates to *Lord, have mercy upon me.* This is a prayer that has been used in the church for many centuries.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Friends, believe the good news.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS**



We are for-giv-en. We are for-giv-en. Thanks be to God. — Thanks be to God.

We are for-giv-en. We are for-giv-en. Thanks be to God. — Thanks be to God.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The congregation is encouraged to participate in the prayer with the children.

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

Matt Drumheller

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

ANTHEM

O Love Divine

Deborah Govenor

O love divine, what have you done! The Incarnate God has died for me!
The father's co-eternal Son bore my sins upon the tree!

The Son has died: My Lord, my Love, is crucified for me and you,
To bring us near to God; Believe the record true, bought with Jesus' blood;
Pardon for all flows from His side: My Lord, my Love, is crucified.

Behold Him now, all that pass by, the bleeding Prince of life and peace.
Come, sinners, see your Savior die, and say, was ever grief like His?
Come, feel with me His blood applied: My Lord, My Love is crucified.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, our way in the wilderness, guide us by your Word through these forty days. Minister to us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may be reformed, restored, and renewed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

[*Luke 15:11-32*](#)

Pew Bible, page 73

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Wilderness

Reverend Ayscue and Reverend Drumheller

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. 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. Amen.

Sermons are posted on the church's website (www.fpcalbemarle.org). You can usually find the previous Sunday's sermon by Wednesday.

Excerpted from *A Brief Statement of Faith* which was created upon the reunification of the PC(USA) to be used in the context of worship.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation

Offertory *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days* Malcolm Archer

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 418 *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling* Softly and Tenderly

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*Hymn 546 *Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing* stanza 1

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace;

Let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.

O refresh us, O refresh us, traveling in this wilderness.

*All that are able may stand.

We will use the ancient practice of intinction for communion by dipping the bread in the cup. A common response, upon receiving the gifts of bread and cup is, *Thanks be to God.*

We are grateful for your presence 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 Jackson Palmer. After extinguishing the Christ candle, the acolyte takes the light of Jesus Christ out into the world.

Thanks to David Kilde, Becky & Glenn Miller, and Sophie Poplin for their participation in worship.

The Lord’s Table is open to all who trust in Jesus Christ and those who want to trust him more. Gluten-free elements will be available at the serving stations at the front of the sanctuary.

The Faith on the Fifth offering will be received on Sunday, March 31. Proceeds will support programs and participants at Montaña de Luz.

Ushers: Brett Richards, captain; Mark Donham, Judy Kilgore, Ethan Richards, Grace Richards, Danny Saltzman **Outside Ushers:** Steve Coats; Stephan Kinley **Elder Greeters:** Jacob Palmer; Gayle Russell **Nursery:** TBD **Kids Care Crew:** Debby Johnston; Carol Sasser **Children’s Church:** Taylor Barbee

We ask that you keep these people in your prayers: The family of Dr. William Currie (father of Patrick Currie), The family of Sara Dyer (mother of Martha White), Marshall Rogers (back surgery), James Nunn (19 year old nephew of Billie Jean Snuggs; hospitalized following surgery on optic nerve). **See newsletter for complete list.**



FOOD FOR BODY & SOUL

Wednesdays in Lent

Evening Prayer at 5:45 p.m. in the Chapel Dinner at 6:00 p.m. in the Gym

Come for fellowship, meaningful conversation, and a simple mid-week meal together. Different groups in the church will provide meals. (If you're asked to help, please say YES!) Suggested donations per person is \$5.00.

Wednesday, March 27 Meal Host: Session Menu: Pizza, Salad, and Dessert

Community Lent Services on Wednesdays, March 27 & April 3, 10 at Noon

First Lutheran Church (230 South 2nd Street, Albemarle)

March 27 Preacher: Rev. Nikki Raye Rice, Pastor at Wesley Chapel UMC

Liturgist: Rev. James Laurence, Pastor at First Lutheran Church

Lunch provided. Donation proceeds will benefit Will's Place, a recovery resource center located in downtown Albemarle.





From the Scholarship Committee...Scholarship applications are available on the counter in the church office. **The deadline to return completed applications is Monday, April 8.** If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask a scholarship committee member. Committee members for 2019 are: Jim Marshall, Chair; Al Andrew, Steve Coats, Debby Johnston, Lee McLaurin, Penny Morton, and Jeff Robertson.

Central School Backpacks will be packed on Wednesday, March 27 at 10:30 a.m. Most needed items are oatmeal packets, tuna helper, pineapple or fruit cocktail cups, and cans of tuna. Please drop your contributions in the bin in the Pit Stop on Sunday.

First Presbyterian Church will prepare and serve lunch on April 3 at First Lutheran Church. If you would like to help and/or contribute desserts, contact Jane Snyder (jsnyder@fpcalbemarle.org or 704-438-3358) or Ann Duckwall (704-983-3498).



Easter Lilies...Deadline: Sunday, April 14

If you would like to contribute to the purchase of 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 \$15.00**, and place in the offering plate or leave in the church office no later than **Sunday, April 14**. Checks should be payable to "First Presbyterian Church" and designated "Easter Lilies." All memorials/honorariums received by April 14 will be listed in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, April 21.

Easter Lilies

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

In memory of: _____

Given by: _____

I plan to take my lily after worship on Easter.

I will leave my lily for delivery to a homebound member.

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 24

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

- 9:45 am *Sunday School
- 9:45 am *Lent Discussion Group led by Skeet Ayscue (Media Room)
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 3:00 pm Lent Hiking Posse led by Connie Wallace & Ken Knight (Morrow Mountain State Park)
- 4:00 pm Lent Discussion Group led by Kim Marshall at her home (1203 Heritage Dr., Albemarle)
- 5:00 pm-7:30 pm Youth Group

Monday, March 25

- 8:00 pm Bible Study w/Matt
- 8:30 pm High School Bible Study at Elizabeth's

Tuesday, March 26

- 9:30 am Lent Kitchen Crusaders led by Gayle Russell & Jane Snyder (church kitchen)
- 6:00 pm Lent Discussion Group led by Greg & Dona Lisk (church kitchen-dinner included)

Wednesday, March 27

- 6:00 am Lent Discussion Group led by Elizabeth (church parlor-breakfast included)
- 6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 10:30 am Backpack Food Program
- 12:00 pm Community Lent Service at First Lutheran Church (230 South 2nd Street, Albemarle)
- 3:15 pm-5:45 pm Youth Cubs/Youth Club
- 4:30 pm Discussion Group with a playful twist led by Lillie Hancock (Teen Room)
- 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
- 8:00 pm-9:30 pm Confirmation Class

Thursday, March 28

- 10:30 am Staff Meeting
- 2:00 pm Lent Discussion Group led by Matt Drumheller at GloryBeans (134 West Main St., Albemarle)

Saturday, March 30

- 9:00 am Youth Group departs for Carowinds

Sunday, March 31

Fourth Sunday of Lent/The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper/Faith on the Fifth Offering

- 9:45 am *Sunday School
- 9:45 am *Lent Discussion Group led by Skeet Ayscue (Media Room)
- 11:00 am *Worship
- 3:00 pm Lent Hiking Posse led by Connie Wallace & Ken Knight (Morrow Mountain State Park)
- 4:00 pm Lent Discussion Group led by Kim Marshall at her home (1203 Heritage Dr., Albemarle)

***childcare provided**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

MARCH

- 24-Sam Holshouser
- 27-Lachlann Currie
- 29-Claude Harwood
- 30-Ellie Niederer

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

MARCH

- 24-Nathan & Marlene Sanges

SCCM CHALLENGE FOR

MARCH

- Rice, Macaroni & Cheese,
Pasta, Instant Potatoes