



The Weekly Bulletin
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Albemarle, North Carolina

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June 30, 2019

Gracious
compassionate

Healer

Incomprehensible

Forgiving

Loving

Omnipresent

Accepting

Forgiving
powerful
constant

Loving

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

Written by
Howard Thurman.
Thurman was an
author, theologian,
and civil rights leader.
He served as dean of
the chapel at both
Howard University
and Boston
University.

Based on
Psalm 145

MORNING MEDITATION

Open unto me – light for my darkness. Open unto me – courage for my fear. Open unto me – hope for my despair. Open unto me – peace for my turmoil. Open unto me – you for my sorrow. Open unto me – strength for my weakness. Open unto me – wisdom for my confusion. Open unto me – forgiveness for my sins. Open unto me – love for my hates. Open unto me – thy Self for my self. Lord, Lord, open unto me! Amen.

PEALING OF THE BELLS

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

CHORAL INTROIT *Let All the World in Every Corner Sing* Basil Harwood

*CALL TO WORSHIP

I Will praise you, my God and King,

And bless your name forever.

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;

God's greatness is without limit.

God's hand opens,

Satisfying the desire of every living thing.

The Lord is just in all ways,

And kind in all doings.

The Lord is near to all who call,

God hears the cry of those who love him and fulfills their desire.

My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,

And all flesh will bless his holy name.

We have come to worship our God, far above us, and always near to us.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your love for us and for all people is powerful beyond measure. Your love is so vast that nothing will prevail against it. We know this love is trustworthy because of Jesus Christ: his life of compassion, death on the cross, and resurrection from the dead. In life and death we belong to you, Holy Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

*HYMN 337

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

America

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Silence

God of past, present, and future, we confess that we live casual lives. Too often, we commit ourselves to things of little consequence and ignore what matters most to you. We are a people of many words, and yet ignorant in the ways of your Word. We are busy with many things, yet slow to respond to others with the love of Jesus Christ. Forgive us. By the power of your Holy Spirit, increase in us a faith sufficient for our time, give us hope whose roots grow deep, and enlarge our hearts so we may love others as you love us.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Friends, believe the good news.

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

Melissa Eudy

Children will be invited to come forward. At the conclusion of Faith Sharing with Children, parents may take preschool children to the nursery.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, as we turn to your Word, may your Spirit rest upon us. Make us steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking, in our believing, and in our living. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Pew Bible, page 179

[Deuteronomy 30:19-20a](#)

ANTHEM

An American Hymn

Cecil Effinger

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
For purple mountains majesties above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee.
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet whose stern impassioned stress,
A thoroughfare of freedom beat across the wilderness!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control, Thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved and mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness and every gain divine!

O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS [Romans 8:22-28](#) Pew Bible, page 148

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Does Everything Happen for a Reason?

Reverend Ayscue

Glory to God hymnal
page 582

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

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

From the *Belonging to God* Catechisms. In the question and answer format of the Westminster Shorter Catechisms, the *Belonging to God* Catechisms were adopted by the General Assembly of the PCUSA in 1998. Using the language of the catechisms in worship makes explicit the faith commitment of the church.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Leader: What is God's providence?

People: God not only preserves the world, but also continually rules over it. God cares for every creature and brings good out of evil, so that nothing evil is permitted to occur that God does not bend finally to the good.

Leader: What comfort do you receive by trusting in God's providence?

People: The eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ watches over me each day of my life, blessing and guiding me wherever I may be. God strengthens me when I am faithful, comforts me when discouraged or sorrowful, raises me up if I fall, and brings me at last to eternal life. Entrusting myself wholly to God's care, I receive the grace to be patient in adversity, thankful in the midst of blessing, courageous against injustice, and confident that no evil afflicts me that God will not turn to my good.

*HYMN 41 *O Worship the King, All Glorious Above* Lyons
During the hymn, ushers will collect your prayers to be included in the Prayers of the People.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rich Schaefer
AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation

Offertory

Elegy

George Thalben-Ball

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 641 *When in Our Music God Is Glorified* Engelberg

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies* Cecil Effinger

*POSTLUDE *Toccata in G* Theodore Dubois

*All that are able may stand.

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 Addison Marks. After extinguishing the Christ candle, the acolyte takes the light of Jesus Christ out into the world.

Thanks to Rich Schaefer for serving as liturgist today.

There is no Children’s Church in June, July, and August. School-aged children are encouraged to remain in worship. Nursery is available for newborns-preschoolers.

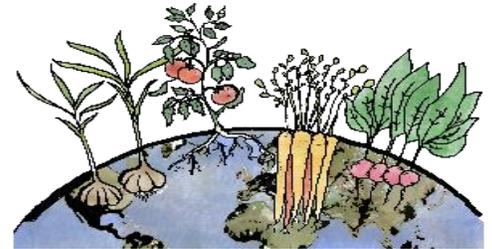
We offer deep gratitude to our choir for their worship leadership throughout the year. The choir will be *on vacation* during July and August, while soloists provide musical leadership. Stan Scheer, organist, will also be away from the organ in July and August. To God be the glory!

Thanks to Debbie & John Hahn and Frankie Palmer for hosting lemonade on the lawn today.

Ushers: Jill Niebler, captain; Ella Cumming, Steve Cumming, Heather Deese, Katherine Jolly, and Dona Lisk
Outside Ushers: John Howell; Greg Lisk **Elder Greeters:** Taylor Johnston; Joyce Lambert **Nursery:** Kate White **Kids Care Crew:** Laura & Mike McLeod

We ask that you keep these people in your prayers: Rita Morgan (recovering from surgery), Jordan Andrew (daughter of Bo & Lauren Andrew), Jane Pickler (pancreatic cancer), Caroline Morton Chisholm (chemotherapy), Elaine Coats, Davis Fort. **See newsletter for complete list.**

Gardening for SCCM



If you have extra garden produce, consider sharing it at the designated table in the Pit Stop. Church members who need it can take some for a donation. Contributions and extra produce will be donated to SCCM.

Faith on the Fifth Offering Sunday, June 30

The Faith on the Fifth Offering on June 30 will be for Will’s Place, a recovery resource center in downtown Albemarle. Will’s Place offers assistance to individuals and families to recover from substance abuse. They also provide youth health and wellness programs throughout our community. Please place your offering in the offering plate as it passes you.



LEMONADE ON THE LAWN SUNDAYS FOLLOWING WORSHIP IN THE PIT STOP

Stop by to connect with your church family over lemonade and tasty treats!

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE GRANTS

The Endowment Committee will accept applications for grants from the Gaither Endowment until **July 12**. Applications are available in the church office. If you have questions, contact the church office (704-982-2722 or klambert@fpcalbemarle.org). Applications may be submitted by individual church members or committee chairpersons. Once funding requests are received, the Endowment Committee will review the applications and determine funding. If you have questions about the application process, please contact the office. Endowment Committee members include: Lee McLaurin, chair; Debbie Bennett, Patrick Currie, Bob Gaither, and Nathan Sanges.

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DINNERS FOR 7

Dinners for 7 will return in the fall. These dinner groups will gather (in home, restaurants, or around a picnic table in the park) once a month through the fall. Sign-up to be part of one and make new connections.



We will Circle the Sanctuary for the SCCM food pantry again this summer. You may bring non-perishable food items to designated areas in the sanctuary during the weeks of **July 7, 14, and 21**.

Most Needed Items Are:

**Canned Fruit (No Sugar Added), Canned Vegetables (Low Sodium),
Canned Meats, Spaghetti Sauce, Spaghetti Noodles, Macaroni &
Cheese,
Oatmeal/Grits, 1lb bag of rice**



Wish List

For Montaña de Luz

Our group is leaving for Montaña de Luz on Wednesday, July 24.
Your donation(s) of the following supplies would be greatly appreciated:

Toiletries

Shampoo (for men & women)
Conditioner
Lice Shampoo/Lice kits
Body wash (for men & women)
Feminine pads (no tampons)
Razors (for men & women)
Deodorant (for men & women)
Hair gel
Body lotion
Toothbrush
Toothpaste
Baby wipes

Education

Dry erase markers
Composition notebooks
Pencils (no mechanical pencils)
Pencil sharpeners
Blue, black and red pens
Printer paper

Other

Flip flops/Crocs (men & women ages 9-20)

Games

Interactive games for kids ages 1 & 2, Puzzles,
Child and young adult coloring books, Jenga, Uno card game, Sidewalk chalk,
Friendship bracelet materials, Paint materials for art projects

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, June 30

Gardening for SCCM

Faith on the Fifth Offering for Will's Place

9:00 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal

10:00 am *Worship

11:00 am Lemonade on the Lawn (Pit Stop)

Monday, July 1

8:00 pm Bible Study at Off the Square

Thursday, July 4

Independence Day

Church Office Closed

Sunday, July 7

Ten-Cents-A-Meal Offering for Hunger

Circle the Sanctuary

10:00 am *Worship

11:00 am Lemonade on the Lawn (pit stop)

11:00 am Mission Committee

***childcare provided**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

JUNE

30-Anna Wainwright

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

JULY

01-Gina Martin

Ben McLeod

03-Addison Marks

04-Don Abernathy

07-Barbara Lindley

Stella Marks

SCCM CHALLENGE FOR JUNE

Paper Goods...

Toilet Tissue

Paper Towels

Facial Tissue

Cleaning Supplies

SCCM CHALLENGE FOR JULY

Staple Items...

Flour

Sugar

Vegetable Oil

Broth

Cooking Spray