



The Weekly Bulletin  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Albemarle, North Carolina

Elizabeth McNair Ayscue, Co-Pastor  
Church Offices: (704) 982-2722

Matt Drumheller, Co-Pastor  
Website: [www.fpcalbemarle.org](http://www.fpcalbemarle.org)

January 19, 2020

**GATHERING BEFORE GOD**

MORNING MEDITATION

*The church is God's creation, the assembly of forgiven saints, called to go out into the world.*

From *Crazy Talk*,  
Rolf Jacobsen,  
editor.

PEALING OF THE BELLS

OPENING SENTENCES

This is the day the Lord has made.

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Psalm 118:24

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

GATHERING SONGS

Hymn 370                      *This is My Father's World*                      all stanzas

Hymn 378                      *We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom*                      all stanzas

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing a new song,

**A song of thanks and praise,**

For God has done wondrous deeds,

**And is always ready to forgive.**

Psalm 40:3-5

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Holy God, you sent your son to be the light of the world, so that all may know the brightness of your love. Fill us with your grace this day that we too may bear witness to his light and serve your coming reign. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Isaiah 49:6 and  
I Corinthians 1:4,8

\*HYMN 321

*The Church's One Foundation*

Aurelia

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Silence

Unison

**Holy God, we have chased after foolish things, and spent our strength on vanity; our labor has been in vain. Deliver us from arrogance and forgive our self-concern, that we may find our reward with you, as servants of your wisdom.**

Isaiah 49:1, 3, 4, 6

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe the good news.

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

*Glory to God*  
hymnal page 582

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

The opening text is by Albert Schweitzer from his 1906 book, *The Quest of the Historical Jesus*. The text and hymn tune (beginning with *O Morning Star...*) was written and composed by Phillip Nicolai in 1597-99.

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

A Declaration of Faith was written in 1977 by the Presbyterian Church in the United States.

## \*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

*Children will be invited to come forward. At the conclusion of the 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

*He Comes to Us*

Jane M. Marshall

He comes to us as one unknown, without a name, as of old,  
By the lakeside he came to those men who knew Him not.  
He speaks to us, He speaks the same word: *Follow thou me!*  
And sets us to the tasks which He has to fulfill for our time.

He commands, and to those who obey Him,  
Whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal Himself in the toils,  
The conflicts, the sufferings which they shall pass through in His fellowship.  
And, as an ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience who He is.

O Morning Star, how fair and bright, thou beamest forth in truth and light.  
O Sovereign meek and lowly, Thou Rose of Jesse, David's Son,  
My Lord and Master, Thou has won my heart to serve Thee. Thou are holy, fair, and  
Glorious, all victorious, rich in blessing, rule and might o'er all possessing.

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mold me; fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

### SCRIPTURE READING

[John 1:29-42](#)

Pew Bible, page 86

### SERMON

*Go and Tell*

Reverend Ayscue

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We acknowledge one God alone, whose demands on us are absolute, whose help for us is sufficient. That One is the Lord, whom we worship, serve, and love. Jesus broadened the definition of neighbor to include those ordinarily despised and excluded. His life in behalf of others led to persecution and death. He commanded his disciples to live the same way. We are obligated to speak the truth in love, to listen with patience and openness, to love our enemies, to accept the risk and pain which love involves. Jesus is Lord. He has been Lord from the beginning. He will be Lord at the end. Even now, he is Lord. Amen.**

### \*HYMN 203

*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

Chereponi

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER                      Jeff Robertson

**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.**

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation

Offertory

*Aria*

Noel Rawsthorne

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 307

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

Cwm Rhondda

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

*Sevenfold Amen*

John Stainer

\*POSTLUDE

*How Brightly Shines the Morning Star*

Dietrich Buxtehude

-----

\*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 Nathaniel Eudy.** After extinguishing the Christ candle, the acolyte takes the light of Jesus Christ out into the world.

**Thanks to** Jeff Robertson for serving as liturgist this morning.

**Matt is leading worship** and moderating congregational and Session meetings at Star Presbyterian Church this morning.

**Ushers:** Jim Marshall, captain; Al Andrew, Robbie Beard, Duncan Bryson, Elizabeth Bryson, Keith Bryson, Mike McLeod, Chris Whitley, and David Whitley **Outside Ushers:** Matt Carpenter; Eric Niederer **Elder Greeters:** Steve Coats; Rich Schaefer **Nursery:** Kate White **Kids Care Crew:** Laura Beth & Kyle Marks **Children's Church:** Liz Jolly; Katherine Jolly

**We ask that you keep these people in your prayers:** Frank Green (Trinity Place), Carolyn Sharpe, Jean Rabe (Trinity Place), Jane Scheer (Spring Arbor), Don Joines, Mark Mabry, Jane Pickler. **See newsletter for complete list.**

**If you have a sanctuary listening device at home,** please let the church office know so that we can be sure we have enough for everyone who needs one.

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION & CORPORATION  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 26 FOLLOWING WORSHIP**

Session has established the date for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation as Sunday, January 26. The meeting will be held immediately following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to receive annual reports and to transact other business as may properly come before the meeting. We will also have a congregational meeting for the purpose of reviewing and approving the pastors' terms of call.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*



**Grandparent and Grandchild Retreat  
Sunday, January 26 from 12:00 to 2:30 pm  
For children K-5<sup>th</sup> grade and their grandparents (of any age).**

Join us with your grandchildren or grandparents for an afternoon of fun and Christian Education.

Lunch in the gym will be followed by activities around the theme: **Holy Ground**

Call the church office to sign-up (704-982-2722).

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*

**On Sunday, February 2nd**, join us in participating in the 30th annual Souper Bowl of Caring canned soup drive! Bring chicken noodle soup if your usual worship seat is on the right side (choir loft side) of the middle section, the right section, choir loft, or the balcony. Bring tomato soup if your usual worship seat is: on the left side of the middle section, the left section, or the section near the sound board. Our youth will collect money and cans of food at the doors of the sanctuary following worship. See designated spaces in the Pit Stop for your soup. Let's see which section can collect the most soup for SCCM!



\*\*\*\*\*



**February 23 at 3:00 p.m.**

**People of all ages can help with the packing.**

**Plan to be part of this afternoon.**

The three Presbyterian churches of Stanly County are going to partner with Rise Against Hunger to pack meals for hungry people around the world. Over the course of two hours, we will pack approximately 25,000 meals. Contact Matt Drumheller to sign-up!

\*\*\*\*\*

**Thanks to Silent Partners**

Thank you for signing up as a Silent Partner to support and encourage our college or university students. This is an important way to show love and care from our congregation in Albemarle. As students return to campus after the semester break, think about ways to encourage them with a card or occasional box of treats during the spring semester. Your silent partnership is a valued way for us to show care for the college and university students.



**OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK**

**Sunday, January 19**

- 9:45 am \*Sunday School
- 11:00 am \*Worship

**Monday, January 20**

*Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday*

*Church Office Closed*

- 8:00 pm Bible Study with Matt

**Tuesday, January 21**

- 12:00 pm February Newsletter Deadline

**Wednesday, January 22**

- 6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, January 23**

- 10:30 am Staff Meeting

**Sunday, January 26**

*Annual Meeting of the Congregation & Corporation*

- 9:45 am \*Sunday School
- 11:00 am \*Worship
- 12:00 pm-2:30 pm Grandparent & Grandchild Retreat
- 5:30 pm-7:00 pm Youth Group

**\*childcare provided**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

**JANUARY**

- 19-Nancy Feather
- Ken Frazier
- 21-Drew Melone
- 22-Jaycee Barbee
- 23-Susan Garrison
- Kim Marshall
- Ronnie Michael
- 24-Dennis Gower
- 26-Thomas Shedd

**SCCM CHALLENGE  
FOR JANUARY**

- Canned Fruit –
- Lite Syrup or No Sugar
- Added

**Visit the  
Winter Art Gallery Exhibition  
featuring Photography by Andy Cotton**