



The Weekly Bulletin  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Albemarle, North Carolina

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February 23, 2020

**GATHERING BEFORE GOD**

MORNING MEDITATION

*By way of encouragement, God tells us in scripture: 'I will remove the stony heart from their bodies, and replace it with a natural heart.' (Ezekiel 11:19). But I'm still waiting, asking when, and how this will happen.*

From  
*The God Who  
Comes*  
by Carlo Caretto.

PEALING OF THE BELLS

PRELUDE

*Intermezzo for Violin and Organ*  
Sarah Womack, Violin

Peter Mathews

OPENING SENTENCES

The Lord is great.

**Let us worship and praise God's holy name.**

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Great is the Lord-

**Exalted among the nations.**

Mighty is the Lord-

**King of heaven and earth.**

Holy is the Lord-

**Beyond our understanding.**

Let us worship our God and King!

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ, whose compassion illumines the world. Transform us into the likeness of the love of Christ, who renewed our humanity through his life, death, and resurrection – the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit.**

**Amen.**

\*HYMN 263

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!*

Coronation

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Silence

Unison

**Eternal God, we confess that we have praised you with our lips but have not glorified you with our lives. Have mercy on us, we pray, for our weak faith that fades under pressure, for our quick enthusiasm that just as quickly dies, for the hopes we proclaim but do not pursue. Forgive us, Lord God, and give us new trust in your power, that we may live for justice and tell of your loving-kindness by our acts as by our words, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

**\*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**

Reverend Ayscue

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

**ANTHEM**

*Think on These Things*

Craig Courtney

Martha Sue Hall, Handbells

Sarah Womack, Violin

(Philippians 4:8-9)

Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest,  
Whatsoever things are just and pure, lovely, of good repute;  
If there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things,  
And the God of peace shall be with you. Amen.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**Holy God, you revealed to the disciples the everlasting glory of Jesus Christ. Grant us, who have not seen and yet believe, the gift of your Holy Spirit, that we may boldly live the gospel and shine with your transforming glory as people changed and changing through the redeeming presence of our Savior. Amen.**

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

[\*II Peter 1:16-20\*](#)

Pew Bible, page 222

**GOSPEL READING**

[\*Matthew 17:1-8\*](#)

Pew Bible, page 17

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

*Mountain Climbing with the Beloved*

Reverend Ayscue

*Glory to God* hymnal,  
page 582

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

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.

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe in God whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives, whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth, whose love was crucified by the evil that waits to enslave us all and whose love, defeating even death, is our glorious promise of freedom. Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt, in God we trust; and, in the name of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves, in the service of others, to seek justice and to live in peace, to care for the earth and to share the commonwealth of God's goodness, to live in the freedom of forgiveness and the power of the spirit of love, and in the company of the faithful so to be the church, for the glory of God. Amen.**

This affirmation comes from the Iona Community in Scotland. It is used in their weekly service of prayer for justice and peace, and is based on the belief that God's guidance, judgment, and mercy can change situations and people.

**\*HYMN 459**

*O Word of God Incarnate*

Munich

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Reverend 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.**

**TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

Invitation

Offertory

*Air from the Suite in D*

Johann Sebastian Bach

Doxology

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

hymnal, page 60

**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 542**

*God Be with You Till We Meet Again*

God Be with You

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL RESPONSE**

*Peace I Give to You*

Craig Courtney

**\*POSTLUDE**

Johann Sebastian Bach

*Moderato from 'Bradenburg Concerto No. 3'*

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**\*All who 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 Thomas Shedd.** After extinguishing the Christ candle, the acolyte takes the light of Jesus Christ out into the world.

**Thanks to** Martha Sue Hall and Sarah Womack for sharing their musical talent with the Chancel Choir in worship this morning.

**Ushers:** Jill Niebler, captain; Steve Cumming, Heather Deese, Melanie Hendrix, Katherine Jolly, and Lee McLaurin **Outside Ushers:** Stephan Kinley **Elder Greeters:** Ellen Snyder **Nursery:** Kyle Lambert **Kids Care Crew:** Gayle & Ned Russell **Children’s Church:** Taylor & Kyle Barbee

**We ask that you keep these people in your prayers:** Judy Portner (sister of Billie Jean Snuggs; stage 4 brain tumor), Jane Lisk, Gene Freshly (husband of Jill Freshly; recovering from mild stroke), Debbie Gabriel (sister of Gayle Russell; diagnosed with breast cancer), Frank Green, Carolyn Sharpe, Jean Rabe, Jane Scheer, Don Joines, Mark Mabry, Jane Pickler. **See newsletter for complete list.**

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**Next Sunday, March 1,** we will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. Spend some time this week preparing your heart and mind to feast at the Lord’s table.

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**INTERGENERATIONAL HANDBELL CHOIR  
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23 AT 9:00 A.M. IN THE CHOIR ROOM**

Folks interested in playing in an intergenerational handbell choir are encouraged to attend an organizational meeting on Sunday, February 23. The meeting will take place at 9:00 a.m. in the choir room. Middle and high school students and adults are welcome.



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**Meal Packing Event on Sunday, 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! Children of any age can participate with a parent.

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**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner  
February 25 at 6:00 p.m. in the gym**

Come for pancakes hot off the griddle and some pre-Lent fun (including pancake decorating and races for the children)! Keith Bryson is coordinating the cooking so call if you want to help (704-984-0254). All proceeds will be used to fund the *Rise Against Hunger* project.

**Beginning on Ash Wednesday (February 26)**, a daily email devotional (written by members and friends of First Presbyterian Church) will be sent to all those for whom the office has an email address. If you do not regularly receive email from First Presbyterian Church and would like to receive the daily devotionals during Lent, email Pam at [pknighen@fpcalbemarle.org](mailto:pknighen@fpcalbemarle.org). There are a limited number of printed copies available in the Pit Stop.

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### February 26

The Lenten journey appropriately begins in worship. This year, there are two options.



ASH WEDNESDAY  
*worship*

#### **Worship at Noon: Music and Meditation**

For thirty minutes, the sanctuary will be filled with instrumental music, prayer, and scripture reading. Come for this contemplative time together. Ashes will be available.

#### **Worship at 6:30 p.m. in the Pit Stop**

Plan to begin this season of penitence and preparation in worship. We will be reminded of our sin by the imposition of ashes and will feast at the table of our Lord Jesus Christ to gain strength for the journey. Childcare provided.

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#### **BACKPACK FOOD PROGRAM**

Oatmeal Packets, Breakfast Cookies, Individual Bags of Goldfish,  
Large Cans of Soup, Saltine Crackers,  
Tuna Helper, Snack Crackers, Pineapple, or Fruit Cocktail Cups  
A bin in the pit stop will receive your donation.

**Next Packing Date: Wednesday, February 26 at 10:30 a.m.**

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#### **Stanly County Habitat for Humanity**

**BBQ Chicken Fundraiser**

**Catered by Port-A-Pit-BBQ**

**½ BBQ Chicken, Slaw, Chips, and Dessert**

**Thursday, February 27**

**11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. at Centerview Baptist Church**

**(508 Northeast Connector, Albemarle)**

**Advance Tickets Available at the Habitat Office**

**\$10 per plate (Drive-Thru, Take-Out, Delivery, & Dine-In)**

**Order Online – [www.stanlyhabitat.org/bbq](http://www.stanlyhabitat.org/bbq)**

**Delivery available with orders of 5+ plates**

**\*\*\* (Delivery must be scheduled by 02/24/20) \*\*\***



## OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

### Sunday, February 23

#### *Transfiguration Sunday*

- 9:00 am Intergenerational Handbell Organizational Meeting  
(Choir Room)
- 9:45 am \*Sunday School
- 11:00 am \*Worship
- 3:00 pm *Rise Against Hunger* Meal Packing Event
- 5:00 pm-7:30 pm Youth Group

### Monday, February 24

- 7:00 pm Book Conversation (parlor)
- 8:00 pm Bible Study with Matt
- 8:30 pm High School Bible Study at Elizabeth's  
(1611 Bellamy Circle, Albemarle)

### Tuesday, February 25

- 6:00 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

### Wednesday, February 26

#### *Ash Wednesday*

- 6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 10:30 am Backpack Food Program
- 12:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship (Sanctuary)
- 4:00 pm-6:00 pm Youth Club
- 6:30 pm \*Ash Wednesday Worship (Pit Stop)
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, February 27

- 10:30 am Staff Meeting
- 11:00 am-7:00 pm Stanly County Habitat for Humanity BBQ Chicken Fundraiser at Centerview Baptist Church (508 Northeast Connector, Albemarle)

### Sunday, March 1

#### *First Sunday of Lent/The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper/Ten-Cents-A-Meal Offering for Hunger*

- 9:00 am Breakfast Bunch (2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders in Media Room)
- 9:45 am \*Sunday School
- 11:00 am \*Worship
- 12:00 pm Mission Committee
- 5:00 pm-7:30 pm Youth Group

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

### FEBRUARY

- 25-Robbie Stevenson  
Ann Upchurch
- 26-Calvin Huneycutt
- 28-Carroll Holbrook
- 29-Cathryn Harwood

## SCCM CHALLENGE FOR FEBRUARY

Canned Vegetables –  
Green Beans, Corn, Carrots, Peas,  
Beans, Mixed Vegetables (Veg-all),  
Canned Tomatoes

## SCCM CHALLENGE FOR MARCH

Boxed Pasta Meals (Hamburger Helper),  
Instant Potatoes, Stuffing Mix

**\*childcare provided**