

The Weekly Bulletin FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Albemarle, North Carolina

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

February 2, 2020

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GATHERING BEFORE GOD

MORNING MEDITATION

When I watch the light of dawn break forth anew each morning, I also know – in the deepest core of my being - that God is God, that God's will for this world is for light and warmth and healing, and that the One who took on human flesh in all its crippling brokenness and pain will surely also embrace and encircle our brokenness with His own redemptive body.

From *The Sun Still Rises*by Nora Tisdale,
PCUSA pastor and
theologian.

PEALING OF THE BELLS

OPENING SENTENCES

Know that the Lord is God.

God made us and we belong to God.

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

GATHERING SONGS

Hymn 336We Gather Togetherstanzas 1 and 2Hymn 664Morning Has Brokenstanzas 1 and 2

*CALL TO WORSHIP

What does the Lord require of us?

The Lord requires us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.

May we encourage one another toward justice, kindness, and a humble walk with God.

Let us worship God together.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Redeeming God, you come to us in Christ to rescue us from slavery and lead us out of captivity. Guide us by the wisdom of the cross, and show us how to live a life of justice, love, and blessedness. Amen.

*HYMN 1 Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty! Nicaea

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Silence

Unison

Great God of the universe, we confess that have not done what is blameless and right, nor spoken truth from the heart with love. We fail to keep your word. Our words and deeds cause pain and turmoil. Forgive us by the power of your mercy, that we might stand in the goodness of Christ and walk in the light of your love. Micah 6:8

Micah 6:8 I Corinthians 1:18-31 Matthew 5:12

Psalm 15:2-4

Glory to God hymnal, page 582

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

I Corinthians 1:18-31 Matthew 5:1-12

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

The Brief Statement of Faith was written following the reunification of the Presbyterian Church in 1983.

*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 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 Hear My Prayer Moses Hogan O Lord, please hear my prayer, in the mornin' when I rise.

It's Your servant bound for glory. O dear, Lord, please hear my prayer.

O Lord, please hear my prayer, keep me safe within Your arms. It's Your servant bound for glory, O dear, Lord, please hear my prayer.

When my work on earth is done, and You come to take me home, Just to know I'm bound for glory, and to hear You say well done.

Done with sin and sorrow, have mercy, mercy, Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, your blessings are abundant, and your wisdom exceeds our grasp. Fill us with your Spirit as we hear your word this day, that we may be justice seekers and peacemakers, sharing your life among those who are forgotten, weak or persecuted. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING <u>Matthew 5:1-12</u> Pew Bible, page 4

OLD TESTAMENT READING <u>Micah 6:1-8</u> Pew Bible, page 816

SERMON What About Kindness? Reverend Ayscue

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. 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. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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 Offertory César Franck
Doxology Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow hymnal, page 606

Doxology Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow 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 772 Live Into Hope Truro

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE God's Wonderful Peace Be with You William M. Runyan

Epilogue on 'Dix' William H. Harris

*POSTLUDE

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 Seth Richards. After extinguishing the Christ candle, the acolyte takes the light of Jesus Christ out into the world.

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in honor of Jean Rabe.

Ushers: Jill Niebler, captain; Steve Cumming, Heather Deese, Melanie Hendrix, Katherine Jolly, and Lee McLaurin **Outside Ushers:** Wes Eudy, Tom Norwood **Elder Greeters:** Steve Coats; Ellen Snyder **Nursery:** Kate White **Kids Care Crew:** Kristie Bryson; Elizabeth Bryson **Children's Church:** Taylor & Kyle Barbee

We ask that you keep these people in your prayers: The family of Gayle Meeks (sister of Lynn White), Debbie Gabriel (sister of Gayle Russell; diagnosed with breast cancer), 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.

Thank You for the Warm Gifts of Winter

190 warm items were collected for our annual Warm Gifts of Winter and given to the Clothing Closet for distribution.

Thank you for your generosity to help our community.

^{*}All who are able may stand.



Hurray For Breakfast Bunch!!!

2nd & 3rd graders Who can come?

Breakfast...muffins, fruit, yogurt, milk, juice, etc. What?

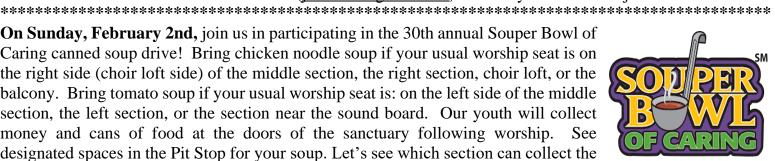
When? Sunday, February 2 at 9:00 a.m.

Media Room Where?

Why? To pray together & build strong community of faith

Please let Jill Niebler (jlniebler@gmail.com) know if you are able to join us.

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. designated spaces in the Pit Stop for your soup. Let's see which section can collect the most soup for SCCM!







Oatmeal Packets, Breakfast Cookies, Individual Bags of Goldfish, Large Cans of Soup, Saltine Crackers, Tuna Helper, Snack Crackers,

Pineapple, or Fruit Cocktail Cups

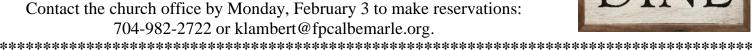
A bin in the pit stop will receive your donation.

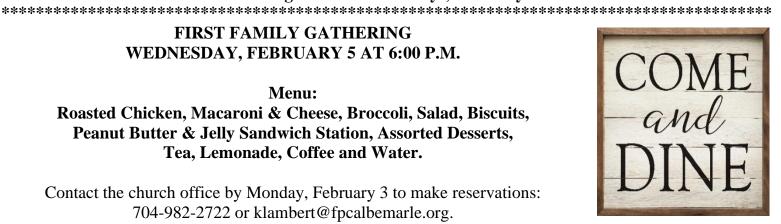
Packing Dates: Wednesdays, February 5 & 26 at 10:30 a.m.

FIRST FAMILY GATHERING WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5 AT 6:00 P.M.

Menu:

Roasted Chicken, Macaroni & Cheese, Broccoli, Salad, Biscuits, Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich Station, Assorted Desserts, Tea, Lemonade, Coffee and Water.







Volunteers Needed for First Family Gathering

Dessert Crew: Tuesday, February 4 at 10:00 a.m.

Dinner & Salad Crew: Wednesday, February 5 at 10:00 a.m.

Set-up crew: Wednesday, February 5 at 4:30 p.m. Clean-up crew: Wednesday, February 5 at 6:45 p.m.

Please call Jane Snyder at the church 704-982-2722 or on her phone 704-438-3358 if you

would like to help[©]



Tea & Conversation Thursday, February 6 at 2:00 p.m. in the Church Parlor

Join other women for conversation and movement around the theme, *Holy Ground*. We'll also enjoy tea and a few of Jane's winter delicacies. Contact the church office to let us know you are coming (704-982-2722 or pknighten@fpcalbemarle.org).



With deep appreciation for all you do, the staff of First Presbyterian Church would like to invite you to a Volunteer Reception in your honor. Thursday, February 13 10:00 a.m.-Noon in the church parlor

Rise Against Hunger Fundraiser Luncheon Hosted by the FPC Youth Group Sunday, February 16 following worship Menu:

Baked Potato & Salad Bar Everyone is encouraged to bring a potato topping to share.

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!



OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, February 2

Souper Bowl of Caring/Ten-Cents-A-Meal Offering for Hunger

9:00 am Breakfast Bunch (2nd & 3rd Graders in Media Room)

9:45 am *Sunday School

11:00 am *Worship

12:00 pm Mission Committee

12:00 pm Congregational Care Committee

5:00 pm-7:30 pm Youth Group

Monday, February 3

7:00 pm Circle #5 meets at the home of Gloria Bryson

(811 Smith Street, Albemarle)

8:00 pm Bible Study with Matt

8:30 pm High School Bible Study at Elizabeth's

(1611 Bellamy Circle, Albemarle)

Tuesday, February 4

9:00 am Lent Planning Committee 10:00 am First Family Dessert Crew

Wednesday, February 5

6:30 am Toby Webb Men's Prayer Breakfast

10:00 am First Family Dinner & Salad Crew

10:30 am Backpack Food Program

12:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (Parlor)

4:00 pm-6:00 pm Youth Club

4:30 pm First Family Set-Up Crew

6:00 pm First Family Dinner

6:45 pm First Family Clean-Up Crew

7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 6

10:30 am Staff Meeting

12:00 pm Young Adult Lunch at Ly Cuisine

(807A North 2nd Street, Albemarle)

2:00 pm Tea & Conversation (Parlor)

Saturday, February 8

9:30 am Presbytery Meeting at Philadelphia Presbyterian Church (11501 Bain Rd., Mint Hill, NC)

Sunday, February 9

8:45 am Diaconate

9:45 am *Sunday School

11:00 am *Worship

6:30 pm Youth Group eats at Hwy 55 Burgers, Shakes, & Fries

(750-A Leonard Ave suite E)

*childcare provided

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! FEBRUARY

02-Lee Boone

Penny Morton

03-Kellyn Poole Luna

04-Hugh Carpenter

05-Keith Byrd

Robin Howell

06-Melissa Eudy

Bob Johnston

07-Jennifer Mabry

08-Mellanie Morgan

09-Debbie Bennett

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY! FEBRUARY

06-Steve & Laura Blalock 09-Bill & Diane Stevenson

Visit the
Winter Art Gallery Exhibition
featuring Photography by Andy Cotton

SCCM CHALLENGE FOR FEBRUARY

Canned Vegetables –

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