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Pastor	Rev. Jon Martin
Director of Christian Education	Mrs. Catie Johns
Director of Music.....	Mrs. Shelley Jennings
Organist	Mrs. Regina Pozzi
Financial Secretary.....	Ms. Alma Carlton
Preschool Director.....	Mrs. Jane Blackerby
Office Manager	Ms. Jeanna Carlton

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TWO CENTS A MEAL OFFERING

The Two Cents A Meal Offering is directed toward programs that address hunger in our region. Locally, Pastor's Pantry and First Hope Ministries have received Presbytery grants from this fund. Donations may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church. Please note "2 Cents a Meal" on the donation.

SERMON SERIES

The *Sermons on fAith* series acknowledges the increasing role of technology in our lives, and that we are regularly asking whether any new technology can be a force for good or not. All six sermon titles in this series were generated using Chat GPT (an AI software). Each sermon then is a biblical conversation and a critique of an AI-generated starting point. I am looking forward to sharing this with you and hearing your comments.

First Presbyterian Church

Lexington, North Carolina



Organized in 1827

1. O Master, let me walk with Thee in lowly paths of service free;
Tell me Thy secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
2. Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love;
Teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.
3. Teach me Thy patience; still with Thee in closer, dearer company,
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong.
4. In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broadening way;
In peace that only Thou canst give, with Thee, O Master, let me live.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Second Helvetic Confession, 5.120

The works which we do by faith are pleasing to God and are approved by him. Because of faith in Christ, those who do good works which, additionally, are done from God's grace through the Holy Spirit, are pleasing to God. For Peter said: "In every nation anyone who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him" (Acts 10:35). And Paul said: "We have not ceased to pray for you . . . that you may walk worthily of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work" (Col. 1:9).

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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.

THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory *Awake, My Heart, With Gladness* Johann Crüger

*Doxology (Hymn #592)

*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 Thanksgiving

Gracious God, we give you thanks for this offering. Receive what we give to you as we respond to Christ's loving-kindness. Expand what we do, so that others may experience your tenderness, and cultivate us to bear more fruit to the glory of your name. Amen.

1. Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord.
To help set the captive free, make plowshare out of sword.
To feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast.
To serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.
2. God made the world and at its birth ordained our human race
To live as stewards of the earth, responding to God's grace.
But we are vain and sadly proud, we sow not peace but strife,
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud that threatens all of life.
3. Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream,
With righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem.
For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease,
A world that was created for a harmony of peace.
4. May we in service to our God act out the living Word,
And walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord
To God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord.

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Lift High the Cross

*POSTLUDE

Improvisation on Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!

* Let us rise in body or spirit.



Whether this is your first time worshiping with us or you have been with us for a while, we welcome you in the name of Jesus Christ. We are so glad you have gathered with us to give thanks to God and respond to Jesus' call to follow him. If you would like more information about our congregation, please speak with the pastor or one of our church leaders. Information about the church is available in the Lobby and Narthex. We are blessed to have you with us this morning.

We love children here at First Presbyterian and welcome them to our worship service. There are worship bags on the front row for younger children to pick up before the service.

ONLINE giving

Scan this QR code to make a one-time or recurring gift to First Presbyterian Church. Your gift can be made by credit card, ACH, or Google Pay.



MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

Join Pastor Jon on Wednesdays at Noon for Bible Study! We meet in the fellowship hall. This is not a series, so come any Wednesday. See you then!

GREEN SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE MAY 1

Applications for the Winnie Green Higher Education Scholarship are due by May 1. Grants will be awarded each spring; students receiving scholarships shall not be guaranteed renewal of scholarships. Students must re-apply for a new grant each year. Application forms and the full list of applicant guidelines are available from the church office, on the lobby side of Jeanna's service window, or may be downloaded at fpclexnc.com.

PW SPRING GATHERING

Presbyterian Women will hold their annual May Gathering and Dinner on Monday, May 13 at 6:00 PM in the fellowship hall. A representative from Dragonfly House will be our speaker. The dinner will be catered by Cuisine Kathleen and will cost \$10. Reservations for dinner should be made with the church office by Monday, May 6.

We will collect our Birthday Offering during the Gathering. Donations for Family Services will also be received and can be left near the church office: *paper towels, toilet paper, full size shampoo, conditioner and body wash; non-bleach laundry detergent, dish washing detergent, 13 gallon trash bags, and cleaning supplies.*

All women of the church are invited to attend.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER COMMUNITY-WIDE SERVICE

The *National Day of Prayer* will be Thursday, May 2, 2024. It is a time to lift up our leaders and our country in prayer. First Presbyterian will host a community-wide prayer service that evening at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary. All are welcome to attend.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Save the date! Vacation Bible School will be June 24-28, 9:00-11:30 AM. Our Vacation Bible School theme this summer is *Pool Party, Make a Splash with Jesus!* Kids ages preschool-middle school are invited to join our Pool Party! Volunteer sign-up information is coming soon!



WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Sunday	April 21	9:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Contemporary Service (fellowship hall) Sunday School Traditional Worship (sanctuary) with livestream YD's, Acts Alive meet Session meets (Session room)
Tuesday	April 23	7:15 AM 3:00-4:00 7:00 PM	Men's Breakfast Fellowship (Cagney's) DCE office hours Boy Scout Troop 205 (basement)
Wednesday	April 24	9:00-11:00 12:00 PM 6:15 PM 7:00 PM	DCE Office Hours Bible Study with Pastor Jon (fellowship hall) Handbell Rehearsal (choir suite) Choir Rehearsal (choir suite)
Thursday	April 25	11:00 AM 4:30-6:30	Prayer Group (video room, 2 nd floor) Preschool Hotdog Cookout (fellowship hall)
Saturday	April 27	1:30 PM	RUC Movie Matinee (fellowship hall)
Sunday	April 28	9:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 12:30 PM 5:00 PM	Contemporary Service (fellowship hall) Sunday School Blended Worship (sanctuary) with livestream New Member Luncheon (Sapona) YD's, Acts Alive meet

PRESCHOOL HOTDOG COOKOUT FUNDRAISER

First Presbyterian Preschool will be holding a hotdog cookout fundraiser in the church fellowship hall on Thursday, April 25 from 4:30-6:30 PM. Hotdogs will be freshly grilled, and you may choose to eat in or take order to go. Tickets are \$7 each for one grilled hotdog with fixin's, chips, dessert, and drink. Extra items will be available for purchase on-site. We are grateful to Kearney's Drive-In of Lexington for sponsoring our fundraiser. Tickets are available for purchase in the church office, from Preschool staff, or from any of our Preschool families. Thank you for supporting our Preschool!

RUC APRIL MOVIE MATINEE

As its April movie matinee, the Race Unification Committee will show the award-winning television film *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* on Saturday, April 27, at 1:30 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. The unrated 1974 CBS film, based on a novel by African-American writer Ernest J. Gaines, tells the life story of a woman who is born into slavery in the Deep South and survives the Jim Crow period and into the Civil Rights Movement. A discussion period with written questions will follow the 2.5-hour movie.

Admission, popcorn and soft drinks are free. For more information, contact Bill Keesler.