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COLUMBARIUM FLOWERS

As you place live flowers in the church columbarium, please also remove them in a timely manner.
The kindred spirit of this garden holds for us all the divine guidance of our sacred Lord.

TWO CENTS A MEAL OFFERING

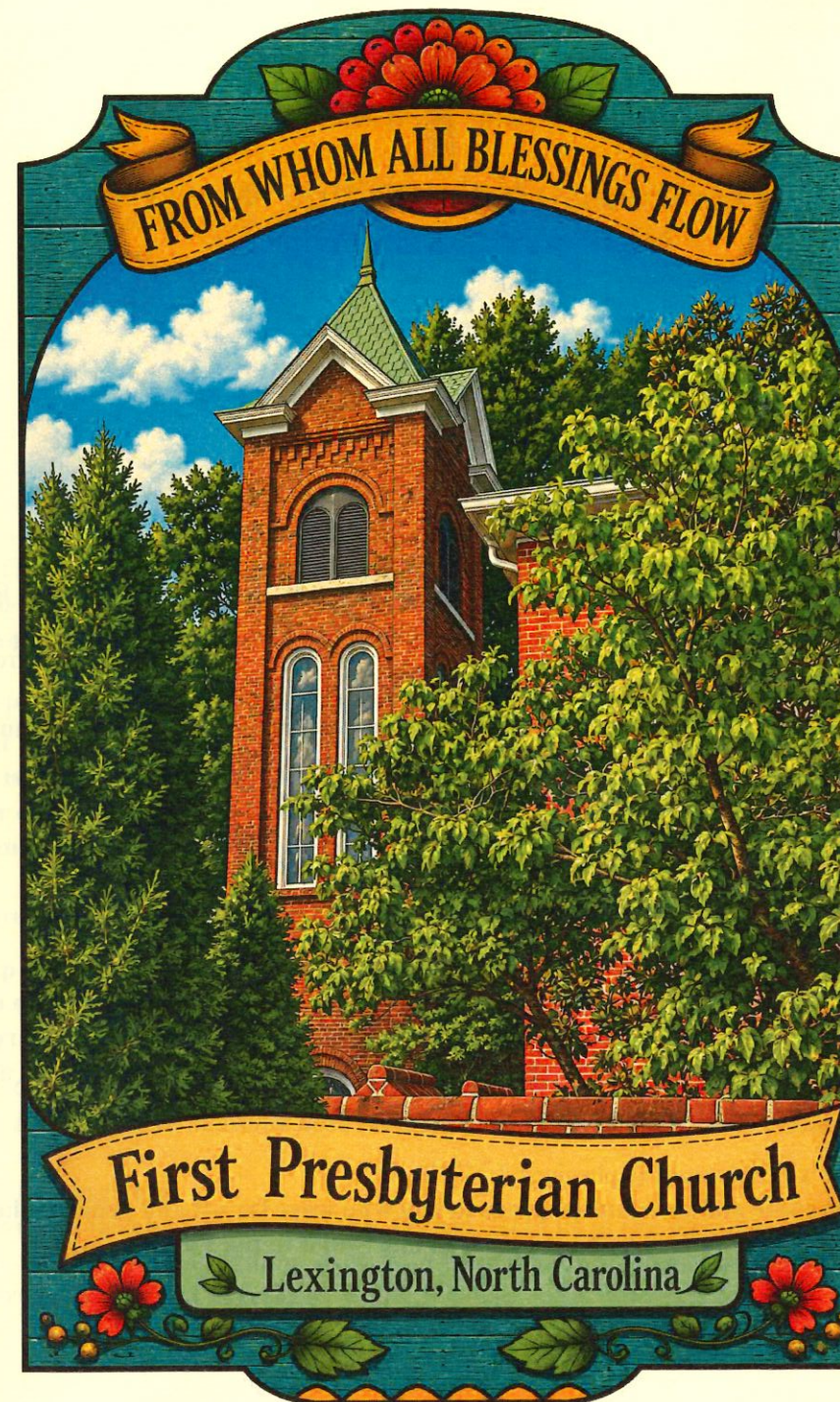
The Two Cents A Meal Offering addresses hunger in our region. If we all set aside a small amount to help feed people, it will make a difference. Donations may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church. Please note “2 Cents a Meal” on the donation.

SUMMER BULLETIN COVERS

This summer, the bulletin covers show a different and unique AI picture of the church. Today’s cover and previous summer bulletin covers are on display, along with their original picture, across from the parlor.

CHURCH OFFICE SUMMER SCHEDULE

The church office is on summer schedule. Jeanna will not be in the office on Fridays through August 14.



Founded 33 AD
Organized 1827



Summer Worship ❖ July 26, 2026 ❖ 10:00 AM
Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

The Passing of the Peace

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Prelude

Blessed Assurance

arr. Phoebe Knapp

*Call to Worship

from Psalm 113

One: Praise the Lord! O servants of the Lord!

All: Bless the Lord from this time on and forever more. From the rising of the sun to its setting,

One: The name of the Lord is to be praised. The Lord is above all nations,

All: And his glory above the heavens. Let us worship God.

*Hymn #288

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

*Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, have mercy upon us as we stand in need of your mercy. We question your judgment most notably when it conflicts with ours. We hesitate to follow the path of faith when it leads in a direction we don't want. We can and should be more patient. We are mostly rule followers but there is still a rebellious streak in us. Holy Spirit, keep working in us and retain the best parts of our redeemed lives in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Assurance of God's Forgiveness (Ephesians 2:17-18)

So Christ Jesus came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father.

*Response of Praise

Gloria Patri

Hymn #579

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be; world without end. Amen. Amen.

Children's Moment

Scripture Reading

Romans 8:26-30

Phyllis McGee

Special Music

Lord, Don't Lift Your Spirit From Me
Ken Davis, soloist

Andraé Crouch

Scripture Reading

Matthew 13:31-32

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Wild Kingdom

Rev. Jon Martin

*Hymn #399

We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight

*Affirmation of Faith

Confession of 1967, 9.54

Biblical visions and images of the rule of Christ, such as a heavenly city, a father's house, a new heaven and earth, a marriage feast, and an unending day culminate in the image of the kingdom. The kingdom represents the triumph of God over all that resists his will and disrupts his creation. Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in people and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption.

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

Improvisation

*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

We give you thanks for this offering, O God. Help us in the wise stewardship of these gifts for the work of your kingdom. Add us to your kingdom work, and through us announce your truth in the land. Amen.

*Hymn (insert)

Soon and Very Soon

*Benediction

* Let us rise in body or spirit.



Welcome to worship at First Presbyterian Lexington! Whether this is your first time visiting or you are a longtime member, please know that you are always welcome in the name of Jesus Christ. If you would like more information about the congregation, please ask Pastor Jon. Information is also available in the lobby and narthex. It is a blessing to share this worship service with you.

We love children here at First Presbyterian and welcome them to our worship service. There are worship bags in the Kids' Corner in the lobby for younger children to pick up before the service.

We're glad you're visiting.
Can we connect with you?



Online Giving

Thank you for your gift!

GUEST MUSICIAN

We are grateful to Ken Davis for sharing his gift of music with us today.

SUMMER HYMNS

Thank you for sharing over seventy hymns, songs, and chorus for our summer worship. It's a great list! We will sing as many of these as possible this summer.

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

We are studying the book of Jude Wednesdays at noon in the fellowship hall. Join in any week.

ACTS ALIVE SUNDAY

Next Sunday, August 2, our Acts Alive high school youth group and their advisors will lead the worship service and share experiences from their June mission trip to Pennsylvania.

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Soon and Very Soon

1 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.
2 No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.
3 No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.
4 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.

Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.
No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.
No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.
Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.

Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.
No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.
No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.
Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're going to see the King!

This spirited African American gospel hymn draws on John's vision of the new heaven and the new earth in Revelation 21:3-4, with its wonderful promise that God will wipe away the tears from all eyes, that death will be no longer, and that there will be no more mourning or pain.

TRAVELING JESUS

Invite Jesus to join you on your adventures this summer! In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells His Disciples, "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). *Traveling Jesus* is inspired by a national school project called *Flat Stanley*, based on a book written by Jeff Brown. Traveling Jesus helps children and adults remember that Jesus is always with them.

Traveling Jesus is an invitation to keep Him at the front of our mind and in our heart as we move through our days. When we seek Jesus, we find Him, and we want to share Him with our friends. This is more than a photo opportunity; this is a call to live out our faith no matter where we go in the world.

This summer, take a picture of you and *Traveling Jesus* enjoying an adventure or activity together and then email or text it to Catie (dcecatie@fpclenx.com or 336.225.0014). Let's keep Jesus at the front of our minds and remember that He is always with us! Get your *Traveling Jesus* from the Kid's Corner (by the sanctuary entrance from the lobby).

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

Servant hearts and willing hands needed. If you would like to serve on the Congregational Life/Fellowship Ministry Team for the 2026-2027 year, please let Beth White know (mekwhite0705@gmail.com or 336-309-3956). Also, if you have a special talent you'd be willing to share with the church family (a hand-lettering workshop, painting class, gentle yoga, etc), or if you have an idea for a fellowship activity, please reach out to Beth. Church is meant to be lived in community, and fellowship helps build that community. Thank you, all, for being part of this church family!

Young Adult small group. All young adults interested in a small group for Bible study or social events, or who would like to be added to the contact list, please text Neida Ramirez (704-213-9077) or Jan Kiefer (336-906-3915).

Sound and Video. We could use a few volunteers to help with our sound system, video system, and livestream. We can train you, and you'll be putting your faith to work to help spread the gospel through the community and into the world. Even if you want to just take a closer look, contact David Durrell (336-926-6204) or Pastor Jon (276-206-6370).

Meals on Wheels volunteers needed. Two folks have "retired" from service with Meals on Wheels, and two people are needed to step up and take their places. This rewarding service entails delivering meals to very deserving residents in town every other Friday, giving about an hour of your time each of those weeks. You will not only deliver much-needed meals, but you will also be able to give a warm smile and show some love to our neighbors in need. If you would like to serve in this capacity or would like more information, please contact Celia Stalvey or the church office.

What's Happening this Week

Sunday	July 26	10:00 AM	Summer Worship (sanctuary)
Monday	July 27		<i>ACTION</i> published
Tuesday	July 28	7:15 AM 1:00 PM	Men's Breakfast (Cagney's) <i>ACTION</i> Folding Crew (fellowship hall)
Wednesday	July 29	12:00 PM	Midweek Bible Study (fellowship hall)
Thursday	July 30	11:00 AM	Prayer Group (Prayer Room)
Sunday	August 2	10:00 AM	Summer Worship - Acts Alive Sunday (sanctuary)

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

We are excited to kick-off a great school year with a back-to-school supply drive. We are partnering with Stoner-Thomas School and the Genesis House for this year's drive! The Genesis House is in Lexington, NC and is operated by Davidson County First Hope Ministries. They provide temporary shelter for homeless families. Stoner-Thomas is a K-12 school in the heart of Davidson County that serves special needs students from all over the county. The drive will run from August 2-August 30. A list of needs for Stoner-Thomas and the Genesis House will be provided soon!

