

Offering our Talents, Time, and Treasure: In response to the Good News of God’s saving love in Jesus Christ, we are invited to give of ourselves and our resources. If you are seeking ways to share your time and your talents, please speak to one of the pastors. Financial contributions may be placed in the offering plate, or by scanning the QR code on the card in the pew rack, or by texting 704-288-7459.

Large Print Hymnals, printed copies of the sermon, and a hearing assistance system are available. We have an AED Machine in the Narthex. Please speak to an usher for assistance with any of these items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today’s Flowers are given to the Glory of God from the Girl Scouts.

TODAY IS GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY

On March 12, 1912, Juliette Gordon Low held the first Girl Scout meeting in the United States. Girl Scout Sunday marks this anniversary. All are invited to a Girl Scout cookie reception on the front lawn following worship.

Daisy Troop 3631: Presley Arkfield, Emma Beall, Ada Chisholm, Hazel Christy, Willow Cuillinane, Clara Duckworth, Clara Dugan, Lydia Grogg, Dylan Hayes, Ella Miller, Hannah Schmeiser, Ariya Simpson, Raegan Sult, Adrienne Wilson
Troop Leader: Grey Helms, Assistant Leader: Kristi Dugan

Brownie Troop 323: Olivia Allen, Elise Benfield, Emma Burgess, Hannah Dollar, Claudia Dugan, Juliana Maldonado, Harper Morton, Olivia Running, Merry Faggart Sweet, Willa White, Ainsley Wood
Troop co-leaders: Cindy Wise and Zoe Forward

Junior Troop 3142: Hazel Abeyta, Sawyer Abeyta, Audrey Lynn Benfield, Josephine Bevan, Delia Clymer, Morgan Hammonds, Calleigh Miller, Bianca Plummer, Colette Wertz, Amanda Jane Williamson
Troop leader: Christine Bevan, Assistant Leader: Adrienne Burnham

Cadette/Senior/Ambassador Troop 334: Madeline Allen, Amy Hagans, Zoe Locust*, Lily Meskill, Reba-Marie Meskill, Scarlett Stelley, Chai Stokes, Eunice Uche
Troop co-leaders: René Prager and Kirby Sheridan
*Earned the My Promise, My Faith Award

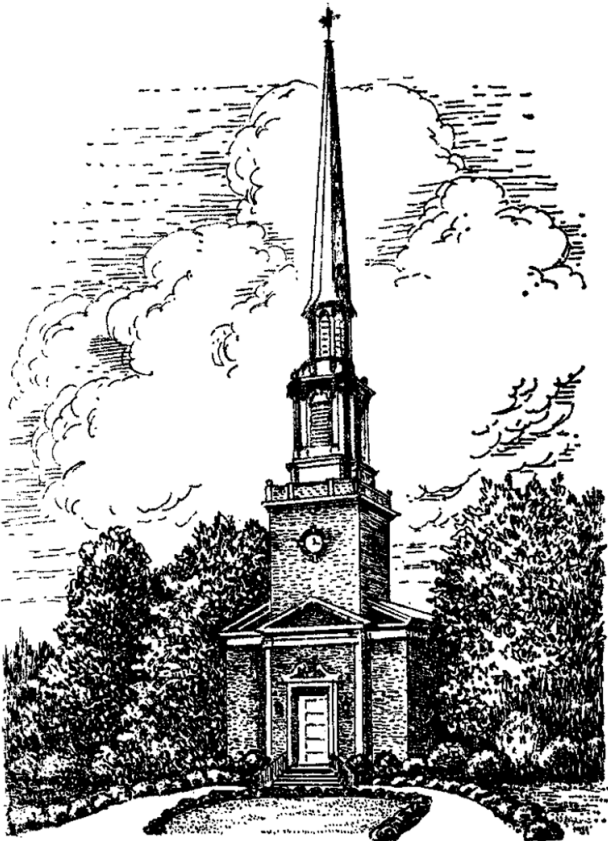
March Lunch Bunch will meet on Wednesday, March 27 at 11:45 AM. Author and speaker, Ann Conway will be the guest speaker. Her book, *Memoir, Crumbs, Will I Trust?*, has an inspiring message for each of us as we face life’s hardships. Come and invite a friend to join you. Call the reservation line by Monday, March 29, 704-788-2100 #7. The cost for lunch is \$9, payable at the door.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

LATER TODAY	12:00 PM	Girl Scout Cookie Reception (Front Lawn)
	12:00 PM	Earth Care Committee (FH Library)
	4:30 PM	Combined Youth (Davis Hall)
Monday, March 18	2:00 PM	Staff Meeting (FH Sunroom)
	2:30 PM	Red Cross VIP Blood Drive (Davis Hall)
	7:00 PM	Boy Scouts (Will Young room 304)
	7:00 PM	Racial Equity Reads (Commons)
Tuesday, March 19	9:00 AM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg)
	9:20 AM	Preschool Committee (Library Conference Room)
	7:00 PM	PW CT (Library Conference Room)
	7 :00 PM	Al Anon (Commons)
Wednesday, March 20	9:00 AM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg)
	10:30 AM	Bible Study (Library Conference Room)
	6:30 PM	Congregational Nominating Committee (Journey Classroom)
	7:30 PM	Choir Practice (Choir Room)
Thursday, March 21	9:00 AM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg)
	2:00 PM	Thursday Connections (Commons)
	5:30 PM	Girl Scout Troop 334 (Ed Bldg)
	5:30 PM	Daisy & Brownie Troops (Off Campus)
	6:00 PM	Junior Troop (Ed Bldg)
	7:00 PM	Books & Brews (Wine Room., Afton Village)
Friday, March 22	9:00 AM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg)
Saturday, March 23	9:45 AM	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Sunday, March 24	9:45 AM	Sunday School Classes (Various Rooms)
	10:30 AM	Called Session (Library Conference Room)
	10:30 AM	Sanctuary Choir (Choir Room)
	11:00 AM	Worship (in person and live streamed)
	4:30 PM	Middle School Youth (Davis Hall)
	5:30 PM	Youth Dinner (Davis Hall)
	6:00 PM	High School Youth (Davis Hall)

Rev. Ellen Crawford True, Senior Pastor
Rev. Casey Aldridge, Associate Pastor
René Prager, Director of Christian Education
Rev. Bryan Hovey, Parish Associate
Dr. Jacqueline Yost, Director of Music and Organist
Dr. Jeffrey W. Price, Choirmaster
Amy Woolwine, Clerk of Session
Jenny Chikes, Moderator, Board of Deacons
For a comprehensive list of officers, visit the church website:

Fifth Sunday
In Lent



First Presbyterian Church
70 Union Street North
Concord, North Carolina

Sunday, March 17, 2024



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
C O N C O R D

www.firstpresconcord.org
(704) 788-2100



Service for the Lord’s Day

Preparing for worship

As the music plays, you are invited to pause, reflect, and pray silently as we prepare for worship.

“The church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord.”
Glory to God hymnal, #321

PRELUDE

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
Please sign the Friendship Pad found on the center aisle of each pew and pass it to your neighbor.

VOLUNTARY

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: At the rising of the sun,
People: **may God’s name be praised!**
Leader: When the stars shine above,
People: **may God’s name be praised!**
Leader: God reigns from on high,
People: **and lifts up the poor and forgotten.**
All: *Nothing compares to the Lord our God.*
May God’s name be praised!

*HYMN 25 *O Lord, Our God, How Excellent* WINCHESTER OLD

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
We want to follow in the way of Jesus, O God, but we are easily impressed by grand buildings and lulled to sleep by sparkling promises. We claim Christ as our foundation, but we are tempted to build our lives around other claims. Forgive us. Awaken us again to Christ’s call as he leads us to the cross and beyond. Amen. [Time for silent confession follows.]

ASSURANCE OF PARDON
Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.
People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

*HYMN OF PRAISE 828 *More Love to Thee, O Christ* MORE LOVE TO THEE
More love to thee, O Christ, more love to thee! Hear thou the prayer I make on bended knee. This is my earnest plea: more love, O Christ, to thee; more love to thee, more love to thee!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION lay reader, Girl Scouts

FIRST LESSON Psalm 113:1-8 (read responsively)
Leader: Praise the Lord!
People: **Praise, O servants of the Lord; praise the name of the Lord.**

Leader: Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time on and forevermore.
People: **From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised.**
Leader: The Lord is high above all nations and his glory above the heavens.
People: **Who is like the Lord our God, who is seated on high, who looks far down on the heavens and the earth? He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people.**

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON Mark 13:1-8, 24-37 pew bible, page 50
This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON Rev. Ellen Crawford True

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 352 *My Lord! What a Morning* MY LORD, WHAT A MORNING

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles’ Creed
I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND CALL TO OFFERING

Sanctuary Choir; Mary Beth Eubanks and Cecilia Moneta Matthews, soloists

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *I Believe* Mark Miller
(Sanctuary Choir; Mary Beth Eubanks and Cecilia Moneta Matthews, soloists)
I believe in the sun even when it’s not shining. I believe in love, even when I don’t feel it. I believe in God, even when God is silent. Oo.....

*DOXOLOGY 608 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* Hopson
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below; praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING
For your abundant gifts, we give you thanks, O God. Use all that we offer for your work of building your kingdom in Christ’s name. Amen.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 357 *The Days Are Surely Coming* LLANGLOFFAN

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Amen* in Ab Jacqueline Yost
(Sanctuary Choir)

POSTLUDE

**Those who are able, please stand.*
CCLI License #11219393

This morning’s affirmation comes from **A Brief Statement of Faith** which was commissioned to celebrate the reunion of two largest Presbyterian churches in the United States in 1983 and “our rediscovery that for all our undoubted diversity, we are bound together by a common faith and a common task.” (From the Preface to the *Book of Confessions*)

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church! We are so glad you are here. You are invited to join us for study, service, education, and fellowship in addition to worship. If you have questions or would like to learn more about this community, please speak with one of the pastors following worship.

Sanctuary Safety—In our ongoing efforts to care for all who work, play, and worship on our campus, we are being intentional about access to buildings throughout the week and on Sundays. All sanctuary doors are locked after worship begins on Sunday mornings, with the exception of the main doors leading to the narthex. Worshipers are free to exit by any of the doors at any time. To re-enter, please come through the doors to the narthex.

Children are always welcome here.
We have a wonderful nursery and childcare for infants through preschool each Sunday in the Will Young Building. Worship bags for young children are available in the narthex near the front doors. Please speak with an usher for assistance.

Pew Prep - We invite any kindergarten and first grade children to attend Pew Prep after the Children’s Message. Our volunteers will lead the children to the Children’s Chapel on the second floor of the Education Building where they will engage in fun activities while learning about different aspects of worship. The goal of Pew Prep is to provide education that allows our young worshipers to understand and fully participate when they are in the sanctuary. Volunteers will bring the children back to the sanctuary during the Doxology and they will return to sit with their family.