



First Presbyterian Church

MOUNT AIRY, NORTH CAROLINA

25th Sunday after Pentecost
November 10, 2024

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

I've Got Peace Like a River Traditional Spiritual

Call to Worship

Choose this day whom you will serve!

We will serve and obey the Lord our God!

Let us worship the Lord.

Hymn of Worship*

#139

Come, Thou Almighty King

Prayer of Adoration

Stand firm and hold fast to your faith; God will strengthen us in word and in deed. Let us pray:

O God, your blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of evil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life. Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as Christ is pure; that when he comes again with power and great glory we may be like him in his eternal glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Call to Repentance and Prayer of Confession

We come before God not as despised sinners, but as beloved children. With the confidence of children of

God, we confess our sins:

O Lord, you call us to proclaim the Gospel, but we remain silent in the presence of evil. You call us to be reconciled to one another, but we are content to live in separation. You call us to seek the good of all, but we fail to resist the powers of oppression. You call us to work for a world where all will be fed and have dignity, but we find ourselves distracted by our own desires. Forgive us, Lord. Turn us to your will by the power of your Holy Spirit, so that we may know your justice and peace and do it. We ask for Christ's sake, amen.

(silent confession)

Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

Friends, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin and alive to all that is good.

We believe the good news of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

The Peace of the Lord be with You! **And also with you.**

(As we pass the peace, the children will gather with Loida at the baptismal font for the Children's message and then go to children's church.)

Sung Response to Begin Children's Blessing

Yes, Jesus Loves Me, Yes Jesus Loves Me

Yes, Jesus Loves Me, the Bible tells me So.

Children's Blessing

Loida P. Slate, PhD

Old Testament Reading Amos 5: 18-24
This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 146* *Read Responsively Standing*
Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!
I will praise the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God all my life long.
Do not put your trust in rulers,
in mortals, in whom there is no help.
When their breath departs, they return to the
earth;
on that very day their plans perish.
Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God,
who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;
who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.
The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.

The Lord watches over the strangers;
The Lord upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked God brings to ruin.

The Lord will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the Lord!

(Sung) 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.

New Testament Reading Matthew 25:1-13

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

Sermon Rev. Dr. Fritz Ritsch
God will Refill What Is Lacking

Song of Response* #339
Be Thou My Vision

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.

Presentation of Chrismons Peggy Rees

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer
Our Father, which 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, The power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering and Offertory

I Know that My Redeemer Lives Courtney

The offering plate will be passed at this time, or you may text Granite to 73256 to give online.

Doxology*

(#592 in the hymnal)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below,
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Closing Hymn*

#293

This is My Father's World

Benediction*

Chiming of the Trinity and Postlude

*Please stand where indicated if you are able

Birthdays: Joan Godwin, Louise Harrison, Christie Sheppard and Hart Roach (11/11), Liam Overby and Reedy Roach (11/14), Carla Majure (11/15), Kit Trotter (11/16)

Anniversaries: Mickey and Margaret McGuire (11/15)

Prayer List: Mary Ellen Goad, Locke Rowe, Mariah Tate, Kathy Thurber, Regina Johnson, Jerry Hunter, Dr Emily Burke Cheshire, Coley Martin, Cason McMillian, Kevin Dodd, Ann Yokeley, Jordan Tucker, Jean Arrington, Kathryn Benfer, Wendy Byrd, Katherine Heath, Tim Long, Karen Snyder, Lydia Snyder, The Montreat campus and everyone who continues to recover from the recent hurricanes.

Welcome to our Visitors! We are so glad you have joined us in worship today. Please take a moment to fill out one of the visitor cards found at the entrances, and drop them in the offering plates before you leave. If you are interested in membership at First Presbyterian

Church, please let one of our worship leaders know or reach out to our church office.

Here are a few notes: The audio from the service can be heard in the foyer through the double doors outside the sanctuary. Nursing mothers are welcome to listen to the service in the parlor. Bathrooms can be found through the foyer on the first doors to your left.

Please be aware that in our efforts to include those unable to worship in person, we live stream worship via Facebook. We also occasionally take photos during our services and events. If you have questions or concerns, please contact a member of our staff.

Please know that for security purposes, the doors to the sanctuary building will be locked each Sunday after service begins. Please knock on the ramp door to get in if the door has already been locked. If a phone number has been posted on the door, you may also call or text that number to be let in.

Chrismon Presentation today: Today during worship, Peggy Rees will talk briefly about what a Chrismon is and why they are so special to include on our Christmas tree that we put up in the sanctuary each Advent season. Several members of our congregation have been working this year on making new ones, and we have those on display on the counter in the hallway outside the sanctuary today. Please take a moment to look at them today.

Office Closure: The church office will be closed tomorrow, November 11th, in honor of Veteran's Day. If you need immediate assistance, please email office@fpcma.com or anna@fpcma.com

Stewardship Campaign 2025: You should have received a packet in the mail with information about our 2025 Pledge campaign. **Please prayerfully consider your pledge amount and turn in those pledge cards as soon as possible so that we can move forward with budgeting for the coming year.** Thank you for your continued support of the ministry and missions of FPCMA.

Thanksgiving Meal Kits: This year the Missions Ministry Team will be once again providing a thanksgiving meal to our neighbors in need. We are asking for \$40 donations to cover the cost of each complete meal, but any amount is appreciated. You can drop a check in the offering plate with “Thanksgiving Meals” in the memo line, or donate online linked [here](#).

2025 Scholarship Applications: The Endowment Team is currently accepting applications for college scholarships. Application must be completed, signed and returned to the Church office by 12/10/24. Applicants must be currently enrolled in a college or university. Please reach out to the church office if you have any questions. [Here](#) is the link to the application for the digital bulletin.

2024 Poinsettia Orders: It’s the time of year when we take orders for poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary for the advent season. Poinsettias can be either in honor (color will be red) or in memory (color will be white) of a loved one this year. Cost is \$13.00 each, and order forms can be placed in the offering plate or you may purchase online through Realm by selecting the fund “Poinsettia/Easter Lily”. The deadline for placing an order will be Monday, November 18.

Cleaning Crew Needed: The church is currently looking to hire a new cleaning crew. Ideal candidates would be available to thoroughly clean the entire church once a week, including the fellowship hall and scout hut. Please reach out to the church office if you have any recommendations.

October Financial Report: In October, our total receipts came to \$10,803, while our total expenses came to \$15,795. To date, we have received \$129,015 in pledged giving this year to date, which is 96% of our total pledged giving for 2024. Thank you for keeping your giving current so we can further the ministry and missions of this church.

Wednesday Night Activities: This Wednesday, November 13th, we will gather at 5:30 for a soup and sandwich supper for everyone. We are in need of a few people to bring a crock pot of soup, sandwiches, crackers, or a dessert with you. Afterwards, we will play bingo as a fundraiser for our Thanksgiving meal effort. We are asking for donations as an admission to playing bingo. Prizes will be awarded. Our children can participate if they would like, or they can play outside with adult supervision. Childcare will also be provided. Please make sure and RSVP through the Realm link or by calling the church office. Looking ahead to the following Wednesday, November 20th, we will be having a casserole meal at 5:30, followed by an activity for all packing Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Please bring any of the items listed in this link [here](#) with you as donations for the boxes. A list is also posted on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Mark your calendar for these November activities:

November 13th- Wednesday night activity: Bingo fundraiser for Thanksgiving meals; soup and sandwich supper provided; childcare available
November 18th- Deadline to place poinsettia order
November 20th- Wednesday night activity: casserole supper and packing shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child
November 24th- Thanksgiving meal following worship and decorate the sanctuary for Advent
November 27th- Thanksgiving meal kit distribution

Beacons Ministry: We will meet tonight from 5-7pm in the scout hut for our usual time of bible study and fellowship.

Lunchtime Bible Study, Tuesdays at Noon: There will be no bible studies November 12th or 19th as Fritz is away.

Congregational Care: Please help our deacons out by letting them know of any special prayer requests or concerns. Please email krhbtexan@yahoo.com or call

336-401-0733 to reach deacon Kim Branch. You can also contact the church office.

Support Our Area Charities: Baskets are located in the foyer for donations of non-perishable food items.

Helping Hands also accepts paper products and toiletries.

Special requests for the month of November are:

Yokefellow: tuna and mayonnaise

Shepherd's House: toilet bowl cleaner

Helping Hands: Non perishable food items, paper products and toiletries



The Ministers: The Congregation

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Fritz Ritsch

Office Administrator and Music Director: Anna Bush

Pianist: Jane Tesh

Director of Youth and Children's Discipleship:

Loida P. Slate, PhD

Director of First Steps: Mary Alice Leonard

Members of the Session

Clerk of the Session: Bob Keck

Elders

Class of 2024:	Class of 2025:	Class of 2026:
Steve Yokeley	Kelley Jackson	Carla Majure
Lydia Taylor	Laura East	Blanton Youell
David Rives	Jane Tesh	Derek Higgs
Gene Rees	Daniel Horton	Bob Moody
Anna Peterson		

Deacons

Kim Branch Bettsee McPhail Taylor Pike



Wednesday Night RSVP



Sunday Attendance Check In