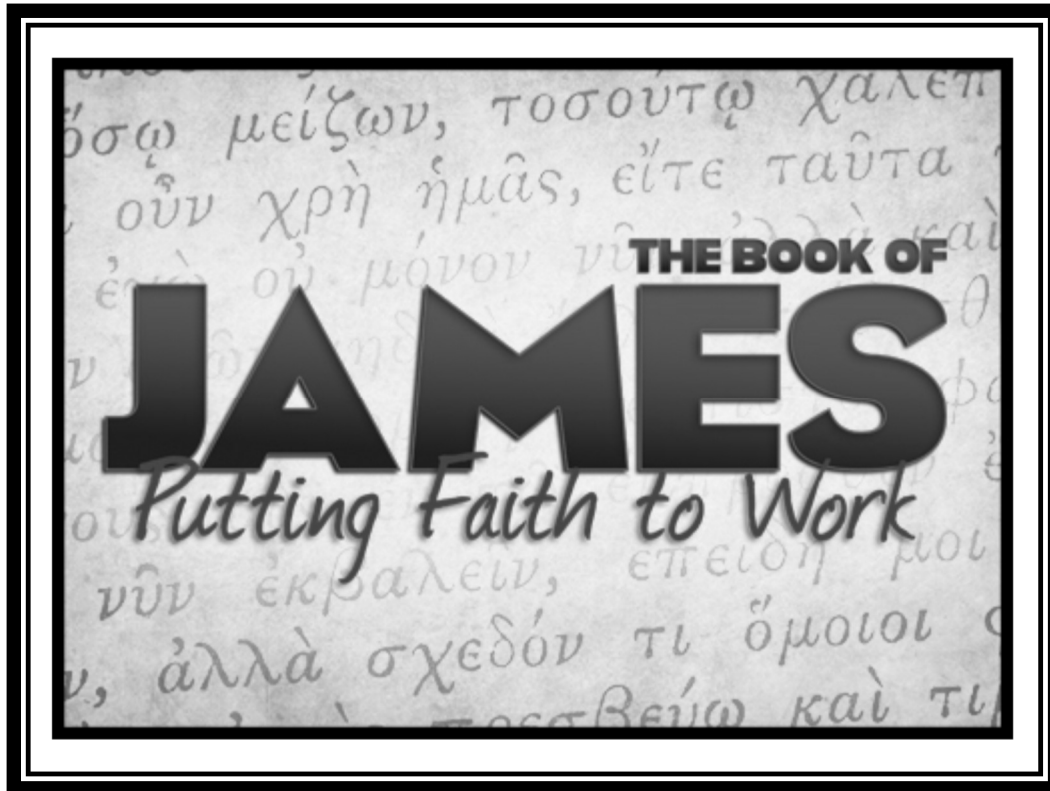


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

100 Silver Creek Road
Morganton, North Carolina 28655
828-437-1811
www.fpcmorganton.org



A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
Organized Prior to 1797



Reverend Dr. Wanda Neely, Transitional Pastor
Reverend Adam C. Bowling, Associate Pastor
Reverend Lynn Webber, Parish Associate
Mr. Robert A. Smith, Director of Music

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 16, 2018

*Please stand, in body or in spirit.

Bold-type indicates congregational reading or singing.

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

As We Gather . . .

God, whose love streams like fresh water
Into the deserts of our hearts,
You turn us from greed and partiality
To healing and justice.
Make us companions of those who long for your deliverance,
And give us safe passage at the last
Into the land of your shalom. Amen.

Prelude

"How Firm A Foundation"

Wilbur Held

Welcome and Announcements

Please pass the black friendship pad found at the end of the pew, with both guests and members filling in their information. Then pass the pad back to its starting point, noting names and welcoming those near you.

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 146

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!
I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to God all my life.
Put your trust in the God who created all that is around us.
Put your trust in the God who keeps faith forever and ever.
Put your trust in the One who calls us to worship in spirit and truth.

***Opening Hymn of Praise #610 "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"**

***Prayer of the Day**

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

God of all creation, we live each day because of your grace. Hear our confession as we recognize the many ways we fall short of your intentions. Forgive us for choosing to love those who are dressed like us, speak like us, share our experiences and way of living. We speak of our commitment to you but act in ways that deny you. Show us your grace and mercy that is beyond our understanding, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we continue to pray, in the silence of our hearts . . .

James 2

***Time of Silent Prayer**

***Sung Prayer #835** **“Just a Closer Walk With Thee”** (verse 1, no refrain)

I am weak, but thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk,
Let me walk close to thee.

***Assurance of Pardon**

Through faith in Christ Jesus, we are forgiven of our sins.
Because we believe, we can declare with confidence: We are forgiven.

***Sung Response #835** **“Just a Closer Walk With Thee”** (refrain)

Just a closer walk with thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to thee:
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

***Passing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Please say “The peace of Christ be with you” to those around you, and then greet everyone, especially those whom you do not know.

WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

Time for Children

Children fifth grade and under are invited to the chancel steps for the Time for Children. Younger children are welcome to bring adults with them. Afterward, children five years old and under will be escorted to Children’s Church, or they may return to sit with their parents.

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Youth

Holy Lord, speak to us from your Word. Open us to the opportunities for ministry that lie before us, where faith and works and the need of our neighbor come together in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23
The Word of the Lord; **thanks be to God!**

Pew Bible OT, p. 742

New Testament Lesson

James 2:1-10
The Word of the Lord; **thanks be to God!**

Pew Bible NT, p. 278

Sermon

“Standing in the Gap”

Rev. Dr. Wanda Neely

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Invitation to Discipleship

If you would like to speak with someone about becoming a Christian, church membership, or a special prayer request, please speak with a pastor or usher.

***Affirmation of Faith**

Question 51. Who are the needy?

The hungry need bread, the homeless need a roof, the oppressed need justice, and the lonely need fellowship. At the same time—on another and deeper level—the hopeless need hope, sinners need forgiveness, and the world needs the gospel. On this level no one is excluded, and all the needy are one. Our mission as the church is to bring hope to a desperate world by declaring God’s undying love—as one beggar tells another where to find bread.

***Hymn of Response #343 “Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life”**

Prayers of the People, Ending with The Lord’s Prayer (using “sins” and “sin”)

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Service of Giving

Music at the Offering

“When You Pass Through the Waters”

Words: Isaiah 43:13
Music: Paul Weber

***Doxology**

“All People That on Earth do Dwell”

Tune: Old Hundredth

To God Creator, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, three in One,
Praise, honor, might, and glory be
From age to age eternally.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Mighty Redeemer, whose judgment is righteous,
And whose mercy has no bounds,
We bring you our offerings in response to your grace,
And dedicate them to your will. Amen.

WE GO IN GOD’S NAME

***Hymn of Sending #852 “When the Lord Redeems the Very Least”**

***Charge and Blessing**

Benediction Response

“Threefold Amen”

***Postlude**

ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE

Guests

Welcome! We are delighted you are worshiping with us. Please come to the visitors table located in the narthex Welcome Center and staffed by one of our members. We would love for you to consider becoming a member of our church family. Please feel free to speak with the pastors about this or any other questions.

Sanctuary Shawls

Cold? Keeping temperature regulated in the sanctuary is a challenge. If you find the temperature too cool for you, please pick up a shawl from the stands in the narthex Welcome Center, returning it after the service. These shawls are graciously made and routinely cleaned by the South Mountain Fiber Guild, which meets in our facility.

Children's Choir

Our children's choir, for grades 1-6, has started back up under the direction of Robert A. Smith. This group will eat a simple lunch following Sunday worship and then practice until around 1:15 PM. Talk to Robert or Pastor Adam to enroll your child today!

Nursery

Nursery opens at 9:30 AM and is provided for infants and toddlers during the education hour and the worship service. Please see an usher for directions to the nursery.

Hearing Assistance

If you or someone you know is interested in using a hearing device during worship, please speak with the organist, Robert Smith, after the service or call the church office to set up an appointment with him.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY LEADERS

Next Sunday, September 16

Bus Driver: Scott Davis
Greeters: Don and Julie Scott
Louis and Seth Vinay
Nursery: John and Amber Gantt
Visitors Table: Julie Scott
Usher Captains: Dick Peck and John Port

Next Sunday, September 23

Bus Driver: Eric LeGoullon
Greeters: Roy and Lynn Garrett,
Kendrick family
Nursery: Amy and Elizabeth Coley
Visitors Table: Julie Scott
Usher Captains: Greg Carpenter, Lisa Roller

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, Sept. 16

9:30 AM Christian Education Hour
10:00 AM Chancel Choir
10:55 AM Worship Service
12:05 PM Children's Choir
12:05 PM Youth Lunch & Trip to DEFY

Monday, Sept. 17

10:00 AM Mind, Body, Spirit Class
11:00 AM Grace Ridge Communion
11:30 AM Grace Ridge Luncheon

Tuesday, Sept. 18

7:00 AM Men's Breakfast
1:30 PM Staff Meeting

Wednesday, Sept. 19

4:40 PM Chancel Ringers
5:15 PM Meal
6:15 PM Freddie Sherrill Celebration
7:15 PM Chancel Choir

Thursday, Sept. 20

6:00 PM Session Meeting

Saturday, Sept. 22

8:00 AM Mission Morganton
9:00 AM PW Fall Gathering—United
Presbyterian Church of Lenoir, NC

Leonardo DiCaprio's "Before the Flood," an Urgent Film About Climate Change

Saturday, Sept. 15, 7:00 PM
Morganton Library

Hosted by the Green Team at Grace Episcopal Church and the Burke County Public Library
Free Admission—Refreshments—Discussion

Wednesday Night Meals and Programs

5:15 PM: Serving Begins for Meal in the Fellowship Hall

September 19: Freddie Sherrill Celebration Night

Adult Meal—country style steak, mashed potatoes, glazed baby carrots, roll
Kid Meal—hamburger, potatoes, green beans

September 26: Magic Show by Ricardo the Great

Adult Meal—roasted chicken, sautéed vegetables, cheese grits, roll
Kid Meal—chicken strips, cheese grits, roll

October 3: "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" Movie Night

Adult Meal—glazed ham, coleslaw, pinto beans, cheese cornbread
Kid Meal—hot ham and cheese wrap, carrots with ranch, cheese cornbread

Wednesday Night Meals Policy

Adults: \$7 Child: \$5 Family Cap: \$20

- ◆ Each individual/family must sign up weekly via the friendship pad or church website or by calling the church office before 10:00 AM on Monday.
- ◆ If a child wants the adult meal, they must pay the adult price of \$7.
- ◆ If you reserve a meal, please pay for it whether or not you attend, as the church must pay for those meals. All individuals and volunteers are required to pay for their meals.
- ◆ If you did not make a reservation, you are asked to wait until 5:40 PM to go through the line, to make sure there is enough food for those who made reservations.

Mission Morganton—Sept. 22

Sign Up to Participate in a Project:

Join other local congregations in the annual Mission Morganton beginning at 8:00 AM on Saturday, September 22, on the lawn at First Baptist Church. A list of projects is on a table in the narthex Welcome Center. Sign up for a project, and more information will be sent to you.

Bring Any of These Items to Church by September 20:

- For the Homeless Outreach Warming Initiative:
Tents, Tarps, Socks, Sleeping Bags, Blankets, Gloves, Coats, Hats
- For Animal Rescue Outreach and Agency Pet Pantries Projects:
Dog/Cat Food, Dog/Cat Treats, Hand Soap Pumps, Bleach, Trash Bags, Small Carriers, Leashes, Poop Bags, Newspapers, Paper Towels, Bedding, Dawn Dish Detergent, Cat Litter, Bath Towels, Collar/Harnesses, Blankets, Training Pads, Brooms and Dust Pans
- For Burke United Christian Ministries:
Canned Food, Packaged Food, Non-Perishable Food
- For Back-to-School Clothing Drive (for families with special needs):
Clean, Used or New Clothing and Shoes, New Socks, New Undergarments

Collection containers are in the entrance area.

Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering—Sept. 22

Attention, Women of the Church—the Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering will be on Saturday, September 22, at United Presbyterian Church in Lenoir. It will begin at 9:00 AM and end with lunch. There is a \$10 registration fee due by September 15. The registration form is found in the Joyful Noise, or you may email Sandra J. Morton at sandrawedwarrior@gmail.com. Come and join us!

A Further Look at First Presbyterian—Sept. 30

All visitors are invited to a special luncheon and program on Sunday, September 30, following worship, to learn more about discipleship and this congregation. Do you want to know more about what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ? Are you interested in learning about this church's missions and ministries? Invite your friends and neighbors. To sign up, contact the church office at 828-437-1811 or email lori@firstpresmorganton.org by 5:00 PM on September 26. Please request child care if needed.

Congratulations Rev. Annie Franklin Arvin

Congratulations to First Presbyterian's own Annie Franklin Arvin, who was ordained and installed as Associate Pastor at St. Simons Presbyterian Church, St. Simons, GA, Sunday, Aug. 26, 2018.

New Address for Austin Davis

Below is the address for Austin Davis, who is serving with AmeriCorps in Texas:

Austin Davis
617 24 1/2 St Unit C
Austin TX, 78705

Our Young Adult Volunteer, Molly Franklin

Visit <https://mollysbigadventureblog.wordpress.com> to follow Molly Franklin's blog. Her address is:

Molly Franklin
4225 Franklin Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70122

OUR CONGREGATION CARES

Congregational love and sympathy are extended to:
Marla Patchel and family at the death of her husband,
Donald "Patch" Patchel on September 8, 2018.
Susan Vernon at the death of her birth mother,
Priscilla B. on September 2, 2018.

Prayer Concerns

Our Prayer Concerns list is dedicated to church members and their families and friends in need of prayer. Names will remain on this list for four weeks unless a new request is made by contacting the church staff.

Home

Wyatt Aiken	Mary Cameron Best	Robbin Buchanan	Lori Conway
Anne Ervin	Sadie Hanger	Shannon Hodges	Sandra Morton
Joseph Pritchard			

Grace Ridge Health Care

Marty Brenneman	Mildred Plaster	Eleanor Robb	Betty Sasser
Boyd Smith	Sam Tate		

Trinity Ridge

Joan Dickison

College Pines

Nancy Collett

Extended Family and Friends

Bob Ledford, brother of Donna Benner; Sally Riddle, mother of Jim Best; Philip Hatcher, brother of Trey Hatcher; Tracy Kalpakjian Lillard, friend of Scott Davis; Bob and Emily Baldwin, father and mother of Linda Lindsey; Leslie Jennings Braswell, daughter of LaNelle Jennings; Carmen Divers, friend of Kathy Allan-Calloway; Bill Hall, retired chaplain, friend of Roy and Lynn Garrett

All are invited to sign the "We Care" card, located in the entrance area.
This card will be sent to an individual or family experiencing a special need or pastoral concern.

Prayer Requests

As a church family, it is important to remember each other in prayer during times of need.

If you have a prayer request for the church prayer chain, please email:

Rev. Dr. Wanda Neely (wanda@firstpresmorganton.org) or

Rev. Adam Bowling (adam@firstpresmorganton.org).

If you would like to participate in the prayer chain, contact the church office.

Other options:

- Add the below prayer request to the Prayer Concerns list.
- I would like the church staff to pray for the below prayer request.

Submitted by: _____

Please place in the offering plate or give to a staff member.