

* Hymn 157 *I Danced in the Morning*
vv 1-4

* Confession of Sin
Merciful God,
we confess that we have not been sincere Christians.
We claim to follow Jesus
but have not taken his path of sacrificial love.
We profess to be disciples,
but we are not willing to bear the cost of discipleship.
We affirm the virtue of self-denial,
but we indulge our selfish desires
and seek earthly gain.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for sincere repentance
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

* Assurance of Forgiveness

* Response 581
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.

Proclamation of the Word

Children's Message

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: Mark 1:9-15

Scripture: Luke 22:47-53

Sermon Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

Moment for Reflection

Responding to the Word

* Affirmation of Faith Rev. Josh Musser Gritter
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

Announcements & Celebrations

Offering

Offertory

Lonesome Valley
Gilbert Martin

Sanctuary Choir

* Hymn 519 *You Are My All in All*

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Communion of the People

"The body of Christ, given for you."

"The blood of Christ, shed for you."

Music during Communion

#527 *Eat This Bread* (opt. B)

You are invited to sing as Communion is served.

* Prayer after Communion

Sending to share the Word

* Hymn 39

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

* Benediction

* Benediction Response

Postlude

The Church's One Foundation

Samuel Wesley/arr. Mark Hayes

The living Christ encounters us in the ordinary elements of Communion. The invitation to the Lord's Supper is extended by Christ and is open to all – believers and doubters, young children and adults, members and non-members. To highlight this gracious welcome of all, only non-alcoholic juice is served, and gluten-free bread is available. If you would like to refrain from the feast, you may cross your arms, and a blessing will be offered to you. If you cannot come forward, a minister will serve you in your seat. If you feel so moved to respond, people often reply with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God."

*Those who are able are invited to stand.

Bold indicates words spoken in unison.

The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God, in memory of Timothy H. Waugh, and in thanks for all the devotion, joy, and talent that he gave to First Pres and especially our children by the Julie Steele Flower Fund.

Celebrations this week:

Birthdays: Mike Drinkard, Ben Fisher, Troy Beaver, David Jordan, Bill Baker, Deah Scott, Donna Thomas, Lottie Behrooz, Ava Harrington, Bob Harris

Joys and Concerns:

James Fisher, Barbara Safrit, Billy Canup and Robbie Wilson (Cindy Coleman's father and uncle), Charles Hoffman (Sharon Hoffman's brother)

David & Karen Carmichael on the birth of their grandson, Boone Shepherd, born on February 9. Boone is the son of Spencer & Katie Smith Carmichael, and his older sister is Sadie.

Continuing Concerns:

Fred Aggers, Bill and Sybil Baker, Malcolm Bullock, CC Crofton, Eric Finland (Glenn and Nancy Phillips's son-in-law), Mike Gobble (Christina Lewis's uncle), Vonnie Jordan (Mike Jordan's mother), Jonathan Lynch (Roxanne Myers's nephew), Mary Repsher, Elizabeth Romska, John Smith

MUSIC and STREAMING LICENSES:

CCLI Copyright License 839878 / ONE LICENSE #A-732148 / Streaming License 20111248

COVER ART CREDIT:

Copyright © 2017 A Sanctified Art LLC. All Rights Reserved.

Church Life

Ministry Area – Deeply Rooted

Welcome! We welcome all new and returning visitors to First Pres. Please take a moment to sign the friendship register and leave an email or phone number so we can contact you. We are glad you're here and hope you feel God's presence as you worship and fellowship among this community of believers.

Welcome! This morning we want to thank our guest musician, Dr. Charles Chandler, for leading us in worship today.

Worship Services: Communion Elder: David Carmichael

Grow in Faith: A children's bulletin and busy bag are available in the Lewis Hall foyer to help our youngest saints engage in worship in a developmentally appropriate way.

Worship: Children are always welcome in worship. However, if your little one needs some time to wiggle or play, a nursery is available for children 4 and younger. The nursery is open from 8:15 to 12:15 each Sunday morning. Please see an usher for more information.

Grow in Faith: Join us for Sunday School! We have classes for all ages, from toddlers to adults. See the Sunday School Brochure for more information.



Grow in Faith: 2024 Lenten Devotionals – Nurture your faith and prepare your hearts for Easter by engaging in a Lenten Study at home. Several devotions are available for families, couples, and individuals. Pick one up today from the member's table and take one for a friend.

Grow in Faith: We had a Souper Sunday last week. We donated 425 lbs of food and \$40 to Rowan Helping Ministries. Thank you for helping us tackle hunger!

Grow in Faith: Congratulations to the Discovery Class for winning High Attendance Sunday with 62% participation. Our Elementary Sunday School brought the most guests and will enjoy breakfast on Sunday, March 10.

Grow in Faith: Help us support the 75th anniversary of One Great Hour of Sharing. Our Feed the Fish competition begins this week in our Sunday School classes. Bring your change and donate to this special offering from now through Palm Sunday. Fish banks are available on the member's table. Who will have the biggest fish this year?

Ministry Area – Core

Staff: Don't assume we know. Your pastors and congregation want to care for you through prayer, visitation, letters, and more. Help us support you in your joys and sorrows. Please remember to let the church office know of your needs. Let us love you.

Ministry Area – Branching Out

Seasonal Outreach: Lenten Prayer Breakfasts – This week's guest speaker is **Rev. Danielle DeNise**, Director of Evangelical Mission for the NC Lutheran Synod. Breakfasts: 7:00 am in Lewis Hall. Cost: \$7 for adults, \$3 for children and youth, and free for 4-year-olds and under. **Register on the friendship pad or by calling the church office.**

Community Ministries: The RTF is planning a trip to Montgomery / Selma on April 23-26, 2024. Tuesday and Friday are travel days, and we will be on a guided tour with a highly recommended guide on Wednesday and Thursday. Planned visits include the Legacy Museum, Rosa Parks Museum, Freedom Rights Museum, Edmund Pettus Bridge, Lowndes County Interpretive Center, National Voting Rights Museum, Civil Rights Memorial, National Museum for Peace and Justice, and more. Please contact Debbie Collins (dgristcollins@gmail.com 704-798-3932) to join us!

Showing Up: Help us support the 75th anniversary of One Great Hour of Sharing. Our Feed the Fish competition begins this week in our Sunday School classes. Who will have the biggest fish this year?

Showing Up: Drew Aron, a First Pres active youth, is collecting necessity items for the Community Care Clinic in February and March. Donation boxes are in the Lewis Hall foyer and the receptionist's office. Needed: Clorox wipes, Kleenex, liquid hand soap, Lysol, paper towels, tall kitchen trash bags, and toilet paper. Let's all help to support this vital Rowan County ministry and Drew!

Hosting: Trevor Eppheimer, professor at Hood Seminary, will hold a book study here at church on Thursdays, February 29 through March 28. The book is *The Question of God* by Dr. Armand M. Nocholi, Jr. For more information and to register, email: teppehimer@hoodseminary.edu or use the QR code.



This Week's Events

Feb 18	8:30	Worship in Lewis Hall
	9:45	Sunday School
	11:00	Worship in Lewis Hall
	12:30	TWAM Meeting
	5:00	Youth @ Church
Feb 19	3:30	MCT Executive meeting
	5:00	Fund Team
	7:00	Session
Feb 20	9:30	Staff
Feb 21	7:00	Lenten Prayer Breakfast & program
	Noon	Newsletter Deadline - March edition
	5:00	Handbell Rehearsal
	5:30	1 st Kids
	7:00	Choir Rehearsal
Feb 22	6:30	Praise Team Rehearsal

First Presbyterian Church

February 18, 2024

11:00 am

1st Sunday in Lent



Missional Priorities

Spirit-Centered Discipleship	Friendships Across Differences
Hands-on Local Mission	Embracing the Unchurched

Worship of the Living God

Gathering around the Word

Prelude	Charles Chandler, organist
	<i>The Love of Jesus Medley</i>
	William Bradbury/arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome	Rev. Lara Musser Gritter
---------	--------------------------

* Call to Worship	Dr. Randy Kirby
-------------------	-----------------

From water to wilderness:

God's kingdom comes near.

On stone and in hearts:

God's covenant continues.

In rapturous vision and sacrificial suffering:

God's kingdom comes near.

Let us follow Jesus on the Lenten path:

For where he is, we would be also.