

\* Song *As It Is in Heaven*  
Ed Cash | Matt Maher

\* Confession of Sin  
**God of all life, we invite you into our lives for a season, forgetting our lives are lived in you. You beckon us, calling for our attention, but we are distracted and busy taking care of other priorities. Remind us, Holy God, that you are the source of our flourishing. You are the living water by which we have been planted. Forgive our neglect. Forgive our unfaithfulness. Focus us on you, your Word, and all that your Spirit provides.**

\* Assurance of Forgiveness

\* Response *Glory Be*  
Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash | Jason Ingram | Jonas Myrin

**Proclaiming the Word**

Children’s Message Kathy Sanborn

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: John 17:1-10

Scripture: John 17:13-23

Sermon Dr. Randy Kirby

Moment for Reflection

**Responding to the Word**

\* Affirmation of Faith Rev. Lara Musser Gritter  
(from the *Brief Statement of Faith*)

**We trust in God,  
whom Jesus called Abba, Father.  
In sovereign love God created the world good  
and makes everyone equally in God’s image,  
male and female, of every race and people,  
to live as one community.  
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.  
Ignoring God’s commandments,  
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,  
accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,  
and threaten death to the planet entrusted  
to our care.**

**We deserve God’s condemnation.  
Yet God acts with justice and mercy  
to redeem creation.  
In everlasting love,  
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant  
people to bless all families of the earth.  
Hearing their cry,  
God delivered the children of Israel  
from the house of bondage.  
Loving us still,  
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.  
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,  
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,  
God is faithful still.**

Prayers of the People & the Lord’s Prayer

Announcements

Minute for Mission Gwynne Shoaf, Gather Team

Celebrations

Offering

Offertory *Goodness of God*  
Ben Fielding | Brian Johnson | Ed Cash | Jason Ingram | Jenn Johnson

\* Doxology *Doxology (God Be Praised)*  
Louis Bourgeois | Thomas Ken | Todd Fields

\* Prayer of Dedication

**Sending to share the Word**

\* Song *Go Forth in His Name*  
Graham Kendrick

\* Benediction

Postlude

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\*Those who are able are invited to stand.  
**Bold** indicates words spoken in unison.

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**The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God,  
and in honor of Wilson Allen Cook,  
and in memory of his grandfather, Allen Cook,  
by Sara, Bob, and Michelle Cook.**

**Celebrations**

**Birthdays:** Cathy Basinger, Dan Williams, Jack Muth, Amy Shellhorn, Dave Mayberry, Sue Weddington, Deborah Messinger, Glenn Thomason, Melanie Burton, Margaret Almeida

**Anniversaries:** David and Marianna Swaim, Frank and Nancy Eason, Lee and Tricia Johnson, Tom and Anne Maxey

**Joys and Concerns:**

Malcolm Bullock, Margaret Lewis (Anne Maxey’s mother), Acey Worthy, Sharon Whittington, Tricia Johnson, Libby Fowler, Elizabeth Lewis Romska, Walter Broadwell (Elizabeth Calvert’s cousin)

**Continuing Concerns:**

Fred Aggers, Bill Baker, Betty Carli, Charles Hoffman (Sharon Hoffman’s brother), Jan Kichefski, Vonnie Jordan (Mike Jordan’s mother), John Smith

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**Ministry Area – Deeply Rooted**

**Welcome!** We welcome all new and returning visitors to First Pres. We are glad you’re here and hope you feel God’s presence as you worship and fellowship among this community of believers. 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. Please see an usher for more information.

**Worship: Baptism** – This morning, Christopher and Taylor Cook present their son, Wilson Allen Cook, for baptism during the 11:00 service. Wilson was born on August 3, 2023. His grandmother is Michelle Cook, and his great-grandparents are Bob and Sara Cook.

**Worship: Reception for Teresa!** Following each worship service today, please join us for a reception to welcome our new Director of Music Ministries, Teresa de Freitas.

**Worship: Thank you!** This morning, we want to welcome to worship and thank Laura Blauch, the director of Queen City Ringers, for her support and leadership of our Bell Tower Ringers over the past several months.

**Worship: Save the date!** Sunday, May 19, we will celebrate Pentecost and Baccalaureate Sunday by having a unified worship service at 11:00 in the Sanctuary. Please wear RED.



**Gather: Spring into Summer Congregational Picnic –**

Join us in Lewis Hall on Sunday, May 19, following our unified worship for a picnic. If your last name begins with: A-G: please bring a dessert, H- Z: please bring a side. The Gather Team will provide hotdogs & hamburgers. Use the QR Code or call the church office to let us know you are attending.

**Worship: Handbell Concert!** Friday, May 17, at 7:00 pm, the Charlotte Bronze Handbell Ensemble will be in concert here in Lewis Hall. Everyone is invited to hear this amazing group that Tim Waugh helped create.

**Worship: Sermon Series –** Beginning Sunday, May 26, and each Sunday through June 23, join us for our Sermon Series: 40 Days in the Spirit. Journey with us as we learn how to experience a vibrant life through the Holy Spirit and how it fits into our daily lives. If you would like a devotional to accompany this series, please sign up on the clipboard or let Amanda Hathcock (ahathcock@firstpressalisbury.org) know.

**Grow in Faith: VBS Registration is OPEN!** For Pre-K through rising 5<sup>th</sup> grade, join us for Seekers in Sneakers 2024! June 2-6, 5:00-7:30 pm. Please use the QR code to sign up and share with your friends and neighbors!



**Grow in Faith:** Would you like to help with Vacation Bible School but are unable to volunteer? Consider donating Food Lion gift cards of any amount to help offset the cost of providing meals for our children nightly. Donations can be given to Noel Adams or Amanda Hathcock.



**Grow in Faith: First Pres Congregational Retreat –**

August 23-25 at Camp Caraway, all families of our congregation are invited to hear our speakers, Drs. Jack and Priscilla Levison, as we engage in *Holy Spirit: Turning on your Spiritual Life to Water the World Around You*. Our weekend will also be spent in fellowship with campfires, games, and good food! We hope you will sign up today to join us!

**Ministry Area – Core**

**Facilitate: Visitor and Handicapped parking lot** – We lovingly ask that everyone be considerate and welcoming to those who need to park close. If you can walk, please leave spots in our parking lot for visitors and those who are mobility-challenged. On Sundays, please consider parking on W. Fisher St., S. Jackson St., or in the South State Bank lot.

**Staff:** Your church staff will be out of the office on Monday and Tuesday, May 13 and 14, for a planning retreat. While the staff is away, the church office will be closed during office business hours. If there is an emergency, please call Dr. Randy Kirby at 704-239-5706.

**Ministry Area – Branching Out**

**Showing Up: The Showing Up Team** is planning a Teacher Appreciation Lunch for the Overton teachers and staff on Thursday, May 23, at 10:30. We will be serving salad, baked potatoes, tea, and dessert. We need volunteers to bake potatoes and bring them to the school at 10:00 am on Thursday or provide any type of pick-up dessert (cookies, brownies, or bars). The desserts could be delivered to the church on Wednesday, May 22. If you could help with the baked potatoes or desserts, please contact Lynn Hales at 704-640-7156. Thanks so much for your help!

**Hosting: RSS Summer Meals Program** – School will be out soon, which means the Summer Meals Program will be starting. We need three volunteers a day to host the families that attend June 5-July 26. Remember, the office will need a current copy of your driver's license. Sign up now to help!



**Community Ministries: The Race and Justice Ministry Team** invites you to our next round of Zoom discussions. Monica Green and Barrie Kirby will again co-lead the Wednesday book discussions at 7:00 beginning May 15. This round will discuss *King: a Life* by Jonathan Eig. For more information or to request the Zoom link, email barrie.m.kirby@gmail.com. Esther Atkins Smith and Beffie Cook will host the Sunday evening discussions at 7:00, beginning May 19. The group will watch a TED talk for about 15 minutes each week, followed by a discussion. To learn more or get the Zoom link, email egravescook@yahoo.com.

**This Week's Events**

May 12	8:30	Worship in Lewis Hall
	9:45	Sunday School
	11:00	Worship in Lewis Hall
	12:00	Reception for Teresa de Freitas
May 13-14		Staff Retreat, Office Closed
May 14	10:00	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday Book Club (Cook's home)
	6:00	Stephen Ministers
May 15	9:00	Yoga
	5:00	Grief Study Group
	7:00	Choir Rehearsal, Race & Justice Book Study
May 16	6:30	LCW Rehearsal, Discovery Class @ RHM
May 17	7:00	Charlotte Bronze Handbell Concert, in Lewis Hall
May 19	9:45	Sunday School
	11:00	Unified Worship in the Sanctuary
	12:00	Church-wide Picnic in Lewis Hall
	7:00	Race & Justice TED Talk Discussion

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# First Presbyterian Church

May 12, 2024

8:30 am



**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

Welcome Dr. Randy Kirby

\* Call to Worship Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

Blessed is the one who delights in God's Word,  
**who meditates on God day and night.**  
 That person is like a tree planted by streams of water—  
**God helps them yield good fruit in season,**  
**their leaves do not wither.**  
 Our worship grounds us in God,  
**we flourish when we spend time in God's presence!**  
 Let us worship God!