

* Song *God So Loved the World*
Adam Lancaster | Charles Billingsley | Keith Everette Smith | Tony Wood

* Confession of Sin
**God of mercy,
we confess that we have not borne the fruit
of the Spirit.
We have not loved others as you have loved us.
We have failed the promise of new life
and cut ourselves off from you.
Forgive us, restore us,
that we may abide in your love
and live out your mercy,
for the sake of Jesus Christ,
in whose name we pray.**

* Assurance of Forgiveness

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

Proclaiming the Word

Children's Message Amanda Hathcock

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: Psalm 22:25-31

Scripture: 1 John 4:7-21

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 & the Lord's Prayer

Announcements & Celebrations

Prayer of Thanks for Sunday School Teachers

Offering

Offertory

God Really Loves Us
Ben Glover | Dante Bowe | David Crowder | Jeff Sojka

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

* Prayer of Dedication

Sending to share the Word

* Song *One Thing Remains (Your Love Never Fails)*
Brian Johnson | Christa Black Gifford | Jeremy Riddle

* Benediction

Postlude

*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
and in memory of John Cave, Jr., on his birthday,
by his parents, Dr. John and Anne Cave.**

Celebrations

Birthdays: Vickie Clark, Christopher Cook, Samantha Pritchard, Sandy Alexander, Lawana Ford, Brady Fowler, Ed Lewis, David Pulliam, Doug Shellhorn, Scott Whittington, Johnny Behrooz, Glenda Brooks

Anniversaries: Mark and Ellie Grover, Cory and Katie Menees, Wes Simons and Alicia Wilson, John and Kyna Grubb

Joys and Concerns:

Betty Carli

Carol and Acey Worthy on the death of her cousin, Dave Boyer

Continuing Concerns:

Fred Aggers, Bill and Sybil Baker, Malcolm Bullock, Jan Kichefski, Vonnie Jordan (Mike Jordan's mother), Elizabeth Lewis Romska, John Smith, Sharon Whittington

Thank you to our 2023-2024 Sunday School Teachers!

Elementary: Noel Adams, Johnny Behrooz, Maggie Behrooz, Cory Menees, Katie Menees, Susan Muth

Preteen: Teen Aron, John Drye, Alan Fowler, Delaine Fowler, Ed Muire, Mindy Muire, Suzette Pritchard

Youth: Pastor Josh Musser Gritter, Pastor Lara Musser Gritter, Pastor Randy Kirby, Salem Fleming

Contemporary Christians: Karl Hales

Discovery: David Potts

Everyman's Bible Class: Harry Fink, Randy Lassiter, Banks Fisher, Max Fisher, Jack Fisher, William Paul, Carole Simmons, Steve Combs, Gabe Steinman

Mary & Martha: Denise Fink, Carole Simmons, Kathy Tart

Open Door/New Horizons: Andrea Bullock, Stephen Bullock, Steve Coggin, Ames Flynn, Jennifer Flynn, Meredith Honeycutt, Ed Muire, Mindy Muire

Outlook: Kia Creamer, Trish Dunn, Duane Galloway, Barrie Kirby, Kathy Vestal

Sisters-in-Christ: Robin Fisher, Margaret Harris, Martha Lassiter, Judy Mabe, Alexandria Paul

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.

Worship Services: 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: Everyman's Sunday School Class – Join us on April 28 and May 5 at 9:45 in Fellowship Hall as we engage in a series led by Trevor Eppheimer on the Doctrine of the Trinity. Everyone is welcome! This series is sponsored by the Roberts Teaching Fund.

Grow in Faith: 2023-2024 Sunday School Teacher Reception—Join us for a reception in the narthex of Lewis Hall during the Sunday School hour to honor our many wonderful teachers. We are thankful to have so many wonderful volunteers, and have tried to recognize each by name. If you have inadvertently been left off the list of leaders, please let Robin Fisher or a member of the Grow in Faith team know. Thank you for your willingness to help us grow in our faith!

Grow in Faith: VBS Registration is OPEN! For Pre-K through rising 5th grade, join us for Seekers in Sneakers 2024! June 2-6, 5:00-7:30 pm. Sign up now with the QR code!
To ensure your free t-shirt, please register by May 3!



Grow in Faith: Vacation Bible Volunteers Needed! We need all available volunteers, youth and adults, for VBS June 2-6, 5:00-7:30 pm. Sign up now with the QR code! **To ensure your free t-shirt, please register by May 3!**

Grow in Friendship: JOY (Just Older Youth for those 55+) – JOY is headed out to the Salisbury Emporium on Tuesday, May 7, at 10:30, followed by lunch at DJ's. Several members of First Presbyterian have shops there, and it will be a fun get-together! Please call the church office to make a reservation by Thursday, May 2.

Grow in Friendship: Yoga – Wednesdays in Lewis Hall, from 9:00-10:15 join us for a practice that involves all of you---Body, Mind, and Spirit! Everyone is welcome! Registration is not required. Dress comfortably. Yoga mats are available. The first class is free, then \$10 is suggested. Taught by Rev. Felicia Stewart Hoyle (RYT-500) fshoyle@gmail.com for more information

Gather: Spring into Summer Congregational Picnic—Join us in Lewis Hall on Sunday, May 19, following 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.

Youth: Save the date! Sunday, May 19, we will celebrate Baccalaureate Sunday by having a unified worship service at 11:00 am.

Ministry Area – Core

Core: New Elder Ordination and Installation – Next Sunday, May 5, during the 11:00 service, we will Ordain and Install our new Elders. A light reception will follow the service.

Core: Child Protection Training – Everyone who volunteers with children and youth at First Pres must complete our Child Protection Training class every three years. Many of you are up for renewal this year. Join us on Sunday, May 5, at 9:45 or 12:15 in the Everyman's Bible Classroom to complete your recertification. Call Kathy Sanborn for more information.

Ministry Area – Branching Out

Showing Up: Rowan Helping Ministries - Next Sunday, May 5, will be collection day for peanut butter, cereal, and canned goods for the food pantry. As always, the food pantry is in great need.

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!



This Week's Events

April 28	8:30	Worship in Lewis Hall
	9:45	Sunday School, New Elder Training
	11:00	Worship in Lewis Hall
	5:00	Grief Group Orientation
April 30	10:00	Staff
May 1	9:00	Yoga
	7:00	Choir
May 2	6:30	LCW Rehearsal
May 3	5:30	Elder & Captain Retreat
May 4	8:30	Elder & Captain Retreat
May 5	8:30	Worship in Lewis Hall
	9:45	Sunday School, Child Protection Training
	11:00	Worship in Lewis Hall-Ordination & Installation of New Elders
	12:15	Child Protection Training

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First Presbyterian Church
308 W. Fisher St., Salisbury, NC 28144
704-636-1321 www.firstpressalisbury.org

First Presbyterian Church

April 28, 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	Dr. Charles Chandler
Welcome	Rev. Lara Musser Gritter
* Call to Worship	Dr. Randy Kirby
In the wilderness, God brings life.	
Seek us out, O God, and renew our lives.	
In the Word of God, the good news gives light.	
Seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.	
In the great congregation, we receive joy.	
Seek us out, O God, and give us yourself.	
Those who encounter God shall praise the Lord!	
Come, let us worship and praise our God!	