

\*PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CELL PHONES ARE TURNED OFF.\*

Welcome, Gathering, and Announcements Judy Comer, Lay Reader

Prelude "Sleepers Awake" Bach  
Pouring the Waters of our Baptism: *reminder that we are baptized children of God\*\**

\*Call to Worship (from Psalm 22) Judy Comer

L: Let us praise the Lord in the great congregation!  
**ALL: All those who seek God shall praise the Lord.  
May your hearts live forever!**

L: Dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.  
**ALL: We will proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn;  
We will say, "The Lord has done it!"**

\*Hymn "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" #35

\*Call to Confession Judy Comer

When we come before God, we remember and proclaim who God is: merciful, just, holy, and loving. We must also remember who we are, and we are a people who have not always been the people God has called us to be. Trusting in God's goodness to forgive us and create us anew for our lives ahead, let us confess our sin, first silently and then together. *(Silence)*

\*Prayer of Confession

**Gracious God, our hearts are restless until they find their home in you. Forgive our pursuit of things that separate us from you. We pursue success, realizing it will never be enough. We desire more possessions, knowing they are empty. We turn toward the world and hope we will find peace, knowing the world cannot provide it. Forgive us, we pray, and may our wandering hearts find their rest in you alone. Amen.**

\*Assurance of Pardon Judy Comer

Hear the good news! In Christ, we are new creations. The old life is gone, and a new life has begun. Know you are forgiven and be at peace.

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

\*Gloria Patri

**"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."**

Prayer for Illumination

**ALL: Holy God may your Holy Spirit open our hearts and minds to your words of love and grace this day. Amen.**

First Scripture Reading: John 15:1-8 Judy Comer

Special Music, *FPC Choir*: "A Closing Prayer" Don Besig

Second Scripture Reading: Acts 8:26-40 Pastor Betsy

Sermon "Connected and Called" Pastor Betsy

Hymn "Breathe on Me, Breath of God" #286

\*Affirmation of Faith from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Offertory "Because He Lives" Gaither

*March/April Dollars for Mission will assist the "Community Care Clinic."*

\*Prayer of Dedication and Doxology Pastor Betsy

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

\*Hymn "Jesus Calls Us" #720

\*Charge and Benediction Pastor Betsy

Postlude "Every Time I Feel the Spirit" Hymn #66  
Frank Armato, Church Musician

\*Stand as you are able. \*\*Doris Munday or Dixie Ramsdell, "the waters", Dennis Dalgleish, candle lighting, Jerry Blaydes, sound system. \*\*\*FPC Mission Statement. Confession prayers and prayer for illumination by Tara Bulger of the Presbyterian Outlook. The congregation is invited to read the print in **BOLD**.

# Keeping Close 2024

## THIS WEEK AT FPC

**Sunday, Apr 28**

9:00 a.m. Sunday School FH "The Wired Word" with Sharon Ramsey and Jeff Gillette  
 10:00 a.m. Worship-Sanctuary- Rev. Betsy Stow

**Monday, Apr 29**

9:00 a.m. Exercise/10:00 a.m. Yoga FH

**Tuesday, Apr 30**

Presbytery Meeting at Montreat Conference Ctr.

**Wednesday, May 1**

4:00 p.m. Choir Practice Sanctuary

**Thursday, May 2**

9:00 a.m. Exercise/10:00 a.m. Yoga FH  
 10:00 a.m. PM Meeting M2  
 11:30 a.m. PM Lunch @ **Sunset Restaurant**  
 1:00 p.m. Worship/Arts Meeting M2

**Fri, May 3**

No Activities Planned

**Sat, May 4**

No Activities Planned

**Sunday, May 5**

9:00 a.m. Sunday School FH "The Wired Word"  
 10:00 a.m. Worship-Sanctuary- Rev. Betsy Stow

We thank God for you!

**No Birthdays/Anniversaries this week!**

**Prayer Partners:** If you would like to receive emails when there is a prayer request or add someone to the prayer list, please contact Judy Comer @ [comerj1049@gmail.com](mailto:comerj1049@gmail.com).

"**Dollars for Mission** focus for May/June will be World Central Kitchen. After the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, Jose Andres began to work there to provide meals for those in need. This grew to World Central Kitchen where meals are provided in response to humanitarian, climate and community crises. They have provided over 350 million meals worldwide and continue to work where needed."

Weekly Offering 4/21/24	Weekly Needs
\$ 2,274.44	\$ 3,804.00
YTD Totals	YTD Needs
\$54,282.05	\$60,864.00

**On Tuesday, April 30, FPC members will be leaving for Montreat Conference Center for a meeting to receive Pastor Betsy Stow. If you are interested in going, please contact Brenda Kraft or Gail Lehman.**

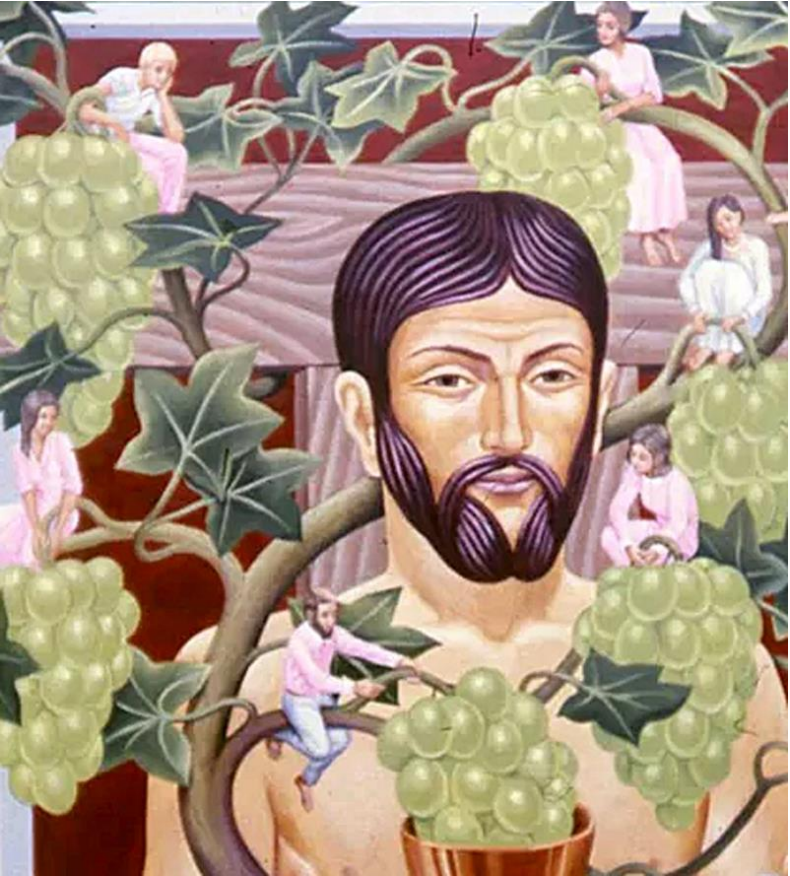
# First Presbyterian Church

April 28, 2024 10:00 a.m.

*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter*

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[www.fpcwnc.org](http://www.fpcwnc.org) | [churchofficefpc@frontier.com](mailto:churchofficefpc@frontier.com)

*growing in Faith, serving with Hope, sharing God's Love\*\*\**



**Leaders of Service: Pastor: Rev. Betsy Stow  
 Music Director: Frank Armato | Lay Reader: Judy Comer**



**Bingo in Tartan Hall - April 11**

