

Welcome and Gathering

Prelude "Hymn Medley" #401/#107/#86
Frank Armato, Church Musician

Pouring the Waters of our Baptism: *reminder that we are baptized children of God***

*Call to Worship Susan Blaydes, Lay Reader

L. I am the good shepherd, says the Lord: I know my own and my own know me.

ALL. My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord. I know them and they follow me.

L. O come let us bow down and worship; let us kneel before the Lord our maker.

ALL. For the Lord is our God; we are the Lord's people, the flock of His hand.

*Hymn "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" #475

Confession of Sin

ALL. Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captives of fear and doubt, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry, and pass by those who mourn. We are deaf to the cries of the oppressed and indifferent to the calls for peace. We despise the weak and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, so we may know the joy of abundant life in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.

(Pause in silent prayer to contemplate what we just said we wanted to change.)

Assurance of Pardon

L. God called our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, from death.

ALL. God calls us to rescue the last, heal the injured, and feed the hungry, all in the name of the risen Christ.

L. Let us claim the ultimate truth of resurrection, sealed in the waters of baptism.

ALL. In Jesus Christ, we are all forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

Choral Response "We Are Forgiven" #447
**We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God. Repeat**

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Lesson Joshua 24: 14-15

Special Music "What Does the Lord Require of You?" *FPC Choir* #70

Sermon "Cut the Rope?" Dr. Royce Browder

Affirmation of Faith Romans 8:1, 38-39

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus: for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Our Offerings

May/June Dollars for Mission will assist our local organization, REACH.

Offertory "Joyful is the Dark" #230

*Prayer of Dedication and Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him,
all creatures here below. Praise Him above the Heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

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.

*Closing Hymn "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" #611

*Charge Judy Comer

Benediction Dr. Royce Browder

Choral Benediction "Go with us, Lord" #535
**Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day,
in your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.**

Postlude "We Will Walk With God" #742

*Stand as you are able ** Doris Munday or Dixie Ramsdell, 'the waters,'
 Dennis Dagleish, candle lighting, Jerry Blaydes, sound system. *** FPC Mission Statement.
 The congregation is invited to read the print in **bold**.

Keeping Close

THIS WEEK AT FPC

Sunday, May 21

9:00 a.m. Sunday School (FH) Sara Wood, moderator
 10:00 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary) Dr. R. Browder
 6:30 p.m. Music in Chapel, Singer, D. Lloyd

Monday, May 22

9:00 a.m. Exercise Class (FH)
 10:00 a.m. Yoga Class (FH)

Tuesday, May 23

No Activities Planned

Wednesday, May 24

2:00 p.m. Sharing the Journey (M2)
 4:00 p.m. Choir Practice (Sanctuary)

Thursday, May 25

9:00 a.m. Exercise Class (FH)
 10:00 a.m. Yoga Class (FH)
 10:30 a.m. Lovely Ladies meet @ church for Lunch in Canton.
 11:30 a.m. PM Lunch (Jaxon's)

Friday, May 26

12:30 p.m. Bible Study, Melissa McClure

Saturday, May 27

No Activities Planned

Sunday, May 28 "Pentecost"

9:00 a.m. Sunday School (FH) Sara Wood
 10:00 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary) Rev. Bob Abel

*Save the Date: August 6
 at 3:00 p.m.*

*We will be having our annual
 Black Mountain Children's Home
 Concert in the Church Sanctuary.*

**Save the Date: Lovely Ladies lunch at
 The Southern Porch in Canton. Plan to
 meet at the Church on May 25 at 10:30.**

**We will be having Communion
 at our worship service on
 June 4 in the Chapel.
 Be in prayer for
 Service coming up.**

Kathy, our office coordinator, will be on vacation from May 25 through June 1. Our church office will be open on a limited basis.

We thank God for you!

Happy Anniversary to: Bill & Lisa Fagg, 5/24,
 Ned & Brenda Kraft 5/26.

Weekly Offering 5/14/23	Weekly Needs
\$ 2,930.00	\$ 3,486.00
YTD Totals	YTD Needs
\$64,613.32	\$69,720.00

First Presbyterian Church

May 21, 2023 10:00 a.m.

7th Sunday of Easter

26 Church Street | Franklin, North Carolina

828-524-3119 www.fpcwnc.org

churchofficefpc@frontier.com



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

*"We are Christ's people, and this is Christ's church.
 We open our doors wide, just as they have been opened wide to us.
 If you are passing through, Godspeed.
 If you are looking for a church home, welcome.
 If you need instruction, learn from us as we learn from you."*