



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**April 28, 2024** **11 o'clock**

PRELUDE

*“How Firm a Foundation”*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

VISION

Nourished by God’s Word and Sacraments,

**All: Connecting lives to Christ**

INTROIT

*“Alleluia, Alleluia”*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Calvert Smith

We come to this place where God pours out love on us,  
**and we join our voices in praise, leaving our fears behind.**  
We gather with these people, those who seek to follow Jesus,  
**so that we might walk the paths of service hand in hand.**  
We open our hearts to the gifts of the Spirit,  
**so that grace and peace might be the fruit we bear.**

PRAYER OF PRAISE

**O Lord, our God, we give you thanks that through Jesus Christ you have made us branches of your vine. Help us to abide in Christ and be disciples of your Word, that we may live and grow in him and bear good fruit for the world; in the name of Christ we pray. Amen.**

\*HYMN #396

*“Brethren, We Have Met to Worship”*

CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE

There are moments when we stand exposed, with our failings, our hurtful words, our harmful ways open for all to see. But God takes these moments and the sins that make them, and redeems us through compassionate love. Let us join in confessing to the only one who can forgive us and make us whole.

**God of compassion and mercy, your Son told us to love one another as much as you loved us, yet we have a hard time loving those who are not like us, those who disagree with us, and those who ask us to face difficult truths about ourselves. You told us to love one another,**

**Bulletin Key:** *Italics - Music*

**Bold - The congregation reads aloud**

**Bold Italics - The congregation sings**

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

because love is from God, but we often do not love those we think are dirty, hungry, lost, or undesirable. It was written that perfect love casts out fear, and yet we are afraid - afraid for our safety, our wallets, and how others perceive us. Forgive us, God, and show us how to love the way you command. Release us from our judgment and our fear. Open our hearts so that they might receive your perfect love for us, and offer it to the world.

Silent Prayer

Have mercy on us, O God. **Amen.**

KYRIE

(Hymn #576)

*Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy on us.*

Water is poured into the font.

Friends, the good news is this:

Rev. Wes Pitts

love is from God and we are loved by God. God sent Christ into the world that we might know the fullness of that love, and in him we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

\*GLORIA PATRI

(Hymn #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.*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

RESPONSE

(Hymn #284)

*Holy Spirit, come to us; kindle in us the fire of your love.  
Holy Spirit, come to us. Holy Spirit, come to us.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 22:25-31 (p. 680)

1 John 4:7-21 (p. 1485)

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

*"Look at the World"*

SERMON

"Perfect Love"

Rev. Wes Pitts

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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.**

\*HYMN #703

*“Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me”*

GIFTS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

*“The Gift of Love”*

\*DOXOLOGY

(Hymn #606)

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

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S TABLE

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

...Therefore, we join our voices in singing:

(Hymn #552)

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

*Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*

*Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.*

...for great is the mystery of faith:

(Hymn #560)

*Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.*

...We join our voices in the prayer Christ taught us to pray:

**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.**

PREPARING THE BREAD AND CUP

...The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

COMMUNION

We share in the Lord’s table at 2 stations, receiving the bread and dipping it into the cup.

Please raise your hand if you wish to receive communion at your seat.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

\*RESPONSE AFTER COMMUNION

Let us sing of our faith:

(Hymn #536)

*Rise, O church, like Christ arisen, from this meal of love and grace;  
may we through such love envision whose we are, and whose, our praise.*

*Alleluia, alleluia: God, the wonder of our days.*

\*HYMN #526

*“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”*

\*BENEDICTION

\*CLOSING RESPONSE

*“Go, My Children”*

(Hymn # 547, verse 2)

*“Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.  
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
Here you heard my dear Son’s story; here you touched him, saw his glory.  
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”*

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Pastor ..... Rev. Wes Pitts

**E-mail:** pastor@fpcreidsville.org      **Phone:** 678-409-5060

Pastor Emeritus .....Rev. Dr. Doug McLeroy

Music Dir./Organist ..... Patricia Harden      Secretary .....Dawne Young

Treasurers..... Michael Brisson & Jim Murray      CDC Director.....Tamela Dillard

Congregational Nurses ..... Stokes Ann Hunt & Brandi Harris

**Office Hours:** 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.      **Office Phone & Email:** 336-349-3474

Monday – Friday      office@fpcreidsville.org

**www.fpcreidsville.org**



## Welcome

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church, we're so glad you're here! We believe we are made stronger and better by all who gather with us in worship. Our vision for ministry is simple - that we are nurtured by God's Word and sacraments to connect lives to Christ. We strive to live into that vision through our worship, study, fellowship, and mission activities. If you have any questions about our church, please reach out to one of our elders (their names and phone numbers are printed in the bulletin) or our pastor. If you are in need of any kind of assistance, you may speak to the elder on call or the pastor. If you are looking for a church to call home, consider the fellowship and ministry we share together at First Presbyterian! Any of our elders or the pastor can give you more information. We'd love to find out more about you - please fill out a visitor card and place it in the offering plate. We promise not to pester you, but if you'd like further contact, please note that on the card. Once again, welcome!

### Today's Announcements – April 28, 2024

**Congratulations** to Olivia and Rick McKinney at the birth of their daughter Virginia Brooke McKinney on April 21. Virginia weighed 8lbs. 1oz. and was 20” long. Proud grandparents are Dell Hooper and Richard McKinney.

**Elder on Call:** Jane Harrill is available for congregational needs this week.

**Pennies for Hunger** will be received May 5.

**Grounds Workday:** May 11, 9:00am. We will be weeding, spreading mulch, trimming and pressure washing. Join us! Contact Martha Neal with any questions.

**The Mental Health First Aid** class will be June 15 from 9:00am-5:00pm. For more information contact Stokes Ann Hunt.

**Capital Campaign:** As you contribute to the Capital Campaign, please note on all checks and bank drafts “Capital Campaign” on the memo line so that our treasurers can be sure your donation is properly credited. For more information about the Capital Campaign, see Wes.

**Spiritual Formation:** Join us in the Session Room Sunday morning at 9:45 am. We will be studying the gospel of Luke. See Jim Murray for more information.

**Monday Morning Bible Study,** led by Tom Callicutt, meets every Monday at 10:00am. We are studying the book “Luke, Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws” by Adam Hamilton.

**Knitting/Crochet Group:** You're invited to join our knitting and crocheting group. We meet each Tuesday at 10:00am in the Boyd Room. No experience or supplies necessary! See Lynda Purcell for more details.

**Walkin' Wednesdays:** Health experts recommend walking 2.5 hours a week, or just over 20 minutes per day. Join Wes for a walk around the 1.7 mile Chinqua-Penn trail each Wednesday at 1:00pm. Come for fellowship and conversation, all while working to improve your health!

**The Year of the Bible:** We gather each week on Tuesday at 6:00pm in the Boyd room to unpack all that we've read and see how it might be applicable to our daily lives. Contact Wes for more information.

***This Week at First Presbyterian***

Sunday, April 28	Spiritual Formation (Session Room) ..... 9:45am Worship (Sanctuary)..... 11:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (AA Room) ..... 8:00pm
Monday, April 29	Monday Morning Bible Study (Session Room) ..... 10:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (AA Room) ..... 8:00pm
Tuesday, April 30	Knitting Group (Boyd Room) ..... 10:00am The Year of the Bible (Boyd Room) ..... 6:00pm Ten Tigers Martial Arts (Fellowship Hall)..... 6:30pm
Wednesday, May 1	Walkin' Wednesday (Chinqua-Penn Trail) ..... 1:00pm Adult Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)..... 7:00pm
Thursday, May 2	Ten Tigers Martial Arts (Fellowship Hall)..... 6:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous (AA Room) ..... 8:00pm
Saturday, May 4	Ephesus SDA Church (Fellowship Hall)..... 1:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous (AA Room) ..... 8:00pm
Sunday, May 5	Spiritual Formation (Session Room) ..... 9:45am Worship (Sanctuary)..... 11:00am Alcoholics Anonymous (AA Room) ..... 8:00pm

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

2 – Martha Anne Fairchild	18 – Isabelle McLeod	28 – Anne Rudd
13 – Gayle Briggs	23 – Morgan Farver	30 – Wes Pitts
15 – Jim Rayburn	26 – Adam Lindsey	30 – Sybil Young
	28 – Diana Haig	

**SERVING IN APRIL**

**Communion Servers**

Mary Fagan  
Scott Greene  
Stokes Ann Hunt

**Ushers**

Becky Cooley  
Mary Fagan  
Scott Greene  
Stokes Ann Hunt

**Greeters**

Martha & Phil Neal

**Nursery Attendants**

04/28 – Kelly Moore  
05/05 – Dell Hooper  
05/12 – Emma Crabtree  
05/19 – Liz Whittington  
05/26 - TBA

**LOCAL MISSION OFFERINGS**

Pennies for Hunger:	APRIL	Year-To-Date
	\$166.23	\$611.44

*The Pennies for Hunger offering, collected on the first Sunday of each month, supports feeding ministries throughout central North Carolina, with 50% of our collection staying in Rockingham County and supporting the Reidsville Outreach Center. The other 50% is distributed by Salem Presbytery through grants to non-profit organizations that work to alleviate hunger in their communities.*

Habitat for Humanity:	APRIL	Year-To-Date
	\$168.83	\$698.90

*The Habitat offering, collected on the third Sunday of each month, supports the Greater Reidsville chapter of Habitat for Humanity in its mission to build and improve homes in the Reidsville area so that all may have access to safe and affordable housing.*

## SESSION

Moderator: Rev. Wes Pitts

### **Class of 2024**

Martha Neal  
*Grounds*

Dell Hooper  
*Fellowship*

Calvert Smith  
*Worship*

Jeri Wilson  
*Finance*

### **Class of 2025**

Dustin Crutchfield  
*Clerk*

Jane Harrill  
*Caregivers*

Shirley McMichael  
*Personnel*

Kelly Moore  
*Communication*

### **Class of 2026**

Jim Harrell  
*Montreat*

Stewart Bailey  
*Mission*

Emma Crabtree  
*Christian Education*

Billy Coleman  
*Property*

**Upcoming Session Meeting:** Thursday, May 9, 2024, 6:30 pm

## CAREGIVERS TEAM

Jane Harrill – Chair

Class of 2024: Susie Cole, Jenny Farver, Denice Whitley

Class of 2025: Margo Lindsey, Susan McLeod, Peg Slaydon

Class of 2026: Anne Covington, Mary Fagan, Meredith Harris

## PRAYER CONCERNS

*Please be in prayer for the following:*

**Church members:** Lucy Byers, Gayle Briggs, Dale Fulton, Hudson Harris, family of Doug Jones, Peggy McInnis, Shirley Medley, Anne Rudd, Pat Smith, Claire Smothers

**Family and friends of the congregation:** Martha Balsley, Steve Banks, George Barber, Sally Bason, Jim Barrow, Cindy Briggs, Brent Butler, Cecil Cowan, Jeff Crisp, Lena Davidson, Chad Davis, Leslie Deaton, Talea Dillard, Don Ella Drew, Larry Durham, Jeff Edwards, Gaye Evans, Frank Gaynor, Tammy Anne Hill, Suzanne Johnson, Robert Jones, Debby Lee & Tory Valentine, Alex Luft, Isaac Lyall, Jillian McInnis, Ryan McMichael, John & Terri Moore, Elizabeth Fulton Morrison, Sandy & Joe Nicastro, Mark Perkinson, Abigail Pitts, Curtis Pruitt, Jimmie Rayburn, Joey & Debbie Robbins, Si Rothrock, Michael Serra, Jay Smith, Emily Taylor, Rivers Upchurch, Hailey Vega, Bob Wheless, Bradley Young, Sr.

*If you have submitted names for our prayer list, and know of their recovery, please contact us with the good news!*