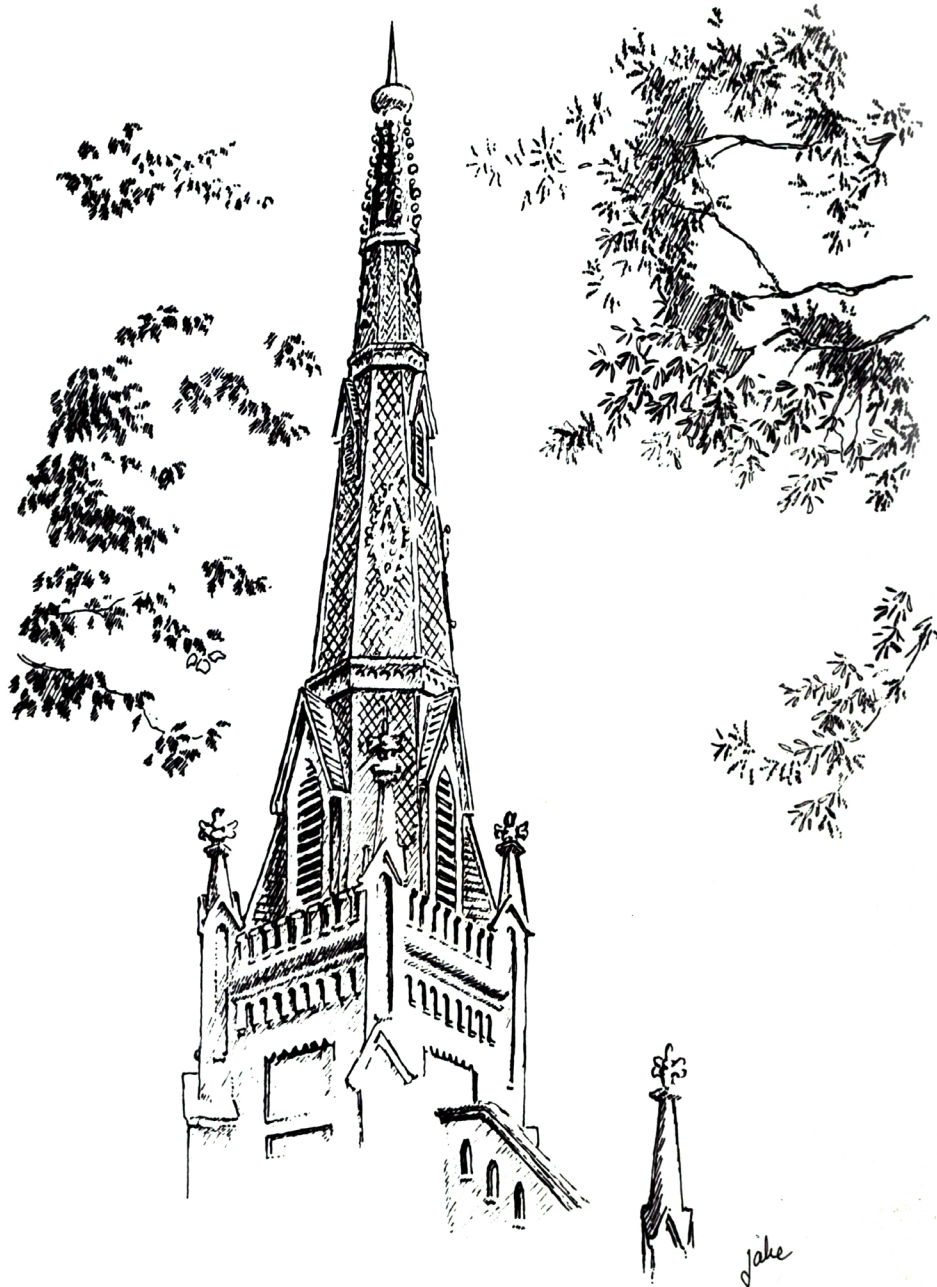


First Presbyterian Church

CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP | 9 AM | MAY 19, 2024
DAY OF PENTECOST



We invite you, whoever you are and whoever God is helping you to become, to join First Presbyterian Church of Charlotte in our journey of faith. God is love, and that love is for you. You belong as a child of God, and we welcome you. Come experience how that belonging might change you and our world as we seek to be for Christ in the heart of Charlotte.



First Presbyterian
Church of Charlotte

The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Romans 5:5

\Time of Quiet Meditation and Reflection | Silence begins in the Chapel at 8:50 a.m.

Words of Welcome | Reverend Mary Bowman

Invocation | *The Book of Common Worship*

**True and only Light,
from whom comes every good gift:
Send Your Spirit into our lives
with the power of a mighty wind.
Open the horizons of our minds
by the flame of Your wisdom.
Loosen our tongues to show Your praise,
for only in your Spirit can we voice Your words of peace
and acclaim Jesus as Lord. Amen.**

Meditative Music | Spirit of the Living God | Audrey Assad

O Spirit of the living God, thou Light and Fire Divine
Descend upon Thy Church once more and make it truly Thine
Fill it with love and joy and power, with righteousness and peace
Till Christ shall dwell in human hearts, and sin and sorrow cease.

Blow, wind of God, with wisdom blow until our minds are free
From mists of error, clouds of doubt, which blind our eyes to Thee
Burn, winged fire, inspire our lips with flaming love and zeal
To preach to all Thy great good news, God's glorious commonweal.

So shall we know the power of Christ, who came this world to save
So shall we rise with Him to life which soars beyond the grave
And earth shall win true holiness which makes Thy children whole
Till, perfected by Thee, we reach creation's glorious goal.

Prayer for Illumination | *The Book of Common Worship* | Scott Wallace

First Scripture Reading | Ephesians 3:14-21 | The Message

My response is to get down on my knees before the Father, this magnificent Father who parcels out all heaven and earth. I ask God to strengthen you by His Spirit—not a brute strength but a glorious inner strength—that Christ will live in you as you open the door and invite Him in. And I ask God that with both feet planted firmly on love, you'll be able to take in with all followers of Jesus the extravagant dimensions of Christ's love. Reach out and experience the breadth! Test its length! Plumb the depths! Rise to the heights! Live full lives, full in the fullness of God. God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, His Spirit deeply and gently within us.

Glory to God in the church!

Glory to God in the Messiah, in Jesus!

Glory down all the generations!

Glory through all millennia! Oh, yes!

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Second Scripture Reading | John 14: 15-17, 25-31 | Addison Ayer

If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate, a Comforter, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. You know Him because He abides with you, and He will be in you.

"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur you may believe. I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me, but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us be on our way.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Moment of Reflection

Meditation | "Pentecost: The Holy Spirit at Work"

Moment of Reflection

Prayer of Confession | Adapted from *Celtic Daily Prayers*

O Holy Spirit, we are an imperfect people. We have hurt and been hurt. Forgive us and help us to forgive. Let our hearts be changed and renewed by the power and grace we find in You. As we reflect upon our lives in Your presence, help us to know that the weaknesses that we see in ourselves will be stripped away by the power of Your love. Hold us close; let Your love surround us, heal us, and transform us.

Moment of Reflection

Prayer of Confession | Adapted from *The Book of Common Worship*

Come, Holy Spirit! Rain upon our dry and dusty lives. Wash away our sin and heal our wounded spirits. Kindle within us the fire of Your love to burn away our apathy. With Your warmth bend our rigidity, and guide our wandering feet. Amen.

Offering

The Christian life is marked by the offering of one's self to God to be shaped, empowered, directed, and changed by God. In worship, God presents us with the costly self-offering of Jesus Christ. We are claimed by Christ and set free. In response to God's love in Jesus Christ we offer God our lives, our gifts, our abilities, and our material goods, for God's service. The offering plates are located at the back of the chapel if you are interested in giving regularly as a spiritual practice.

Invitation to the Table

Meditative Music | Spirit of the Living God | The American Boychoir & Stephen Curtis Chapman

Spirit of the Living God; Fall afresh on me,
 Spirit of the Living God; Fall afresh on me.
 Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
 Spirit of the Living God; Fall afresh on me.

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.

Sacrament of Communion

To receive the gluten-free bread and the cup, come forward, take a piece of bread, and then dip the bread into the cup. It is still communion if you prefer to take only the bread. Please do not drink out of the cup directly. If for any reason you prefer not to come forward, please raise your hand and the officers will be glad to serve you in your pew.

Prayer of Thanksgiving/Sabbath Blessing | Adapted from *The Book of Common Worship*

God of all might and power, we praise You that You forged Your church in the fire of the Spirit, and breathed life into Your people that we might be the body of Christ. By Your Spirit, baptize us again with Your flame of faith, fill us with the breath of zeal and send us forth as sparks into Your world to live Christ’s life in power and compassion. Take us, O God, and shape us according to Your will, in the service of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, now and forever. Amen.

Charge and Blessing

We have been fed by the presence of God in the silence, by the Word, and through communion. Please feel free to greet one another in a warm and quiet way that allows an easing out of the silence. The minister is available for prayer or conversation after the service. Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m. If you would like to visit longer with other members, you are invited to gather in the Welcome Center.

Announcements

Summer Worship Schedule

Today was the final day for the 9 a.m. contemplative service. It will resume after Labor Day. The traditional service will remain unchanged at 11 a.m.

Officer Nominations for the Class of 2027

Through May 26

It’s time to elect the next class of church leaders. Please prayerfully consider who might be called to serve the church in this way. Scan the QR code to access the nomination form.

Proctor EOGs at Westerly Hills Academy

May 24 – June 5, 8 a.m., Westerly Hills Academy

With working parents unable to volunteer, end-of-grade proctors are a huge need at Westerly Hills Academy. Sign up using the QR code below.

Westerly Hills Academy School Store

June 6, 12 p.m., Westerly Hills Academy

Shop for and/or volunteer for the school store, where students redeem Eagle Bucks they have earned for exemplary behavior. Sign up using the QR code below.

Camp Grier Connectors are Needed!

June 9 through mid-July

Fifteen new Camp Grier campers need Connectors to help navigate first-time camper questions and nerves! Every camper is paired with a Connector, who provides a personal connection to the church and assists with communication and transportation to and from the church if necessary. This is an easy way to volunteer! Sign up using the QR code below.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study for Summer

June 11 & 25, July 9 & 23, August 6 & 20, Zoom

The group will meet by Zoom six times throughout the summer and will study “Wake Up to Wonder.”

Second Harvest Mobile Food Pantry

June 12, 4 p.m., Westerly Hills Academy

Volunteers are needed to pack and distribute food. Sign up using the QR code below.

Birth Announcement

Eloise Wyatt Abelson, daughter of Caroline and Daniel Abelson, was born on May 10, 2024.



VIRTUAL
CONNECT
CARD



PRAYER
REQUESTS



ANNOUNCEMENT
LINKS



TEXT
TO GIVE



GIVE
ONLINE