

Grace and peace!
Wherever you are on
your faith
journey, you are
welcome here. If you
are looking for a
church home, we invite
you to join us in
serving and
worshiping God and
enjoying fellowship
together. Please seek
out, call or email a
pastor, or speak to the
elder who stands at the
front of the sanctuary
following each
worship service. She or
he will arrange for you
to meet with the
Session and be
received into
membership. All who
follow Jesus Christ
may become
a member.

**Children are welcome
in all worship services
here.** We are aware
that young children
may find it challenging
to participate in the
entire service. So,
during the 11 a.m. ser-
vice, children 5 years
and younger are
invited to the nursery
right after "Passing the
Peace."

*Beginning at 8:30 am child-
care is available for in-
fants – 5-year-olds on the
Children's Hall in Rooms
101, 102, & 103.*



T Coil
LOOP
Technology
available.



THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
Sunday, January 15, 2017
Second Sunday after Epiphany
8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Preparation for Worship

"If Christian existence stands on nothing greater than the body of one person, then it could be that the only way for Christian communities to move beyond cultural fragmentation and segregated mentalities is to find a place that is also a person, a new person that each of us and all of us together can enter into and, possibly, can become."

~Willie Jennings, *The Christian Imagination: Theology and the Origins of Race*

*Claimed by the Triune God, we worship only God and are called by the Holy Spirit to share
the boundary-breaking love of Christ in our life together, in the heart of Asheville, and in the whole world.*

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

PRELUDE

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

The Lord be with you;
and also with you.
Sing a new song,
a song of thanks and praise,
**for God has done wondrous deeds,
and is great beyond compare!**

* HYMN 744

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

FESTAL SONG

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Patient and waiting God,
we have chased after foolish things,
and spent our strength on vanity;
our labor has been in vain.
Deliver us from arrogance
and forgive our self-concern,
that we may find our reward with you,
as servants of your dream.
Through Jesus Christ we pray.**

Silent Confession

SUNG RESPONSE

In Silence We Wait

Susan Masters

First time cantor; second time congregation

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the response: "In si - lence we wait, in dark - ness you". The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "come to us; bring us your light." The lyrics are written below the notes.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

RESPONSE (*The music is found in Refrain of Hymn #377*)

**In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT (11:00 a.m.)

(11:00 a.m.) During the singing of the hymn, children are invited to come forward to the chancel for the Children's Moment.

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us also forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

(The music is found in hymn #691)

LAND OF REST

**In all the tensions of our lives, between our faith and doubt,
Let your great Spirit give us hope, sustain us, lead us out.**

**So help us in our unbelief and let our lives be true:
Feet firmly planted on the earth, our sights set high on you.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 49:1-7

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: John 1:29-42

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Whose Light Is It?”

Patrick Johnson

A Time for Silent Reflection

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* HYMN 749

Come! Live in the Light!

WE ARE CALLED

In 2016, the 222nd General Assembly added the Belhar Confession to the PC(USA) Book of Confessions. The Belhar Confession comes from the Reformed Church in South Africa and was written in the midst of the struggle over apartheid. It is the first confession adopted by the PC(USA) that originates from the global south.

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(from the Belhar Confession)*

**We believe that God has entrusted the church
with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ;
that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world,
that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker,
that the church is witness both by word and by deed
to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.**

**We believe that God’s life-giving Word and Spirit
has conquered the powers of sin and death,
and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity,
that God’s life-giving Word and Spirit
will enable the church to live in a new obedience
which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Through steadfast love and faithful care,
God enriches us in every way.

Therefore, do not delay!

**Let us offer ourselves to God this day,
all that we have and all that we are,
in praise and love of Christ.**

OFFERING

ANTHEM

How Blessed Is This Place

David Haas

O, how blessed is this place
where we touch God's own face,
In the presence of each other.
May we who pray and draw near,
know that our God is here,
who is Father and Mother.

Word who sang to forgive,
rose from the tomb to live
singing the hymn of endless glory.
Piercing the poison of the night,
Jesus, our holy light.
Come, be the author of our story.

We are sent forth from this space
filled with God's love and grace,
calling creation to be faithful.
To you, O God, we belong,
source of all beauty and song;
we will be your people.

* DOXOLOGY (11:00 a.m.) *Music found in Hymn 598*

Leader: Sing praises!

**All: Amen, we praise your name, O God!
Amen, we praise your name, O God!
Amen, amen. Amen, amen.
Amen, we praise your name, O God!**

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE (8:45 a.m.)

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

SENDING

* HYMN 377 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light HOUSTON

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

** indicates stand as able*

The Session has called a congregational meeting to approve the Terms of Call for installed pastors in the Sanctuary at 10:40 a.m. this morning.

PERSONS ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY:

Liturgists: *Michael Poulos, Rebecca Gurney*

Acolytes: *Natalie Meadows, Talia Wilson*

Musicians: *Ghilman Brock- Organist, Kim Thomas- Cantor & Choir Director, Chancel Choir*

Community Joys and Concerns

Please join the FPCA Family as we celebrate joys among us and pray for loved ones. We will print a full list once a month, with copies available in the narthex. Please contact Rebecca, Patrick and Michael (careline@fpcasheville.org/828-222-0113) with prayer requests and updates.

Prayers for:

RIELEY BENNETT and his family upon the unexpected death of Rieley's brother Robert last week in Houston. Prayers also for Rieley's mom Martha who is homebound and is taking this loss hard.

JAIME BRADY's father, JC, who has been struggling with an aggressive form of cancer for a couple of years. Radiation and chemotherapy have weakened him greatly, and JC recently fell and was hospitalized. Jamie asks for prayers for her family as they all navigate these last days.

The family and friends of **MARY FAITH CARSON** who passed away on Tuesday, January 3 in Maryland. Messages of condolence may be sent to her daughter, Jaime Harrington Boulin, 9908 Greenbrier Lane, Walkersville, MD 21793.

OLIN JARRETT who is recovering at home from recent heart surgery. The family expresses deep thanks for the prayers received during recovery.

JOHN FLETCHER who has finished rehab and has returned home after suffering a stroke in December. Continued prayers for his recovery as well as for Barbara who cares for John at home.

ALEX MCNEILL, one of our candidates for ordained ministry, as he prepares to take his ordination exams at the end of this month.

REBECCA REINHARDT and her family as Rebecca begins chemo and radiation treatment for an inoperable grade 3 brain tumor. She is receiving treatment at both Duke and Mission hospitals.

STUDY

ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT (9:45 a.m. Sunday morning)

January 15 BeLoved House & Open Hearts Art Center (Room 213)

BeLoved assists those in need with transitional housing, nutritious food access, community support, children's enrichment, and the arts. Open Hearts Art Center★ is dedicated to serving adults with a variety of challenges including developmental, mental, physical and emotional disabilities. Join us to learn more about our partnership with these important ministries. *Teacher: Rev. Amy Cantrell*

Be Loved

January 22 Confronting Domestic Violence (Room 213)



Helpmate of Asheville works with our community to eliminate abuse and fear by providing safety, shelter, and support for people who have been victimized by domestic violence. Helpmate provides individual and group counseling; help in building a safe, stable future; court advocacy; training of professionals and community leaders; preventative education for at-risk groups. *Teacher: Guests from Helpmate*

★ **New Art Exhibit**~ Features the work of 2 local organizations: Rise Up! Studio and Open Hearts Art Center. Rise Up! Studio, a project of the BeLoved Community, is made up of artists struggling against social problems including homelessness, poverty, isolation, and discrimination. The collective gives people who are homeless or have low incomes the space and supplies to create and sell art. Open Hearts Art Center is a nationally accredited, community based arts program, providing unique opportunities for differently abled adults to express themselves. Programs are offered to individuals classified with a disability and receive Medicaid services. All art work on display can be purchased with proceeds going to the artist and the organization

CONNECT

Sign up for Springtime "Dine With Nine" TODAY!

These small fellowship groups meet monthly to share a meal in each others' homes or in another setting of the group's choice. If you'll let us know that you're interested, we'll assign you to a group of approximately nine adults who will meet in March, April, and May on dates that are convenient to the group members. Typically, hosts welcome the group to their home or make restaurant arrangements, prepare a main dish, and others bring side dishes or a dessert. Hosting duties rotate each month, but you do not need to serve as host in order to participate.



Please let us know by **February 5** if you'd like to take part. You may sign up by filing out a card on the reception desk or using the form on the website. Questions? Contact Margaret Black 684-4529.

Commit to a Creation Care Action During the First 100 Days Join the Creation Care Alliance as we mark the beginning of the first 100 days of the new administration with a gathering time of music, ritual, commitments, and refreshments while the sun is setting. "Creation Care Action: Initiating the First 100 days" will be held on Friday, January 20, 5-7pm at Lenior-Rhyne University in Asheville. Bring someone from your faith community and commit to one or more creation care actions in the first 100 days from January 20 to April 29th. More info: scott@creationcarealliance.org



Saturday Sanctuary continues each week—During the fall and winter months, we open our fellowship hall on Saturday afternoon. During the hours of 12:30-3:30 p.m., we offer a warm facility, serve a healthy lunch, enjoy movies & popcorn, provide board games & prayer cards - all aimed at creating a safe place to be community with our downtown neighbors. Please check your calendar and see when you can join us as a volunteer. Use the form on the website, or email satsanctuary@gmail.com.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Christians For a United Community Book Club



Christians For A United Community (CUC) is an interdenominational, multi-ethnic organization of churches, laypeople and clergy who share a common commitment to Jesus and His vision of justice, peace, reconciliation and nonviolent social change. CUC's mission statement is to "Help our churches and community unite to dismantle the root causes of racism and disparity." First Presbyterian has been an active member of CUC since its beginning over ten years ago.

Beginning January 22 and continuing through June, CUC is sponsoring a monthly Book Club and discussion series. The book used will be *The Third Reconstruction* by Dr. William Barber. This book focuses on the justice movement in our current times. The Book Club will meet once per month on the fourth Sunday of each month from 2:00-3:30 at St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Participants are asked to supply their own copy of the book and register by simply emailing Tyrone Greenlee (cucasheville@bellsouth.net) or by calling 828-254-4884. A sample copy of the book is available at a table of the Wallace Foyer. For more information about CUC, talk with Ann Kieffer (annkieffer@bellsouth.net) or Michael Poulos.

Become an Ally: Just Economics: People's Voice on Transportation Equality



The People's Voice on Transportation Equality is a group of leaders that emerged from a Just Economics' Voices Leadership Training Program that met at FPC-A several years ago. A campaign originated by and led by people who ride the bus out of necessity, this group has grown and includes riders and allies. On January 29 People's Transit Week will begin in Asheville. On that Sunday there will be an information table in the Wallace Foyer for those who want to learn more about this campaign. For more information about Just Economics, contact Marge Marsh (margemarsh@gmail.com) or Michael Poulos.

LOCAL MLK, JR. SERVICES OF CELEBRATION AND REMEMBRANCE

Sunday, Jan. 15

The Celebration Singers, a youth chorus, will present a concert in honor of King. First Congregational Church at 20 Oak St., 4 p.m. Free, donations accepted at the door.

Monday, Jan. 16

Asheville's peace march and rally will get underway at 11:30 a.m. at St. James AME Church at 44 Hildebrand St. At noon, participants will march to City-County Plaza. Free. FPC-A members who would like to participate together are invited to gather on the upper deck, ready to leave at 11:15 a.m.

A candlelight service will honor the contributions of area individuals and organizations to the cause of social justice. Fellowship Hall of Central United Methodist Church, 27 Church St., 6 p.m. Free.

The Kenilworth community will host its seventh annual celebration of King and his work. Potluck dinner in Kenilworth Center at 4 Chiles Ave., 5:30 p.m. Program featuring activist and Winston-Salem Black Panther party co-founder Hazel Mack at Kenilworth Presbyterian Church at 123 Kenilworth Road (adjacent to Kenilworth Center), 6:30 p.m. Free.

Tuesday, Jan. 17

The 2010 documentary film *Freedom Riders* will be screened and discussed. The film examines the role played by more than 400 black and white Americans who risked their lives challenging Jim Crow laws in the South in 1961. UNC Asheville Highsmith Union, the Grotto. 6 p.m. Free.

Thursday, Jan. 19

The keynote lecture for UNC Asheville's week of celebrations of Martin Luther King Jr. will be given by Walter Kimbrough, president of Dillard University in New Orleans, La. Kimbrough has been recognized for his research and writings on African-Americans and higher education. UNC Asheville's Lipinsky Auditorium. 7 p.m. Free.

It's that time of year to remind you of our inclement weather plans at FPCA.
Check our Facebook page and website for delays or closing information.
If you are unable to access those, you can call the church office phone.

Our parking lot will usually have large icy patches and sometimes the sidewalks have icy patches also – please be sure to consider this before you come to church.

- **Sunday morning worship and Faith Development** – An announcement will be posted on the church website and on the phone answering machine (option 6) no later than 8 a.m. on Sunday morning. 11:00 worship will be held if possible. *If the early service is cancelled, Faith Development will also be cancelled.*
- **Church office and other activities** -- Please check with the leader of your group or meeting before coming to church. Some meetings are not on the church calendar, so do not rely on the office for meeting cancellations. You may call the church office and use option 6 for office delays and closings.
- **Office volunteers** should call the church office before you drive to the church to make sure someone is in. If no one answers, then we are not in- do not drive to church. :)

Please use the Care Line phone number, email or pew cards to communicate confidentially with the pastors if you would like to share concerns or request support. Phone and email messages will reach one of our pastors at any time. If you have scheduled a hospitalization, please let us know as soon as possible.

(828-222-0113/ careline@fpcasheville.org)



Our Partners in Ministry at 40 Church



Child Care Center
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Patrick Johnson, Pastor/Head of Staff x. 112 pjohnson@fpcasheville.org
Rev. Michael Poulos, Associate Pastor for Youth & Mission x. 125 mpoulos@fpcasheville.org
Rev. Rebecca Gurney, Director of Congregational Care x. 124 rgurney@fpcasheville.org
Nancy McNeill, Director of Faith Development x. 126 nmcneill@fpcasheville.org
Jeremy Roberts, Music Director x. 111 jroberts@fpcasheville.org
Rev. Shannon Spencer, Adjunct Pastor for Mission Engagement
Robert Bauman, Maintenance x. 136
Dupree Davis, Property Manager x. 117 ddavis@fpcasheville.org
Penny Gibbs, Communications Secretary x. 120 pgibbs@fpcasheville.org
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