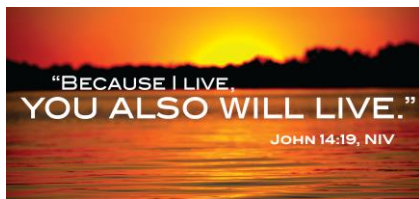


First Presbyterian Church

Whiteville,
North Carolina

**"To be a light in our
community reflecting
Christ's love and
compassion..."**

Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 21, 2017



Guest Minister
Bob Hankins

Worship Assistant
Peggy Blanchard

Gathering Around the Word

Welcome, Announcements

Peggy Blanchard

***Call to Worship**

Why are we gathered in this place at this hour?

**We are gathered as a people of God to
acknowledge Jesus as Lord, to confess before
him our sin, to offer God our sacrifice of praise
and thanksgiving, to pray for the world, and to
reconsecrate ourselves as his servants in the
world.**

Then let us worship God.

***Hymn "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise," 12**

Call to Confession

Before the judgment of our Creator, our best intentions and highest accomplishments seem so feeble. We do not want to admit our paltry efforts or glaring omissions. We would rather avoid looking at hurts we have inflicted on others. But Christ invites us to full confession, that we may be freed for new life. Let us begin our confession in self-searching silence.

Prayer of Confession

**Forgive us, Eternal God, for religion without
passion and relationships that lack compassion.
Take away the divisive attitudes that separate
us from individuals and groups who are
different from us. Release us from jealousy
and wrong-doing and self-serving comparisons.
Help us to see ourselves as you intend us to be.
This prayer we offer in Christ's name, as Christ
taught us, saying, Our Father . . . Amen**

Song of Assurance

37, verse 1

"Let All Things Now Living"

Words of Assurance

In Christ, God assures us, “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.” God loves us and hears our prayers. God waits to flood our lives with healing and hope. **We are reconciled to one another and to our own best selves. Let us live in gentleness and reverence, as a people released from guilt and shame.**

*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.

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you,
And also with you!

Proclaiming the Word

Time with the Children

Prayer for Understanding

Speak to us, Holy Counselor, and empower us to live by eternal values. Dwell in us, Spirit of truth, to fill us with love that surpasses knowledge. Manifest your presence in us, to link us with all who seek your will and long to unite as your people. Make us channels of hope to more of your children. Amen.

New Testament Lesson	This is the Word of the Lord; Thanks be to God!	1 Peter 3:13-22
Gospel Lesson	The Gospel of our Lord; Thanks be to God!	John 14:15-21
Sermon	“Enough To Make Your Knees Tremble”	Bob Hankins

Responding to the Word

*Affirming Our Faith

In love, you came to a stable in Bethlehem to become one of us. In love, you walked the plains and hills of Galilee and Judea to teach us how to live. In love, you were nailed on a cross on Calvary to bear our sin. In love, you rose from a tomb in Joseph’s garden to defeat death’s power over us. In love, you ascended beyond the clouds to be our reigning Lord. You came to love us so that we need never feel unloved, deserted, alone, condemned. We celebrate your love for us, expressed in so many different ways.

Call to Offering

Our worship is complete when we bring all the resources at our disposal to receive God's blessing and fulfill God's purposes. **In joyous gratitude, we bring more than money: we bring ourselves as an offering to God.**

Giving Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" arr. by Susan Geschke
Handbell Choir: Janet Gray, Peggy Blanchard, Shirley Logan, Erin Thompson, Judy Nelson, Kim Smith, Jenny Meekins, Jack Hooks, Anne Branch. Douglas Spivey, & Tanner Hester.
Directed by Annette Powell

*Doxology 609
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; Alleluia, alleluia! Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

*Hymn of Commitment "God of Grace and God of Glory" 307

*Charge and Benediction
Remain in God's grace. Abide in Christ's love. Dwell in the Spirit's presence.
And may the blessings of God keep us in joy and prompt us to deeds of justice and lives of peace.

Music in Preparation for Service

Thank you to the Handbell Choir for playing this morning!

Contact the church office: 910-642-2253

karen@fpcwhiteville.org

OFFICE HOURS): 8:30 am - 1:30 pm, Monday-Friday

www.fpcwhiteville.org

Nursery Team: 5/21: Kaye Pope
Children's Team: 5/21: Sally Medford
Multi-Media Team: 5/21: Natalie Royal
Worship Assistant: 5/21: Peggy Blanchard
Head Usher: May: Greg Blackmon

5/28: Sarah Gray
5/28: Sally Medford
5/28: Jim Brooks
5/28: Kaye Pope

Bob Hankins, the son of a United Methodist Pastor, spent his early years in southwest Virginia and east Tennessee. He lives on West College Street with Carolyn, his wife of 54 years.

WELCOME! We welcome you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! May today's worship open you to God. *Your entire family is welcome*, but we do offer a nursery for children birth to 3 years of age, and a "children's church" program for children **4 years old through 1st grade**, located in the education building behind the sanctuary.

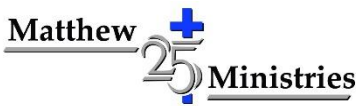
Prayer Concerns: Bob & Charlene High; Grace Palmer; Rhonda Scott; Nancy Thurston; Rita & R. L. Lewis; Geraldine Becker; Anna Jane Collier. **Assisted Care:** Kenneth Smith; Ellen Thurston; Charlene Hinnant; Arlene Blaha **Friends:** Donna Parker; Carole Short; Mary Bair; Hollis Salyer; Joe Youngblood; Ed Jackson; Mary Cherry; Billie Joe Conrad; Shari Dutton; Rex Ros; Brenda Walters; Hobert Wicker; David Gore; Daphne McLeod; Gail Moye; Melinda Powell; Jerome McPherson; Nancy Wilson; Pat Allen; Benny McBride; Shelby Hodge; Frank Youngblood; Barbara Shepherd; Annette Caldwell; Roger Kennedy; Jerry Ford; George Edwards.

- The guest minister for next Sunday, May 28, 2017, will be Rev. Walter Dinkins.
- Today's flowers are given to the glory of God and to our wonderful Youth leaders who provided guidance to our exceptional Youth, from the CLC committee.

CHURCH CALENDAR:

Sunday:	Handbell Choir Rehearsal, 6:00 pm
Tuesday:	NETworX of Hope, 5:30 pm
Wednesday:	Choir Rehearsal, 6:00 pm
Thursday:	Chicks with Sticks, 10:30 am
Sunday, May 21:	Youth Meeting, Progressive Dinner
Wednesday, May 24:	Family Night Supper, 6:00 pm
Deadline for Matthew 25 donations, Worship and CLC Meetings 7:00pm	
Monday, May 29: Memorial Day, Office Open	June 2: Office Closed

Session has approved the church will match congregational donations of up to \$1000 for the Matthew 25 Project. Outreach Committee asks that members who wish to donate make their checks out to FPC and earmark their contribution to Matthew 25 on their check memo line. The church will then write one check with



both the individual donations and the matching portions.

The deadline for donations is the May 24th FNS.

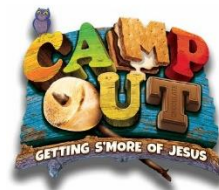
(If you are unfamiliar with this ministry, or have questions, please see any member of Session.)

Camp Out VBS will be on **June 11th and 14th**

5:30-8:00pm

Dinner will be provided.

Open to children ages Preschool - 5th Grade.



"The Pentecost Offering" will be taken up on Pentecost **Sunday, June 4th**. This is a special offering through the Presbytery; 60% of the offering goes to support children and youth programs through the Presbytery, and the other 40% will remain with our congregation to use for children and youth programs.