

# FIRST NEWS

First Presbyterian Church

Fourth Week of March, 2018

Whiteville, NC

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

## From the Pastor's Desk

Sunday's Sermon: We know that we are a resurrection people...a people of hope and good news. But so much of our lives we find ourselves in between...in between Good Friday and Easter, in between struggles and hope. Like the disciples on that Saturday after the crucifixion we find that we are blinded to the presence of Christ and feel overwhelmed by our struggles and crises. But we should never forget that we are never alone...Jesus promises the disciples that he will be with them always. And he will be with us at all times and in all that we encounter. In preparation for Sunday's worship I encourage you to read over, and reflect on, Matthew 27:62-66. The sermon for this week is: "The Last Days of Jesus: Saturday's Silence".

Looking ahead to Easter: As we get closer and closer to Easter I encourage you to mark your calendar for some upcoming special services.

Maundy Thursday Service will be held here at First Presbyterian Church on Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. This is a special service of worship that walks us through the events of Holy Week from the joys of Palm Sunday to the agony of the cross!

Good Friday Service will be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. At this service we will reflect on the crucifixion and death of Jesus as we read scripture and sing hymns.

Easter Sunrise Service will be held here at First Presbyterian at 7:00 a.m. This early morning service will celebrate the discovery of the women on that first Easter morning...the tomb is empty, and Jesus is alive! Weather permitting, we will hold this service outside on the church grounds. Following the service, the Presbyterian Men's group will provide breakfast in the Fellowship Hall.

Easter Worship Celebration, at 11:00, will be held in the sanctuary as we join together to continue our celebration of the resurrection of Easter...the promise of new life and the forgiveness of sins.

All of these services are meant to help us experience the joy of Easter. I not only encourage you to make plans to attend, but to share these services with your friends and neighbors and invite them to join you.

-Pastor Joe



For information on Online Giving through the Presbyterian Foundation, go to <https://fpcwhiteville.org/giving/> or scan the QR code to sign up for automatic drafts, one-time donations, and more!

# March 2018 Worship Schedule

Head Usher, March: Anne Branch

March 25

*Palm Sunday*

Matthew 27:62-66 "The Last Days of Jesus: Saturday's Darkness"

Sound Team: Justin Smith

Nursery Attendants: Kaye Pope

Backpack Ministry: MVE Committee

March 28

*Whiteville Community Lenten Service*

Worship at 12:00 pm | Lunch at 12:30 pm

Location: Whiteville United Methodist Church

Rev. Bob Hankins, Pastor, Hallsboro United Methodist Church

March 29

*Maundy Thursday Service*

First Presbyterian Church

7:00 pm

March 30

*Good Friday Service*

Westminster Presbyterian Church

307 S. Franklin St. Whiteville, NC

7:00 pm

Head Usher, April: Donald Hester

*April 1 Easter Sunday*

John 20:1-9 "Sunday: What is Your Reaction?"

Sunrise Service 7:00 am (Outside) | Easter Celebration 11:00 am (Sanctuary)



## Spiritual Development/Outreach Committee:



**NEXT OFFERING COLLECTED ON  
SUNDAY, MARCH 25!**



Backpack Ministry:

March 25: MVE Committee

April 1: Men of the Church



## Congregational Life Committee:

Join us for Family Night Supper

Wednesday, March 28, 2018 6:00 pm

Elders in Charge: Doug Spivey and Anne Branch Hope to see you there!

## \*Pick up your photo directories in the office today! \*

There is a signup sheet for Sanctuary Flowers in the office.  
Please sign up today or contact the office!



**Sunday, April 15 5:30**



Whiteville Community  
Lenten Services 2018  
Whiteville United Methodist Church  
902 Pinckney Street Whiteville, NC 28472  
[whitevilleumc.org](http://whitevilleumc.org) | 910-642-3376

Worship 12:00 pm | Lunch 12:30 pm  
Wednesday, March 28:

Rev. Bob Hankins, Pastor of Hallsboro United Methodist Church

## Church Calendar

Sunday, March 25:

Backpack Ministry: MVE Committee  
Centsability Offering

Monday, March 26:

Confirmation Class - 5:30 pm  
Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall - 6:00 pm

Wednesday, March 28:

Spiritual Development/Outreach Committee Meeting, Conference Room - 6:30 pm  
Alcoholics Anonymous, Community Room - 8:00 pm  
Whiteville Community Lenten Service, United Methodist Church - 12:00 pm  
Family Night Supper, Fellowship Hall - 6:00 pm

Thursday, March 29:

Congregational Life Committee Meeting, Conference Room - 7:00 pm  
Worship Committee Meeting, Parlor - 7:00 pm  
Alcoholics Anonymous, Community Room - 8:00 pm  
Chicks with Sticks, Parlor - 10:30 am

Friday, March 30:

Sunday, April 1:

Maundy Thursday Service, Sanctuary - 7:00 pm  
Alcoholics Anonymous, Community Room - 8:00 pm  
Good Friday Service, Westminster Presbyterian Church - 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday  
Sunrise Service, Outside - 7:00 am  
Easter Breakfast, Fellowship Hall  
Easter Sunday Celebration, Sanctuary - 11:00 am

## BIRTHDAYS



1 – Joe Kamberger, 3- Sidney Gibson, 3- Diane Scott, 3 – Mary Anne Tyndall, 4- Steve Smith, 8 – Cooper Ware-Rudnik, 11 – Wyche McColskey, 11 – Will Neisler, 18 – Kim Smith, 18 – Bill Turner, 19 – Kate Meekins, 20 – Douglas Spivey, 21 – Ann Coburn, 21 – Liz McLean, 23 – Coke Gray III, 23 – Barbara Grigsby, 24 – Walter Munroe, 24 – Chandler Thurston, 26 – Ginger Scott, 30 – Anne Branch, 31 – Omar Ramoz



1- Thad Thomas, 4 – Greg Blackmon, 4 – Anna Capps, 5 – Kim Neisler, 7 – Ethan Scott, 10- Judy Harritan, 14 – Emily Kea Gray, 17 – Mark Smith, 18 – Liam Scott, 19 – Suzanne Blackmon, 19 – Nick Logan, 22 – Margaret Gray, 24 – Miriam Davenport, 25 – Janet Royal, 25 – Rachel Smith, 29 – Mack Thompson, 30 – Miriam Schulken

**Prayer Concerns:** Geraldine Becker; Mark Bannerman; Kathryn Clark; John Hall; Dolores Harris; Bob High; Rita & R. L. Lewis; Grace Palmer; Rhonda Scott; Mike Spivey; Walter Strickland; Nancy Thurston; David Trogon.

**Assisted Care:** Arlene Blaha; Anna Jane Collier; Charlene Hinnant; Ellen Thurston.

**Friends:** Pat Allen; Sara and Rob Armstrong; Annette Caldwell; Penny Carmean; Mary Cherry; Eli Clark; Billie Joe Conrad; Hilda Dorsett; Shari Dutton; Jerry Ford; Robert Gurkin; Rick Hedgecock; Shelby Hodge; **Barry Housend**; Roger Kennedy; Benny McBride; Daphne McLeod; Jerome McPherson; Helen Dasher Millman; Don Morrison; Gail Moye; Donna Parker; Angie Pinkston; Floyd Pridgen; Theresa Rappa; Hollis Salyer; Barbara Shepherd; Scott Short; Ken Smith; Ronnie Thayer; Gail Townsend; Frank Youngblood; Joe Youngblood.

- Sympathy extended to the family of Paul Pope following the death of his mother, Maude Pope, on Wednesday, March 14, 2018.

Please notify the office when names can be removed.

*John Hall sent me this letter and asked that I might share it with you. A lot of you have asked me about John and how he is doing...I feel this letter explains some of what he is going through. We share this with you to help you understand how he is affected by his environment and why you will sometimes see him have to get up and leave. As you read this I encourage you to keep him and Ann in your prayers. -Pastor Joe*

Dear Church Family,

I'm writing this letter in an effort to help you understand what I'm struggling with. I have a rare condition, the acronym for which is TILT, toxicant-induced loss of tolerance, which means for the last fifty years I have been exposed to herbicides, insecticides and in the last few years to defoliants in this farming area which have caused my body to lose its natural ability to tolerate a host of other chemicals in a multitude of products; perfumes, colognes, hairspray, lotions, shower gels, plastics, carpets, upholstery, yarn, fabrics with intense colors, floor wax, cleaning solutions, Clorox, laundry detergent, cooking odors especially those where meat is involved or butter is an ingredient, certain herbs and spices, cigarette smoke, perm solutions, the ink on the pages of books, the dyes in magazines with intense coloring, fragrant powders barbers use. The list goes on and on. It is severely limiting where I can go; for example, I had to sit in the car and eat my lunch while the party for my little granddaughter's first birthday ate inside the restaurant. The waiter's and waitress's perfume were so strong, I literally staggered to the car. At a certain doctor's office, I have to sit in the car until they call for me because the carpet on the floor is toxic to me. Some business offices I cannot even stay in them for five minutes.

As long as I was on a beta blocker to control my heart arrhythmia, it suppressed my body's reaction to these chemicals and life was much easier. Then it was mostly motels where I was severely restricted, needing one where the window in my room could be opened, otherwise it was not possible for me to spend the night. In 2017, I deduced on my own that I had become intolerant of beta blockers, so this condition has steadily become more severe.

When I move from one location in the sanctuary to another or I leave church, please know that it is not any of you personally. It may be something in your clothes that you have been exposed to from somewhere else or your perfume, hairspray or aftershave. I'm still learning what causes me problems. Recently I deduced it was the unscented lotion for my dry skin I had put on my arms after showering at five PM that was causing the respiratory distress when I went to bed. I had to get up and wash my arms and hands with unscented Dove soap and then was able to go to sleep.

Your love and concerns for me and your willingness to help mean so much and I feel so bad that I cause others to go to so much trouble to accommodate me. I'm hoping and praying that when the weather warms enough for the air-conditioning to run I will be better off. I have many patients and acquaintances who suffer with odors and chemicals just not as severe as mine. In the article I read one poor gentleman eventually had to sleep outside under a tent.

There is no cure for it. In a few cases shock treatments gave the patient a short period of some relief but avoiding what one is sensitive to is the best option. I could never undergo shock treatment since I have a pacemaker defibrillator.

At this time, I can't go into TJ Maxx, Wal-Mart, Sam's, the malls, very few restaurants, or even the homes of my sisters who have carpeted houses. I have learned that by leaving the windows cracked 24/7 at the office I can continue to work until I retire. If I had not experienced this first hand I could not believe that anyone could be so sensitive. On the way home recently after leaving church, we passed by fields on both sides of highway 701 that had been sprayed with herbicides and I lost my voice until we had driven a good distance past them.

I'm an eternal optimist and never give up hope. I will be there as much as I possibly can and will continue to support the church financially. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart for all your love, prayers, and concerns. I love you all so much.

John Hall

# HOLY WEEK & EASTER

**MARCH 29**  
**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
**7:00 p.m.**

Journey from the upper  
room to the cross with  
Jesus & the disciples  
(at FPC)

**MARCH 30**  
**GOOD FRIDAY**  
**TENEBRAE SERVICE**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
(at WPC)



**APRIL 1**  
**EASTER SUNDAY**

7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service & Breakfast  
11:00 a.m. Worship Celebration  
12:00 pm Easter Egg Hunt





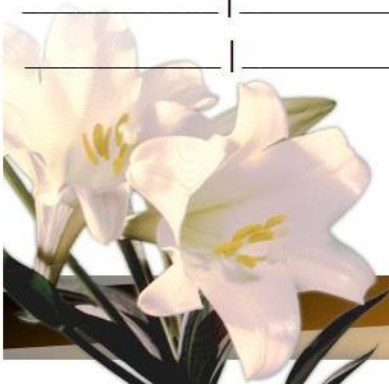
# Easter Dedications

May be made through March 28, 2018

Each dedication is \$5.00 and checks should be made to First Presbyterian Church.

In Memory: or In honor: Recipient:

_____		_____
_____		_____
_____		_____
_____		_____
_____		_____



Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

First Presbyterian Church

511 North Thompson Street

Whiteville, NC 28472