

Our sole purpose is to glorify God, proclaiming through word and deed the love and compassion of Jesus Christ. We trust God's Spirit to lead and nurture us in all our community and congregational endeavors. We desire that all who come through our doors find deeper faith, larger hope, and more complete love.

**Service For The Lord's Day
First Sunday in Lent
18 February 2018**

We Assemble to Worship

RINGING OF THE BELLS
BRINGING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IN

** PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

** THE CONGREGATION GATHERS

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

"God, You Spin the Whirling Planets" PLEADING SAVIOR

RESPONSIVE READING OF PSALM 25 (NRSV) Carl Barr
Congregation Responses in **Bold**

- 1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.... O my God, in you I trust;
- 2 **O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.**
- 3 Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
- 4 **Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.**
- 5 Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of
my salvation; for you I wait all day long.
- 6 **Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your
steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**
- 7 Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me, for your
goodness' sake, O LORD!
- 8 **Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**
- 9 He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.
- 10 **All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and
faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant
and his decrees.**

Let us pray together: **Almighty God and Covenant Friend, set us anew on the paths of righteousness for your namesake. Turn us to you for guidance and life, turn also to us and be gracious, that we may always follow in the way of Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

Now let us join together in the prayer that our Lord taught us,
Our Father Who Art in Heaven

* HYMN 279 "Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove" ST. AGNES

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us pray: **God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

* Silent Confession

* KYRIE ELEISON

Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were still sinners; that proves God's love for us. Believe the good news! In the name of Christ we are forgiven!

People: Thanks be to God!

* GLORIA PATRI (Hymnal) No. 581

We Proclaim the Word

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 9:8-17 OT 7

** HYMN 188 "Jesus Loves Me!" (second verse)

Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago, taking children on his knee, saying, "Let them come to me." Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT: "Make a U-Turn"

(Children age 4 - grade 1 depart for worship readiness with leader Tami Warren)

ANTHEM "O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High" T. A. Kempis

SECOND LESSON: Mark 1:9-15 NT 34

Minister: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE "A Lenten Wilderness" Dr. Stephen Wilkins

* HYMN 688 "Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart" MORECAMBE

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH "Apostles' Creed" (Hymnal) pg. 35
PASTORAL PRAYER

We Respond to God

OFFERTORY

(Visitors, please fill out cards in pew rack and place in offering plate.)

* DOXOLOGY (Hymnal) No. 606

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We Go Forth to Serve

* HYMN 166 "Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days" ST. FLAVIAN

* BENEDICTION AND CHORAL AMEN

"Sing of God Made Manifest" SALZBURG

* TAKING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

* POSTLUDE

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

* Those who are able, please stand

** Seating of worshippers

We welcome our visitors today. If you wish more information about this congregation or the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), please speak with the minister.

New members are received by 1) Re-Affirmation of Faith; 2) Transfer of Membership; and 3) by Profession of Faith and Baptism.

*THE FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD
AND IN MEMORY OF MR. AND MRS. H. B. BARWICK, SR.,
MRS. RACHEL COZART BARWICK AND MRS. "BOO" GRAHAM
BY MR. HUGH BARWICK, JR. AND FAMILY*

February ushers are: Whit Tart, Ed Carr, Chuck Spell, Jody White,
Henry Faison, Mac Purcell, Tommy Newton

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS: REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

HOSPITAL/ASSISTED LIVING

Doc Fields – Southwood; Rm. 109
Frances Hubbard - GlenAire
Margaret Faircloth – Mary Gran; Rm. 701
Tink Purcell – The Cardinal at North Hills
Betty Heaton – Mary Gran; Rm. 204
Beth Stewart - REX
Tim Shankweiler – REX

OTHERS:

*Betty Hairr – (Mother of Vickie Pope)
Juaweese Franklin – (Mother of Melissa Nimmo)
Christine Stacey – (Mother of Lara Capparuccia)
Joe Kozel – (Father of Kristi Williford)
David Askins – (Former GMPC member)
Kathryn Whitley-Jordan – (Former GMPC Choir Director)
Billy Qualls & Bobby Stanley – (Brother & Brother-in-Law of Ted Qualls)
Vivian Fidelia Someliana-Lanier & family – (Grandaughter of Sean and Lara Capparuccia)*

SYMPATHY TO:

Louie Andrews and family on the passing of his father, Rev. Louie V. Andrews, Jr.

Sunday, February 11, 2018 ~ I will be loyal to GMPC and support it with ...

My Presence: Sunday School Attendance 58 ~ Worship Attendance 137

My Gifts:	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Year-To-Date</u>
Tithes and Offerings	\$5,094.00	\$28,651.00
Building Fund Offerings	\$ 200.00	\$ 7,365.00
Needed for the Church Budget:	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Year-To-Date</u>
Operating Budget	\$5,942.00	\$35,652.00
Building Fund	\$ 660.00	\$ 3,960.00

**February: (Wednesdays: Handbells 6:00 p.m./Choir at 7:30 p.m.);
(Cherub Choir: PreK-1st Grade, 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 4-4:30);
(Children & Youth Choir/Handbells: 2nd-8th Grade, Wednesdays, 5-5:45)
(PresbyCrew: K-5th Grade, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 3 – 5:00)**

- 18 - 12:00 p.m. - Congregational Meeting
- 5:00 p.m. - Youth Group: What is our purpose?
- 6:00 p.m. - Session & Diaconate Working Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. - Diaconate Meeting
- 20 - 9:30 a.m. - Prayer Quilts; Newsletter Deadline
- 21 - 12:00 p.m. - Lenten Luncheons at FUMC
- 25 - 9:45 a.m. - Confirmation Class #5
- 11:00 a.m. - Worship (*Sunday School weekly 9:45 a.m.)
- 12:00 p.m. - Congregational Meeting
- 5:00 p.m. - Youth Group: Preparing for Easter, Pottery Crosses w/ Dr. Bradley
- 28 - 12:00 p.m. - Lenten Luncheons at FUMC
- 1:45 p.m. - Staff Meeting
- 3:00 p.m. - PresbyCrew

OTHER CONCERNS / LOOKING AHEAD . . .

The Session has called two congregational meetings regarding the transition to the unicameral structure of government. The first meeting will take place immediately following the worship service today, **Sunday, February 18**; the purpose of the first meeting will be to share the proposed process which the Session recommends, and will be for information only — no vote will be taken on February 18. The second meeting will take place immediately following the 11:00 worship service on **Sunday, February 25**, for the purpose of voting on the Session’s recommended process. There is an information sheet located in the narthex of the sanctuary, and in the office.

Requested Address: Steve & Julie Stefanovich: 1315 Live Oak Parkway; Wilmington, NC 28403.
Louie & Debbie Andrews: 29 Lakeside Close; Nellysford, VA 22958.

Copies of the 2018 Lenten devotional, *Jesus and the Prophets*, are available outside the church office and in the narthex. Pick your copy up today!

Wednesday Lenten Luncheons at First United Methodist Church began on February 14th at Noon and will be held each week through Wed., March 28th. The cost of lunch will be \$5.00 per plate. GMPC will host lunch on the 21st of March. We are grateful to FUMC for hosting these meditations and luncheons for the community during the Lenten season. Everyone is welcome.

Presbyterian Penny Pincher Project: A coin collection challenge to the GMPC congregation, for our annual March fundraiser, will begin March 1st. The special penny pincher “collection cup” will be made available Sunday, February 25th.

La Leche League of Sampson County. Breastfeeding? Or pregnant and planning ahead? Join us the 1st Thursday of every month, in the GMPC Nursery, at 10:00 a.m. The La Leche League of Sampson County, led by Lucy Lockamy, will offer valuable breastfeeding support and information for the women of our community. **Next Date: March 1, 2018**

Our **Annual Congregational Meeting and Pig Picking** will be held on Saturday, March 3, 2018 at 6:00 PM in the MacQueen Fellowship Hall. The orders of business include: 1) Review of the 2017 Year End Financial and Statistical Report and 2) Election of the 2018 Nominating Committee. This is also the time we look forward to recognizing and introducing all new members received and all babies and children baptized during the past year. *(This Year’s Church Spring Work Day will be held on Saturday, March 24th.)

CAKES NEEDED for the March 8th First Baptist Soup Kitchen. We ask that all cakes be delivered to the GMPC kitchen by **NOON, Wednesday, February 7th.** (*Note Change in time.)

*Please contact February coordinator: Anne Price to place your name on the list.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED at First Baptist Soup Kitchen (408 College Street) on Thursdays, Weekly from 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. *11:00 – 3:00: Cooking, 3:00 – 5:00: Deliveries, 5:00 – 7:00: Serving. (Volunteer for the day or as your schedule allows.

Copies of **These Days**, January - March, are available in the narthex & outside the office.

Coffee Hour at GMPC is held each Sunday, between Sunday School and worship, in the fellowship hall. We hope everyone will come for a time to visit before worship.

GMPC’s **Prayer Request Cards** are located in the pews for your convenience. If you have a prayer request, simply fill out the prayer request card and place it in the offering plate.

A PODCAST (audio file, mp3 format) of Sunday Sermons Is Available on the GMPC Website. To listen to posted sermons visit: <http://gravestmemorial.org/sermons.shtml>.

A **“Lost and Found”** Dishes Box is located in the Ice Room here at GMPC. Please stop by and check it regularly for any of your dishes that you may have left behind.