

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
Second Sunday in Lent
25 February 2018**

We Assemble to Worship

RINGING OF THE BELLS

BRINGING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IN

** PRELUDE "Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland" Johann Walter (1496-1570)
(Savior of Nations, Come) arr. Charles W. Ore

ANNOUNCEMENTS

** THE CONGREGATION GATHERS

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

"In the Presence of Your People" B. S. Chambers

RESPONSIVE READING OF PSALM 22 (NRSV) Isabella Faison
Congregation Responses in **Bold**

23 You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob,
glorify him; all you offspring of Israel!

**24 For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the
afflicted; he did not hide his face from me,
but heard when I cried to him.**

25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

**26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the LORD.
May your hearts live forever!**

27 All the ends of earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
and all the families of the nations shall worship him.

**28 For dominion belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.**

29 To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
and I shall live for him;

**30 Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the LORD,**

31 and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it.

Let us pray together: **Eternal God, your tortured Son felt abandoned, and cried out in anguish from the cross, yet you delivered him. He overcame the bounds of death and rose in triumph from the grave. Do not hide your face from those who cry out to you. Feed the hungry, strengthen the weak, and break the chains of the oppressed, that your people may rejoice in your saving deeds. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

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

* HYMN 819 "Be Still, My Soul" FINLANDIA

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us pray: **O God, redeem us, for we stand in need of forgiveness. We squander your mercy when we fail to show mercy to others. We do not love our neighbors as we ought to love. Nations rise up against nations in war. Ours is a world divided among lines of politics, race, wealth, and faith. Forgive us, we pray, and cleanse us of the sin that closes our hearts to others. Renew in us the Spirit of Christ, that the dividing walls of hostility may be dismantled, and we may be reconciled with you and with one another. We pray in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.**

* 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: The Lord does not treat us as our sins deserve, nor does he repay us according to our iniquity. For as high as the heavens are above the earth-- that's how great is God's love for those who fear him. And as far as the east is from the west-- that's how far God has removed our transgressions from us. Believe the good news: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

People: Thanks be to God! Amen.

* GLORIA PATRI (Hymnal) No. 581

We Proclaim the Word

FIRST LESSON: Romans 4:13-25 NT 155

** 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: "Think About the Cross"
(Children age 4 - grade 1 depart for worship readiness with leader Tami Warren)

ANTHEM "Lord, Why Have You Forsaken Me" Christopher L. Webber

SECOND LESSON: Mark 8:31-38 NT 44

Minister: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE "Get Over Yourself!" Dr. Stephen Wilkins

* HYMN 718 "Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said" BOURBON

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

We Respond to God

OFFERTORY "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" Maker/Goss
(*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 459 "O Word of God Incarnate" MUNICH
* BENEDICTION AND CHORAL AMEN
"All Who Love You Sing Your Praises" B. S. Chambers
* TAKING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD
* POSTLUDE "Rejoice, My Soul" Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

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.

A rose is placed on the communion table in celebration of the birth of Vivian Fidelia Someliana-Lauer, daughter of Cameron & Marquita, born February 10, 2018. Grandparents are Sean & Lara Capparuccia.

*THE FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND
IN MEMORY OF MR. J. E. SINCLAIR, SR., MRS. MARY LEE SINCLAIR,
AND MRS. ELAINE SINCLAIR HOBBS BY THE 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
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-Lauer & family – (Grandaughter of Sean and Lara Capparuccia)*

AT HOME

Martha Dunn
Margaret Register
Julie Stefanovich
Ardella Boyette
Beth Stewart

Sunday, February 18, 2018 ~ I will be loyal to GMPC and support it with ...		
My Presence:	Sunday School Attendance 66	~ Worship Attendance 142
My Gifts:	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Year-To-Date</u>
Tithes and Offerings	\$4,692.00	\$33,343.00
Building Fund Offerings	\$ 725.00	\$ 8,090.00
Needed for the Church Budget:	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Year-To-Date</u>
Operating Budget	\$5,942.00	\$41,594.00
Building Fund	\$ 660.00	\$ 4,620.00

February/March: (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)

- 25 - 12:00 p.m. - Congregational Meeting
- 3:00 p.m. - Session 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
- 03 - 6:00 p.m. - Congregational Meeting & Pig Picking
- 04 - 9:45 a.m. - Confirmation Class #6
- 11:00 a.m. - Worship (*Sunday School weekly 9:45 a.m.)
- 05 - 3:00 p.m. - Circle #1 (Home of Joni Fay Fetterman)
- 7:00 p.m. - Circle #2 (Memorial Room)
- 06 - 10:00 a.m. - Circle #3 (Fellowship Hall)
- 07 - 12:00 p.m. - Lenten Luncheons at FUMC

OTHER CONCERNS / LOOKING AHEAD . . .

The Session has called two congregational meetings regarding the transition to the unicameral structure of government. The first meeting took place, **Sunday, February 18th**; the purpose of the first meeting was to share the proposed process which the Session recommends, and was for information only. The second meeting will take place immediately following the 11:00 worship service today, **Sunday, February 25th**, for the purpose of voting on the Session’s recommended process.

Presbyterian Penny Pincher Project: A coin collection challenge to the GMPC congregation, for our annual March Building Fundraiser, has been issued. Get your special “collection cup” from the narthex or Church office, put it in a prominent place at home and empty your pockets, purses and piggybanks every day for a month! Bring your cup of coins each week and dump it in the container located in the narthex, to be counted. This special project will end on March 31st. So start collecting loose change from the sofa, the car, the laundry room and become a *‘penny-pincher’* every day! Everyone can participate – every little bit helps... pennies, dimes and quarters -lots of them, we hope! (Of course, bills and checks will also be accepted!)

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 all women within 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, March 7th. (*Note Change in time.)
 *Please contact March coordinator: Anne Price to place your name on the list.

The **Presbyterian Men’s Breakfast Meeting** for March will be on the 11th, beginning 8:15 a.m., at First United Methodist Church. We hope all men will join us for breakfast and fellowship! Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

The **Presbyterian Women Quarterly Gathering / Birthday Observance** will be held on Monday, March 12, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. Program Coordinator: Diane Barwick.

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.

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.)