

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
Palm/Passion Sunday
25 March 2018**

We Assemble to Worship

RINGING OF THE BELLS
BRINGING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IN

** PRELUDE "The Holy City" Weatherly/Adams; Barbara Taylor, soprano

ANNOUNCEMENTS

** THE CONGREGATION GATHERS

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

RESPONSIVE READING OF PSALM 118 (NRSV) Spencer Westerbeek
Congregation Responses in **Bold**

1 O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

2 Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

19 Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may
enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

**20 This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.**

21 I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

**22 The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

23 This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

**24 This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

25 Save us, we beseech you, O LORD!
O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

**26 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the
LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD.**

27 The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal
procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

**28 You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God, I will extol you.**

29 O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

Let us pray together: **Holy and mighty God, your Son's triumph over sin and death has opened to us the gate of eternal life. Purify our hearts that we may follow him and share in the radiance of his glory. We ask this for the sake of our risen Lord. Amen.**

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

* HYMN 196 "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Let us pray: **O King of Glory, we confess that our praise of your majesty has often been faint, and our lives as citizens of your kingdom have been weak. For we have surrendered to the enemy by our sins, both secret and known. You died for our treason against your kingdom, Lord Jesus. You rose again for our restoration. Draw us closer to you this holy week, that our eyes may catch the vision of your tears; and our hearts, the wonder of your grace. By the Holy Spirit's continuing discipline, let us be loyal and loving servants of the King. Praise be to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

* Silent Confession

* KYRIE ELEISON

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

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The "Hosannas" of Palm Sunday will quickly become the "Crucify him!" of Good Friday. But the cross is Jesus' answer to our sins. For on the cross, God made Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us, so that in Christ we might become the righteousness of God. Friends, hear and believe the good news: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God! Amen!

* GLORIA PATRI (Hymnal) No. 581

We Proclaim the Word

FIRST LESSON: Psalm 31:9-16 OT 506

** HYMN 197 "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" (first verse)

Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang; through pillared court and temple the joyful anthem rang. To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to his breast, the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT: "Lord, Save Us!"

** SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: Spencer Marie Driver

Presentation of the Child

Questions to the Parents and Congregation

*Affirmation of Faith "Apostles' Creed" (Hymnal) pg. 35

Baptism of the Child

*Hymn 475 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

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

ANTHEM "When Jesus Wept" Billings/Wagner; GMPC Handbell Choir

SECOND LESSON: Mark 11:1-11 NT 47

Minister: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE "We Were There" Dr. Stephen Wilkins

* HYMN 198 "Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!" ST. DROSTANE

PASTORAL PRAYER

We Respond to God

OFFERTORY "What Have They Done?" Jay Althouse; GMPC Choir
(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 223 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" HAMBURG

* BENEDICTION AND CHORAL AMEN

"Ah, Holy Jesus" arr. Arnold B. Sherman; GMPC Handbell Choir

* TAKING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

* POSTLUDE "Grave" John Alcock (1715-1806)

* 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.

Chris and Allison Driver present their daughter,
Spencer Marie Driver, born February 24, 2017,
for the Sacrament of Baptism.

*THE PALM FRONDS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD
BY THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN SEASONAL FLOWER COMMITTEE*

The purchase of Eco-Palms used in today's service will benefit communities and forests in Mexico and Guatemala by ensuring fair wages for harvesters, providing training on responsible harvesting methods, and organizing cooperatives which improve living conditions for everyone in the community. For more information on Eco-Palms, visit <http://gqmc.pcusa.org/ministries/enough/eco-palms/>

Thank you to Barbara Taylor for sharing in our music today.

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

OTHERS:

Juaweese Franklin – (Mother of Melissa Nimmo)

Kathryn Whitley-Jordan – (Former GMPC Choir Director)

Christine Stacey – (Mother of Lara Capparuccia)

Betty Hairr – (Mother of Vickie Pope); Bobby Stanley – (Brother-in-Law of Ted Qualls);

Joe Kozel – (Father of Kristi Williford); Hewitt Fulton – (Father of Bill Fulton);

Vivian Fidelia Someliana-Lauer & family – (Grandaughter of Sean and Lara Capparuccia)

SYMPATHY TO:

Jack Perry and family on the passing of his brother, Allen Harris Perry.

Carol Wilson and family on the passing of her husband, and GMPC member, Donald (Don) Wilson.

AT HOME

Martha Dunn

Margaret Register

Julie Stefanovich

Ardella Boyette

Beth Stewart

Tim Shankweiler

Ted Lockerman

Lois Denny

March ushers are: Brad Spell, Bill Fulton, Fred Beaujeu-Dufour,
Lawton Eure, Michael Bradley, Eli Bradley, Plato Faison

**March/April: (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 - 3:00 p.m. - Officer Training #3
- 5:00 p.m. - Youth Group
- 28 - 12:00 p.m. - Lenten Luncheons at FUMC (Last)
- 3:00 p.m. - PresbyCrew: Egg Hunt
- 29 - 7:00 p.m. - **Maundy Thursday Service**
- 30 - - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
- NOON - **Good Friday Service** @ First Baptist (900 College Street)
- 01 - 7:00 a.m. - **Easter Sunrise Service** @ Clinton Cemetery *(Note change in time.)
- 11:00 a.m. - Worship (*Sunday School weekly 9:45 a.m.) **Easter Service**
- 02 - - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
- 04 - 6:30 p.m. - First Wednesday Fellowship & Covered Dish
- 08 - 8:15 a.m. - Presbyterian Men's Breakfast @ GMPC
- 2:00 p.m. - Session Meeting
- 09 - 3:00 p.m. - Circle #1 (Home of Myrtle Petty)
- 7:00 p.m. - Circle #2 (Memorial Room)
- 10 - 10:00 a.m. - Circle #3 (Memorial Room)
- 11 - 3:00 p.m. - PresbyCrew

OTHER CONCERNS / LOOKING AHEAD . . .

***Due to the memorial service for Donald Wilson on March 24th the previously-planned Spring Work Day has been rescheduled to take place on Saturday, April 21st beginning at 8:00 a.m.** We encourage everyone to come out and be a part of our efforts. There should be something for everyone to jump in and help with. Please get together with your Sunday School Class or other groups within the church and work together to cover the room or area that you utilize. If that area is already covered please consider a common area that needs some work. We should be working all morning, so please come for whatever time you can.

Challenging ALL Faith Groups: Come to the church work day on the 21st and work with your GMPC friends to help make our facilities and grounds look great!! The Faith Group that has the most members helping will win a "prize" for each member that is present. Thanks! Brenda Nordin

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

Presbyterian Penny Pincher Project: GMPC's coin collection challenge, for our annual March fundraiser, will end on March 31st. The coin collection container will be located outside the church office beginning Monday, March 26th for those last week deposits. We thank you for your contributions!

Wednesday Lenten Luncheons at First United Methodist Church will end at noon on Wednesday, March 28th. The cost of lunch is \$5.00 per plate. We are grateful to FUMC for hosting these meditations and luncheons for the community during the Lenten season.

PresbyCrew Easter Egg Hunt: will be held on March 28th. Once again we are asking for donations of plastic eggs filled with 1 piece of candy, gum, Bible verse, sticker, etc. (*More than one item per egg is okay but not necessary!) Bags for collecting the eggs will be provided. *Please bring your donations (at least one dozen per child) to the office by March 28th.

March 29th is **Maundy Thursday**. A worship service, modeled after a traditional Tenebrae service, will be held in the GMPC Sanctuary beginning at 7:00 p.m. The service will take us chronologically through the last evening of Jesus with his disciples—his last meal with them, his washing their feet, his prayer at Gethsemane, his arrest by the authorities and abandonment by his friends, and the threefold denial of Jesus by Peter. As the evening progresses, candles will be extinguished, symbolically taking us into darkness. Please plan to attend. Bring a friend.

March 30th is **Good Friday**. First Baptist Church, 900 College Street, invites you to join them at noon for a worship service, "The Seven Last Words". Rev. Wilkins will be one of the participants in the service. Plan now to be in attendance.

April 1st is **Easter/Resurrection of the Lord**. We will begin our day with an **Easter Sunrise Service** to be held at the Clinton Cemetery beginning at 7:00 a.m. We will also **Recognize Our Confirmands**, as they reaffirm their Baptismal covenant and publicly profess their faith during our 11:00 a.m. worship service. Special envelopes will be available for receiving the **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering**.

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: April 5, 2018**