

I know not why God's wondrous grace to me he hath made known,
nor why, unworthy, Christ in love redeemed me for his own.

Refrain:

But I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able
to keep that which I've committed unto him against that day.

I know not how this saving faith to me he did impart,
nor how believing in his word wrought peace within my heart.
(Refrain)

I know not how the Spirit moves, convincing us of sin,
revealing Jesus through the word, creating faith in him.
(Refrain)

I know not when my Lord may come, at night or noontday fair,
nor if I walk the vale with him, or meet him in the air.
(Refrain)

†BENEDICTION

†CHORAL RESPONSE

Share His love by telling what the Lord has done for you
Share His love by sharing of your faith
And show the world that Jesus Christ is real to you
Every moment, every day!

TRINITY CHIMES

(Please remain in place at the end of the service until the conclusion of the Trinity Chimes)

CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE “Fantasy in C Minor” by J.S. Bach

THE FLOWERS AT THE ALTAR

THE FLOWERS AT THE ALTAR are dedicated to the glory of God
and given in loving memory of Frederick & Frances Cooper,
whose birthdates are March 1st and March 8th, by Gail & Butch Gentry.

THE FLOWERS ON THE CHANCEL RAIL were given for the funeral
of Randy Porter in loving memory.

MEMORIALS

We remember and give thanks for Scotty Webb, Bobby Pridgen,
Tommy Webb, and Bruce Davis who have been honored
through memorials made to First Methodist.

GREETERS

8:30 Joe & Beth Kirk
11:00 Gail & Butch Gentry

Lenten Lunches - Tuesdays at 12:10pm

Lenten Lunches

Lenten Lunches will begin on Tuesday, February 24th @ 12:10pm with a
brief service in the Sanctuary followed by lunch in the Fellowship Hall. All
are welcome to attend and no reservations are needed.

- 2/24 - Rev. Vera Price Pastor of St James/Bryant Chapel Perrytown AMEZ
- 3/3 - Rev. George Gouge, Pastor of Pollocksville Methodist Church
- 3/10 - Rev. Tim Nichols, Pastor of Bethlehem Methodist Church
- 3/17 - Rev. Rick Smith, Pastor of Oak Grove Methodist Church
- 3/24 - Rev. Lee Pittard, Pastor of Harkers Island Methodist Church
- 3/31 - Rev. Homer Morris, Pastor of Tuttle's Grove Methodist Church

Ekklesia Donations

In continued support of Ekklesia, consider donating toilet tissue and laundry
detergent in the basket located in the Atrium. The youth will be making care
bags and garden planters during youth this Sunday night. Thank each of you
for your continued support of this community.

Men's Fellowship - Launches March 10th

Men's Fellowship will hold its first meeting on March 10th from 6:00-7:30
PM. We will gather on the second Tuesday of each month. The schedule
includes Prayer & Dinner, Devotion, Speaker and Closing Prayer. Please let
us know if you plan to attend to help us get an accurate headcount. Contact
Tim Wilson, Caleb Thornton or Jim Reed if you have any questions.

Egg Hunt and Cookout - March 28th @ 11:15am

Mark your calendar for the Egg Hunt. Bring the family and join us at Camp
Albemarle. The egg hunt will begin promptly at 11:15am. After the hunt, stay
for a cookout lunch and fellowship. Free event and you don't need to register.

VBS Volunteer Registration is OPEN!

Get ready for an adventure in God's amazing creation! VBS will be June
15-19, 2026. We are looking for enthusiastic individuals to adventure into the
Rainforest. There are a variety of positions available, including class guides
for children aged 3 years old to 5th grade, instructors for games, art and story
time, and those who can help with snacks and decorations.

Operation Christmas Child - Stuffed Animals

We're collecting stuffed animals for Operation Christmas Child throughout
February and March! Drop off your donations in the baskets located in the
atrium and The Rise Lobby. Let's fill those baskets!

Saturday in the Park - March 7 @ 10am

Nursery and preschool families are invited to join us for Saturday in the Park,
a relaxed time to come and play while building community together. We'll
meet on Saturday mornings at 10:00 AM, creating space for families to
connect and children to enjoy time outdoors. Our first Saturday play in the
park will be March 7th, and we'd love for you to join us.

College Scholarships

The FMC Scholarship Committee is accepting applications for College
Scholarships given to deserving students as funds permit. Previous recipients
may re-apply. Applications will be considered upon financial need, letters of
recommendation, academic standing, and extracurricular activities.
Applications and accompanying documentation are due no later than March
31st. Awards will be announced on Senior Sunday on May 31st.

First Methodist Church

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www.firstmethodist.life

Reverend Sarah Williams
Associate Pastor

Reverend Patrick Whaley
Associate Pastor, Pastoral Care

Kim McCoury, Director of Communications Sabrina Juarez, Facilities Manager
Shanna du Mont, Director of Children's Ministry Stefany Boyd, Office Manager
Phil Routszong, Director of Music Sunnie Gail Ballou, Organist
Miranda Routszong, Assistant Rise Music Fran Welch, Sound Tech



“WORSHIPPING PASSIONATELY, LOVING EXTRAVAGANTLY, AND WITNESSING BOLDLY”

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 1, 2026 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING THE PEACE

PRELUDE *“O Love, How Deep”* by Kristina Langlois

†CHIMING OF THE HOUR & INTROIT

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Out of the depths we cry to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our voices.

We wait for the Lord; our souls wait,

and in his word we put our hope.

We wait for the Lord

more than watchmen wait for the morning.

For with the Lord there is steadfast love

and with him is full redemption. (Psalm 130)

†HYMN

“Rejoice the Lord is King”

No. 715

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore;
mortals, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore.

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

Jesus the Savior reigns, the God of truth and love;
when he has purged our stains, he took his seat above;

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

His kingdom cannot fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of earth and hell are to our Jesus given.

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

Rejoice in glorious hope! Jesus the Judge shall come,
and take his servants up to their eternal home.

We soon shall hear the archangel's voice;
the trump of God shall sound, rejoice!

†OPENING PRAYER

Unison

Gracious God, In this season of repentance, search us and cleanse us from all that dims your light within us. Turn us again to you, so that our hope may rest not in this world but in the promise of your appearing. Make us ready, watchful, faithful, and unafraid, until the day we see you face to face. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostles' Creed

Unison

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

†GLORIA PATRI

Unison

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.

CROWN OF THORNS READING

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

11:00am

RESPONSE OF THE CONGREGATION

Through baptism you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit into God's new creation and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood. We are all one in Christ Jesus. With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you as a member of the family of Christ.

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Unison

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever, Amen.

SCRIPTURE

James 5:7-9

⁷ Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸ You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. ⁹ Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

WORSHIP WITH TITHES, GIFTS, AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

“Look For the Lord in the Mornin”

Chancel Choir

Arr. by Shackley

†DOXOLOGY

No. 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 12:35-40

³⁵ “Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶ like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. ³⁷ It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. ³⁸ It will be good for those servants

whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak. ³⁹ But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

SERMON

Listen to Him: Ready or Not?

Phil Routszong

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(based on the service used at the Convening General Conference of the Global Methodist Church)

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Merciful God, we acknowledge that we have sinned against you by our thoughts, words and actions. We have failed to love you and others with a Christlike love. We have turned away from your holy commands. We have fashioned idols in our own image. We have not lived generously with the poor and we have ignored the loving conviction of the Holy Spirit. Forgive us, Lord Jesus, Teach us to delight and rejoice in your law. Amen.

(The pastor offers words of pardon and assurance)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(The pastor gives thanks, remembering God's acts of salvation and concludes:)

And so, in gratitude and praise to you, Father Almighty, we join our voices with the angels, archangels, and all the nations, surrounding your heavenly throne in the eternal song of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

(The pastor offers the words of institution, concluding:)

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts recorded in the gospel and revealed in your holy kingdom, let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!

(The pastor consecrates the elements and invokes the Holy Spirit)