



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**August 2, 2020** **11 o'clock**

VISION

*Nourished by God's Word and Sacraments,*

**All: Connecting lives to Christ.**

PENNIES FOR HUNGER

PRELUDE

“How Firm a Foundation”

INTROIT

“God Is Calling through the Whisper”

410, verse 1

God is calling through the whisper of the Spirit's deepest sighs,  
through the thrill of sudden beauties that can catch us by surprise.  
Flash of lightning, crash of thunder; hush of stillness, rush of wonder:  
God is calling—can you hear? God is calling—can you hear?

CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Genesis 32

*We gather here in anticipation,*

**seeking an encounter with our God,**

*who comes among us when we least expect it,*

**who invites us to wrestle with our questions and doubts,**

*who richly blesses us,*

**and calls us each by name.**

*Let's worship God together!*

PRAYER OF PRAISE

**Holy God, circle our hearts, center our minds, still our bodies and be present to us now, as we gather in your presence. We gather with expectation, hungry for an encounter with you, eager to hear your word. Open our eyes and ears to your Holy Spirit. May we be challenged by your Spirit to be the good people you created us to be. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our teacher and our Lord. Amen.**

\*HYMN

#509

“All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”

All who hunger, gather gladly; holy manna is our bread.  
Come from wilderness and wandering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.  
You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food.  
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

All who hunger, never strangers, seeker, be a welcome guest.  
Come from restlessness and roaming. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.  
We that once were lost and scattered in communion's love have stood.  
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, sing together; Jesus Christ is living bread.  
Come from loneliness and longing. Here, in peace, we have been led.  
Blest are those who from this table live their days in gratitude.  
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

#### CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

*God listens to our prayers and examines our hearts. When we cry out, God answers us. God manifests his faithful love in amazing ways, so that we may feel free to seek his care. Let us therefore turn to God, seeking God's righteousness and love, and unburdening ourselves from our sins.*

**Most Holy God, we confess to you and to each other that we are rarely just in all our ways and far from being kind in all we do. What we claim to be and what we actually are, are two different things. Our lives are a miss-mash of astuteness and stupidity, of moral strength and cowardice, of kindness and malice, of openness and cunning, of sincere love for you and of conniving self-interest. We need your justice and kindness to convict us, to forgive and cleanse us, and to save us from the power of evil in the days that lie ahead. We need your mercy to wipe away shame and disabling regrets, your light to give us our bearings, and your friendship to delight and comfort us in our sorrows. Please grant to us, loving God, the grace of a new beginning and the joy of an enlarged love for you. Give us passion for all your loving ways.**

*Silent Prayer*

*Have mercy on us, O God. Amen.*

KYRIE

(Hymn #576)

***Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy on us.***

*Water is poured into the font.*

*The Lord is just and kind in all ways.*

Rev. Wes Pitts

*God is near to all who call on the Lord in truth. Friends, having called on the Lord in truth, we can trust that God is near, just and kind. Believe the good news, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!*

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

\*GLORIA PATRI

(Hymn #581)

***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.***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 14:13-21 (p. 1189)

Genesis 32:22-31 (p. 40)

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

“Good Shepherd, We Are Not Alone”

verses 1, 2, 4

Good Shepherd, we are not alone, for you protect and love your own.  
And we, responding, know your voice; we hear you calling and rejoice.

Another shepherd might turn back and flee at danger’s first attack;  
but you laid down your very life, a loving shepherd’s sacrifice.

You gather sheep from far and wide, from folds we know and from outside.  
One flock, one Shepherd, there will be, a loving, blest community.

SERMON

“Wrestling at Midnight”

Rev. Wes Pitts

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Invitation to silent prayer, a meditation with music, then intercessions are offered;*

*... We join our voices in the prayer Christ taught us to pray:*

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

\*HYMN

#649

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

verses 1, 2, 4

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

“Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles’ Creed

**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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on 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 Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

GIFTS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

“Simple Gifts”

\*DOXOLOGY

(Hymn #606)

*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.*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S TABLE

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

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.***

*...Therefore, we join our voices in singing:*

(Hymn #552)

***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, hosanna in the highest.***

*...for great is the mystery of faith:*

(Hymn #560)

***Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.***

...

PREPARING THE BREAD AND CUP

*...The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!***

COMMUNION BY INTINCTION

*We share in the Lord's table at 2 stations, receiving the bread and dipping it into the cup.*

*Please raise your hand if you wish to receive communion at your seat.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

\*RESPONSE AFTER COMMUNION

*Let us sing of our faith:*

(Hymn #405)

***Praise God for this holy ground, place and people, sight and sound.  
Hal-le-lu-jah! Hal-le-lu-jah! Hal-le-lu-jah! God's goodness is eternal.***

\*HYMN #833

"O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"

verses 1, 2

O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee;

I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.

O Light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to thee;

my heart restores its borrowed ray, that in thy sunshine's blaze its day may brighter, fairer be.

\*BENEDICTION

\*CLOSING RESPONSE

"Bless the Lord"

544

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.

Bless the lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

## **AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

1 – Walt Whittington	12 – Shirley Williams	26 – Libby Cole
5 – Stokes Ann Hunt	13 – Angus McInnis	28 – Lurae Albert
8 – Paul Anthony Young	20 – Lucy Mae Cresenzo	29 – C. B. Davis
9 – Brenda Sutton	20 – Meredith Harris	30 – Don Pierce
9 – Bradley Young	20 – Francie Trent	31 – Joye Donovan
	23 – Matthew Crutchfield	

## **SERVING IN AUGUST**

### **Communion Servers**

TBA

### **Ushers**

TBA

### **Greeters**

TBA

### **Door Keepers**

TBA

## **LOCAL MISSION OFFERINGS**

Pennies for Hunger:	JULY	Year-To-Date
	\$262.19	\$838.34

*The Pennies for Hunger offering, collected on the first Sunday of each month, supports feeding ministries throughout central North Carolina, with 50% of our collection staying in Rockingham County and supporting the Reidsville Outreach Center. The other 50% is distributed by Salem Presbytery through grants to non-profit organizations that work to alleviate hunger in their communities.*

Habitat for Humanity:	JULY	Year-To-Date
	\$75.00	\$362.76

*The Habitat offering, collected on the third Sunday of each month, supports the Greater Reidsville chapter of Habitat for Humanity in its mission to build and improve homes in the Reidsville area so that all may have access to safe and affordable housing.*

## SESSION

Moderator: Rev. Wes Pitts

<b>Class of 2020</b>	<b>Class of 2021</b>	<b>Class of 2022</b>
Mark Cresenzo <i>Mission</i>	Tilda Balsley <i>Grounds</i>	Ed Conroy <i>Clerk</i>
Joyce Crutchfield <i>Newcomers/Communication</i>	Tom Callicutt <i>Montreat</i>	Scott Greene <i>Personnel</i>
Rick McKinney <i>Property</i>	Phil Neal <i>Fellowship</i>	Jane Harrill <i>Caregivers</i>
	Becky Norman <i>Worship</i>	Jim Murray <i>Christian Education</i>
	Thomas Thompson <i>Finance</i>	

**Upcoming Session Meeting: TBA**

## CAREGIVERS TEAM

Jane Harrill – Chair

Class of 2020: Anne Covington, Mary Fagan, Sallie Trent

Class of 2021: Susie Cole, Jenny Farver, Denice Whitley

Class of 2022: Susan McLeod, Pat Gates & Robert Moreno, Lynn Wilkins

## PRAYER CONCERNS

*Please be in prayer for the following:*

**Church members:** Charlie Adams, Lucy Byers, Sandra Craig, the Fagan family, Anne Dell Hardingham, Betty Jones, Bob Mullings, Faye Pierce, Debbie Robbins, Claire Smothers, Fred & Lynn Wilkins, Brad Young

**Family and friends of the congregation:** Carl Wayne Adams, Steve Banks, Waddell Bullock, Evelyn Cogan, Chad Davis, Talea Dillard, Don Ella Drew, Cindy Farrand, Treva Garrison, Carole Hendrix Grady, Charlotte Kearns, The Kimbrough family, Madeline McDowell, Jillian McInnis, Joe Mountjoy, Bobbie Nauman, Geoff Peoples, Jimmy Rayburn, Si Rothrock, Michael Serra, Junior Setliff, Dana Smith, Hailey Vega, Jimmy Waynick, Joan Young

**Military service:** Seth Brooks, Don Pierce

*If you have submitted names for our prayer list, and know of their recovery, please contact us with the good news!*

### **What is Coronavirus or COVID-19 ?**

COVID-19 is a new disease that first appeared in late 2019 in Wuhan, China. COVID-19 is caused by a novel member of the coronavirus family — SARS-CoV-2 — that's a close cousin to the SARS and MERS viruses that have caused outbreaks in the past.

There is still much to learn about the disease. Globally, about 3.4% of people infected with COVID-19 have died. At greater risk are people with chronic health conditions and the elderly. For perspective, flu cases currently dwarf the number of COVID-19 cases, although the death rate is less than .1%.

### **What are the symptoms of COVID-19?**

Symptoms of COVID-19, caused by novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, include respiratory illness with fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. In more severe cases, it can cause pneumonia and severe acute respiratory syndrome.

### **Can COVID-19 be treated?**

Like the common cold, there is no specific medicine recommended to prevent or treat COVID-19. But people infected should receive appropriate care to relieve and treat symptoms, and those with severe illness should receive medical care.

### **How can I protect myself and my loved ones?**

The World Health Organization has the following recommendations for the general public to reduce exposure to and transmission of a range of illnesses:

- Frequently clean your hands by using an alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.
- When coughing and sneezing, cover your mouth and nose with a flexed elbow or tissue. Then throw the tissue away immediately and wash your hands.
- Avoid close contact with anyone who has a fever and cough.
- If you have a fever, cough, and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early and share your travel history with your healthcare provider.
- Avoid the consumption of raw or undercooked animal products. Handle raw meat, milk, and animal organs with care to avoid cross-contamination with uncooked foods, per good food safety practices.

## *Today's Announcements*

**Elder on Call:** Phil Neal is available for congregational needs this week.

**Pennies for Hunger** will be received today, August 2.

**Wes Pitts, Pastor** 678-409-5060  
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