

February 18, 2024
First Presbyterian Church
1st Sunday in Lent

We Gather in God's Name

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude *The Peace May Be Exchanged*

Locklair

Welcome

Rev. Maxwell Michaels

We Worship Together

***Call to Worship**

Buddy Brooks

O God, in you we trust.

Lead us in your truth and teach us,
for you are the God of our salvation;
for you we wait, for you we worship.

***Hymn** 166 *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

ST. FLAVIAN

Invitation to Confession (the congregation is seated)

We pause here to examine our lives, our temptations, and the ways we have fallen short before our God. Let us confess our sins together.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, as we begin this Lenten wilderness journey with Jesus, we confess our neglect of you and our faith. We make idols of nation, money and power. We build walls instead of better relationships. We fail to follow Jesus to the poor, the destitute, the stranger. Empty us this Lent, Holy God. Guide us in our faith so we can leave this wilderness season in right relationship with you. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Remember and receive these hopeful words from John 8:31-32, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." Receive God's truth. Receive God's grace. Accept the freedom God provides. Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us now greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

***Holy Interruption** *We greet our neighbors in Christ's love*

Children's Message

***Gloria Patri**

**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.**

We Receive God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading Genesis 9:8-17

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Gospel Reading Mark 1:9-15

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Message

"How Far We've Come"

Rev. Maxwell Michaels

Affirmation of Faith *(from A Brief Statement of Faith)*

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

***Hymn** 442 *Just as I Am, without One Plea*

WOODWORTH

Announcements

Pastoral Prayers and Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Anthem *Count the Stars*

Beck

I will count the stars for you. I will look upon the raindrops and the morning dew. I will search the moonbeams, I'll explore the rising sun, and when the evening comes, I'll count the stars. I'll count the stars. Requiem aeternam dona eis domine (eternal rest, give to them O Lord) et lux perpetua luceat eis (let perpetual light shine upon them). I will count the stars for you. I will climb the highest mountain, cross the ocean, too. I will watch the snow fall; I will listen to the wind. And when the evening comes, I'll count the stars. I'll count the stars.

***Doxology Hymn** *All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night* TALLIS' CANON
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Prayer of Dedication

God of grace, you provide for us in amazing ways. Accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude and bless them to further Christ's ministry and mission among the poor, the suffering and the destitute. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn** 441 *Hear the Good News of Salvation*

NETTLETON

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response** 568 *Amen*

Chancel Choir

Haugen

***Postlude** *Präludium in G Minor, BWV 558*

J.S. Bach

Please wait until the end of the benediction response by the choir before exiting.

*Those who are able, please stand as directed at the items marked with an asterisk

The Church This Week (2/18/2024)

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|-------|------------|-------------------------------|
| Today | 10:00 a.m. | Sunday School |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Worship |
| | | Membership Mtg. after Worship |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Youth |
| Mon. | 8:30 a.m. | MMO |
| | 10:00 a.m. | Lenten Study |
| Tues. | 6:00 p.m. | Women's Community Bible Study |
| Wed. | 8:30 a.m. | MMO |
| | 9:00 a.m. | Women's Community Bible Study |
| | 3:15 p.m. | Fun Program |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Chancel Choir Rehearsal |
| Sun. | 10:00 a.m. | Sunday School |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Worship |

Prayer List as of February 18, 2024

Gerry & Bobby Rogers
Ina Coggeshall
Gray & Bea Sloop
Bennie and Benny Lou Moore
Beth O'Neal
Bobbie Jones
Keller Smith
Dr. Sue Arledge and her husband, Bob
Shenell Malloy (Susan & Bill's daughter-in-law)
Edward Tinsley
Kathie Cook
Penny Angle

Lenten Book Study: *The Cost of Discipleship*

Hey Everybody! After speaking with many of you and hearing about your interest, I am pleased to announce that we will be starting a new class on Mondays at 10 AM as a lenten study! This class will run for five weeks of Lent, exploring the book *The Cost of Discipleship* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. We will explore challenging topics and ask questions about ourselves, our faith, and how we feel about our connection to God. This class will now meet at 10 AM in the Parlor starting on February 19th and conclude by 11 AM. You can register for the class by notifying Pastor Max (maxwell@cherawfpc.org) or signing up on the bulletin board near the front office. This study is an excellent opportunity for fellowship, reflection, and learning alongside other community members. We look forward to seeing you there!

Listed below are links to sign up to volunteer in the nursery, put flowers in the church, and monitor students at Pathfinders. Please prayerfully consider these opportunities. If you are interested, please just click on the proper link. If you need help in signing up, please contact Cathy Chapman.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0545AF22AB9-nursery#/>
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0545AF22AB9-flowers1#/>
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0545AF22AB9-45315196-pathfinders#/>

The First Presbyterian Church has four scholarships available for young people:

The **William Manning Malloy Memorial Scholarship** is available to the most qualified high school senior living within a five mile radius of Cheraw; The **Edwin Malloy Memorial Scholarship** is available to anyone seeking higher education opportunities living within a five mile radius of Cheraw; The **D. W. Moore, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund** is available to students seeking a degree in the field of music; The **McArn Scholarship Fund** is also available. The deadline for returning scholarship applications is March 1, 2024. **Please make sure your letter of Reference is placed in a sealed envelope and attached to your application.**

Confirmation Class 2024:

All parents of 7th, 8th, and above, if you have a child and are interested in them attending Confirmation Class, then Pastor Max is getting ready to kick it off! The class will meet weekly for six weeks on Sundays at 5 PM before Youth, beginning on March 17th, 2024. There will be only one Sunday that we will not meet, which will be Easter on March 31st, 2024. Confirmation Sunday will be the same as Youth Sunday, May 5th, 2024. If you are interested in your child attending this class, please contact Pastor Max (maxwell@cherawfpc.org) so he can get everything set up!

Mission at Massanetta Springs Interest Meeting:

If you or someone you know is interested in attending the Mission at Massanetta Springs Trip, we will hold an interest meeting today in the Youth Lounge following service. This will include a rough idea of the schedule for the week, the cost for parents as well as the deadline for the cost, upcoming fundraisers, and questions and answers regarding the details of the trip with the information we currently have.

The sanctuary is equipped with a hearing loop. For individuals with hearing aids, please activate your T-coil to utilize this feature. Spare headsets are also available.

Session of First Presbyterian Church

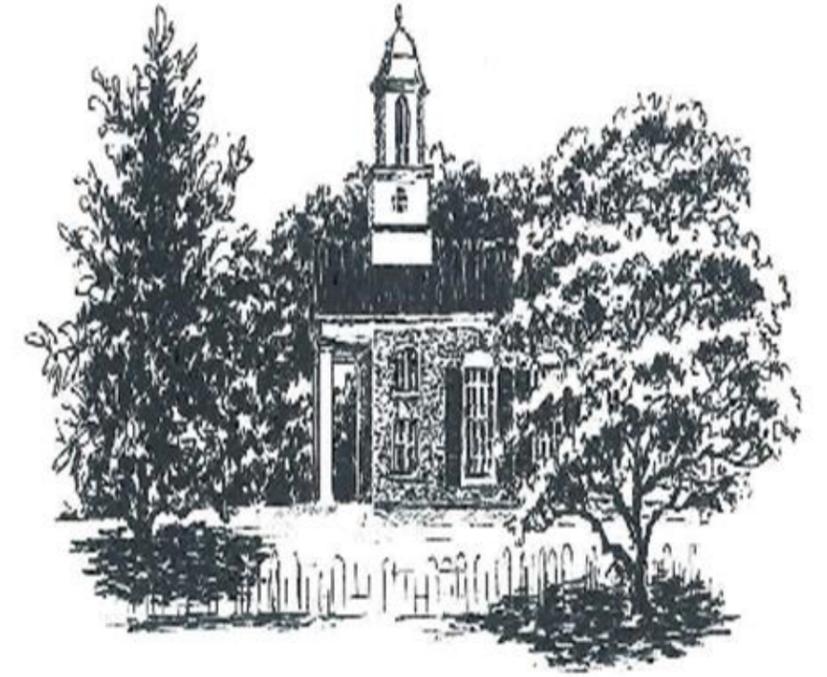
| <u>Class of 2024</u> | <u>Class of 2025</u> | <u>Class of 2026</u> |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Marietta Melton Burch | Kelli Beck | Mary Anderson |
| Cathy Chapman | Avery Dickson | Andrew McLeod |
| Dan Tillman, III | Mary Jane Evans | Kristen Miller |
| Charlene Tillman | Jean Page Watson | Richard Pierce |

The Church Staff

| | |
|---|---|
| Rev. Maxwell Michaels, Pastor | Mrs. Mary Louise Baker, Music Director, DCE |
| Mrs. Carolyn S. West, Secretary | |
| Mr. James W. Kendall, Sexton | Mrs. Kim Brabham, Director MMO |
| Mrs. Arnetha Kendall, Housekeeper | Mrs. Paige Coates, MMO |
| Mrs. Mary Gullede, Miss Eve Nobles, Nursery | Mrs. Sally Powell, MMO |

Mission Partners

Mr. Mark Hare/ Mrs. Jenny Bent, Costa Rica
Mrs. Ellen Smith, (mission co-worker) Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Poland



Our Vision

*Rooted by God's Grace,
Growing in the Spirit,
Reaching Out with Christ's Love*

Sunday, February 18, 2024

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