

THIS WEEK AT FIRST UNITED
November 11th - November 18th, 2018

Sunday, 11th

8:45 AM Presbyterian Men
11:00 AM..... Homecoming Morning Worship
12:30 PMHomecoming Reception

Monday, 12th

6:30 PM Deacon Board
7:00 PM BT Express

Tuesday, 13th

10:00 AMHealth & Fitness
12:00 PMHannah Circle
5:30 PMHealth & Fitness

Wednesday, 14th

6:00 PMFaith Alive
7:00 PM.....B T Express

Thursday, 15th

10:00 AMHealth & Fitness
12:00 PMTwelve at First
5:30 PM Health & Fitness
6:00 PM.....Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal
6:00 PMPraise Team
7:00 PM.....First United Choir Rehearsal

Friday, 16th

9:00 AMShower Ministry
9:00 AM**HABITAT FUPC SITE DATE**
November 16, 2018 @ 9:00 am
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED,
4203 & 4209 Howie Cir Charlotte, NC

8:00 PM.....AA

Saturday, 17th

10:00 AM Presbyterian Women's
Coordinating Team Meeting

MISSION STATEMENT

First United Presbyterian Church (USA) is a community of believers bound in Faith through Jesus Christ. We have been called to demonstrate God's love through worship, service, education and Christian Nurture to the ever-changing Charlotte community, and to all persons seeking God's wholeness

First United Presbyterian Church (USA)
Homecoming Worship Service



Loving Our Past

Living Our Present

Faith in Our Future

Helping Others See Jesus' Grace in Me

November 11, 2018

First United Presbyterian Church (USA)
Mailing Address: 406 North College Street, Charlotte, NC 28202
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Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Church Season Liturgical Color: **Green**
November 11, 2018
11:00 AM

GATHERING IN GOD’S NAME
ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WORDS OF WELCOME Elder Natalie Beard

Sharing Our Story, Deacon Helen Hill Hairston Kyron Williams, Percussionist

Loving Our Past

Readings:
Old Testament.....Psalm 77:11-14.....Elder Etta Lynn C’69
New Testament.....Romans 8:28-31.....Tadaysha Cannon

Liturgical Dance Selection..... *“You Waited”*..... *by Travis Greene*
Zara Brown & Mahogany Yongue

CALL TO WORSHIP..... .. Devanée Williams

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all the generations
All: You, O Lord, have been a dwelling place for us and our children

Leader: Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God
All: You, O Lord, have been with us for these one hundred and fifty years

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble
All: You, O Lord, have been our refuge and our strength!

Leader: The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress

HYMN OF PRAISE #35 (GG) *“Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”*

HISTORY ABSTRACT

First United Presbyterian Church and Johnson C. Smith University

The histories we share are filled with stories of courage, steadfastness, and faith! The courage shown by Catherine Hayes, an ex-slave and dissatisfied worshipper during the pre-Civil War period reflects a profile in courage. She challenged about 30 of our ancestors worshipping in the balcony of First Presbyterian Church (FPC), which is still located on West Trade Street in Charlotte, with these words, “Come down out of the gallery to the ground floor...” Claiming the abundance of life and substance of God, this story releases any thoughts of limitation, and maintains the attitude of resilience during a time after the Civil War when worship situations within FPC created some racial tension. Negroes were required to attend separate services, or to sit in the balcony away from the white parishioners, causing unrest within the church. Trusting in God as the source of needs within and around her, Mrs. Catherine Hayes, led a movement to sever relationship with FPC. Her efforts coincided with a movement by the Northern Presbyterian Church to send missionaries down south to assist in the education, evangelization and Christianization of recently emancipated slaves. Mrs. Hayes’ dreams were realized when Reverend Samuel C. Alexander of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania assisted in their endeavors by purchasing land on the corners of Davidson and Third Streets in his name and later transferring it to the Negroes, who could not purchase property themselves. With property in hand, **The Colored Presbyterian Church of Charlotte** was established in **1866**. Catawba Presbytery approved name change to Seventh Street Presbyterian Church in **1895**. Construction on a new building, located on 7th Street in First Ward section of Charlotte, the current sanctuary, began in **1894**. In addition to founding this church, Rev. Alexander also accepted a gift of land in the western part of the city and purchased a Confederate Navy Building to set up a school for newly emancipated slaves. That school was called The Henry J. Biddle Memorial Institute. Biddle Institute for men was housed initially by the Seventh Street Church before building its own campus on Beatties Ford Road, now known as Johnson C. Smith University.

In **1867**, the Rev. S. C. Alexander and the Rev. W. L. Miller saw the need to establish an institution in the South to prepare Presbyterian Ministers, and to support the former slaves as they advanced into free society. On **April 7, 1867**, the Catawba Presbytery, approved the movement to formally inaugurate the school named The Freedmen’s College of North Carolina. Rev. Alexander and Rev. Miller were elected teachers of the Freedman’s College. Rev. Alexander would later, in **1866** become the first minister of the Colored Presbyterian Church, now known as First United Presbyterian Church.

Guided by God’s wisdom in stewardship, stories of contributors and donors who shared wisely and generously to advance work and the learning environment of Johnson C Smith University continue from 1867 – 1883, with donations from Mary D. Biddle, of Philadelphia, PA. to Colonel W. R. Myers, of Charlotte, NC. These stories remind us all of how so many faithful looked to God as a source of supply with the knowledge that as children of God we all inherit the kingdom. Another story of the merged **First United** began in **1911** when a petition was presented to Presbytery to organize a church in the Second Ward section of Charlotte. Permission was granted and a church was organized on **April 30, 1911**. It was named **Brooklyn Presbyterian Church**. Due to the city’s urban renewal program in the Brooklyn area of Charlotte in the **1960’s**, the church had to consider the options of relocating or extinction. Because it shared concerns with **Seventh Street Presbyterian Church** a Merger Committee was assembled to study the situation and plan for the unification of the churches.

As our stories suggest, the African American presence in Presbytery represents a significant Presbyterian witness. Biddle Institute produced graduates who filled the pulpits and classrooms, at the college and local school levels. This is true with reference to the heritage of Presbyterian worship and practice prior to emancipation. As those who claim their dignity as individual Christians before God, who cherished education, and who appreciated the lessons of self-government and self-determination, our histories depict how quickly JCSU graduates/students, and members of First United became leaders in the African American community and beyond.

Faith In Our Future

READINGS:

Old Testament.....Jeremiah 29:10-14.....Elder Serenitye Taylor
New Testament.....John 14:1-3.....Carlin Taylor

PRAISE TEAM SELECTION

Sharing our Story, Elder Debra Givens, C'1982 *Kyron Williams, Percussionist*

OFFERING

PRESENTATION OF GIFT Elder Jane R. Stratford, C'1971

MUSICAL SELECTION..... *“Rockin’ Jerusalem”*arr. John W. Work III
Johnson C. Smith University Concert Choir
Dr. Shawn-Allyce White, Director

DOXOLOGY

Prayer of Dedication.....Elder Jaron Givens

CLOSING HYMN # 700 (GG)..... *“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”*

BENEDICTION.....Rev. Lorenzo R. Small, Sr.

CHORAL RESPONSE *“Let the Church Say Amen”*
(Congregation seated)

POSTLUDE

Reception, Immediately Following, in the Education Building

Elder Gail Walker-Farmer, Hostess – C'1971

CALL TO CONFESSION Sean Maxwell

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far, has He removed our transgressions from us.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Living Our Present

Readings:

Old Testament.....Isaiah 46:8-11.....Lorenzo Small, Jr.

New Testament.....Phil 1:1-6.....Alexander Small

Sharing Our Story, Elder Clement Bowman C'2013*Kyron Williams, Percussionist*

HYMN OF ASSURANCE #412 (AA) *“We’ve Come This Far By Faith”*

RESPONSIVE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE.....Rev. Lorenzo R. Small, Sr.

As God’s people, called to love one another, let us pray for the needs of the church, the whole human family, and all the world, saying: Hear our prayer. That churches of all traditions, may discover their unity in Christ and exercise their gifts in service of all, we pray to you, O God:

Hear our prayer

That the earth may be freed from war, famine, and disease, and the air, soil, and waters cleansed of poison, we pray to you, O God:

Hear our prayer

That those who govern and maintain peace in every land may exercise their powers in obedience to your commands, we pray to you, O God:

Hear our prayer

That you will strengthen this nation to pursue just priorities so that the races may be reconciled; the young, educated; and the old, cared for; the hungry, filled; and the homeless, housed; and the sick, comforted and healed, we pray to you, O God:

Hear our prayer

That you will preserve all who live and work in this city in peace and safety, we pray to you, O God:

Hear our prayer

That you will comfort and empower those who face any difficulty or trial: the sick, the disabled, the poor, the oppressed, those who grieve and those in prison, we pray to you, O God:

Hear our prayer

That you will accept our thanksgiving for all faithful servants of Christ now at rest, who, with us, await a new heaven and a new earth, your everlasting kingdom, we pray to you, O God:

Hear our prayer

Merciful God, as a potter fashions a vessel from humble clay, you form us into a new creation. Shape us, day by day, through the cross of Christ your Son, until we pray as continually as we breathe and all our acts are prayer; through Jesus Christ and in the mystery of the Holy Spirit, we pray. **Amen.**

Choral Response #105 (AA) “Bless The Lord”

**INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER.....Elder Mattie Grigsby,
JCSU Trustee Emeriti, C’1948**

**MUSICAL SELECTION..... *O Magnum Mysterium*.....Tomas Luis de Victoria
Johnson C. Smith University Concert Choir
Dr. Shawn-Allyce White, Director**

MESSAGE President Clarence D. Armbrister, JD

Dr. Armbrister became the 14th president of Johnson C. Smith University on January 1, 2018. He brings to the University over 35 years of experience in the private and public sectors, has an extensive background at all levels of education, including time in senior administrative and leadership positions at Temple University, Johns Hopkins University, the School District of Philadelphia and Girard College. In addition to his background in education, Armbrister has held executive positions in law, government and finance.

HYMN OF COMMITMENT #596 (AA).....“Come And Go With Me”

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (adapted from the Belhar Confession)

Unison: We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ. We believe that the unity of the people of God is shown in the ways we love one another; in the ways we experience, practice, and pursue community with one another; in the ways we give ourselves willingly and joyfully to one another; in the ways we are a benefit and blessing to one another. We share one faith and have one calling. We are one body, and are of one soul and mind. We have one God and Father. We are filled with one Spirit. We are baptized with one baptism. We eat of one bread and drink of one cup. We confess one name and are obedient to one Lord. We work for one cause and share one hope. Jesus is Lord. To the one and only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory forever and ever. Amen.