

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Second Sunday in *Lent*

Sunday, February 25, 2024

Reverend Delton H. Farmer, Pastor

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“Helping Others See Jesus’ Grace In Me”

Order of Worship

2nd Sunday in Lent

**Congregation Stands/rise in spirit*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT #174 (AA)

"We Have Come Into This House"

JESUS CHRIST

HIS ADORATION AND PRAISE

174 WE HAVE COME INTO THIS HOUSE

*Worship the LORD with gladness; come into His presence with singing.
Psalm 100:2*

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It features a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are arranged in three columns, with the first column containing the main text and the second and third columns providing alternative phrasings or additional lyrics. The score includes various musical notations such as treble and bass clefs, notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The lyrics are as follows:

1. We have come in - to this house to
2. So, for - get a - bout your - self,
3. Let us - lift up ho - ly hands,

gath - er in His name and wor - ship Him. We have
con - cen - trate on Him and wor - ship Him. So, for -
mag - ni - fy His name and wor - ship Him. Let us

come in - to this house to gath - er in His name and
get a - bout your - self, con - cen - trate on Him and
lift up ho - ly hands, mag - ni - fy His name and

wor - ship Him. We have come in - to this house to
wor - ship Him. So, for - get a - bout your - self, to
wor - ship Him. Let us lift up ho - ly hands,

gath - er in His name and wor - ship Christ the Lord.
con - cen - trate on Him and wor - ship Christ the Lord.
mag - ni - fy His name and wor - ship Christ the Lord.

Wor - ship Him, Christ the Lord.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

LEADER: Let us not be ashamed of our Savior. Let us sing and praise our God out loud.

ALL: In the midst of the crowd, we will praise you. In our community, we will bear witness to our faith.

LEADER: Let us set our minds on heavenly things.

ALL: Let us take up our cross and follow Christ.

***OPENING HYMN #120 (AA)**

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You"

GOD OUR FATHER


HIS ADORATION AND PRAISE

120 JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE YOU

*For the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
Romans 14:17*



1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore You, God of glo - ry,
2. All Your works with joy sur - round You, Earth and heav'n re -
3. Al - ways giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless - ing,
4. Mor - tals join the might - y cho - rus, Which the morn - ing



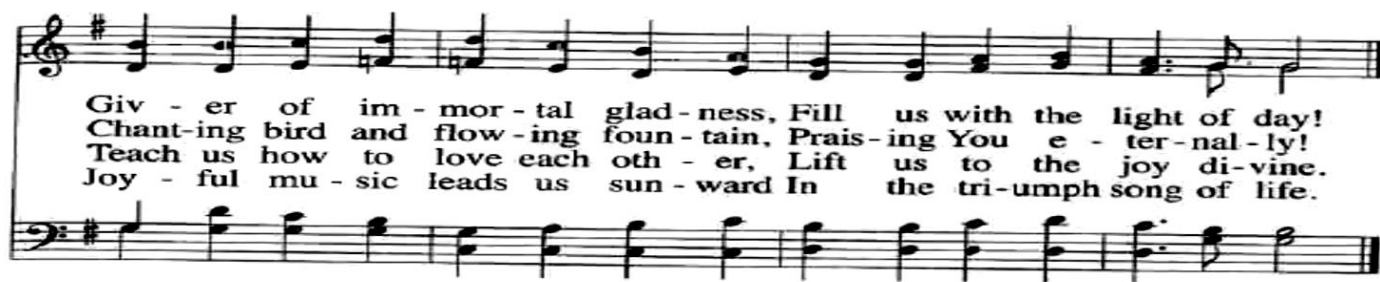
Lord of love; Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore You,
flect Your rays, Stars and an - gels sing a - round You,
ev - er blest, Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing,
stars be - gan; God's own love is reign - ing o'er us,



O - p'ning to the sun a - bove. Melt the clouds of
Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise; Field and for - est,
O - cean depth of hap - py rest! Lov - ing Fa - ther,
Join - ing peo - ple hand in hand. Ev - er sing - ing,



sin and sad - ness; Drive the dark of doubt a - way;
vale and moun - tain, Flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea;
Christ our Broth - er, Let Your light up - on us shine;
march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife;



Tune: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1933, alt.

Tune: HYMN TO JOY, 8 7 8 7 D; arr. from Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827, by Edward Hodges, 1796-1867

FUPC License number: 11348664

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION(*unison*)

God, in your goodness you have met our every need. What can we give in return for our lives? Be our guide and our hope on our Lenten journey. Help us to deny ourselves, sacrifice ourselves and wants pick up our cross and follow Jesus. We welcome the chastening direction in our lives as we worship you today.

CALL TO CONFESSION

When yield and cry to God in prayer and confession, God hears. Let us approach God's throne of grace with confidence and faith.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Savior God, as your children we are reminded of the occurrence on the cross. We hesitate when opportunities arise to speak of you. We are not bold in faith. Nor active in our proclamation of you as our God. Your story saves, yet we keep it to ourselves. Forgive our lack of faith. Forgive the ways we fail to serve as public witnesses. Help us be your candlelight, held high allowing the world to see your light. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God does not forsake us. Our God is a gracious God, abounding in steadfast love. Know that in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI**

SPECIAL SELECTION

Praise Team - "Give Me Jesus"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**Reverend Delton H. Farmer**
Merciful, God, help us to seek you and the message you intend for us in your Word read and proclaimed today. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING


OLD TESTAMENT – Isaiah 29:13-16

NEW TESTAMENT – Matthew 13:10-17

SERMON

" Are You Doing Just To Do "
Reverend Delton H. Farmer

NEARER, MY GOD, TO THEE 163

*But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge...**Psalms 73:28*


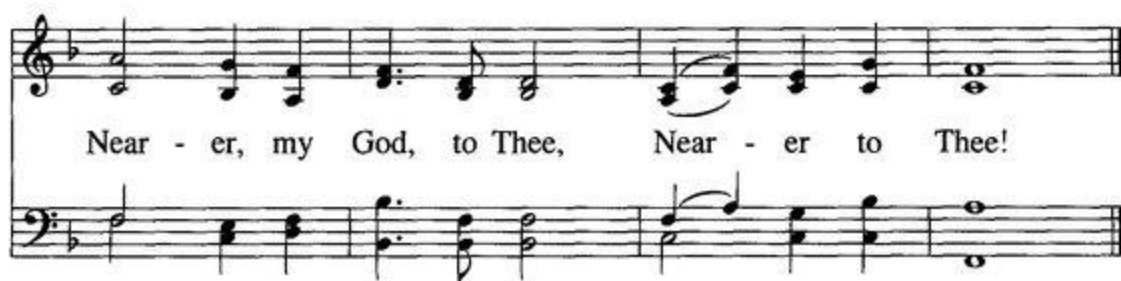
1. Near - er, my God, to Thee, Near - er to Thee!
 2. Though like the wan - der - er, The sun gone down,
 3. There let the way ap - pear, Steps un - to heav'n;
 4. Then, with my wak - ing thoughts Bright with Thy praise,
 5. Or if, on joy - ful wing Cleav - ing the sky,



E'en though it be a cross That rais - eth me,
 Dark - ness be o - ver me, My rest a stone;
 All that Thou send - est me, In mer - cy giv'n;
 Out of my ston - y griefs Beth - el I'll raise;
 Sun, moon, and stars for - got, Up - ward I fly,



Still all my song shall be, Near - er, my God, to Thee;
 Yet in my dreams I'd be Near - er, my God, to Thee;
 An - gels to beck - on me Near - er, my God, to Thee;
 So by my woes to be Near - er, my God, to Thee;
 Still all my song shall be, Near - er, my God, to Thee;



Near - er, my God, to Thee, Near - er to Thee!

INVITATION TO DISCIPLSHIP/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(A Brief Statement of Faith)*

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

MINUTE FOR MISSION **"Honoring Our Living History"** **Elder Donna Fair**

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

God calls us to lives of grateful generosity. Let us praise the Giver of all good gifts through our offering today.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY SELECTION

Praise Team - "Ain't-a That Good News"

***DOXOLOGY**

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.

***CLOSING HYMN #339**

"Lift Every Voice And Sing"
(see below)

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** **Reverend Delton H. Farmer**

Beloved people of God; I invite you, in the name of Christ, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by meditating on Gods 'Word. May the grace, hope, peace and love of God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with us all, now and forever. Amen

POSTLUDE



339 Lift Every Voice and Sing

1 Lift ev - ery voice and sing till earth and heav - en
 2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - tening
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent

ring, ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er -
 rod, felt in the days when hope un - born had
 tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the

ty. Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - tening
 died. Yet, with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry
 way; thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the

skies; let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
 feet come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?
 light, keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

Initially a poem for a school assembly at which Booker T. Washington spoke on Lincoln's birthday in 1900, this text and tune have gained national recognition and devotion, not only within the African American community, but also among all who seek liberation from oppression.

TEXT: James Weldon Johnson, 1900
 MUSIC: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1905

LIFT EVERY VOICE
 Irregular

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;

sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought
we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh -
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get

us. Fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be -
tered, out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at
thee; shad - owed be - neath thy hand may we for - ev - er

gun, let us march on, till vic - to - ry is won.
last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
stand, true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP with FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

We will be worshipping with First Presbyterian Church (TBA). Be sure to tune in to their TV ministry on channel 64.



TEN CENTS A MEAL - We Can Make a Huge Difference when ALL participate. Using the same passage Two and Five Cents-a-Meal has been used since 1982. Please consider a gift to Ten Cents-a-Meal every 1st Sunday.

PW BIBLE STUDY/CT Meeting - Saturday, March 16, 2024 @ 11:00 am via Zoom

Meeting ID: 872 5882 5653

PC: 758558

Call in: +1 301 715 8592

Women are asked to read Lesson 5: [A Person with Leprosy Encounters Jesus] and Lesson 6: [A Person with a Physical Disability Encounters Jesus] independently and to start paying dues of \$45 which are due in March.

- **PW Spring Gathering:** Saturday, March 9th at 11:00 am in FUPC Fellowship Hall.
- **Women's Day Service, Sunday:** March 10th at 11:00 am, Rev. Serenitye Taylor, Speaker.

LOAVES & FISHES 5TH Fridays @ First Presbyterian, the next date will be March 29, 2024

CLEANSING WATERS SHOWER MINISTRY - 1st & 3rd Sundays from 9:00 am - 10:30 am

BT EXPRESS (Alcohol/Narcotics Program) Mondays & Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

BIBLE STUDY – (Hybrid) - Bible Study every Wednesday night @ 6:30pm

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 834 3423 2514

Passcode: 306013

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83434232514?pwd=OU9aMGFkSkt6Z0R6U2ZlM2FRYm90Zz09>

**One tap mobile, + 1-301- 715-8592, follow the prompts:
then give meeting ID - 834 3423 2514#, Enter passcode - 306013#**

A NOTE FROM THE USHER MINISTRY

The Usher Ministry has donated Tissue cover boxes located in each window seal of the sanctuary to add a touch of beauty.
-The Usher President, Fannie Watermann

****** OMITTED JANUARY BIRTHDAY – Malachi Alexander Huff January 9th**



WE ARE A
MATTHEW 25 Church

Actively Engaged in the World

CIVIL RIGHTS TRIP

April 18-21, 2024 |

Cost: \$450 per person; \$250 single supplement

Register: <http://fpc.tiny.us/civilrightstripFUPC> or scan QR code

Leaders: Larry Bosc, professional civil rights tour guide and former educator in CMS and Rev. Lucy Crain, Associate Pastor, First Presbyterian Church

Members of First Presbyterian and First United Presbyterian Churches will embark on a transformative three-day journey to explore the history of the Civil Rights Movement in Alabama.

We will visit iconic landmarks, engage in meaningful discussion, share moments of introspection, and connect with fellow travelers as we delve into the pivotal events that shaped our nation.



scan to register

<http://fpc.tiny.us/civilrightstripFUPC>

This immersive experience promises not only to educate but also to inspire and renew our commitment to justice and equality for all God's people. Join us as we honor the legacy of those who fought for freedom and continue the journey towards a more just and inclusive future.

INCLUDED IN FEE:

All transportation and accommodations, three breakfasts, one lunch, guides and tips

Contact gkeesler@firstpres-charlotte.org for more information.



Civil Rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama in 1965

*"We've learned to fly the air
like birds, we've learned to
swim the seas like fish, and
yet we haven't learned to
walk the earth as brothers
and sisters."*

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



First Presbyterian
Church of Charlotte

CIVIL RIGHTS TRIP

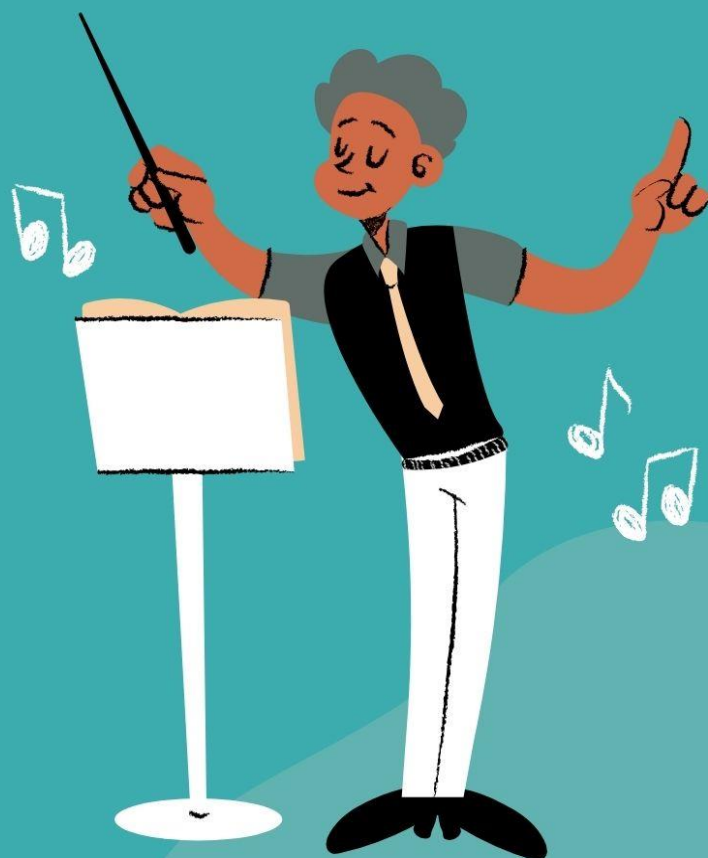
April 18-21, 2024

Connect with the pivotal events
that shaped our nation



CIVIL RIGHTS TRIP – April 18 – 21, 2024 - UPDATED

First United please recall we were given **14 slots** for those interested in participating on the Civil Rights Trip with First Presbyterian. We have **9 individuals** who have agreed to attend. The remaining **5 slots** will be returned to First Presbyterian by March 1, 2024, and will become available to those on their waiting list.



Looking for Hand Bell Ringers

The Worship Ministry is seeking new and former hand bell ringers who are interested in resuming the hand bell choir at First United Presbyterian Church.

New members with or without experience are invited to join. Reading music is not a requirement. You may join today by providing your contact information after worship service to Ms. Barbara Byers and Deacon Ellen Smith who will serve as the contact persons for hand bells. You may also call 704-526-7129 to provide your name and contact information.

Rehearsals will start March 2, 2024
from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm



Lenten Devotional 2024

We hope you'll follow along daily, be deepened in your faith through this year's ministry of our community, and prepare your heart to celebrate at Easter the new life that Jesus Christ made possible for all.

Use this devotional resource in the way that best enhances your Lenten thoughts and practices:

- » **Read a printed copy.**
- » **Read and listen online.** Visit www.pts.edu/devotional.
- » **Receive daily e-mails.** Go to www.pts.edu/e-mail, click "Devotionals."



**PICK UP A COPY TODAY IN
THE LIBRARY**

~CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE~

Hello First United Family,

Your monthly support for the Capital Campaign means so much.

Your Capital Campaign Pledge is your financial commitment to our 3-year funding drive to raise needed capital for major repairs and possible future renovations.

The roofs on the Sanctuary and the Education Building have been completed and paid for, but to continue to give our church new life and remain a part of the up-town landscape, your support is vital and needed more than ever.

ARE YOU COMMITTED TO DOING YOUR PART?

ARE YOUR PLEDGES UP TO DATE?

Thank you so much for those of you who continue to support this church, have faith and hope by paying your pledges to help move forward with the Lord's work on the corner of
7th and College Streets

"He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus". [Philippians 1:6]

Yours in Christ,
The Capital Campaign Leadership Team

First United Presbyterian Church

406 N. College Street Charlotte, N.C. 28202

Rev. Delton H. Farmer., Pastor

Officers by Class 2024 Leadership Team Assignments and Nominating Committee

Ministry of Discernment and Governance (Session)	Ministry of Compassion and Service (Deacon Board)
Class of 2024	Class of 2024
Natalie K. Beard (Education) - a Olanda Carr, Jr. (Stewardship) - a Donna Fair (Worship) - a	Ellen Smith (Christian Nurture/Service) - a Charles Jackson (Christian Nurture/Service) - a Tamara Tate- (Worship) - b Valerie Tutt (Education) - a
Class of 2025	Class of 2025
Sharon Kelley (Christian Nurture/Service) - a E. Michelle Maxwell (Personnel) - a Renea Stitt (Media) - a	Stephanie Davis (TBA) – a
Class of 2026	Class of 2026
TBA	Clifford Waddell, III (Facilities Maintenance) - a

Nominating Committee

Helen Hairston – (3rd Term) Ronald Thomas II – (1st Term)

Tamara Williams – (3rd Term)

Session Appointment – TBA

Deacon Elected – TBA

Facilities/Ground Maintenance

Elder Kyron Williams– Session Liaison

a – First Term

b – Second Term

7 Marks of Congregational Vitality

1. A commitment to forming disciples over every member's lifetime. This leads first to personal transformation, as people put on the heart of Christ, and then to social transformation, as people joyfully go forth into the community and tackle the issues facing today's culture.
2. Embracing the call to evangelism. We show forth the love of Christ by our actions and our lives even more than by our words. Our relationships are genuine and caring. People know we are Christians by our love.
3. An outward focus. Our church is not a place to escape from the world, but rather our gateway to our community where we may be the hands, feet, heart and mouth of Jesus Christ for people who are suffering or marginalized.
4. Empowering every member to discover their individual calling and the gifts God has given them so they can go forth and serve.
5. Spirit-inspired worship that challenges, teaches, transforms, convicts and energizes us so when we are sent out, we have experienced the wonder of God and are changed for the better from when we arrived.
6. Caring relationships modeled on God's love. We open our doors and hearts to all people, and we build relationships modeled on God's love, which leads to genuine reconciliation and peace.
7. Congregations with healthy systems. Our mission focuses are clear. There is fiscal responsibility and accountability. We have thoughtful decision-making structures. Our leaders and staff enjoy a sustainable balance of work/rest time.



History of our Partnership

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN + SUN COUNSELING AND WELLNESS

The Opening Doors campaign identified mental health as an outreach priority after Charlotte's Opportunity Task Force included access to mental healthcare as a major factor in socioeconomic mobility and flourishing. First Presbyterian Church recognized barriers to quality, accessible mental health counseling within the uptown community (cost, location) and set out to partner with excellent therapists to provide care in uptown.

COVID-19 underscored the widespread need, not only for direct services for people of all income levels, but also for more opportunities to destigmatize education about mental health and wellness.

After receiving proposals from many potential partners, Sun Counseling was identified as the church's clinical partner for this project. First Presbyterian values Sun Counseling's proven excellence in clinical practice, as well as their commitment to compassionate, engaging education about mental health concerns that are familiar to many of us.

The Opening Doors Capital Campaign will fund income-based scholarships for clients seeing the therapists at the First Presbyterian location. FPC will also provide two offices in the Fresco Lobby during business hours.

Sun Counseling will provide educational opportunities throughout the year for the congregation and community of First Presbyterian Church.



First Presbyterian
Church of Charlotte

Sun Counseling and Wellness

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

About Sun Counseling and Wellness

Sun Counseling and Wellness is made up of a consortium of providers that have many years of experience working with individuals, couples, families, and groups. We are passionate about helping clients achieve a balanced and fulfilling life and treating the WHOLE person. We use modern and evidence-based therapeutic techniques and are individualized and creative in our work with clients. Some of our specialty areas include trauma, grief, eating disorders, anxiety, depression, self-esteem, body image, life transitions, integrative wellness, yoga, acupuncture, and more.



VALUES

Authenticity, Creativity, Compassion, Education, Service, Showing up. This spells ACCESS. By definition, access is "a means of approaching or entering a place and the ability, right, or permission to approach, enter, speak with, or use." Our hope is for every person to find permission to tend to their wellness and to have the opportunity to do so.

These are approachable, safe, inclusive, nonjudgmental counseling relationships to fit your needs. It is our privilege to work with clients and we are on a mission to destigmatize, elevate the conversation, and normalize dialogue around mental health. We want people to feel proud to say "Yep, I go to therapy!"

Scheduling an Appointment

Sun Counseling and Wellness will handle all scheduling for appointments in the First Presbyterian counseling center. The new client form can be accessed on their website: suncounselingandwellness.com/new-clients

You do not need a referral from a First Presbyterian minister to make an appointment.

About the Scholarships

The cost of therapy can be a barrier to many. Sun Counseling therapists will work directly with individual clients to identify the appropriate rate for services rendered, using the income-based charts provided below.

If you think you qualify for a reduced rate, please fill out the form at fpc.charlotte.org/scholarship or speak directly with your therapist during or prior to your first session.

For adult clients or guardians with FEWER than four dependents:

YOUR INCOME	SESSION COST
Up to \$15,000	\$10 / \$15
\$15,001-\$30,000	\$25 / \$35
\$30,001-\$40,000	\$50 / \$75
\$40,001-\$50,000	\$75 / \$100
\$50,001-\$55,000	\$100 / \$150
\$55,001-\$60,000	\$125 / \$165
\$60,001+	\$150* / \$200*

For adult clients or guardians with MORE than four dependents:

YOUR INCOME	SESSION COST
Up to \$20,000	\$10 / \$15
\$20,001-\$40,000	\$25 / \$35
\$40,001-\$50,000	\$50 / \$75
\$50,001-\$60,000	\$75 / \$100
\$60,001-\$65,000	\$100 / \$135
\$65,001-\$70,000	\$125 / \$165
\$70,001+	\$150* / \$200*

* Fee for session with a provisionally licensed therapist

* Full-rate fees: \$175 for a 60-minute intake / \$150 for subsequent 50-minute sessions

* Fee for session with a fully licensed therapist

* Full-rate fees: \$250 for a 60-minute intake session / \$200 for subsequent 50-minute sessions

Meet the Therapists

Sun Counseling and Wellness provides two full-time therapists who are available for appointments on the First Presbyterian campus.



Dr. Sheba Sumratt, DBH, LCMHC

I have 15 years of experience providing counseling, professional development, and consultative services. I work with children, teens and adolescents, and adults. I provide services to individuals with emotional, psychological, lifestyle changes, and various other problem-situations. I work to reduce behavioral and/or mental health

symptoms that impair quality of life in order to improve overall self-care management and wellness. Specialty areas: Anxiety, depression, grief and loss, developmental concerns, adjustment and life transitions, self-esteem and self-concept, interpersonal conflict and relationship issues, substance use.

Andrea Juarez, LCSWA

I am a Latinx, Bilingual (English/Spanish), Licensed Clinical Social Worker Associate. I am passionate about breaking the stigma surrounding mental health and helping individuals find healing in their life. My aim is to work collaboratively with you to empower and support through life's ups and downs. It is my



priority to create a safe and inclusive space for you to process and explore your feelings. Specialty areas: complex trauma, intergenerational trauma, anxiety, depression, relationship dynamics, First Gen experience, LatinX experience, change/life transitions, navigating family of origin experiences.

More info at firstpres-charlotte.org/counseling-center

Scripture: