

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 23, 2025

7th Sunday After Epiphany



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"Helping Others See Jesus' Grace In Me"

Order of Worship

7th Sunday After Epiphany

**Congregation Stands/Rise in spirit*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***INTROIT #172(AA) "Praise Him" (1st verse only)**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Our salvation is from the Lord.

People: God is our refuge in times of trouble.

Leader: The Lord helps us and rescues us.

People: God saves us because we take refuge in our Lord.

All: Come, let us worship together, celebrating the One who restores, revives, and renews us by His Word. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN #609 (AA) "God Of Our Fathers"**

*** PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION (Unison)**

Gracious God of love and life, we come together on this Lord's Day with hearts full of gratitude. We give thanks for the gift of a new day and the opportunity to be in Your house. Guide us as we worship and praise Your name. Teach us to walk in the ways of Your Son, spreading love and kindness to everyone we meet. May our words and actions reflect the joy and gratitude we feel as Your beloved children. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We have been called to love our God with all our heart, mind, strength, and soul and to love our neighbor as ourselves, but our lives are constricted and self-consumed. We have failed to love God, our neighbor, and ourselves as we should. Let us make the good confession before God and others.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Merciful God, you have told us to love you above everything else and to have no other gods. You have called us to love others as you love them. But we have been led astray by the false gods of wealth, material things, racial and ethnic biases, gender discrimination, and misplaced pride. Forgive us for our sins and change us through your Spirit so that we can learn to love as you do and live as your children. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear the good news of the gospel: our God is forgiving, transforming, and justice-seeking. His love will not let us go and is ever bringing resurrection and new life. Let us remember our baptisms and trust in God’s mercy to restore our right standing as God’s own. Thanks be to God!

***GLORIA PATRI**

SPECIAL SELECTION FUPCC Choir
"Go Down Moses"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Rev. Delton H. Farmer

O God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us so that the Scripture we are about to hear will become God’s Word for us in this day and age. Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the church.

SCRIPTURE READINGS Rev. Delton H. Farmer

OLD TESTAMENT: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-12

NEW TESTAMENT: Hebrews 4:12-13

SERMON Rev. Delton H. Farmer
"Not Ruined, But Renewed By The Word"

INVITATIONAL HYMN #382 (AA)
"Jesus Is All The World To Me"

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / LORD’S PRAYER

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*unison*)

We believe faith is effective and active through love. It also quiets the conscience and opens a free access to God, so that we may draw near to God with confidence and may obtain from God what is useful and necessary. The same faith keeps us in the service we owe to God and our neighbor, strengthens our patience in adversity, fashions and makes a true confession, and in a word, brings forth good fruit of all kinds, and good works.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING (Collectors asked to come forward)

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. God has given us life and resources for it, so let us give in return. *You may give online @fupcc.org, mail your gifts to the church office, 406 N. College Street, 28202, or leave with the officers at the back of the sanctuary as you exit. Remember, all we have, and all we are, belong to God. Let us give with a cheerful heart. Amen*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY SELECTION FUPCC Choir

"Shout All Over God's Heaven"
By Fisk University Jubilee Quartet

***DOXOLOGY**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

O God, may these gifts be used as a witness to your love, peace and justice at work in the world, renewing the face of the earth.

***CLOSING HYMN #339(GG) "Lift Every Voice And Sing"**

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

RESPONSE "Sevenfold Amen"

POSTUDE

First Presbyterian and First United Presbyterian Church Civil Rights Trip March 27 –30 ,2025

There will be a Sign-Up Sheet in the church office

DATE

March 27-30, 2025
Registration opens January 23

COST

\$600 per person; \$350 single supplement.
Included in cost: transportation,
accommodations, three breakfasts, one
lunch, guides, and tips. Scholarships may be
available.

LEADERS

Larry Bosc, professional Civil Rights tour guide
and former educator in CMS; Rev. Pen Peery,
Pastor, First Presbyterian; and Rev. Delton
Farmer, Pastor, First United Presbyterian.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Members of First Presbyterian and First United
Presbyterian Churches will embark on a
four-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.

This 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.

CONTACT

For more information, email Garrell Keesler at
gkeesler@firstpres-charlotte.org.



THANK YOU NOTE

Members of the Education Ministry are grateful to God for all of the support given to our youth last Sunday for the Souper Bowl of Caring Special Offering. Our 2025 designee is Statesville Avenue Presbyterian Church, Nourish Up ministry. If you haven't had a chance to participate in this initiative, there is still time to give. We collected a little over \$200 on February 9th.

Thank you for helping us help others!

Education Ministry

Greetings Siblings,

As we continue our celebration of Black History Month at FUPC, we wanted to share the video that was produced by the Presbyterian Foundation, *Catawba Presbytery: History and Legacy*, featuring Rev. Edward Newberry for your edification and historical records. May we all continue to be inspired by our past to seek greater for our future.

Sincerely,

Worship Ministry

<https://www.presbyterianfoundation.org/resources/video/catawba-presbytery-history-and-legacy/>



**Black History Month
Observance @ FUPC**

Today, Sunday, February 23rd
HBCU Sunday
Reflect “Black Excellence”
by rocking your favorite HBCU,
fraternity or sorority attire.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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— Saturday, March 15, 2024 @ 11:00 am

Lesson 7 –TBA

God's Call to Care for Neighbors & All Creation

Meeting ID: 819 3012 7450 • **Passcode:** 129126

Call in: 1 309 205 3325 US

FUPC PW SPRING GATHERING

Date: Saturday, March 8th - Sunday, March 9, 2025

Time: 11:00 am both days - Hybrid, however, we would love for you to attend !! International fashions, food, displays!

ID:819 3012 7450 PC:129126 Call in: 1 309 205 3325 US

BIBLE STUDY – (Hybrid) Bible Study Wednesday at 6:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting • Meeting ID: 874 8560 5940 • **Passcode:** 413228 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87485605940?pwd=1W9aATJXSS4OqG90shNj5hr8jYK7cB.1>

One tap mobile, + 1-301- 715-8592, follow the prompts

FUPCC INTERCESSORY PRAYER

The last Saturday of each month @ 8:30 am in The Library

FIRST UNITED'S TRIUMPHANT TEENS

Bible Study 2nd & 4th Sunday's of each Month

Sunday Mornings @ 9:45 am Classroom #201

Ages: 13-18 (snacks provided)

NOURISH UP 5TH Fridays @ First Presbyterian, the next date will be May 30, 2025

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

ROOF ABOVE/Room In The Inn—Next up March 7, 2025

