



**First Presbyterian Church**  
of Dunn, North Carolina

# FIRST WORDS

MARCH 2018



A Community of Christians Serving God through Faith, Family,  
Fellowship and Outreach.

[Visit our Website](#)

## A Note From Our Pastor

Throughout Lent, each and every week I've been preaching through a sermon series on the Gospel of Mark, titled "Faces in the Crowd." 'Crowds' are common motif in the Gospel of Mark. Over and over, wherever Jesus goes, there seems to be a crowd that arises. Sometimes the crowds are curious onlookers, hoping to see Jesus do something amazing. Sometimes the crowds are desperate, full of sick and hurting people who gather around Jesus in the hope of being healed. Sometimes the crowds are contentious, experts and scribes and Pharisees who want to argue with Jesus and his disciples about who God is and what God wants from us. Sometimes the crowds are adoring. They love Jesus, and hail him as king.



But the stories we've been looking at throughout Lent haven't so much

been about the crowd, as they are about the faces that emerge from the crowds. Over and over in Mark, we get stories of one face emerging from the crowd to have a personal encounter with Jesus who ends up having their life turned upside down: The ill woman pushing through the crowd to get to Jesus, the paralytic carried over the crowds by his friends, the demoniac with the crowd inside his head, the doubting father at the center of the crowd's argument, and Bartimeaus the blind beggar whom the crowd of Jesus' disciples try to ignore.

As we enter into Holy Week, we, all humanity, become the crowds.

By any standard, what happen 2,000 years ago when Jesus of Galilee went to the cross was a tragedy. An innocent man with a message about God's love and a call to love God and their neighbors was betrayed by one of his own, arrested with clubs by night, unjustly condemned, denied and abandoned by his friends, brutalized and humiliated until he was dead. There is no fair court of law that would declare such thing a justice, much less a necessary evil. It was a tragedy and a mistake.

But for us Christians, it is not just a tragedy. At the cross, the crowds rejected the Christ. Our world rejected the reasons it had been made in the first place. Humankind rejected the very image it had been made in.

As we enter into Holy Week, my prayer for us is that we might not let the tragedy of the cross be a distant event. We have to see that the crucified Christ wasn't just a tragic mistake made 2,000 years ago in Roman occupied Judea. It was the very manifestation of the deepest tragedy of our very existence: that we are sinners. At the cross, the humankind together made the same tragic mistake that each of us make in our own ways in our own lives, whenever and however we fail to walk in God's love.

Join us Sunday as we start Holy Week by commemorating the Palms and Passion of Christ together. Then join us Thursday as we relive the night that Christ was betray by his own together. Spend the week in prayer, considering the cross not just as a moment in history, but as your own mistake.

And then and only then, may we rejoice together on April 1st, for Easter Sunday.

Peace and Grace

Rev. Howard Dudley

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### *A Music Moment*

It is one of those moments in parenting that keeps you staring at the ceiling at night. It's not the crying or colicky baby that is keeping you awake, it's the realization that your child is going to grow up in a sick, depraved world. Values are completely twisted, if existing at all. Civil unrest is constantly brewing. Drug abuse is rampant. For a brief second, you wonder if you should have brought a child into



such a place.

Sound familiar? You might have just had these same concerns last night, but this was the world for a young mother in the late 1960s. The expectant mother was awaiting the birth of her third child. She was feeling overwhelmed and anxious. It was more than just the responsibilities of motherhood that were plaguing her that evening, it was the powerlessness of a mother to protect her children from the awfulness of sin and evil. Yet, it was in that moment that her Heavenly Father whispered peace to her spirit. He assured her of His power to overcome evil. A calm came over her and soon after she and her husband wrote the following lyrics:

*How sweet to hold our newborn baby and feel the pride and joy he gives  
But greater still the calm assurance this child can face uncertain days  
because Christ lives.*

*Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.*

*Because He lives all fear is gone.*

*Because I know He holds the future and life is worth the living just because  
He lives.*

The words were written by Bill and Gloria Gaither in 1971. The song “Because He Lives” has been recorded numerous times. It’s popularity with singers from Elvis to Kristin Chenoweth is largely due to its universal message. Life is worth the living, even in a crazed world, because Christ lives. The “crazed” world of the late 1960s is still the world in which we live in 2018. The power of the Risen Christ is the only power that can provide and sustain His people—from newborn to the aged. Because He lives, you can get up out of bed and face tomorrow, and the next day, and the day after that. You can expect struggles and uncertainties, but you can also trust in the Lord Jesus Christ to carry you safely through just as a young mother cradles her newborn. He holds the future and He holds you.

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Make plans to attend the Living Last Supper on Thursday, March 29, 2018 at 7 pm at the First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary. The cast of Jesus and His disciples, under the direction of Anne Johnson, will tell of the wonders and works of Jesus Christ and then pose in Leonardo de Vinci’s portrayal of the disciples in his famous painting.

Pam Kelly will be leading the orchestra as principal violinist. Jacco Hermsen will be playing the viola, and Lisa Ferebee will be the guest cellist. Heather Foster will be singing “How Beautiful,” and the sanctuary choir will deliver the message of Christ’s final hours in song. This worship experience will be like none other. Please come and bring a friend.



**Proverbs 22:6**

**"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."**



What a wonderful goal for Christian Educators—for Sunday School and Vacation Bible

School teachers, for JAM Wednesday Leaders and Sunday Youth Advisors. To train up our children in the ways and teachings of Jesus, and to set them on a pathway of worship, service, and Christian fellowship to take them throughout their lives. Helping to mold them into lifetime learners who seek wisdom and comfort in the study of God's word. Assisting them as they mature in their love for God and His people. The traditional opportunities we make available to them throughout the year on Sundays and Wednesdays in addition to the summer youth conferences and Vacation Bible School are essential to meeting this goal.

With that being said, I wish to express my appreciation to all who attended the Youth Spaghetti Fundraiser and Silent Auction on Sunday, March 18th. Thank you to those donated auction items and/or placed bids on auction items.

A special thanks to Chris and Cindy Smith for providing the pasta and to all the parents and advisors who prepared food, set up tables, cleaned up, and ran the auction. The Youth turned out to be good chefs, waiters and busboys as well.

At this point, we will be sending 31 to the Massanetta Middle School Conference and Montreat Youth Conference this summer. This is a significant increase from last year's number of youth. The support that you have given has put us well on our way to helping Youth offset some of their registration, meal, and housing expenses. Your generosity is so greatly appreciated.

**Our next project to support the summer conferences will be the Annual Church Golf Tournament on MAY 18th. We need as many teams signed up to play as possible. And if any business would like to sponsor a hole for \$100, that would also help. More information to come on the golf tournament.**

With Much Appreciation,

*Dena Bradham*

Director of Christian Education

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## From the Weekday School

February was a fun month for all the Weekday School classes! It was Dental Health Month and Valentine's Day so students enjoyed many holiday themed activities.

The color red and the shape of a heart were a focus for Mother's Morning Out. They enjoyed listening to stories of "Brown Bear" and "Happy Valentine's Day, Mouse".

The 2 and 3 Day Class continue to learn the alphabet with the study of the letters N, O, P, Q, and R. They have learned how to take care of their teeth and keep their bodies healthy.

The 5 Day Class enjoyed their visit from a Dental Hygienist who taught them how to take care of their teeth. They have learned about other community helpers



and careers during the month. They had fun learning about shadows and gumdrop creations as part of their "Silly Science".

Our church is proud of our Weekday School and March 11th was recognized as Weekday School Sunday. Teachers, parents, students, and the Weekday School Council were recognized and prayed for during the worship service.

## **JAM Kids** **Grades 3-5**

**You are invited**

**What: Egg Dyeing Party and Pizza**  
**When: Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00**  
**Where: FPC Kitchen**



## **Bring Your Basket** **You're Invited To An**

# **EASTER** **EGG HUNT**

**First Presbyterian Church**

**Fellowship Hall and Lawn**  
**Sunday, March 25th**  
**3:00-4:30 PM**

## **Fun, Games, and a** **Hot Dog Cookout**



## **Prayer Concerns**

**Amy Bass**  
**Margaret Beasley**  
**Crystal Dowd**  
**Joe Giles**  
**Keilah Goff**  
**Brenda Hockaday**  
**Ed Lewis**  
**Linda McCaskill**  
**Marty Parker**  
**Butch Raynor**



### March Birthdays

<i>Karsyn Dickens</i>	1	<i>Jennifer Beasley</i>	15
<i>Laura Godwin</i>	2	<i>Susan Williamson</i>	17
<i>Wiley Pope</i>	2	<i>Mary Hunter</i>	22
<i>Jerry Hartgrove</i>	3	<i>Colton Allen</i>	22
<i>Allison Taylor</i>	3	<i>Grace Gage</i>	23
<i>Gavin Warren</i>	3	<i>Paula Pope</i>	23
<i>Erin Harrington</i>	6	<i>James Green</i>	23
<i>Noah Godwin</i>	10	<i>Keilah Goff</i>	25
<i>Mac McCaskill</i>	12	<i>Robert Tart</i>	26
<i>Betty Byrd</i>	14	<i>Emily Pope</i>	26
<i>Marie Warren</i>	14		

### April Birthdays

<i>Jennifer Hatley</i>	1	<i>Whit Bradham</i>	13
<i>Margie Stephenson</i>	2	<i>Lou Ann Patrick</i>	14
<i>Gale Tart</i>	3	<i>Katrina Turlington</i>	14
<i>Brad Heath</i>	4	<i>Zackery Strickland</i>	14
<i>John Williams</i>	5	<i>Taft Stevens</i>	18
<i>Duncan Herring</i>	6	<i>Jeanne Tart</i>	19
<i>Matthew Taylor</i>	6	<i>Rilyn Kerley</i>	19
<i>Brad Lasater</i>	6	<i>Rob Kelly</i>	20
<i>Adair Colmenero</i>	7	<i>Barbrah Henry</i>	21
<i>Margie McDuffie</i>	8	<i>Kaitlyn Tew</i>	22
<i>Walt Smith</i>	8	<i>Roy Tew</i>	23
<i>Mac Hunter</i>	9	<i>Will Gage</i>	25
<i>Charles Dorman</i>	10	<i>Tim Ledford</i>	27
<i>Hilda Lewis</i>	10	<i>Christian Jackson</i>	28
<i>Will Hathaway</i>	10	<i>Dena Bradham</i>	30
<i>Barbara Godwin</i>	11	<i>Mary Pope</i>	30
<i>Joey Tart</i>	11	<i>Laura Yarbrough</i>	30
<i>Lindsay Dudley</i>	11		

**Interested in upcoming events at FPC?  
Be sure to check out our [online calendar](#) on the  
church website!**

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**Nursery Attendants**

**March 25**

Courtney & Meda Williams  
Russ & Gina Warren

**April 1**

Will & Angie Hathaway  
Andy & Meredith Wermel  
Billy & Lynn Godwin

**April 8**

Clint & Anna Stanley  
Gerald & Kathy Hatley

**April 15**

Clark & Rebecca Hales  
Amy Hartley & Cecelia Godwin

**Acolytes**

March 25 - Cole Stevens  
April 1 - Nash Warren  
April 8 - Austin Morgan  
April 15 - Palmer Foster

**Deacon Greeters  
(March)**

Lee Herring  
Anne Johnson  
Susan Williamson

**(April)**

Patsy Williams  
Claudette Green  
Morgan Colmenero

**Elder at the Door**

March 25 - Courtney Williams  
April 1 - John Williams  
April 8 - John Williams  
April 15 - Susan Hatley

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