



May 3, 2026

**Welcome to  
Community.**

*We are glad you are here. While here we hope you will feel welcome and find the service meaningful.*

*Childcare (infants through 4 year olds) is available. Worship boxes for younger children to borrow during worship are located at the entrance.*

*Large Print bulletins are available. Please see an usher for assistance.*

*Pillows are available in the narthex for those who need extra comfort and support while sitting in the pew.*

*Hearing Assistance is available through a T loop system that has been installed.*

*If you have a hearing aid device that is T-coil compatible, please turn your hearing piece to the t-position.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**– We Gather For Worship –**

(Use this time to quiet your mind, to turn your focus to God. Allow the music and prayer of preparation to turn your focus to God. Use this time to “Be still and know that God is God”. – Ps. 46:10)

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Open my heart to your Spirit, Lord. Create the space within my life where you can pour more love, more trust, and more compassion into me. Then, may I extend what I have received from you into the world in which I live, all for the sake of Christ. Amen.

**– We Are Called Into God’s Presence –**

\*OPENING SONG

*You Are Welcome Here*  
Words & Music Mark Burrows

Small Group: Am I welcome here?  
Am I safe to sing or laugh or shed a tear?  
Will I be loved the way I am? Will friends be near?  
Am I welcome here?  
Am I welcome here?

Choir: You are welcome here.  
You are safe to sing or laugh or shed a tear.  
We love you just the way you are, so have no fear.  
You are welcome here.  
You are welcome here.

This is a place of peace and grace,  
Where all God’s children have a home.  
God’s reign will come, God’s will be done  
When all are loved and no one stands alone.

**Congregation:**  
**All are welcome here.**  
**All are safe to sing or laugh or shed a tear.**

God loves us just the way we are, so have no fear.  
All are welcome here.

I am welcome here.

Leader: Friends, Welcome. Welcome to this place of love and grace.  
**People:** **A place where we celebrate the life we have been given by God,**  
Leader: A life we share with one another in community.  
**People:** **God invites all of us to be part of this beloved community called the Church.**  
Leader: We are welcome, just as we are. We are loved, just as we are.  
**People:** **This is a place of peace and grace, where all God's children have a home.**  
Leader: We are all loved and no one stands alone.  
**All:** **In gratitude, let us come as one community and worship God grateful that all are welcome here.**

## – We Confess Our Sins –

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious and Holy God,**

**You created every person in your image, and yet we confess how easily we forget. In a world that draws lines, builds walls, and sorts people into “us” and “them”, we have too often followed in the ways of the world instead of your Son, who welcomed the stranger, sat at tables others avoided, and made room for those considered outcast.**

**We confess that we exclude –  
sometimes with our words,  
sometimes with our silence,  
sometime with our avoiding,  
sometimes with the quiet judgments we carry in our hearts,  
sometimes with actions that push others to the margins.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord.**

**By your Spirit, open our eyes to see those we have ignored.**

**Teach us to practice a love that does not exclude and a welcome that reflects your kingdom. Shape us into people who make room – at our tables, in our churches, in our lives – so all may glimpse your inclusive love through us.**

**We pray this in the name of Christ, who welcomed us when we were strangers. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE TO THE PARDON

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

**For the love of God is broader than the measures of our mind,  
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.  
If our love were but more simple we should take him at his word,  
And our lives would be thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.**

*In the presence of a  
forgiving God,  
We become aware of the  
ways we fall short  
of God's best hopes  
for us, and ways we  
have hurt others.  
As you pray the prayer  
of confession; think  
how the words express  
specific sins in your  
life and the life of the  
church. We turn to God  
asking forgiveness.*

*Claim the truth that  
through God's grace  
and Christ giving of  
himself on the cross,  
we are forgiven. Let this  
truth set you free  
from your sins so you  
may be restored to  
God and one another.*

## – We Hear God’s Word –

CHILDREN’S SERMON

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

READING FROM THE WORD OF GOD – *Luke 14:7-14*

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God,

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

**Practicing Inclusion in a Culture that Excludes**

Rev. Rod Stone

*All children are invited to come forward for the Children’s Moment.*

*The Scripture bears witness to the word of God. Listen beyond the human word for the Word of God. Pray that the Spirit will speak to you through the text.*

## – We Believe –

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*God, In Our Church’s Teachings*

Carolyn Gillette

God, in our church’s teaching, may we be bold and clear;  
may it become our practice to counter hate and fear.  
We’ve said that Jesus’ message is one that’s filled with love,  
and yet our sweeping statements are clearly not enough.

Isaiah boldly told us you hate our worship ways  
when we ignore injustice and simply offer praise.  
And Jesus gave a warning: When we — in sin and pride —  
refuse to welcome others, we turn our Lord aside.

May these be crucial lessons we teach the old and young:  
that racist ways are evil, that sexist ways are wrong.  
In Sunday schools and pulpits, may this be what we speak:  
God made each person precious, beloved and unique.

O God, we grieve the violence, the shootings, and the hate;  
we grieve our own indifference — our speaking out too late.  
God, in our church’s witness, may we say loud and clear:  
We welcome every neighbor. We work for justice here.

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.  
2 Timothy 3:16-17*

*The affirmation of faith invites us to join with God’s people everywhere in claiming our faith in God as our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. It also reminds us to go out and publicly proclaim our faith in God.*

## – Celebrating Christ’s Life and Love –

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF BREAD AND WINE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE 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.**

*The small communion wafers are free of gluten, wheat, dairy, yeast, egg, soy, nuts and corn.*



**QR Code (for quick mobile giving)**

*The giving of an offering not only supports the ministry of Christ but it is the symbolic dedication of our life and all that we have to give to God in response to his love. Remember that all things belong to God, and that we are entrusted to use all that we have to bring glory to God.*

*Our worship does not end at the conclusion of this service. We go forth to love and serve the LORD in daily living. In so doing, we seek to fulfill our mission to “love God and make God’s love known”.*

## – We Share Our Gifts –

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

FRIENDSHIP RECORD – *(Please sign and pass)*

OFFERTORY

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

(Choir to start; congregation to join as directed.)

Refrain: Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,  
Show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

Choir: Neighbors are rich and poor, varied in color and race,  
Neighbors are near and far away.

**Congregation: Refrain**

**These are the ones we should serve,  
These are the ones we should love,  
All are neighbors to us and you.**

**Refrain**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## – We Go Out to Be God’s Presence in the World –

\*CLOSING HYMN

*For Everyone Born*

For ev'ryone born, a place at the table,  
For ev'ryone born, clean water and bread,  
A shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,  
For ev'ryone born, a star overhead.

**Chorus**

**And God will delight when we are creators  
Of justice and joy, compassion and peace:  
Yes, God will delight when we are creators  
Of justice . . . justice and joy.**

**For all who share life, a place at the table,  
Revising the roles, deciding the share,  
With wisdom and grace, dividing the power,  
For all who share a life, a system that’s fair. Chorus**

**For whose we neglect, a place at the table,  
A voice to be heard, a part in the song,**

**The hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,  
For those we neglect, the right to belong. Chorus**

**For all who have breath, a place at the table,  
A covenant shared, a welcoming space.  
A rainbow of race and gender and color,  
For all who have breath, the chalice of grace. Chorus**

**For you and for me, a place at the table,  
Though wounded and sore, with need to forgive,  
In anger in hurt, a mindset of mercy,  
For you and for me, a new way to live. Chorus**

**For ev'ryone born, a place at the table,  
To live without fear, and simply to be,  
To work, to speak out, to witness and worship,  
For ev'ryone born, the right to be free. Chorus**

## POSTLUDE

*The Postlude is considered the final Alleluia of Worship*

\*Please stand if you are able.

The flowers are given to the glory of God by Wayne and Jane Ricks in celebration of their 53rd wedding anniversary on May 5th.

Accompanist: Ed Martel

Ushers: Pam Jankowski, Holly Alexander, David and Josh Butler, Jacob Graham

Greeters: Leo and Jane Garcia

Audio: Scott Brewton

Holy Grounds: The Taillacq Family

### **Children's Church:**

If you are a visitor here and have a child that would like to attend children's church they are more than welcome to join us! After the children's sermon, all children ages kindergarten through fifth grade are dismissed to go downstairs with the teachers. We have a snack, game, Bible lesson and a craft. If your child has any food allergies or other health/behavior concerns please come downstairs with your child and let the teachers know. We have visitor forms as well that are located by the worship boxes and bulletins. When church is finished please come downstairs to pick your child up. We also have a nursery that is available from birth-preschool age. Thank you!

### **Prayer from Our Care Team:**

Each month, Pastor Meg and your congregational care elders, Patty Franklin, John Liles, and Cindy Ward, meet to pray through the requests that have been offered on our congregational prayer list. If you have new requests to bring to our team for prayer and care, please contact Cindy Ward via phone or email: (910) 986-0491; ryw2004@yahoo.com.

### **The Mission of Community Presbyterian Church:**

“We exist not for ourselves, but to love God and make God's love known.”

### Sermon Series: Set Apart – Reflecting Christ Not Culture

In a culture often marked by anger, exclusion, self-absorption, and apathy, the church is called to embody a radically different way of living -reflecting the attitude of Christ through kindness, inclusion, compassion and love. The church is most powerful not when it looks like the world . . . but when it looks like Jesus.

**May 3** Luke 14:7-14  
Practicing inclusion in a culture that excludes.

**May 10** 2 Corinthians 1:3-11  
Practicing compassion in a culture that is self-absorbed.

**May 17** John 13:1-17, 34-35  
Practicing love In a culture that shows apathy.

### CPC Financial Update Income vs. Expenses for March 2026 YTD

	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Better/(Worse) Than Budget</b>
<b>YTD Income</b>	219,417	234,410	(14,993)*
<b>YTD Expenses</b>	207,604	234,409	26,805
<b>Net</b>	11,813	1	11,812

**\*Note:** Pledged, non pledged and loose plate Income YTD actuals are all better than budget. YTD overall income is worse than budget due to the intentional delaying of the transfer of the YTD budgeted endowment fund income. This delay for the need to transfer any money from our endowment funds is due to our YTD reduction in overall expenses.

## – Community Happenings –

### Weekly Calendar

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#### Sunday (May 3)

- 10:30 a.m. Worship – Sanctuary  
11:30 a.m. Brookside Friendship Committee –  
Conference Room  
5:30 p.m. Youth Fellowship – Youth Loft

#### Monday

- 9:30 a.m. PEO – Fannie B. Gray Parlor  
10:00 a.m. Pinehurst Garden Club – Conference Room  
5:30 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting – Fannie B.  
Gray Parlor  
6:30 p.m. Barbershop – Fellowship Hall  
7:00 p.m. Troop 7G – Great Room

#### Tuesday

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast – Pinecrest Inn  
2:30 p.m. CALL – Everette House  
3:30 p.m. Brookside Tutoring – Fannie B. Gray Parlor

#### Wednesday

- 10:00 a.m. Engaged Brain Project – Fellowship Hall  
1:00 p.m. Circle #1 – Fannie B. Gray Parlor  
4:00 p.m. Dementia Care Partner Support Group –  
Fannie B. Gray Parlor/Chapel

#### Thursday

- 10:00 a.m. Presbyterian Purls – Library  
5:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal – Fellowship Hall

#### Friday

- 8:30 a.m. Prayer Garden

#### Sunday (May 10)

- 10:30 a.m. Worship – Sanctuary  
5:30 p.m. Youth Fellowship – Loft

### SAVE THE DATE: Vacation Bible School 2026!

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**Monday, June 15th - Wednesday, June 17th 5:00 p.m.  
to 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall  
PreK through 5th Graders**

Youth Helpers Welcome and Encouraged!

### Northern Moore Community Fundraiser Carnival

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Northern Moore Family Resource Center in Robbins is preparing to host their **3rd community fundraiser carnival on Saturday, May 30th from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.** To make this event successful, they are **seeking volunteers and partners** who can help us plan, organize, and run the carnival.

#### Here are a few ways you can participate:

- **Sponsor high interest attractions** such as **bounce houses, inflatable games, or other carnival style activities** that draw families in and boost participation/revenue.
- **Donate supplies** to help offset event costs, including **grocery gift cards** for perishable foods, **canned drinks, bottled water, paper plates, napkins, plastic cups, and plastic cutlery.** **Amazon wish list:** <https://a.co/0hkYMV5f>
- **Volunteer time** to help plan, coordinate, or assist with activities on carnival day.
- **Help design or run carnival stations,** games, or themed activities.
- **Assist with setup, cleanup, or day of logistics,** ensuring the event runs smoothly from start to finish.
- **Contribute funds, materials, prizes, or refreshments** to support the event and enhance the experience for families.
- **Share personal skills or talents,** such as face painting, crafting, entertainment, or other hands-on activities that add excitement and value.
- **Spread the word** to friends, family, neighbors, and local businesses to help increase attendance and community involvement.

Please contact Joanna Oakley to get involved at **(843) 693-4699** or [joanna@moorefamilyresource.org](mailto:joanna@moorefamilyresource.org)

Their program is committed to keeping tuition costs as low as possible for their preschool so that all families in our community can access a safe, nurturing, and joyful early learning environment. Every contribution—big or small—helps us create a memorable event for our children and families while supporting the long-term sustainability of our preschool and programs.

Thank you for your support.

## New Member Orientation Lunch

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Our next meeting/luncheon will be May 17 immediately following the worship. Potential members can have questions answered by members of the Session, the ruling body of the church, and members of our areas of ministry.

If you are interested in attending and having lunch, please contact Sally Raynor (910) 295-6848 or sraynor@communitypres.com. The lunch and meeting will be about one hour.

## On-line Giving is now available. And it's easy!

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**Anyone can now donate to CPC via the QR code or the link below.**

You can donate via your Smartphone, laptop, Mac or tablet. You can also donate via the "Give" button on the homepage of the GCC website. The donation landing page gives you a drop down menu with options of which fund you would like your donation to go to. FYI - any donation going to the General Fund will be applied against your pledge total.

If you have any questions please contact Sam Crouter/Finance Manager in the church office at (910) 295-6848 or at scrouter@communitypres.com

<https://onrealm.org/CommunityPresby67558/give/now>

**QR Code (for quick mobile giving):**



## – May Anniversaries & Birthdays –

### Anniversaries

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Joe and Patty Franklin .....5/1  
Wayne and Jane Ricks.....5/5  
Jury and Susan Brown.....5/6  
Matt and Maddie Clark.....5/14  
John and Joanna Oakley.....5/16  
Craig and Lynne Phifer.....5/18  
Bob and Carol James.....5/19  
Chris and Lee Ann Graham.....5/21  
Allan and Julie Williams.....5/22  
Jack and Claire Berggren.....5/23  
Alex and Kim Gavrelis.....5/23  
Bob and Brenda Blackwell.....5/25  
Paul and Leann Dockins.....5/26  
Rod and Marsae Stone.....5/29

### Birthdays

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Amy Clark.....5/1  
Brooks Mays.....5/1  
John Galland.....5/2  
Nikki Schwob.....5/2  
Janet Burton.....5/3  
Susanne Brown.....5/7  
Susan Currie.....5/7  
Kim Gavrelis.....5/7  
Pamela Jankowski.....5/7  
Carolyn Warren.....5/7  
Ed Silberhorn.....5/9  
Ed Ormsby.....5/10  
Amylouise Perry.....5/10  
Van Warren.....5/10  
Ellen Harris.....5/14  
Sandra Schnare.....5/14  
Jane Garcia.....5/15  
Leslie Hosterman.....5/15

Cheryl Langston.....5/15  
Marianna Singer.....5/15  
Chris Graham.....5/17  
Matthew Weivoda.....5/19  
Barbara Yearby.....5/23  
Marta Kalnin.....5/24  
Mike Newman.....5/24  
Rachel Taillacq.....5/24  
Brenda Blackwell.....5/25  
Jane Mohr.....5/25  
Harry Vogt.....5/27  
Belle Kennedy.....5/28  
Cindy Rhodes.....5/28  
Maddie Clark.....5/29  
Jane Heisig.....5/29  
Steve Zoellner.....5/29  
Billy Gray.....5/30  
Spike Smith.....5/30

