



COMMUNITY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Loving God, Serving Others



Easter Sunday – April 5, 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.

– We Gather For Worship –

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF PREPARATION – *(Prayed silently)*

Our Risen Savior, rising from the empty tomb, you opened wide the gates of life. I ask that you would open me up to the fullness of life you give. Open me to your love, to your acceptance, to your forgiveness, to your peace. Increase in my mind and heart the risen life I share with you. Today during this worship service help me to grasp the resurrection; to understand its power, to see its force at work in my life and in this our world. Renew your gift of life within me. Guide me into the ways of your eternal and abundant life. Amen.

– We Are Called Into God's Presence –

MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

THE ACCOUNT OF THE RESURRECTION – *(John 20:1-18)*

Leader: On this glorious Easter Day we have come to celebrate the greatness of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. On this great day we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord. Let us rejoice and sing Hallelujah.

People: On this most holy of days, the One, who we had thought to be dead, has risen triumphant from the tomb! Let us rejoice: Alleluia!

Leader: On this holy day, we celebrate our new life in the Risen Christ; through the death of Jesus the weight of our sin has been lifted from us; through His glorious resurrection we have a life that is eternal. Let us rejoice: Alleluia!

All: **Alleluia, Alleluia, come, let us praise the living God, for Christ is living and so are we.**

*OPENING HYMN

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

**Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!**

**Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!**

**But the pains which He endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!**

**Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as God's love; Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!**

– We Confess –

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we confess to you that while we know well the story of your victory over the grave, it is not a story we always live.

We are dragged down by all manner of death that touches our lives, our families, our communities and our nation. Our sins and brokenness wall us off like a grave, isolating us with anger, frustration, and grief. Fears may seem like a stone that seals us in our tombs. We cling to hurt, resentment, and hatred that deny us the freedom that comes with forgiveness. We remain bound to habits that hold us back from enjoying the life we have in Christ.

Yet on this day we are reminded that you have the power to release us from our tombs. You can change our lives and make us new. You have risen from the grave shattering the power of sin and death.

On this Easter morning, we pray that you will fill us with the resurrected life of Christ so that we may be radiant in that new life that is ever before us this day and every day. Amen.

*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.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE TO THE PARDON

Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks

**Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.**

**Spread the good news o'er all the earth;
Jesus has died and has risen. (refrain)**

– We Hear God's Word –

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

ANTHEM

Easter Jubilation

Words & Music by Michael Barrett

Church triumphant, raise your voices. Set your alleluias free.
Fill the earth with joyful noises! Declare the jubilee, our songs have been set free.
Sing to the nations a great jubilation of praise!
Christ the Lord is risen today!

Easter people, life is calling, gather at the empty tomb.
See the garden at the dawning, the flowers bloom again. The roses dream again.
Sing to the nations a great jubilation of praise!
Christ the Lord is risen today!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ our heav'nly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia! Alleluia!

See the glory, Christ is risen. There is good news we can share!
Tell the story Grace has given. Look to the golden skies.
Love has opened paradise. Bells in the steeples ring!
Let all the people sing praise! Christ the Lord is risen today!

READING FROM THE WORD OF GOD – *Psalms 118*

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Lord is With Me; I Will Not Be Afraid

Rev. Rod Stone

*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.*

*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.*

*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*

– We Believe –

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.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

By faith, we believe in the Risen Christ, the Author of Life, who has broken the power of the grave and opened the way to eternal glory.

By faith, we know the power of the Gospel—that the same God who called the world into being has called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light to experience a life that is abundant.

By faith, we will stand as children of the promise and fix our eyes on Christ til the race is finished and the work is done.

ANTHEM

By Faith

Words & Music by Keith and Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend

By faith we see the hand of God
In the light of creation's grand design.
In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness,
Who walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith our fathers roamed the earth
With the power of His promise in their hearts
Of a holy city built by God's own hand,
A place where peace and justice reign.

Chorus: We will stand as children of the promise;
We will fix our eyes on Him our soul's reward.
Till the race is finished and the work is done,
We'll walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith the prophets saw a day
When the longed-for Messiah would appear
With the pow'r to break the chains of sin and death
And rise triumphant from the grave.

By faith the church was called to go
In the pow'r of the Spirit to the lost
To deliver captives and to preach good news
In every corner of the earth.

Chorus

By faith this mountain shall be moved,
And the pow'r of the gospel shall prevail.
For we know in Christ all things are possible
For all who call upon His name.

Chorus

"By Faith," words and music by Keith and Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend
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- We Offer Our Prayers -

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.

- We Share Our Gifts -

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

FRIENDSHIP RECORD - *(Please sign and pass)*

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

- We Go Out to Be God's Presence in the World -

*CLOSING SONG

Hallelujah Chorus

Arr. Hal Hopson

(Congregation to sing as directed)

Introduction



CONGREGATION (Unison voices)



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".

A *f*
 reign - eth. Hal-le - lu-jah! Hal-le - lu-jah! Hal-le - lu-jah! Hal-le - lu-jah!

mf *f*
 for the Lord God Om-nip - o - tent reign - eth. Hal-le -

lu - jah! Hal-le - lu - jah! Hal-le - lu - jah! Hal-le - lu - jah!

B 12 **C** 7 **D** 10

For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. Hallelujah. The Kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever.

E *mf*
 King of Kings, _____ and Lord of Lords, _____

_____ King of Kings, _____ and Lord of Lords, _____

f _____ King of Kings, _____ and Lord of Lords, _____ **F**

_____ and Lord of Lords, _____ **11**

and He shall reign for ever and ever, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, Hallelujah,

G *f*
 King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, King of Kings, and Lord of

Lords, and He shall reign for ev - er and ev -

er. King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, Hal-le - lu - jah, Hal-le -

lu - jah, Hal-le - lu - jah, Hal-le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah! *ff*

*BENEDICTION

As you leave this place and go into the world, remember that you are a child of God. You belong to God and are loved. Leave with confidence, love and compassion.

POSTLUDE

The Postlude is considered the final Alleluia of Worship

SCRIPTURE – (*Psalm 118*)

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

² Let Israel say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

³ Let the house of Aaron say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

⁴ Let those who fear the Lord say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

⁵ Out of my distress I called on the Lord;
the Lord answered me and set me in a broad place.

⁶ With the Lord on my side I do not fear.
What can mortals do to me?

⁷ The Lord is on my side to help me;
I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.

⁸ It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to put confidence in mortals.

⁹ It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to put confidence in princes.

¹⁰ All nations surrounded me;
in the name of the Lord I cut them off!

¹¹ They surrounded me, surrounded me on every side;
in the name of the Lord I cut them off!

¹² They surrounded me like bees;
they blazed^[a] like a fire of thorns;
in the name of the Lord I cut them off!

¹³ I was pushed hard,^[b] so that I was falling,
but the Lord helped me.

¹⁴ The Lord is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.

¹⁵ There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:
“The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;

¹⁶ The right hand of the Lord is exalted;
the right hand of the Lord does valiantly.”

¹⁷ I shall not die, but I shall live
and recount the deeds of the Lord.

¹⁸ The Lord has punished me severely,
but he did not give me over to death.

¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the Lord.

²⁰ This is the gate of the Lord;
the righteous shall enter through it.

- ²¹ I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.
- ²² The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
- ²³ This is the Lord's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.
- ²⁴ This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.^[c]
- ²⁵ Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!
O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!
- ²⁶ Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.^[d]
We bless you from the house of the Lord.
- ²⁷ The Lord is God,
and he has given us light.
Bind the festal procession with branches,
up to the horns of the altar.^[e]
- ²⁸ You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God; I will extol you.
- ²⁹ O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

*Please stand if you are able.

Accompanist: Ed Martel

Ushers: Mike and Pam Jankowski, David and Josh Butler, Jacob Graham

Greeters: Harlan McCaskill

Audio: Scott Brewton

Holy Grounds: Gary and Sandy Carroll, Vicky Byrd, Gail Frye, Marianna Singer

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 John Liles via phone or email (919) 623-5347; johnliles822@gmail.com

The Mission of Community Presbyterian Church:

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

– Community Happenings –

Weekly Calendar

Sunday – Easter Sunday

10:30 a.m. Worship – Fellowship Hall

Monday

Church Office Closed

4:00 p.m. Designing Women – Off Campus

6:30 p.m. Barbershop – Fellowship Hall

7:15 p.m. Troop 7G – Great Room

Tuesday

8:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast – Pinecrest Inn

4:00 p.m. Brookside Tutoring – Fannie B. Gray Parlor

Wednesday

3:00 p.m. Women of the Pines Board Meeting – Great Room

3:30 p.m. Membership Committee Meeting – Fannie B. Gray Parlor

5:45 p.m. Journey with Jesus Study – Fannie B. Gray Parlor

Thursday

9:00 a.m. Property & Grounds Meeting – Conference Room

10:00 a.m. Presbyterian Purls – Library

1:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study – Library

Sunday (April 12)

10:30 a.m. Worship Fellowship Hall

5:30 p.m. Youth Fellowship – Loft

2026 CPC Scholarship

The 2026 scholarship applications are now available for any CPC member to request. Simply contact Mrs. Sally Raynor via email or phone and request a scholarship application packet. If you are calling to make the request, please call (910) 295-6848 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. If you would prefer to have the packet emailed to you reach out to her at sraynor@communitypres.com. **The deadline for returning the completed application and associated documents is April 9th at 12 noon.**

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

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):



SAVE THE DATE: Vacation Bible School 2026!

**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!

Molly's Gift

Molly Towers (former Children's Ministry staff member) is expecting her third child, her first baby boy! We'd love to bless her from afar with a keepsake book of handwritten notes and a group gift. Please give letters to Emma Lassiter or Julie Taylor (or leave in Emma's office) and/or donate \$5-\$10 (cash or check payable to Community Presbyterian Church/Memo line "Molly Towers").

American Idol Star Elijah McCormick

Sunday, April 12 we welcome to our worship service, American Idol star and soloist Elijah McCormick.

Elijah's journey is nothing short of a miracle. Elijah nearly lost his life in a head-on collision on June 8, 2019, only 3 hours after his high school graduation from Pinecrest High School. He was life-flighted to UNC-Chapel Hill where he spent 70 days in the hospital-flatlining nine times and undergoing 10 surgeries, dialysis, a feeding tube, and relearning how to walk and talk again. Elijah defied the odds to find his voice again that commanded the idol stage. His soul-stirring audition moved the world, earning him the first-ever viewer-voted Platinum Ticket.

Elijah is one of those persons whose powerful voice and resilient spirit will bring tears to your eyes and hope to your heart. We are honored and blessed to have him as part of our worship service.



– The Floral Decorations are Given –

To the Glory of God by

Dick and Olive Baird

Michelle Liveris

Harlan McCaskill

In Celebration of

The CPC community by Kathleen Erickson

The CPC Choir by Kirsten Foyles

Bill and Ruby Sledge's anniversary by Kathy Hodges

Our loving, caring, sharing congregation by Kitti Pyne

In Honor of

Scott Brewton's hard work as session leader for the Pastor Nominating Committee by Kim Bailey

George Kingsmore by Kathleen Erickson

Rod and Marsae Stone who bring such joy to all of us by Nancy & Pat Oakley

My 4 great grandsons: Gaberial, Aydenn, Brycenn, Dawsenn by Betty Stewart

Nina and Gary Lewis by Bob and Carol Tilton

Kathy and Alan Vail by Grady and Natalie Vail

In Memory of Our Parents by

Stu and Sue Brothers

Herb and Sue Carlton

Herb and Stu Teese

In Loving Memory of

Marjorie and Leonard Yearby and Charm Yearby Allen by Kim Bailey

Richard Byrd by Vicky Byrd

Lori Coble Bittner (daughter) by Charlie and Jean Coble

W. L. And H. Epperly by Jerry Epperly

Lois Butler by Ramona Epperly

Mary Johnson Hoff, grandmother of Kathleen Erickson by Kathleen Erickson

Julian and Karen Ellefson by Kirsten Foyles

Bob George by Jane George

Ralph Hawes, Jr. by Solita Hawes

Ted Hodges by Kathy Hodges

Thomas Murray Sr. & Thomas Murray Jr. by Rebecca and Steve Lapping

Our mothers, Barbara VanDerveer and Jane Steele by John & MaryBeth Liles

Kay Monteith by G. Bruce Monteith

Leo Roberson and mother and father by Bonnie Roberson

Tony Robertson by Carol Robertson

Our brother Timothy Edward Robertson, by Judith and Chuck Robertson

David Silver by Judy Silver

Mary Claire Barry and Maria Woodruff by Ollie and Wanda Sweeney

Mary Claire Stringer by Tammy Stringer and Rick Viola

Eileen Faherty & MaryBeth Caracciolo by Alan and Kathy Vail

MaryBeth Caracciolo (Mimi) by Grady and Natalie Vail

Steven Knight, nephew of Judy Vanica by Judy and Peter Vanica

Ron Ward by Cindy Ward

Sheila and Bob VanDyke by Jakkie Whitten

– Community Presbyterian Staff –

Rod Stone

Pastor – Head of Staff

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Evie Miller

Nursery Assistant

– Contact Information –

Church Office: (910) 295-6848

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday – 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Friday – Closed

If you need a Pastor after hours, the following can be reached:

Rod Stone, Pastor: (910) 585-0828

Meghan Vail, Associate Pastor: (732) 804-4907

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www.communitypres.com

