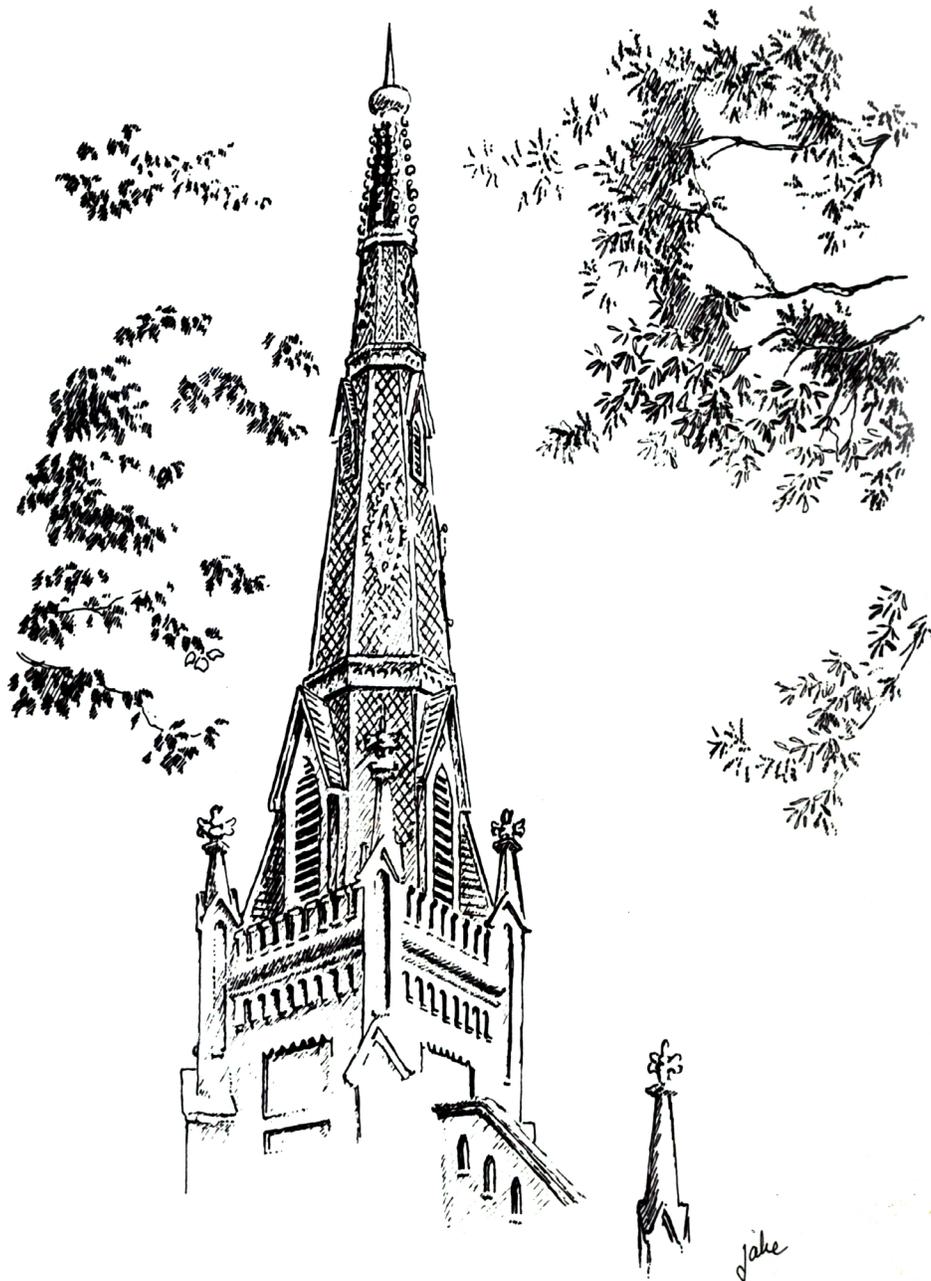


First Presbyterian Church

CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP | 9 AM | FEBRUARY 8, 2026
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



We invite you, whoever you are and whoever God is helping you to become, to join First Presbyterian Church of Charlotte in our journey of faith. God is love, and that love is for you. You belong as a child of God, and we welcome you. Come experience how that belonging might change you and our world as we seek to be for Christ in the heart of Charlotte.



First Presbyterian
Church of Charlotte

Time of Quiet Meditation and Reflection | Silence begins in the Chapel at 8:50 a.m.

Words of Welcome | Rob Spach

Opening Prayer | Adapted from Julie M. Hulme

**O Living God,
when we are tired and cross and despairing,
distracted by many thoughts and multiple demands,
eaten up by injustice and hungry for your peace;
help us to offer again the five loaves and two fishes
that you have given us,
and so discover again
the miracle of the strength that comes
in sharing everything, when we have nothing.**

Moment of Reflective Prayer

**O Holy Father, comfort us in this time of worship.
O Gracious Christ, forgive us and redeem us.
O Guiding Spirit, show us the way to live.
Amen.**

Meditative Music | “Christ Be Our Light” from Glory and Praise | Bernadette Farrell

Longing for light, we wait in darkness
Longing for truth, we turn to you
Make us Your own, Your holy people
Light for the world to see.

*Christ, be our light
Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness
Christ, be our light
Shine in Your church gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled
Longing for hope, many despair
Your word alone has power to save us
Make us Your living voice. *Refrain.*

Longing for food, many are hungry
Longing for water, many still thirst
Make us Your bread, broken for others
Shared until all are fed. *Refrain.*

Longing for shelter, many are homeless
Longing for warmth, many are cold
Make us Your building, sheltering others
Walls made of living stones. *Refrain.*

Many the gifts, many the people
Many the hearts that yearn to belong
Let us be servants to one another
Making Your kingdom come. *Refrain.*

Prayer for Illumination | Joan Wright

Old Testament Reading | Isaiah 55:1-13

Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your

ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle, and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

New Testament Reading | Matthew 14:13-21 | Tom Wright

Now when Jesus heard [of John's execution], he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Moment of Reflection

Meditation | Book of Isaiah: Learning Trust | "Imagining God's Abundance" | Rob Spach

Moment of Reflection

Offering

The Christian life is marked by the offering of one's self to God to be shaped, empowered, directed, and changed by God. In worship, God presents us with the costly self-offering of Jesus Christ. We are claimed by Christ and set free. In response to God's love in Jesus Christ we offer God our lives, our gifts, our abilities, and our material goods for God's service. The offering plates are located at the back of the chapel if you are interested in giving regularly as a spiritual practice.

Invitation to the Table

Meditative Music | "Bread for the World" from Spirit and Song | Bernadette Farrell

*Bread for the world
A world of hunger
Wine for all peoples
People who thirst.
May we who eat
Be bread for others
May we who drink
Pour out our love.*

Lord Jesus Christ
You are the bread of life
Broken to reach and heal the wounds
Of human pain
Where we divide your people
You are waiting there
On bended knee
To wash our feet with endless care.
Refrain.

Lord Jesus Christ
You are the wine of peace
Poured into hearts once broken
And where dryness sleeps
Where we are tired and weary
You are waiting there
To be the way which beckons us
Beyond despair. *Refrain.*

Prayers of the People 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.

Sacrament of Communion

All are welcome to participate in communion. To receive the gluten-free bread and the cup, come forward, take a piece of bread, and then dip the bread into the cup. It is still communion if you prefer to take only the bread. Please do not drink out of the cup directly. If for any reason you prefer not to come forward, please raise your hand and the officers will be glad to serve you in your pew.

Prayer of Thanksgiving | Adapted from Steve Garnaes-Holmes

O Giver of all that is good, we are grateful. Even amid a broken world, we humbly dare to be grateful. Because your presence abides with us; your mercy sustains us; your grace empowers us, we are grateful. O God, may our thanks be honest, humble and generous. May we receive our blessings in your Spirit: ready to share them, and to see to it that they are made available to all. May our gratitude be restless, until all are included, according to your most generous grace. Amen.

Charge and Blessing

We have been fed by the presence of God in the silence, by the Word, and through communion. Please feel free to greet one another in a warm and quiet way that allows an easing out of the silence. The minister is available for prayer or conversation after the service. Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m. If you would like to visit longer with other members, you are invited to gather in the Welcome Center.

IN LOVING MEMORY

William (Bill) Thomas Wallace, June 1, 1946 – January 26, 2026

The sympathy of the congregation is expressed to Barb Neidinger upon the death of her brother, James Ingram, on January 27, 2026; and to Kent Buzard upon the death of his brother, Brian Buzard, on January 27, 2026.

This service is now available via livestream. You can access the recording of the service or an audio or written version of the sermon at: <https://firstpres-charlotte.org/sermons/>



VIRTUAL
CONNECT
CARD



PRAYER
REQUESTS



TEXT
TO GIVE



GIVE
ONLINE