



CELEBRATE THE GIFTS OF WOMEN SUNDAY
MARCH 4, 2018

WOMEN CALLED TO LEAD WITH LOVE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
16 EAST FIFTH STREET
ROANOKE RAPIDS, NORTH CAROLINA

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Church Office Hours: Wednesday – Thursday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

SERVICE OF THE LORD'S DAY

MARCH 4, 2018

ELEVEN O'CLOCK

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Greeters: Marie Anderson and Grace Fishel

Ushers: Judith Clary, Nancy Crowe, Alice Ricks, Mary Shelby

CHIMING OF THE LORD'S DAY

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ellen Burnett

(A children's nursery is available upon request. Please see an usher to assist you)

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Noreen Knudson

ORGAN PRELUDE

(Please use the prelude as a time to quietly prepare for worship)

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Lead me, Lord

(p.42, #57 Black)

****CALL TO WORSHIP**

Bev Hummel

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: We gather to worship God, for God is good.

All: God's steadfast love endures forever.

One: We gather to worship God, for God has called us, God's own people, and has given us gifts to be a faithful people.

All: We remember that God's steadfast love endures forever.

One: Let us now offer worthy worship to God,

All: whose steadfast love endures forever.

****OPENING PRAYER**

Bev Hummel

One: O God, you are infinite, eternal and unchangeable, glorious in holiness, full of love and compassion, abundant in grace and truth. Your works everywhere praise you, and your glory is revealed in Jesus Christ our Savior. Therefore we praise you, blessed and holy Trinity, one God, forever and ever.

All: Amen.

**HYMN 324

For All the Faithful Women

**CALL TO CONFESSION

Ellen Burnett

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Ellen Burnett

Loving and merciful God, you have searched us and known us and still you love us. We confess that we take this love and mercy for granted; we are careless with our gifts and resources, and we refuse to focus on you and your will for all creation. You call us to lead with love but we are reluctant leaders or we lead with only rules and efficiency in mind. Grant us, O God, caring hearts, attentive minds and renewed commitment to follow you and to help lead others to you. In the saving grace of Christ Jesus, we pray.

**KYRIE ELEISON

Hymnal 576

**TIME FOR SILENCE

(We ask for forgiveness for our individual faults)

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Ellen Burnett

**THE PEACE

Ellen Burnett

One: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

(The congregation is invited to exchange signs of peace and reconciliation.)

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Hymnal 824

There Is a Place of Quiet Rest (verse 1 only)

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Bev Hummel

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 32:8-11

Bev Hummel

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;

I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,

whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
else it will not stay near you.
Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.
Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

1 Kings 2:1-3

Muzette Kiger

When David's time to die drew near, he charged his son Solomon, saying: 'I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, be courageous, and keep the charge of the Lord your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his ordinances, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn.

ANTHEM

More Love

Sid Davis

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 12:10

Mary Small

Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.

Ephesians 4:1-6

Mary Small

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

One: The Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God**

TIME WITH YOUNG CHRISTIANS

Six Kinds of Love

Ellen Bryant

SERMON

Leading with Love

Tammy Spragins

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**HYMN 300

We Are One in the Spirit

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Susan Barmer

In a broken and fearful world the spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, And to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

- excerpted from A Brief Statement of Faith (BOC 11.4)

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING FOR LOVING LEADERS

Ellen Bryant

One: Loving God, we thank you for mothers and fathers who lovingly raised and are raising their children and teaching them to be kind and thoughtful people. We thank you for the times they teach children how to work through difficult times, remembering they are always loved.

All: We thank you for teachers and pastors who challenged us to explore meaningful ways to be servant leaders serving with compassion and a sense of justice, with openness to all your people.

One: We thank you for strangers who do not look like us or sound like us, but serve as examples and role models as they lead and interact with others in tender, loving and caring ways.

All: We thank you for children and youth who are curious and searching and invite us to join them on their journeys. We are grateful that they remind us of the importance of play and not taking ourselves too seriously.

One: God, we also pray this day for those who do not lead with love. We pray for those who lead with a hardness of heart that shows disregard and disrespect for the human family and their welfare.

All: Give all leaders hearts of love and the desire to do better and be better. Grant them forgiveness and a commitment to be among those who lead with love, purpose and compassion. Be with all your people, loving God, this day and in the days to come. In Jesus' name we pray the prayer he taught us, Our Father....

LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal p. 35

CHORAL PRAYER

Bow Down Thine Ear

(p.66, #20 Black)

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Ellen Bryant

Offertory

**THE DOXOLOGY

Hymnal 606

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Ellen Bryant

One: Lord see the offerings we place before you and hear the pledges of service we make in our prayers.

All: **All in the heavens and on the earth is yours, and of your own we give you.**

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

**HYMN 731

Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith Is Firm

**CHARGE

Tammy Spragins

**BLESSING

Tammy Spragins

One: And as you go, remember that it is in the goodness of God that we are born. It is in the providence of God that we are kept and cared for all the day long. And, it is in the love of God, fully revealed in Jesus Christ, that we are loved and redeemed. In the name of the Creator God, the Savior God, and the Spirit God.

All: **Amen.**

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

HYMN 166

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

(verse 1 only)

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY AND POSTLUDE

WELCOME !

If this is your first time at First Presbyterian Church, we thank you for choosing to spend some time with us in worship.

If you have questions about us, or what we believe, you can talk to Rev. Sandoval after the service.

If you are just curious about us, we encourage you to take a welcome brochure with you. You can also check us out on the web at: www.fpc-rr.org.

If you feel that you have found a church home here and would like to join, that is wonderful! You can transfer your membership from another church or simply profess your faith in Jesus Christ. Talk to Reverend Sandoval after the service to make arrangements for joining.

In any event, be sure to fill out the friendship pad and include your email address. We'd love the opportunity to keep you informed about the wonderful things we are doing here at FPC.

THE GIFTS OF WOMEN

In 2018, Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday focuses on women who have modeled for us what it means to “lead with love.” In thinking of women who lead with love, there are two particular characteristics they have—1) the gift of hospitality and 2) the gift of building consensus. These women serve as role models for the rest of us.

After Pentecost, breaking bread in homes together was among the central practices for believers in the early church. Acts 2:42–47 reveals that the most important of these practices included:

- worship in the temple and praying together—**worship**,
- recalling teachings of the apostles—**education or kerygma**,
- sharing as any had need—**service or diaconia**, and
- meals and fellowship in homes—**koinonia**.

Women certainly were a part of these practices as the early church took shape. The first thing Lydia does following her baptism is to invite Paul and Silas to stay in her home (16:13–15), where she extends to them warm hospitality. She offers this kindness more than once (16:40). When our mothers taught us, “It doesn’t cost anything to be nice,” it was partly meant to include showing hospitality. Through the ages, women have shown they know the effect and the importance of extending hospitality. Today, women continue to open their hearts and their homes and warmly welcome others to enjoy food and fellowship together. Have you ever thought about the fact that we do not like to break bread with people whom we dislike or with whom we disagree? It is difficult and awkward. How might the world be different if we tried to engage more with those with whom we have serious differences? This does not mean having a meeting where we try to iron out our differences. It means simply having fellowship with no other agenda. As women who continue to demonstrate hospitality in our churches and in our homes, we need to remember Leviticus 19:34: “The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself . . .” We need to practice radical hospitality, welcoming the most alienated in our communities. The strangers among us have names and stories and value.

Welcoming them not just in our churches but in our lives can become a source of growth for us as individuals on our own journey of faith.

A second gift, like the gift of hospitality, is building consensus. This is a gift that Presbyterian Women demonstrate when they meet in small groups or “circles.” A dominant form of decision making today comes from the practices of white, European males. Think of a board room where men, and now some women, meet at long tables with sharp corners. The group deliberates on matters at hand and then votes up or down on actions pertaining to the situation. In this decision making model, there are winners and losers. Unfortunately, this model is often practiced in our congregations today. In contrast, some groups—like the Inuits in Alaska and other Native Americans—sit in circles to deliberate and make decisions, not by voting but by building consensus. This model has long been used by Presbyterian Women, sitting in a circle, sharing, learning and coming to decisions by building consensus. Note that sitting in circles eliminates the practice of a person of authority sitting at the head of the table. There is a sense of equality and inclusion when we sit in circles. And, when we make decisions by consensus, we also avoid winners and losers. Building consensus calls for careful and sensitive listening, clarifying, encouraging, suggesting and being attentive to all the voices in the room. It avoids hasty decision making by voting and moving on. It is a helpful and grace-filled way to deliberate and come to decisions. Families can make decisions by consensus while sitting around the kitchen table. Consider implementing it whenever possible in your own lives.

These two traits—the gift of hospitality and the gift of building consensus—are gifts exhibited by women who are called to lead with love. What would our church and world look like if women committed themselves to increasing their practices of hospitality and building consensus and became role models for others, men and women alike?

THE SESSION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Class of 2018

Shane Arthur
Faye Brown
Nancy Sandoval

Class of 2019

Jeff Dillard
Denise Hackenburg
Brian Harris
John Shives

Class of 2020

Jimmy Bryant
Nancy Crowe
Mary Shelby
Wally Spragins

WORLD MISSIONS

Our church supports the missionary work of Larry and Inge Sthresley in the Congo, and the Rev. Donald Marsden, Frontier Fellowship.

OTHER SUNDAY OFFERINGS

Sunday School meets at 9:45 am for adults.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The morning CIRCLE meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 9:45 am, and an evening CIRCLE meets on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm. Locations are announced in the bulletin or you may call the church office for further information. Pet Spears and Nancy Crowe are the Moderators of the Presbyterian Women.

PRESCHOOL

Our Preschool Program for two-year-olds meet Wednesday mornings from 9:00-11:00 am.

Three-year-olds meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30-11:00 am or 12:00-2:30 pm.

Twos and Threes are taught by Leesa Daughtry and Shannon Knight.

Four year old classes will be held in the morning on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and taught by Susan Gaylor and Becky Faison. Class is 8:30-11:30 am.

Contact the church office for further information.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN

Jim Allen and Jimmy Bryant are the Co-President's of the Presbyterian Men.

Sunday morning breakfast meetings are held periodically.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Pioneers – 3rd grade up to Middleschoolers

Senior Youth – Middleschoolers & Highschoolers

Contact the church office for more information.

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Joe Sandoval, Pastor

Tammy Spragins, Administrative Assistant

Denise Hackenburg, Choir Director

Charles Harris, Organist

Nancy Sandoval, Choral Accompanist