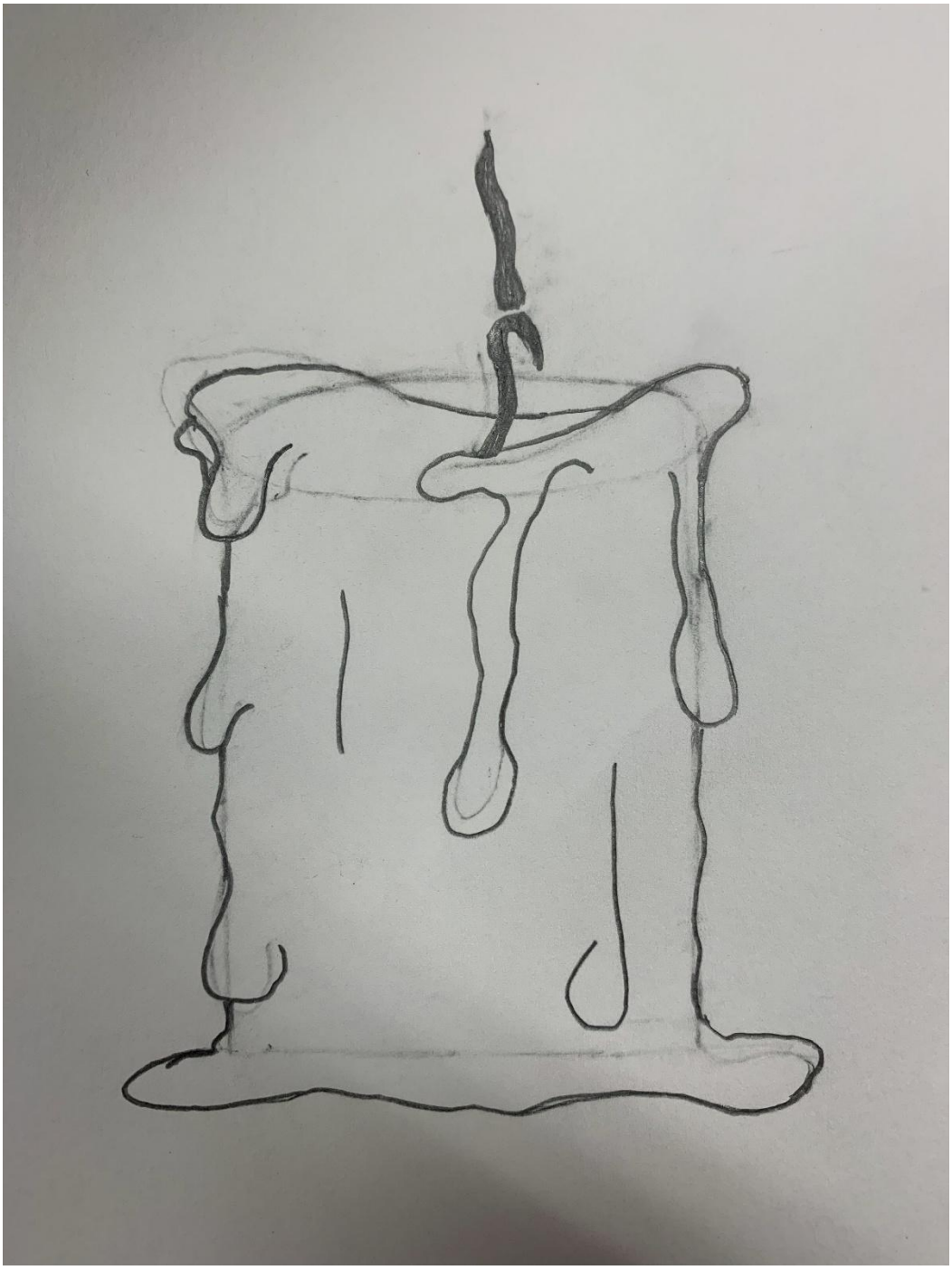


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First Presbyterian Church
Durham, North Carolina

March 22, 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Fifth Sunday in Lent | Lenten Service of Scripture and Song | March 22, 2026

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

(As we prepare to worship, please silence all mobile devices.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS — Esther Hethcox

PRELUDE — *Flow My Tears* — *John Dowland*
Benjamin Barker, hammered dulcimer

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (from Psalm 130) — David and Judy Smith

Leader: We are called to hope in the Lord;
People: our souls wait upon the Lord, more than those who watch for the morning.
Leader: For our Lord is a God of steadfast love,
People: whose power is so great that any soul can be redeemed.
Leader: As we extinguish the fifth Lenten candle, we are reminded of how our faith history is full of waiting upon the Lord. As we continue to approach the end of this Lenten journey, may we remember the many ways we are called to wait upon the Lord, and to listen to what God is speaking in our lives.

***HYMN NO. 415** — *Come Ye Sinners Poor and Needy* — *Restoration*

***CONFESSION OF SIN** — Haley Winslow Stephenson

Call to Prayer
Prayer of Confession

God of great mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you.
We speak as though hope is lost, even while you are still speaking.
We act as though death is the end, even while you are still acting.
Forgive us, by your steadfast love.
Create a clean heart within us,
teach us your holy way,
and restore to us the joy of salvation;
through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

Silent Confession
Assurance of Pardon

***HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 441** — *Hear the Good News of Salvation* — *Nettleton*

Hear the good news of salvation: Jesus died to show God's love.
Such great kindness! Such great mercy! Come to us from heaven above.
Jesus Christ, how much I love you! Jesus Christ, you save from sin!
How I love you! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.

**Those who are able, please stand.*

All the sins I have committed, to my Savior now I bring.
I bow down with tears of anguish; Christ forgives and so I sing:
Jesus Christ, how much I love you! Jesus Christ, you save from sin!
How I love you! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.

COLLECT Doran Cummings

Sovereign God, the whole universe is within your reach,
and all things are ordered by your hand.
You have claimed us to be your people
and appointed us disciples of Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord.
Protect our lives and preserve our souls
and keep before us always the vision of our Redeemer
that we may see and follow
and give him glory forever and ever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON Ezekiel 37:1-14 Doran Cummings

CHOIR HYMN *Lord Christ, When First Thou Cam'st to Us* *Mit Freuden Zart, arr. Alice Parker*

Lord Christ, when first thou cam'st to us, upon a cross they bound thee,
and mocked thy saving kingship then by thorns with which they crowned thee:
and still our wrongs may weave thee now new thorns to pierce that steady brow,
and robe of sorrow round thee.

O wounded hands of Jesus, build in us thy new creation;
our pride is dust, our vaunt is stilled, we wait thy revelation:
O love that triumphs over loss, we bring our hearts before thy cross,
To finish thy salvation.

SECOND LESSON John 11:1-26 Haley Winslow Stephenson

ANTHEM *"I Am the Resurrection and the Life"* *Thomas Morley*

I am the resurrection and the life. Saith the Lord: he that believeth in me,
though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in me
shall never die.

THIRD LESSON John 11:27-36 Susan Dunlap

ANTHEM *"When Jesus Wept"* *William Billings*

When Jesus wept, the falling tear In mercy flowed beyond all bound;
When Jesus groaned, a trembling fear seized all the guilty world around.

FOURTH LESSON John 11:37-44 Esther Hethcox

MEDITATION *"A Presence"* Esther Hethcox
(silent reflection)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** From *A Declaration of Faith* Haley Winslow Stephenson

Jesus was what we are.
He grew up in a family and a society troubled by the common problems of the world.

His knowledge was limited by his time and place in history.
He felt deeply the joy of friendship and the hurt of being rejected.
Jesus prayed, struggled with temptation, knew anger,
and was subject to suffering and death. He was like us in every way except sin.
Jesus was what we should be. He served his God with complete trust and unwavering obedience.
He loved all kinds of people and accepted their love.
In constant dependence upon the Holy Spirit, Jesus allowed no temptation or threat to keep him from loving God with his whole being and his neighbor as himself.
We recognize in Jesus what God created us to be. He exposes our failure to live as he lived. He demonstrates the new humanity God promises to give us through him.

***HYMN NO. 649** *Amazing Grace* *Amazing Grace*

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN Lenore Champion

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Invitation to Give Susan Dunlap

Offertory Anthem *Are You Weary of Your Burden* *David Ashely White*

Are you weary of your burden, are you sore distressed?
Come to me, says Christ, and coming, be at rest.

Has he marks that I may know him, and make him my guide?
In his feet and hands are woundprints, and his side.

Is there diadem, as monarch, that his brow adorns?
Surely, yet the crown upon him is of thorns.

If I find him, if I follow, what is given here?
Many a sorrow, many a labor, many a tear.

If I still hold closely to him, what has he at last?
Sorrow vanquished, labor ended, Jordan passed.

If I ask him to receive me, will he tell me "no?"
Never, not if earth and heaven melt like snow.

Finding, following, keeping, struggling, is he sure to bless?
Saints, apostles, prophets, martyrs answer, "Yes."

The ***Hunger for Change*** offering will be received.

*Doxology *Old Hundredth*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above ye heavenly host,
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER *(in unison)* Susan Dunlap

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Let us pray.

(Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession)

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.

***HYMN NO. 215**	*What Wondrous Love is This*	*Wondrous Love*
***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**		Esther Hethcox
POSTLUDE	*Postlude on "Nettleton" (Come, Thou Fount)*	*Robert Buckley Farlee*

Happening Today

Today we have a special ***Lenten Service of Scripture and Song***. We hope you enjoy this music offering as we prepare for Palm Sunday and Holy Week. We thank ***Noelle Barr***, violinist, and ***Benjamin Barker***, hammered dulcimer and celtic harp player, for their contributions to today's service. Noelle Barr is a PhD student at Duke University. She holds degrees in music and art history and previously held a principal role with the New York Youth Symphony. Currently, Noelle performs with the Duke Symphony Orchestra and in chamber music ensembles in Durham. Benjamin Barker is National Hammered Dulcimer Champion, Harpist, and Music Teacher located in Greenville, SC. Benjamin has released two albums featuring solo hammered dulcimer: "Nothing but the Blood: Solo Hymns for Hammered Dulcimer" and "Bach: Complete Cello Suites Performed on Solo Hammered Dulcimer. Guest musicians are made possible by gifts to the Restricted Music Fund of FPC.

Easter lilies will grace our sanctuary again this year on Easter Sunday. Members are invited to donate toward the lilies in honor or memory of a friend or family member by completing a lily card and returning it along with cash or a check made payable to First Presbyterian Church, memo: Lilies. Contributions in excess of the money needed to purchase lilies for the sanctuary will be contributed to the One Great Hour Of Sharing offering. Unless otherwise specified by the donor, lilies will be taken to homebound members and friends. **Cards with envelopes are available in the foyer through the deadline of Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026.**

Children's Choir will meet following worship in the Christian Education building.

Meaning in the Middle will gather in the Daye Meeting Room & Wilson Parlor at 12:15pm today. We'll enjoy pizza together and drink good coffee while growing in faith and community. Kids will have the option to watch a movie and there will be activities out for the older kids. ***Carlo Diy*** will lead. All are welcome—whether you're new to MnM or returning for another great conversation together!

Youth Group will meet at 5:00pm for an ice cream hangout at The Parlour (117 Market St).



Sign In

First Presbyterian Church welcomes all who worship with us.
Let us know you have joined us for worship by scanning the QR code to the left. For online giving, scan the QR code to the right.



Donate Online

We honor and celebrate the human diversity and unity that God gives us in Jesus Christ. First Presbyterian welcomes individuals of every age, race, nationality, gender identity, ability, sexual orientation, and economic circumstance to participate fully in the life of the church. So that you may know who is sitting nearby, please sign the ***Friendship Pad***, pass it along the pew, and **then return it to the starting point**, noting the names of those sitting near you.

The ***flowers*** in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in appreciation for the leadership and dedication of the ***youth of FPC.***

Today's bulletin cover was created by 10th grader ***Kirbey Blackwood***. As we have made our way through Lent, one of the recurring images has been the extinguishing of a candle at the beginning of every worship service.

Today's lay liturgist is ***Doran Cummings***, a confirmand. Members of the current confirmation cohort have been leading worship in this way throughout Lent.

This week we continue our practice of extinguishing candles as we move through our Lenten journey together. The Lenten "wreath" is covered in purple cloth and decorated with plum blossoms. We extinguish a purple candle which represents the patience we must exercise as we honour God's timing over Earthly timing. ***This week we invite you to ponder the hope and perseverance we must have as we wait upon the Lord.***

The ***Lenten Banner*** was completed in 1990 and dedicated in 1991. It depicts traditional Lenten symbols. The banner was made possible by funds donated in memory of ***Bess Bryant*** and by the stitching of many devoted members of this congregation.

Flower Donation Opportunities Available: There are open dates for worship flower donors during the next few months. To sign up, visit bit.ly/FPCflowers26 or click on the flowers link in the bi-weekly newsletter.

Childcare: A staffed nursery and children's playroom are available on the second floor of the education building during worship. ***Activity bags and baskets*** are available in the foyer for children. Please return them to the foyer at the end of worship.

Restroom locations: To the left and right as you exit the rear of the sanctuary; on the first and second floors of the education building; and on the first and second floors of the church house. There is an infant changing table in the restroom area located to the left as you exit the rear of the sanctuary.

Portions of today's worship resources were reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies.* The Call to Worship was written by Esther Hethcox. Music is reprinted under Onelicense.net: A.713926.

~Celebrations and Concerns of the Congregation ~

Celebrations:

Congratulations to ***Margaret and Miguel Rubiera*** for being awarded the Haywood Holderness Distinguished Community Service Award by Durham Congregations in Action.

We remember in prayer:

Tony Brown	***Paul Cornsweet***	***Sam Crabtree***	***Susan Cyr***
John Fricks	***Sue Fricks***	***Joe Harvard***	***Kerry Holbrook***
Lee House	***Ann Huff***	***Kelli Hunnicut***	***Bob Lewis***
Vickie Luboff	***Elizabeth Manceras***	***Harriett Mitchell***	***Fred Moore***
Peggy Needham	***Franzi Rokoske***	***Alfred Tisdale***	***David Verner***
Phyllis Verhey			

Care Communities:

Croasdaile Pavilion: ***Dub Gulley***
Hillcrest Convalescent**:** ***Carol Wills***
Brookdale Senior Living: ***Debbie Mathews***
Durham Ridge: ***Phillip Herndon***
Pruitt Health - Durham: ***Fred Callaway***
Southpoint Atria: ***Ginny Widmark***
Madge McKeithen

Family and Friends of the Congregation

Ashley Alvord, colleague of Sharon Hirsch
John Carter, brother of Conrad Carter
Francisca Cristobal, relative of Al and Judy Arrowood
Kim Cummings, father of Drew Cummings
Sara Degand, cousin of Deborah Momsen-Hudson
Gera Fleming, mother of Christyn Klinck
Linda Foster-Momsen, mother of Deborah Momsen-Hudson
Cheryl Fowler, friend of Cheri Reece
Jennifer Hervey, daughter-in-law of Jeanne Hervey
Donna Holladay, friend of Jane & Robert Brawley
Katie Jackson, wife of Matthew Hirsch
Donna Johnson, mother of Ann Huff
Anthony Ketcham, brother of Wil James
Marcia Magee, aunt of Kathryn Muchison
Marie Maly, sister of Barbara Fish
Sandra Mikush**,** mother of Katie Fogleman
Martha Neece, sister-in-law of Vernon & Beth Neece
Ana Sofia Ochoa, family member of Becky Martin
Bill Prochaska, friend of Al and Judy Arrowood
Wu-Chou Su, father of Claire Su
Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss
Tanya Watkins, friend of Leigh Wynkoop

Upcoming Community Events

Many of our events are posted in the bi-weekly newsletter. You may read past newsletters and join our mailing list at https://firstpres-durham.org/weekly-newsletter/

The ***Parking Lot*** will be closed for re-striping on Saturday, **March 28**. If you need to be at the church that day, there should be room in the lot across the alley.

Next Sunday, **March 29**, join us for a **Pre-Palm Parade Party** at 9:45am in the Fellowship Hall, complete with the classic hot cross buns and delightful activities. Then at 10:05am, we will gather on the back lawn with other congregations for our traditional Palm Parade throughout downtown Durham. (Note: most Faith Formation classes will not meet next Sunday.)

Durham's 52nd **CROP Hunger Walk** is next Sunday, **March 29**. We will once again have a team walking to raise money to alleviate hunger both here in Durham and in 30 other countries with acute hunger needs. Join the FPC team and be a part of the walk, or donate to sponsor a team member: https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/team/first-presbyterian-church-11

"Wilmington on Fire," a documentary about the 1898 Wilmington Massacre, will be screened at FPC on Sunday, **April 12** at 3:00-5:30pm. All are invited. Historians ***David and Vera Cecelski*** will attend and facilitate a discussion following the viewing. Racial Equity Task Force is sponsoring the event.

Yoga is offered at FPC on Mondays at 4:30pm (vinyasa flow class), and Fridays at 10:30am (chair yoga class). Contact ***Karen McPhaul*** for more information at mcphaul@gmail.com.

First Friends**:** Save the date for First Friends in April! Join us on **April 25** at the home of Jane Wettach and Paul Baldasare. More details coming soon. First Friends is a community of 55+ individuals who gather monthly for fellowship.

Job Listings

Minister of Music Search: As we begin our search for FPC's next Minister of Music, the search committee wants to hear from you! Please take a few minutes to complete the following survey (QR code) which invites you to reflect on your experience of music at First Pres and share your hopes for its future. Your responses will guide and inform our search, conversations, and decisions. Thanks in advance for your participation.

Seeking a Communications Associate: FPC is now seeking a skilled addition to our administrative team whose primary duty will be to support our mission by utilizing all aspects of communicating with our congregation as well as the greater community. Full benefits and salary commensurate with experience will be provided. Successful candidates will be proficient in social media/digital platforms and able to manage an array of communications for our active church. FPC members, their family members and/or close church friends should not apply but if you know of others who might be interested, encourage them to visit http://firstpres-durham.org/2026/02/recruiting-for-church-communications-associate for more details and send their cover letter/resume/references to adminsearch@firstpres-durham.org.

This Week at a Glance!

Later Today
Newsletter Deadline

Following Worship
Children's Music: ages 3-5 (Room 205), ages 6-11 (Choir Room)
Diaconate (Watts-Hill Hall)
Meaning in the Middle Lunch (Daye Meeting Room)

2:00 PM New Hope Presbytery Youth Retreat Returns (FPC Raleigh)

5:00 PM Youth Group Hangout (The Parlour)

Monday, March 23

9:00 AM Walk in Ministry

1:30 PM Worship Planning (Pastor's Office)

4:30 PM Yoga (Watts-Hill Hall)

Tuesday, March 24
Newsletter Release

11:30 AM Daytimers' Luncheon (Bennett Pointe Grill)

7:00 PM Somethings Prayer Service (Sanctuary)

Wednesday, March 25

1:00 PM All Staff Meeting (Daye Meeting Room)

7:00 PM Chancel Choir (Choir Room)

Thursday, March 26

9:00 AM Walk in Ministry

Friday, March 27

10:30 AM Yoga (Room 201)

Sunday, March 29
Palm Sunday • Easter Lily Deadline

9:45 AM Pre-Palm Parade Party (Fellowship Hall)

10:05 AM Palm Parade (Back Lawn)

11:00 AM Worship: Mindy Douglas, preaching.

Following Worship
Children's Music: ages 3-5 (Room 205), ages 6-11 (Choir Room)

2:30 PM Durham CROP Walk (Duke Chapel, meet at 2pm)

CHURCH STAFF

Tom Bloom, Business Administrator
Lenore Champion, Children's Ministry Director
Vernon Cooper, Sexton
Mindy Douglas, Pastor/Head of Staff
Susan Dunlap, Parish Associate
Omar Guess, Sr., Sunday Morning Sexton



Joseph Harvard, Pastor Emeritus
Esther Hethcox, Associate Pastor
Sybil King, Administrative Assistant
Kathy Parkins, Minister of Music
John Weicher, Associate Pastor

For more information about First Presbyterian Church, email the church office: office@firstpres-durham.org or visit our website: https://firstpres-durham.org.

305 EAST MAIN STREET DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27701 919.682.5511 ORGANIZED 1871



Palm/Passion - Sunday, March 29

9:45 a.m. Pre-Palm Parade Party

10:05 a.m. Palm Parade Downtown Durham (with St. Philip's Episcopal Church and Trinity United Methodist Church)

11:00 a.m. Worship

Maundy Thursday - April 2

John Weicher, preaching



Please join us for Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday at **7:00 p.m.** The service will conclude with the traditional stripping of the chancel in the darkened space.

Good Friday - April 3

Though there is no service on Good Friday at First Presbyterian, you are invited to attend another service taking place nearby:

St. Philip's Episcopal (down one block towards the East) will host the ***Way of the Cross*** at noon. This is an outdoor service which will begin at the front of the church and end at Trinity United Methodist Church.

St. Philip's will also pray the ***Good Friday Liturgy*** in the church at 7:00 p.m.

Duke Chapel will observe Good Friday with a ***Tenebrae ("Darkness") service*** at 7:30 p.m.

Online resources include services at the National Cathedral (Cathedral.org) at noon and at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday - April 5



9:45 a.m. Egg Hunt

10:00 a.m. Easter Brunch

11:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

The ***One Great Hour of Sharing Offering*** will be received on Easter Sunday to provide relief to the hungry, poor, and oppressed, and those affected by natural disasters and war.



THE HUNGER FOR CHANGE OFFERING

First Presbyterian Church of Durham has a long history of involvement in hunger-related mission, most notably Pennies for Hunger (now Hunger for Change) and the Durham CROP Walk. In addition, we coordinate volunteers for the Community Café at Urban Ministries of Durham, collect and bag food for the Iglesia Emanuel's Food Pantry, and the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC. We also encourage giving to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering on Easter Sunday which funds mission activities related to disaster assistance and hunger programs locally and around the world.

The funds received from our Hunger for Change Offering go to the New Hope Presbytery for the Presbyterian Hunger Relief Program and are divided as follows:

50% - International Hunger Relief Programs

40% - Local Hunger Programs

10% - Administration.

These funds are dispersed through local grants to hunger relief programs based on a grant application process. Urban Ministries of Durham and Iglesia Emanuel's Food Pantry have been frequent recipients. FPC has also received funds to purchase supplies for blessing bags.

If your family committed to saving a **penny**/day each month, you'd be donating about $0.30 per month or $3.65 for the entire year. That's not much in the face of the rising need. Save a **nickel**/day, and you can contribute $1.50 per month. A **dime**/day will generate $3.00, and a **quarter**/a day will generate $7.50 per month.

The fourth Sunday of each month is designated to receive the Hunger for Change Offering. Please consider supporting this hunger relief effort with a generous offering each month.

Thank you for your offering today!

415 Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy



649 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



What Wondrous Love Is This 215

