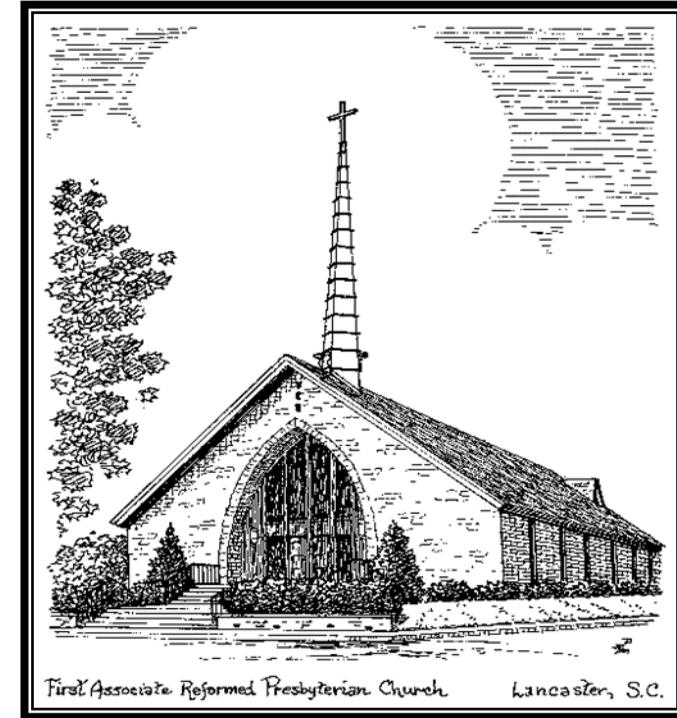


Volunteers

	May 21	May 28
Nursery	Shannon Mohr	Stacey Pegram
Toddlers	Holly Rivers	Kelly Sims
Greeters (F)	Tom & Betty Arant	Wayne & Debbie Dickson
(S)	Benny & Geri Brazell	Mike & Pat Scruggs
	May	June
Elders	Butch Ghent	Richard Crawford
	David Pokopac	Ed Ogburn
Captain	Keith Jaillette	Lathan Rivers
Co Captain	Debbie Dickson	Sam Prete
Ushers	Benny Brazell	Johnny Jones
	Sal Estrada	Will Jones



Staff and Officers

Staff	Elders	Deacons
Pastor- Dr. Kyle E. Sims	Butch Ghent (2017)	Sam Prete (2017)
Intern/Youth- Mr. Jordan Bernard	David Pokopac (2017)	Lathan Rivers (2017)
Choir Director- Dr. Kristen Wunderlich	Ed Ogburn (2018)	Debbie Dickson (2018)
Organist- Mrs. Amy Jones	Richard Crawford (2018)	Keith Jaillette (2018)
Secretary- Mrs. Stacy Pokopac	Frank Brackett (2019)	Debby Hegler (2019)
	Buddy Lever (2019)	Dave Mohr (2019)

First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

May 21, 2017

An Associate Reformed Family Serving God, Lancaster, and the World

701 North Main Street, Lancaster SC 29720/ PO Box 864, Lancaster, SC 29721

803.285.1578

firstarplancaster.org

Worship

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Prelude
Welcome and Announcements

Organist
Dr. Kyle E. Sims

ENTERING WORSHIP

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 89:1

I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness to all generations.

***Hymn**

Insert

“Your Name”

Paul Baloche & Glenn Packiam
©2006 Integrity Worship Music
CCLI#399806

***Invocation and 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, for ever. Amen.

**congregation stands*

Financials

May 14, 2017	
Attendance	103
General Fund	\$6,562
Total GF Contributions This Month	\$10,824
Average Monthly Budget Requirement	\$18,126
Congregational Care Fund	\$1,884

AUTOMATIC DRAFT Are you ready to take a step of faith? Sign up for a monthly draft of your giving. It is a serious commitment to set up your tithe to come out every month, but we are called to give from our first fruits. This is a tool to help you be faithful and regular in your giving to Christ and His church. For more information see Sam Huey.

Are you praying for your Ten List?

Packets are available in the church office.

REHEARSAL TIME CHANGE The adult choir will not meet this week and will begin holding summer rehearsals at 12:15 on Sundays starting May 28. There will be no rehearsals in July.

This Week’s Schedule

Sunday, May 21

11:00 Morning Worship
12:00 Church Picnic
5:30 Youth
7:00 Session

Sunday, May 28

Missions Fund Sunday
Promotion Sunday

Monday, May 29

OFFICE CLOSED

Pastor's Corner

May 21, 2017

The idea of the Sabbath/Lord's day is a prominent one in the Scriptures. In Genesis, we see that God rested on the Seventh day from the work of creation. It is written by the hand of God on the first table of the Ten Commandments. It was at the heart of the Jewish devotional calendar. One day in seven was set aside for the Lord.

In the New Testament, we see the day of worship changed from the Friday evening to Saturday evening observance to the first day of the week. The Lord's day, or what has been called the Christian Sabbath, is on the day of the week that Jesus arose from the dead. This is our central thought: we remember Jesus rising from the dead each week. We rest in the completed work of Jesus and we remember and worship Him the first day of each week. Acts 20:7 shows that the believers were gathered together on the first day of the week and were there past sunset.

Why does this matter? The world's influence is great on the church today. We are pulled by the currents of the world in many areas. We can see it in the Lord's Day observance. Where once the Lord's day was a day set aside for worship, rest, and Christian duties, it has now become a day for hobbies, extra work, and doing whatever you want to do.

One of the great problems we have in the world is that we do not have time. As a pastor, I am often told, "I just do not have time to do certain things." God in His wisdom has given you time. He has given you a day to set aside the world and its cares, to worship Him and be with His people, to do works of love and necessity, and to keep you grounded in Jesus Christ.

There will be some that raise an immediate objection, "What about nurses, doctors, police, and others?" Yes, there are some folks that must work on the Lord's day. I am one of them. But we must remember that because some are called or are needed to work, it does not mean that it is not what God wants for His people. He wants His people to have a day of worship, a day to be with Him.

I ask you to examine your keeping of the Lord's day. How can you improve it? How can you enjoy it more? Isaiah writes that we are to "...call the Sabbath a delight". Are you seeing the Sabbath as a delight or a burden? If you see it correctly it will always be a delight.

Dr. Kyle E. Sims
Pastor

The Apostles Creed

*Confession of Faith

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell;
The third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into Heaven,
And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic** church;
The communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
The resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be.
World without end. Amen, amen.

Hymn

"Seek Ye First"

Karen Lafferty

© 1972 CCCM Music Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing

CCLI#399806

Tithes and Offerings

Choral Offertory

"Sing To the Lord a New Song"

Insert

Chancel Choir

**universal

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

MEANS OF GRACE

***Psalm**

Insert

“The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want”

Pastoral Prayer

Choral Anthem

Chancel Choir

“Promises Of God”

Children’s Sermon

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Reading

Pew Bible Page 950

Romans 15:22-23

Sermon

Dr. Kyle E. Sims

“The Practical Benefits of the Church”

Prayer of Application

RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL

***Hymn**

Insert

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

***Free Offer of the Gospel**

Thursday, May 25, 2017 - John 20:19-20

Now, it is important to understand that Jesus is not a ghost. He is not floating through doors. He, in the power of God, is able to be brought into the locked room were the disciples were gathered. This had to be a shock and a joy at the same time. Jesus was alive. He shows them His hands and side as proof that He is the risen Savior. **Peace is a full term.** It carries the idea of fullness. He pronounces this blessing over his people as He reveals himself to them. It is peace that Jesus came to give His people. Peace with God and peace with the church. May we always seek peace as much as we can.

Friday, May 26, 2017 - John 20:21

We are called to follow Jesus. We are told in the scriptures to take up our cross and follow Jesus (Mark 8:34). Jesus gives this command to his disciples and to us as his people. Just as the Father has sent Him to the World. So now He is sending his disciples into the world. We too are sent into the world to be God’s light and witness. We are to be a city on a hill (Matt 5:14). We are to be like stars on a dark night in this dark world (Phil. 2:14-18). This is not a cakewalk! Jesus has had a hard life and it ended in the cross. Only one of the Apostles would die a natural death. Our lives are made more complicated because of our faith and our calling to take our faith into the world. But remember, you have been sent!

Saturday, May 27, 2017 - John 20:22-23

This verse is open to a serious misinterpretation that the Apostle’s had the right by private absolution to save or not save people. There is no Biblical argument or support for this. J.C. Ryle wrote, “...whatever men may assert about private ministerial absolution, there is not a single precedent for it in God’s Word.” It is the preaching of the Gospel that is the point of these verses. The Apostles and the church proclaim a message of forgiveness in the Gospel and all that hear and believe will be saved and all the do not believe will not be saved. This is the power of the Gospel and the Holy Spirit at work in the ministry of the church. We are responsible to proclaim, but the Spirit, he is responsible to do the saving work.

Devotions

Monday, May 22, 2017 - John 20:3-10

You see it clearly! Christ has risen from the dead. Here we see that these major people in Jesus' life did not at first understand that He rose from the dead. They thought His body had been stolen. They are upset and do not see what God has done. What was the problem? They did not yet understand the scriptures. This is one of the biggest problems in the life of the Christian. We are called to know God through His word. While on one hand this is easy, on the other hand we are called to work and study, to know and understand the scriptures by relying on the help of the Holy Spirit. Are you doing this?

Tuesday, May 23, 2017 - John 20:11-15

Mary is distraught. She too thinks that someone has taken Jesus' body. She too does not yet understand what God has done in bringing Jesus to life. This idea that Jesus has risen from the dead is too hard for even His closest associates to comprehend even when He is right there in front of them. There are many people to whom this is the stumbling block of becoming a Christian. They refuse to believe that someone could rise from the dead. It is hard because it goes against what we see and know from life. Yet God is greater than what we see and know. He has power over life and death as we will see next.

Wednesday, May 24, 2017 - John 20:16-18

Jesus spoke, and immediately she knew it was Jesus. This is how it works in the hearts of believers. When the Holy Spirit opens our eyes and hearts to the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, then we see Jesus. We do not see Him as a historical figure or as a legend, but like Mary saw here in the garden. We see Him as the risen Lord sent by the Father to die for our sins. He is arisen and ascended to the Father in power and in glory. Praise God that He has loved us enough to give us Jesus and has opened our eyes to see Him.

***Benediction**

LEAVING WORSHIP

***Congregational Response**

“Benediction”

Verse 1

May the peace of God our heav'nly Father
And the grace of Christ the risen Son
And the fellowship of God the spirit
Keep our hearts and minds within His love

Chorus

And to Him be praise for His glorious reign
From the depths of earth to the heights of heav'n
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain
Christ eternal the King of Kings

Words and Music by Stuart Townsend and Keith Getty
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***The Greeting of the Congregation**

Taking the Gospel To the World

Acts 2:46-47

And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Sermon Notes

Text: Romans 15:22-23

Title: “The Practical Benefits of the Church”

Prayer Emphasis

Andrew Brunson

Protection

Release

Power as he witnesses for Christ

Graduates:

Tyreese McCree - High School

Nehemiah McGriff - High School

Elizabeth Sims - High School

Will Jaillette - University of South Carolina

Becky Anderson - Wingate - Pharmacy

Sarah “Pi” Eddins- Limestone College- Doctorate of Public Service

Synod 2017

Spirit of Peace and Love

Frank Bracket - Our Elder Delegate

Work of the Synod

Church Plants and Missionaries

God will open doors for the Gospel

Lost will be saved

Protection from evil

Children of our church

Children’s ministry

Teaching of Bible and Beliefs

Salvation of our Covenant Children

Strength

Sister Churches

Neely’s Creek ARP- Rock Hill, SC

New Hope ARP- Blackstock, SC

Prayer Requests

First ARP

Carol Nims- Presbyterian Home- Florence
 Carlyle & Mott Henley
 Clara Nell Robinson
 Erin Tindal
 Gene Hunter
 George Mason
 Harold Allen- Lungs and Heart
 I. W. Caskey
 James Caskey
 Mary Brown Parks-Morningside
 Mary Ella Jordan
 Nancy Ogburn- Back Issues
 Pat McEachern
 Sally Lloyd
 Sheryl Huey
 Tom Strickland

Church Planters

Ben Carver- Shem Creek
 Ian Wise-Pageland
 Matt Awtrey-Exploratory Work in Irmo
 Rob Turner- Arsenal Hill

Military

Alex Coale- Japan
 Dillon Coale- ROTC

Missionaries

Mark & Natalie Witte-Spain
 Phil & Sarah Baer-Wycliffe
 Rebekah Carson-Germany

Pregnancy

Shannon & Jeff Schrage
 Shay & William Belk

Friends & Family

Andrew Brunson- Prison in Turkey
 Anne Nims
 Caylie Ibarra- Pokopac's Friend- Broken Ankle
 Charles and Annie Montgomery- Susan Prete's
 Parents
 Chasity Aycoth- Sheryl Huey's Niece- Cancer
 Delphine Spinks- Geri Brazell's Sister
 Donna Bohler- Daniel Bohler's Mom
 Doris Hudson-Lorri Crawford's Mother
 Gentry McColm- Hope Church, TX- Cancer
 George Busch- Scots Kirk Presbyterian Church-
 Cancer
 Jane Aiken- Complications of MS
 JoAnn Byrd-Patricia Gardner's Mother
 John Boykin- Scruggs' Friend- Cancer
 John Christian Rozycki- Kristen Wunderlich's
 Nephew- Seizures
 Judy Morrison- Aaron Morrison's Step Mom-
 Louise Carpenter- Debbie Dickson's Mom
 Mark Caskey- Dell Ghent's Brother- Recovery
 From Surgery
 Mary Ginty-Katey Powell's Mother
 Mary Musselwhite- Pat McEachern's Friend-
 Cancer
 Nancy Ladd - Esther Shields Sister- Lung Can-
 cer Returned
 Sandra Ginty- Katey Powell's Sister-In-Law
 Shirley Parker- Brazell's Sister-In-Law- Cancer

Young Worshipers

During the worship service your youngest children should draw pictures of what they hear and see in the appropriate boxes, while older children ought to take written notes.

<p><u>Hymns and Music</u></p>	<p><u>Scripture and Sermon</u></p>
<p><u>Prayers</u></p>	<p><u>How Will I Obey God's Word?</u></p>

Announcements



VISITORS Welcome to Lancaster First ARP. If you are a first time visitor, our ushers have a welcome packet for you. If you are a returning visitor, please fill out an attendance card from the pew in front of you so we may have a record of your visit. Offering envelopes are also available for your convenience.

CHURCH PICNIC We will have our church picnic following the Worship service today. Please bring your favorite side dish or dessert. Fried chicken and tea will be provided. Casual dress is encouraged.



APPALACHIA TEAM MEETING There will be a **MANDATORY** meeting for all youth attending Appalachia immediately following the church picnic today. The bus will leave at 1:15 to travel to Rock Hill ARP.

VBS 2017 This year's VBS will be Sunday, June 11 through Thursday, June 15 from 5:30-8:15PM. Plan to bring your children as we join Paul and learn about the underground church in Rome. Dinner, Bible stories, crafts, and games will be included. Spread the word to family and friends. Online registration is available at <https://vbspro.events/p/events/firstarplancaster> or click on the link on our church website at firstarplancaster.org. There is also a volunteer signup on the bulletin board. **We need adults to monitor and assist the youth volunteers.** Pick your slot before your favorite is taken.



SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP Please join us in the Fellowship Hall Sundays at 9:30AM for coffee and fellowship. Sunday School starts at 10:00AM.

SPECIAL OFFERING We will take up an offering for our Missions Fund on Sunday, May 28.

HOPE IN LANCASTER HOPE is currently seeking donations of healthy, non-perishable foods such as the following:

- *Spaghetti Sauce
- *Canned Potatoes
- *Grits
- *Cereal
- *Juice
- *Jiffy Mix
- *Instant Potatoes
- *Canned Tomatoes



GRADUATE CELEBRATION The parents of Tyresse McCree, Nehemiah McGriff and Elizabeth Sims invite you to celebrate their 2017 graduates May 27 from 5-8PM in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner and dessert will be served. RSVP to Kelly Sims is appreciated but not required.

PROMOTION SUNDAY We will recognize our graduates Sunday, May 28 during the Worship service.

CONGRATULATIONS Sara "Pi" Eddins received an honorary Doctor of Public Service from Limestone College on May 4, 2017.



THANK YOU I would like to express a HUGE thank-you to everyone that helped with the First ARP Relay for Life team this year. We could not have pulled it together at the last minute without the hard work of so many! Our tent looked great thanks to the creative hands of Susan Prete and it was even visible from across the field! It was exciting to be able to spread the message of hope that is found in Christ as we met and greeted people throughout the event. First ARP members put a cup of sweet tea in lots of hands Friday night with Hebrews 6:19 printed on it... "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." May God's word reach far and wide and touch many hearts through His people at First ARP.

Lorri Crawford
Team Captain