



April 12, 2026

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Jody Welker to the pulpit!

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING MUSIC

"He Is Exalted"

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high:
I will praise him.

He is exalted, forever exalted,
And I will praise his name!

He is the Lord, forever his truth shall reign,
Heaven and earth, rejoice in his holy name.
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high. (2X)

"Majesty"

Majesty, worship His majesty,
Unto Jesus be all glory, power and praise.

Majesty, kingdom authority
Flow from His throne until His own, His anthem raise.

So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus.
Magnify, Come glorify Christ Jesus, the King.

Majesty, worship His majesty.
Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all kings.

"Surely the Presence of the Lord"

Lanny Wolf

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,
I can feel his mighty power and His grace.
I can hear the brush of angels' wings,
I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place. (2X)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ron Tingle

CHIMING THE TRINITY

PRELUDE "Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain"
Diane Combs, organ arr. Jeffrey Blersch

***CALL TO WORSHIP, responsive** *verses from John 20*

Leader: "Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark..."

People: We gather, acknowledging the darkness we face in the world.

Leader: "Now Mary stood outside the tomb weeping..."

People: We gather, acknowledging our tears for those whose grief is great.

Leader: "On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear..."

People: We gather, acknowledging our fears of life beyond our control and our anxieties about the future.

Leader: We come, as they first came, living amidst darkness, living with our tears and our fears. But know this: Christ also comes. Risen from the tomb of death and despair, Christ appears to Mary and the disciples. The Risen Christ comes to offer peace, hope, and even joy. Because Christ lives, we shall live also. Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen, indeed.

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen, indeed!

***OPENING HYMN "Christ is Alive" #246**

**1. Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned death, shall never die.**

**2. Christ is alive!
No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,
But saving, healing, here and now,
And touching every place and time.**

**3. In every insult, rift, and war
where color, scorn or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more
and lives, where even hope has died.**

**4. Women and men, in age and youth,
Can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
And find the way, the life, the truth,
Revealed in Jesus, freed for all.**

**5. Christ is alive, and comes to bring
Good news to this and every age,
Till earth and sky and ocean ring,
With joy, with justice, love and praise.**

***PRAYER OF ADORATION**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION, in unison

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the tomb you have given us the sure sign of your power to deliver us from sin and death and to renew our whole creation. We confess that we still fall into doubt and fear in a world of such darkness and uncertainty. We continue to doubt your power to make all things new and to life out of death. Forgive us. Have mercy on our weakness. Resurrect us from despair. Raise us from the death of sin that we may live with Christ in the joy of his resurrection, now and forever. Amen.

:: A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL PRAYER & REFLECTION::

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***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.**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH, in unison** — based on Matthew 16:16; Mark 16:9; John 20:28, 1 Corinthians 15:1-6, Revelation 22:13

This is the good news that we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God.

:: PASSING THE PEACE ::

*And now, as people who are loved and forgiven by the grace of God,
we pass the peace of Christ, remembering God's command to love
and forgive one another.*

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

ANTHEM: "Because He Lives" arr. Joseph Martin
Sanctuary Choir

FIRST SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 1:3-9 *Charlotte Casey*
SECOND SCRIPTURE: John 20:19-31

SERMON: "Locked in a Room with Open Doors"
Rev. Dr. Jody Welker, Bridge Interim Pastor

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN OF RESPONSE (seated) "My Life Flows On" #821

1. My life flows on in endless song,
Above earth's lamentation.
I hear the clear, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.

REFRAIN:

No storm can shake my inmost calm
While to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
How can I keep from singing.

2. Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing. [Refrain]

3. What though my joys and comforts die?
I know my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night be giveth. [Refrain]

4. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
A fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing! [Refrain]

GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY "He Is Exalted" arr. Joel Raney
Sarah Cifani, flute Diane Combs, piano

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***CLOSING HYMN "The Day of Resurrection" #233**

1. The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,
The Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from sin's dominion free,
Our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.

2. Let hearts be purged of evil that we may see aright,
The Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light.
And listening to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain,
His own "All hail!" and hearing, may raise the victor strain.



3. Now let the heavens be joyful; let earth its song begin;
The round world keep high triumph and all that is therein.
Let all things seen and unseen
their notes of gladness blend
For Christ the Lord has risen,
Our joy that has no end.

***BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

"Go In the Grace of the Lord"

Go in the Grace of the Lord.
Walk in the way of His Word.
Stand in the strength of His promises,
And believe in your heart they are true.

Sit at the feet of the Savior.
Pray in the power of the Spirit.
Rise and run the race with patience,
And go in the Grace of the Lord.

POSTLUDE "Postlude on Maccabeus" arr. Jason Payne

** Please stand as you are able for these portions of the service.*

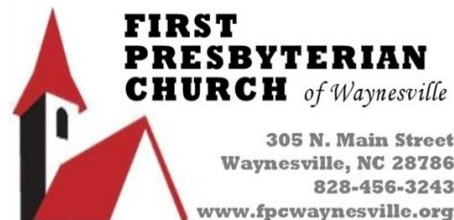


Our Church Elders

Clerk of Session	RON TINGLE	828-400-6900
Building & Grounds		
Discipleship	LAURA JANSON (2026)	828-712-7938
Elder for Deacons	MERRY MATLOCK (2027)	828-508-8604
Fellowship	MELONIE GROSS (2026)	773-405-5889
Finance	STAN BRIGGS (2028)	941-544-8100
Missions	PAT BRIGGS (2027)	828-550-8432
Personnel	RON TINGLE (2026)	828-400-6900
Worship	CHARLOTTE CASEY (2028)	828-246-5557

Our Deacons

Merry Matlock, Moderator	828-508-8604 (2027)
Sherry Blount	828-736-1449 (2026)
Judy Bryson	704-999-5344 (2028)
Janie Oakley	828-400-0276 (2028)
Brenda Sites	954-675-6176 (2027)



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First Presbyterian Church

A CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, USA

APRIL 12, 2026



"We love because he first loved us."
— 1 John 4:19

Waynesville, NC

You are invited to stay on after worship this morning
for a reception honoring
Rev. Dr. Jody Welker, our Bridge Interim Pastor.
Please join us in welcoming him to FPCW
for his three-month tenure.