

# White Memorial Presbyterian Church Willow Spring, NC



Hochhalter, Cara B.. Part 3 - The Prodigal is Welcomed, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59278> [retrieved March 19, 2025]. Original source: Cara B. Hochhalter.

**1459 White Memorial Church Road - Willow Spring, NC 27592**

**[www.wmpcwillowspring.org](http://www.wmpcwillowspring.org)**

**Remembering God's Grace,**

**the mission of White Memorial Presbyterian Church in Willow Spring is:**

*Come to be joyous and thoughtful in worship;  
Walk with God's guidance into deeper faith and knowledge;  
Stretch out to the needy with tangible acts of service;  
Be loving and generous with time, talents and treasures;  
Go out into the world to welcome and invite.*

**The Service for the Lord's Day  
The Third Sunday in Lent**

**The Church Gathers**

March 23, 2025

10:30 AM

We acknowledge that our church buildings sit on the lands of the Lumbee, Tuscarora and Catawba nations.

**Welcome and Announcements**

Prelude

Anne Honeycutt

Prayer for Preparation:

"The glory of God is a person fully alive.-*Saint Irenaeus*

Welcome and Announcements

**\*Call to Worship**

One: In times of trouble, in days of fear,

**All: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.**

One: When we are lost and lonely, not sure of our place,

**All: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.**

One: When we are hard-hearted and cynical,

**All: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.**

One: When we struggle to believe God's promise of redemption,

**All: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.**

One: Together we look to God to teach us the way we should go.

**All: Steadfast love surrounds us, as together we place our trust in the Lord.**

**Opening Hymn**

*Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*

Hymnal Page 415

Prayer of Adoration

**Confession and Pardon**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession - (From The Book of Common Worship)

**All: Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Forgive those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to the world in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O merciful God, for his sake, that we may live a holy, just, and humble life to the glory of your holy name.**

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

One: Hear the good news! God's mercy is wide. God's love is for everyone.

**All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, we are loved, and we are free. Amen.**

**We Proclaim God's Word**

A Time with Young Disciples

Prayer for Illumination

**All: Gracious God, your mercy is wide, but our understanding is limited. As we hear your Word read and proclaimed today, open our minds and our hearts, that your good news may reach the deepest places**

**within us. Renew us in your forgiving love and enliven our imaginations to possibilities for sharing that love with others. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

Scripture Reading

*Old Testament- Psalm 119:167-176*

*New Testament- Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32*

**Sermon**

**Rev. Molly Smerko**

**We Respond to God's Word**

\*Affirmation of Faith- (A Brief Statement of Faith)

**All: We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

\*Hymn of Response

*There Is Now a New Creation*

Hymnal Page 774

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

**All: 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.**

Reception of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

\*Doxology

Hymnal Page 606

Prayer of Dedication

Going Out in God's Name

\*Hymn of Commitment

*Guide My Feet*

Hymnal Page 741

\*Charge and Blessing

**Notes:** Today's liturgy was written by Ellen Williams Hensle and provided for free distribution. © Presbyterian Outlook, 2025. Today's bulletin art was created by Rev. Cara B. Hochhalter through the print-making process of carving out a block, applying ink, and pulling a print. In describing her depiction of the prodigal son being welcomed home, she writes, "As a mother myself, I could not leave the mother out of this reunion when the wayward son returns. In spite of the son's great fear of what his parents will say, he must be surprised by the overwhelming welcome and forgiveness... Have you ever experienced a forgiving embrace of Infinite Love in the mystery of God."

Sermon: Rev. Molly Smerko

Musician: Anne Honeycutt

Certified Ruling Elder: Nancy Warren (984) 225-0717 (c) [flagman22@embarqmail.com](mailto:flagman22@embarqmail.com)

Greeters/Ushers: **March** – Ronnie and Rush

**April** – Lee and Glenda

Offering Counters: **March** - Teresa and Joyce

**April** – Margaret and Sharen

Please see the schedule below for upcoming services

**March 30**

Rev. Duane Hix

**April 20**

Rev. Molly Smerko

**April 6**

Nancy Warren, CRE

**April 27**

Rev. Carole McCartney

**April 13**

Alice Fisler

**Prayer concerns may be submitted by turning in a prayer request.**

Sarah Blankenkemper (Molly's sister), Kim Boyer - cancer (Sharen); Nancy's friend Janine Brown, Judy Brown, Jane Smith's relative in Ohio, Russell Byrd, (Joyce), Ruth Dupree, Gillis family (Jenn), Lois Gillis (Jenn), Michelle and Henry Jones, Ashley Langdon, Ken Meeks, Sandy Parrish, Sharen's friend Kim from Ft. Wayne, Curtis Phillips (Teresa Smith),

Yolanda Martinez, (Trish's sister), Delores Shreve (Jerry), Michelle Radford, Clennis Stephenson and Max Stephenson (Linda), Geraldine Stephenson (Ann and Linda), Linda Strickland, Prayers for Jim and Trish Shannon, Ronnie Stephenson, Maria Young – recovering from surgery, Chris Wheeler

Prayers for family & friends of Jeff Pettrawski (Sandy Parrish);

Prayers for family and friends of Troy Byrd, Jr. (Pansy Grimes's father)

Prayers for the family and friends of Ashley Langdon.

Prayers for victims of Hurricane Helene & Hurricane Milton to recover and those who help with rescue, recovery and helping to meet their needs.

Prayers for those who have lost everything in California due to the wild fires.

**Joy** - Baptism of Shelby Knox, Mary Rhodes granddaughter.

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## Happening in the Life of Our Church

**Sunday Worship** - March 23rd at 10:30 AM. Be sure to join us for our weekly worship service in person or on Facebook Live.

Our next **NourishWorship** is scheduled for **March 25** at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us as we seek to feed the body and nourish the spirit. All are welcome at the table!

**Next Senior Lunch** is scheduled for **April 10th** at Mt. Zion. Please bring a non-perishable food item to contribute to Restoration's Food Pantry. Please let Margaret King know if you plan to attend. Her contact number is 919-818-2134.

**Please consider joining the Roundtable Sunday morning group for a new study** - "Tending the Wild Garden - Growing in the Fruit of the Spirit". The small group meets by Zoom for about an hour on Sunday starting at 8:45AM. See Nancy Warren for information on joining this study.

BackPack Buddies – The Presbyterian Women continue to collect food for the Back Pack Buddies program. Thank you for your generous contributions.

**Food Ministry and Outreach** – Donated food will be delivered to Restoration Church pantry. As always, you can drop off any non-perishable food contributions in the bins located outside of the Fellowship Hall or in the Church Library. Thank you to all who continue to bring food.

**Mini-Pantry Needs** – We need items for the mini-pantry (blessing box) such as ravioli, beans and franks, Vienna sausage, packaged fruit, boxed or packaged cereal, canned goods with a pop top, baby wipes, diapers, etc. Please leave your items in the designated bin in the Church Library.

**Special Offerings:** First Sunday – Community Crisis

Last Sunday – Pennies for Hunger

**Suicide Hotline is 988 - If you need to talk, the 988 Lifeline is here.**

At the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, we understand that life's challenges can sometimes be difficult. Whether you're facing mental health struggles, emotional distress, alcohol or drug use concerns, or just need someone to talk to, our caring counselors are here for you.