

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Welcome** We extend a warm welcome to all who worship with us today. Please feel free to pick up a blue informational folder outside the entrances to the sanctuary to learn more about our church. Also, please fill out a visitor card in the pew racks and place in the offering plate so we can have a record of your visit.

**A Word About Our Worship Service:** Offertory  
*The congregation, choir or a few vocalists offer to God a song of adoration, confession, thanksgiving or petition to God as an act of worship. On occasion, the song may be the singing of God's Word to remind, edify, exhort or comfort Christians in their faith.*

**The Session of First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church is calling a Congregational Meeting** for TODAY, Sunday, September 17, 2017, at 9:30 A.M., for the purpose of informing the congregation regarding the mission, values and vision of the church leadership and engaging all of us in the work of the church as it seeks to accomplish her mission. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for this important event. Breakfast food and drinks will be provided.

**Sunday Nights @ First** Join us tonight at 6 PM. We will sing, pray and hear from God's Word as we study Matthew 5:10-12—blessed are the persecuted.

**Choir** practice is at 5 P.M today.

**TABLE TALK** for 20's & 30's meets on Tuesday, September 19 at 7 PM.

**Ladies' Bible Study** is Wednesday, September 20 at 11 A.M. at the church building. We will be studying *Living in the Gap Between Promise & Reality The Gospel According to Abraham*, by Iain Duguid.

**HOMECOMING** is Sunday, September 24. Join us for a congregational lunch to reminisce and look ahead. Ham & turkey will be provided; the congregation is asked to bring fall sides and desserts.

**Young at Heart** is Tuesday, September 26 at 11:45 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch is potluck! Don Bolden, Editor Emeritus of the *Times-News* will be our speaker.

On Saturday, September 30 at 4 P.M., you are invited to pack Operation Christmas Child boxes in the Fellowship Hall. (Personally packed shoeboxes can still be turned in at a later date.)

**Save the Date!** First ARP's FALL FESTIVAL is Saturday, October 14 at 4 P.M. Join us for bbq and fixins, games and bluegrass music with special guest, Dewey Brown. Invite a friend!

**Save the Date!** Piedmont Rescue Mission Fundraiser Banquet is October 19 at the Nations Agents Alliance Building, 1214 Turrentine St., Burlington, at 6 P.M. *R.S.V.P.* to Glenn Owens.

Visit First ARP's Facebook page for updates and photos of events and information.  
<https://www.facebook.com/FirstARPBurlington>

**Ministry Information**

	NURSERY	COUNTER	DEACON ON DUTY
<b>Today</b>	Kathy & Laurie Isley	Jay Snow	Larry Isley
<b>Next Week</b>	Vicki McPherson & Joyce Payne	Glenn Owens	Glenn Owens

Tithes and Offerings on September 10, 2017

General Fund \$1,831.46

THE PRAYER NEEDS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

“May our love abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that we may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.” (Phil. 1:9,10)

- Connie Bennett (Parkinson's)
- Theo Baulding (relief from hip pain)
- Foy Evans (weakness)
- Sarah Gilmore (Jack Snow's finance's mother major surgery recovery & infection)
- Lola Knox (regaining strength after cancer treatments, knee inflammation)
- Jim Knox (stroke recovery)
- Steve Kyaw (recovery from surgery)
- Ferald Mann (recovering well from surgery)
- Margaret Owens (balance, recovery from dental surgery)
- Grady Pack (oxygen levels return to normal & stabilize)
- Mary Renegar (COPD, breathing difficulties)
- Justine Robare (Foy Evan's daughter, employment in this area)
- Christine Roberts (Ed Limon's sister, adjustment to assisted living home & alzheimers)
- Becky Sneed (broken arm)
- Audrey Turner (strength)
- Donna Wolffe (broken wrist)
- Cindy Wright (healing from new infection, strength with & healing from R.A.)
- FOR OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS: Elizabeth Barber, Theo Baulding, Jean Cathey, Foy Evans, Doris Haywood, June Little, George McKinney, Catherine Mangum, Pat Montgomery, Gene Parks, Mae Wilburn, Al Wright
- FAMILY OF THE WEEK: Jean McKinnon
- EMERGENCY WORKERS, LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, ARMED FORCES:  
 Ask for God to grant wisdom for those who serve in seats of authority: parents, earthly masters, governors, judges and officers of the law.
- Josh Limon, stateside, job search;
- Steven Mendiola, Middle East (wife, Maggie, Baby Aleighana, born on 8/16)
- LOCAL CHURCH: Northside Presbyterian Church (PCA), Pastor Jim Mitchell
- MINISTRIES WE SUPPORT: (local) Alamance Pregnancy Services  
 (regional): Jesse & Shayna Weaseling (International Students in Triad)
- MISSIONARIES: Drew, Lauren, Geneva, Peter, Luke and Baby due 12/2017 Goodman  
 (Pastor, Barry Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Wales)  
 Andrew & Norene Brunson in Turkey; pray for his release from prison
- A.R.P. CHURCH MINISTRIES: For the Church of God to grow through the work of First Presbytery Church Extension and Synod's Outreach North America.

**SESSION**

Moderator: Rev. Bryan Crotts  
 Vice Moderator: Jay Snow  
 Clerk: John Robinson  
 2017: Bill Haynes  
 2018: John Robinson & Jay Snow  
 2019: Ferald Mann  
 Elders Emeritus: Jim Knox & Gene Parks

**DIACONATE**

Chairman: Glenn Owens, 2018  
 Vice Chairman: Larry Isley, 2019  
 Secretary: Stephen Robinson, 2017

**CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS**

Trustees: Steve Kyaw, Jim Knox,  
 Ferald Mann, Gene Parks  
 Treasurer: Laurene Howington  
 Secretary: John Robinson  
 Chairman: James Constable

**CHURCH STAFF**

Pastor: Rev. Bryan Crotts  
[pastor@firstarpburlington.org](mailto:pastor@firstarpburlington.org)  
 (336) 944-2892

Music Director/Organist: Ed Limon  
[limonfam6@hotmail.com](mailto:limonfam6@hotmail.com)

Pianist: Julie Snow  
[jsnowmagic@aol.com](mailto:jsnowmagic@aol.com)

Ministry Coordinator: Mandy Crotts, volunteer  
[ministrycoordinator@firstarpburlington.org](mailto:ministrycoordinator@firstarpburlington.org)

Financial Secretary: Laurene Howington  
[finance@firstarpburlington.org](mailto:finance@firstarpburlington.org)

WEBSITE: [www.firstarpburlington.org](http://www.firstarpburlington.org)  
 FACEBOOK:  
<https://www.facebook.com/FirstARPBurlington>  
 SERMON AUDIO:  
[www.sermonaudio.com](http://www.sermonaudio.com) First ARP Church




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“And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the LORD, ‘For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever toward Israel.’ ” Ezra 3:11, *ESV*

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**THE LORD'S DAY**  
 Sunday, September 17, 2017

MORNING WORSHIP  
11 o'clock

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**Greeting of the Saints** The Congregation & Visitors

**Prelude** Julie Snow

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Voluntary for Silent Prayer**

**Votum** Psalm 124:8, *ESV*  
“Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.”

**Salutation** Revelation 1:4-5, *ESV*

**Call to Worship\*** Psalm 136, *ESV*

**Hymn of Adoration\***  
No. 557 *In Thanksgiving Let Us Praise Him* AUSTRIAN HYMN

**Prayer of Adoration and Invocation\***

**Affirmation of Faith** *Westminster Shorter Catechism*

Q. 84. What does every sin deserve?

A. *Every sin deserves God's wrath and curse, both in this life, and that which is to come.*

Q. 85. What does God require of us that we may escape his wrath and curse due to us for sin?

A. *To escape the wrath and curse of God due to us for sin, God requires of us faith in Jesus Christ, repentance unto life, with the diligent use of all the outward means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption.*

Q. 86. What is faith in Jesus Christ?

A. *Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel.*

Q. 87. What is repentance unto life?

A. *Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.*

Unison: *Thanks be to God!*

**Song of Praise\***  
No. 73 *Thou Art Worthy* THOU ART WORTHY, O LORD

**Corporate Confession of Sin**

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. (Psalm 51:1-5, 9-12)*

**Silent Prayers of Personal Confession**

**The Scriptural Assurance of Pardon** Romans 8:31-32  
“What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?”

**Hymn of Redemption\***  
No. 199 *Arise, My Soul, Arise* LENOX

**Reading of the New Testament** Hebrews 9:1-27, *ESV*

**Pastoral Prayer 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, 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.*

**The Lord's Tithes and Our Offerings**

**Offertory** *Yours, Dear God* Choir

**Hymn of Praise\***  
No. 625 *Doxology* OLD HUNDREDTH

**Reading of the Old Testament** Ezra 3:1-13, *ESV*

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Preaching of God's Holy Word** Rev. Bryan Crotts  
*Don't Despise the Day of Small Things*

**Prayer to Seal God's Word**

**Hymn of Commitment\***  
No. 283 *We Are God's People* SYMPHONY

**Benediction\***

**Postlude**

EVENING WORSHIP  
6 o'clock

”It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night.” Psalm 92:1-2

**Prelude** Julie Snow

**Readings from God's Holy Word** Ezra 4:1-24, *ESV* Rev. Bryan Crotts

**Opening Hymn\***  
No. 277 *The Church's One Foundation* AURELIA

**The Belgic Confession (1561)** Article 9

The proof of the foregoing article of the Trinity of persons in one God.

*All this we know, as well from the testimonies of holy writ, as from their operations, and chiefly by those we feel in ourselves. The testimonies of the Holy Scriptures, that teach us to believe this Holy Trinity are written in many places of the Old Testament, which are not so necessary to enumerate, as to choose them out with discretion and judgment. In Genesis, chap. 1:26, 27, God says: Let us make man in our image, after our likeness, etc. So God created man in his own image, male and female created he them. And Gen. 3:22. Behold the man is become as one of us. From this saying, let us make man in our image, it appears that there are more persons than one in the Godhead; and when he says, God created, he signifies the unity. It is true he does not say how many persons there are, but that, which appears to us somewhat obscure in the Old Testament, is very plain in the New. For when our Lord was baptized in Jordan, the voice of the Father was heard, saying, This is my beloved Son: the Son was seen in the water, and the Holy Ghost appeared in the shape of a dove. This form is also instituted by Christ in the baptism of all believers. Baptize all nations, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. In the Gospel of Luke, the angel Gabriel thus addressed Mary, the mother of our Lord, the Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee, therefore also that holy thing, which shall be born of thee, shall be called the Son of God: likewise, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost be with you. And there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost, and these three are one. In all which places we are fully taught, that there are three persons in one only divine essence. And although this doctrine far surpasses all human understanding, nevertheless, we now believe it by means of the Word of God, but expect hereafter to enjoy the perfect knowledge and benefit thereof in Heaven. Moreover, we must observe the particular offices and operations of these three persons towards us. The Father is called our Creator, by his power; the Son is our Saviour and Redeemer, by his blood; the Holy Ghost is our Sanctifier, by his dwelling in our hearts. This doctrine of the Holy Trinity, has always been defended and maintained by the true Church, since the time of the apostles, to this very day, against the Jews, Mohammedans, and some false christians and heretics, as Marcion, Manes, Praxeas, Sabellius, Samosatenus, Arius, and such like, who have been justly condemned by the orthodox fathers. Therefore, in this point, we do willingly receive the three creeds, namely, that of the Apostles, of Nice, and of Athanasius: likewise that, which, conformable thereunto, is agreed upon by the ancient fathers.*

**Prayers of the Congregation**  
Adoration ~ Confession ~ Thanksgiving ~ Supplication

**The Beatitudes** Matthew 5:10-12 Rev. Bryan Crotts  
*Blessed Are the Persecuted*

**Prayer**

**Closing Hymn\***  
No. 546 *For All the Saints* SINE NOMINE

\* Congregation Standing