

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, February 22, 2015

The First Sunday in Lent



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE:

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism,
as the presiding minister begins.*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who brings us out of captivity into freedom,
out of the wilderness into the promised land, out of death into life.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Gracious God,

**C we confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by what we have
done and by what we have left undone. Forgive us and give us strength to turn from
sin and to serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

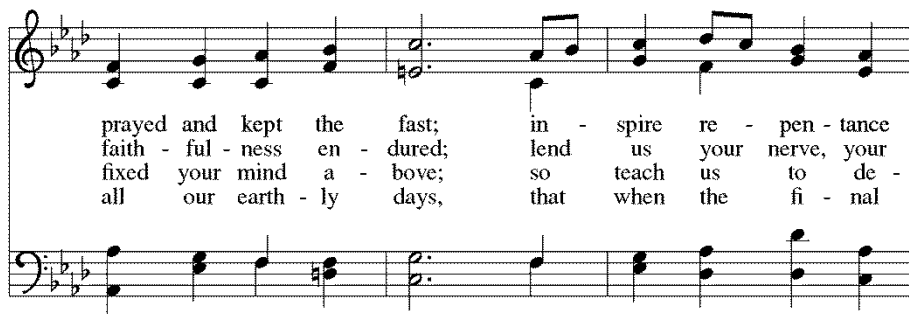
P By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives us a new birth, and through the death and
resurrection of Jesus Christ, + God forgives us all our sins. Almighty God strengthen us
in all goodness and keep us in eternal life.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days All Stand & Sing*



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
 2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
 3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
 4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
 faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
 fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
 all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.
 skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
 ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
 Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930
 Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
 Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.

GREETING

P From our God who loves us with an everlasting love, who brings forth a new creation in Christ, who leads us by the Spirit in the wilderness: Grace and abundant mercy be with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE

Assistant *Congregation*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Assistant

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Cong.

Lord, have mer - cy.

Assistant

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Cong.

Lord, have mer - cy.

Assistant

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

Congregation

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Assistant

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

*Congregation is seated and invited to **sing “Jesus Loves Me”**
as the children come forward.*

CHILDREN’S TIME

Children ages 4 to 8 years-old are invited to go to the Education building for a 20-minute (or so) time together **immediately after the Children’s sermon.** *Children will return to their parents during the hymn of the day.* **Children birth through 3 years-old** are invited to join others their age **in the nursery.**

FIRST READING

Genesis 9:8–17

A reading from the ninth chapter of Genesis.

Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, the Lord destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.

⁸Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹"As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." ¹²God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." ¹⁷God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:18–22

A reading from the third chapter of 1 Peter.

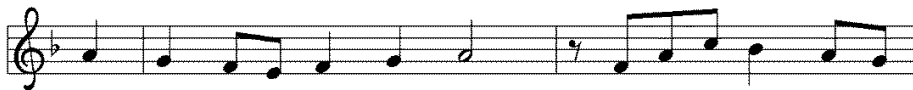
As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.

¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you — not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL VERSE



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and



mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL

Mark 1:9–15

P The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."



¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near, repent, and believe in the good news."

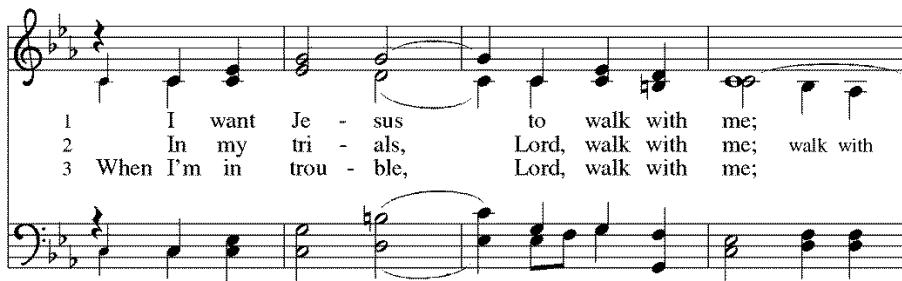
P The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

SERMON Pastor Micah

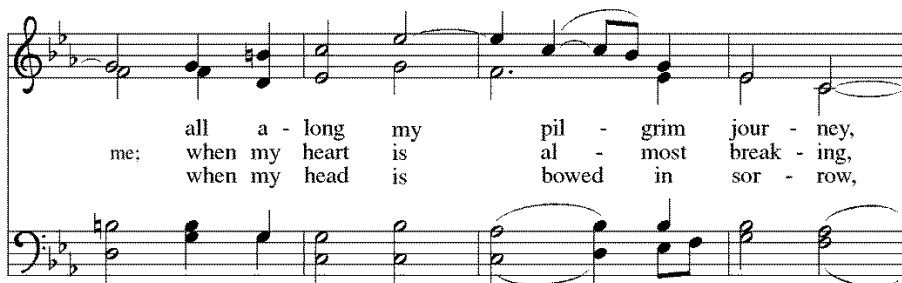
HYMN OF THE DAY: *I Want Jesus to Walk With Me* All Stand & Sing



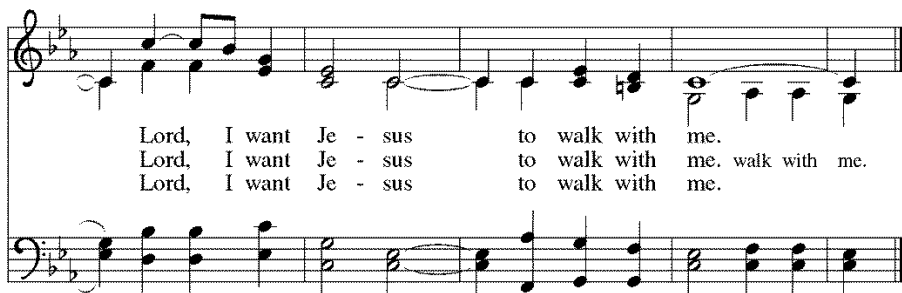
1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
 2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with
 3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



me; I want Je - sus to walk with me;
 in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with
 when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



me; all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
 when my heart is al - most break - ing,
 when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me. walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual; arr. hymnal version
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

* catholic with a small "c" refers to the whole Christian church throughout the world.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

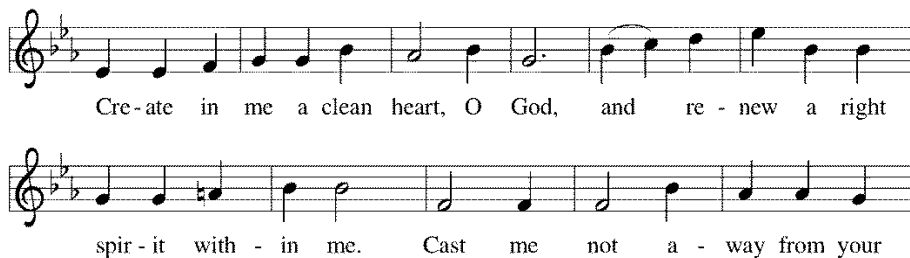
C And also with you.

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *My Jesus, I Love Thee* Chamber Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Create In Me* All Stand & Sing



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your



Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Led by Christ in our journey of repentance and moved by his compassion, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Holy God, in baptism you wash us clean from sin and refresh us with your promise of belonging. Unite your church in proclaiming that in your family all are welcome, all are beloved, all are made whole. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer..

The earth thirsts for your life-giving water. We pray for desert places where there is no rain and for restoration of polluted rivers and oceans. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Flood our world with a desire for peace. Where people are oppressed, bring justice. Where there is terror, bring safety. Stir up compassion among leaders and citizens so that every person is treated with dignity, kindness, and love. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Your heart aches with those who are in pain. Tend to those who are hungry, lonely, lost, and those in any need. Hear their cries and spur us to respond as your hands and heart in the world. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Bless ministers, musicians, teachers, visionaries, council members, committees, and all those who strive to lead this congregation faithfully into the future. Ground their work in scripture and prayer and fuel it with your great imagination. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Remember your covenant with us, and keep us faithful to you until we join with all the saints and angels around your heavenly throne. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

BLESSING

P The blessing of God Almighty, the wisdom and power of + Christ Jesus, and the light of the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Oh, Love, How Deep* All Stand & Sing

1 Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high, be - yond all
2 God sent no an - gel to our race, of high - er
3 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly
4 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his
thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of
or of low - er place, but wore the robe of
fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tion
dai - ly works he wrought, by words and signs and
God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!
hu - man frame, in Christ our Lord to this world came.
sharp he knew; for us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
ac - tions thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.

All glory to our Lord and God
for love so deep, so high, so broad:
the Trinity whom we adore
forever and forevermore.

Text: Thomas á Kempis, 1380–1471; tr. Benjamin Webb, 1819–1885, alt.
Music: DEO GRACIAS, English ballad, 15th cent.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this **First Sunday in Lent**. We pray that you will find a warm fellowship while you are among us and that you will return home with a renewed sense of dedication to Jesus Christ. Please sign our guest register or a visitor's card so that we can become acquainted with you. If you are without a church home, we invite you to investigate membership in this family of God.

CHILDREN are welcome in worship. Jesus said, "let the children come to me!" Parents are encouraged to utilize the Kids Worship Kits found in the Narthex for older toddlers through early elementary age. A nursery for children (**infants through 3 years old**) is located in the Education building. Let an usher know if you need assistance finding it.

KIDS' WORSHIP CENTER: Pick up kits as you enter for worship! **Please return the tote bag** with the plastic bag of crayons, scratch pads, and pencils to the stand in the narthex. The children may take any papers home with them.

PRAYER REQUESTS: A notebook has been placed in the narthex for your prayer requests during the week. The book will be in the narthex on Sundays and in the church office during the week. **If you wish a name to be added to our prayer list, please fill out a form from the prayer book or online at www.holyc.org.**

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Laura, Sarah, Elizabeth & Khloe June Tench in honor of Jack's birthday.

Those who have placed flowers on the altar may use containers to take them home, but please return the containers to the church. ***Greg Byrum, Worship & Music***

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, February 15, 2015:

Attendance: 154

Budget Report

February 15, 2015

Current Offering Received 2/15/2015	\$ 3,736.50
Weekly Budgeted Expenses	\$ 4,598.27
Offering, Year-To-Date	\$ 33,248.55
Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, Year-To-Date	\$ 962.40
Offering less Budgeted Expenses, Year-To-Date	\$ 3,471.09

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye, Jr.

GREETER: Deb Williams

ACOLYTE: Need Volunteer

CRUCIFER: Need Volunteer

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Beth Brittain

NURSERY: (9:30-11:45 am)

Need Volunteers

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 1)

Bev Mauney, Co-Captain

Charles Mauney, Co-Captain

Carmen De Nicholas Deb Williams

TELLERS: Shelia & Tim Kelly

USHERS: Volunteers Needed

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: February 22-28

Today, February 22 Cynthia Ashe

February 25 Jack Tench

February 27 Valerie Bruchon



THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, February 22

9:30 am Sunday School

10:10 am Church Choir in Choir Room

10:30 am The Service

Social Ministry after the service

4:00 pm Children's Ensemble

5:00 pm Handbells

6:00 pm Church Choir

8:00 pm Nar-Anon

Saturday, February 28

11:00 am-7:00 pm

23rd Annual Chicken 'n Dumplin'

Feast at Holy Communion Lutheran

in Dallas. Tickets available from

Holy Communion Lutheran at

704-922-5375 or 704-922-8257.

Tuesday, February 24

7:00 pm Nar-Anon

Wednesday, February 25

6:00 pm Lenten Dinner

6:45 pm **Lenten Worship**

Holden Evening Prayer

Chamber Choir after the service

Christian Ed. Comm. meets after the service

Thursday, February 26

7:30 pm **Evangelism Committee Meeting** in parlor

Social Ministry Committee will meet immediately after church service today to discuss future projects.

Anyone interested in Social Ministry is invited to attend this meeting.

Kathy Graves, Chair Social Ministry Committee



PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Louise Austin
Brenda Dabrowski
Daniel Dowd
Ferrie Hedrick
Dot Holland
Zac Hullander

Bill & Pauline Joye
Chase Lineberger
Holly Peche
Carol Posey
Mabel Ratchford
Mark Reese

Beverly Reynolds
George Roberson
Marguerite Shive
Dennis Tucker

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Pam Anderson
Harriett Ange
Paige Beaver
Jenny Beer
Father Frank Cancro
Tina Capwell
Clell Davis
J. Don Devine
Poss Garrett
Ronnie Garrison
Lewis Gilbert Family
Brian Hedrick

Eric Herdan
Stacy Hunsucker
Dennis Jordan
Steven Keating
Marshall Kinley
Lance Kirkland
Terry Mahaffey
Al McCoy
Dawn Mitchell
Mark Outlaw
Alicia Overton
Jean Peters

Beverly Howe Poag
Jim Poag
Taylor Propst & Family
David Prouty
Anna Rudder
Megan Sigler
E. Taylor & Family
Gloria Ward
Pastor Gary Weant
Olivia Wilcox
Jeff Wiles
Alex Yount

OUR SERVICEMEN

Matt Cisek

Jason Gardner

Dillon Kasmer



Jeremy Shaver

OUR MISSIONARIES

Austin & Tanya Propst (Young Adults in Global Mission)

Please remember these people in your prayers.

If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list, please inform Trudy Whitener or Dianne in the church office.

The sign-up prayer forms are located in the narthex and online at www.holyc.org.

The ***Lillian E. Lineberger Scholarship*** is available to members of Holy Comforter.

The Lillian E. Lineberger Scholarship was established as an endowment by Mrs. Lineberger to the congregation to reinforce students of the church in their learning and in the accomplishment of an undergraduate or graduate degree. Her hope was that this bequest would help improve your lives, and in turn, serve and enrich the lives of others.

The awards will be made once a year from the interest accrued on the endowment. That amount will be distributed equally among accepted applicants who must apply the funds toward tuition or books. Checks will be made out to the applicant's school.

To apply, you must meet the following requirements:

- Be a member of The Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter for at least one year
- Participate in Communion and contribute to the church during the time you are receiving the grant
- Submit the following by the deadline of **April 24th**:
 1. Your completed application
 2. A transcript from your most recently completed semester
 3. A typed essay (at least one paragraph) describing yourself, career plans, and life goals

The Scholarship Ministry, authorized in January, 1996, by the Church Council, will review your completed application. You will be notified of acceptance of your application in mid-May and an announcement will appear in the church newsletter. To have other questions answered, please call the church office.

You may request an application form via email from the church office by filling in *Lineberger Scholarship* in the subject line. Send your request to holycomforter@gmail.com.



All completed applications along with the required transcript and typed essay must be returned to the church office by the April 24th deadline. Any received after this date will not be considered. Send your request to holycomforter@gmail.com.

Best wishes to you in your educational journey.
Carmen De Nicholas, Scholarship Ministry

First United Methodist Church in Belmont invites you to:
Spring Children's Clothing Consignment Sale
Saturday, March 7th, from 7-11 am
807 South Point Rd. in Belmont.

There will be a ***Half Price*** sale from 11:30 – 12:30.
This will be a great opportunity to purchase high quality, gently used children's clothing, toys, bedding, and furniture at bargain prices.
Money raised by the church will support Children's Ministries.
For more information about consigning, contact the church at [\(704\) 825-2106](tel:7048252106),
Lori Hanafin at [704-689-0404](tel:7046890404) or obtain a registration packet online at
www.fumcbelmont.org .

The Christian Education Committee is interested in your opinions about our Sunday School program. We have designed a brief survey and would love for you to give us your feedback. Your answers are anonymous and we encourage every person in your household who has an opinion or feedback on the topic to complete a survey. If you are a family whose ideas and attendance patterns are all the same, you can just do one survey together. Use your discretion in determining how many you need to complete to adequately represent the members of your household. We will read all answers and take your feedback into consideration as we plan for the future of the programs here at Holy Comforter. We really want to know what we are doing well, what we are not, and what kinds of opportunities you want to see offered in the future. Please help us realize our potential and better meet the wants and needs of our community through your participation. Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this matter.
Simply go to the link www.surveymonkey.com/s/FBV95PW to begin.

Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 666 Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483 holycomforter@gmail.com

SUNDAY SCHEDULE: 9:30 am Sunday School, 10:30 am The Service

Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30 am — 3:00 pm

Micah Kearney, Pastor email: MicahKearney@gmail.com

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster Rev. Beth Brittain, Christian Education

Kristen Williams, HCY Advisor

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager