

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Please take a moment during the Prelude to silence your cell phones and quietly prepare yourself for worship.

WELCOME AND MINUTES FOR MINISTRY

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Our God is a shepherding God.

People: Our God knows us by name.

Leader: Our God will never stop searching for us.

People: So if you feel lost, then know that God is seeking you.

Leader: If you feel found, then know that God will never leave.

People: This is the promise of scripture.

Leader: This is the promise of God's love.

All: Let us worship our with-us God.

*POEM OF INVITATION

*HYMN "Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak" Hymnal 722

RECEIVING FORGIVENESS FROM GOD AND EACH OTHER

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

If God is a painter, let us be the brush. If God is a musician, let us be the song. If God is an architect, let us be the tools. Let us be the hands. Let us be the builders. But if God is a shepherd, who never stops seeking, let us be willing to be found, no matter how lost we feel. Our God is never far away. Forgive us for forgetting this good news. Amen.

*WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Family of faith, we are all a little bit lost and a little bit found. We grumble. We push back. We doubt God. We doubt ourselves. We leave the flock and lose our way. But fortunately for us, our God is a shepherding God who is always by our side. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel: No matter how far we wander, we can never wander from the bounds of God's grace. We are loved. We are forgiven. We are not alone.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Luke 15:1-7 Pew Bible p.740

MESSAGE

Pastor Blake Severson

*HYMN "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" Hymnal 649v.1-3

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

GOING INTO THE WORLD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD

OFFERTORY

* "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" Hymnal 606

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*HYMN "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" Hymnal 649v.4-5

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

**Those who are able please stand*

WELCOME to worship - we are glad that you're here! If you are visiting today and would like to share your contact information, there are welcome cards in the pew pockets. Please fill one out and place it in the offering plate. Everyone is invited to stay for coffee, snacks, and fellowship in the narthex after worship.



LARGE PRINT HYMNALS with a black cover are on the small bookcase in the rear of the sanctuary.



Children up to Kindergarten age are welcome in the nursery. There are clipboards with coloring pages in the narthex if your children wish to stay in the sanctuary.

Bulletin cover artist's statement: Lisle Gwynn Garrity

On September 27, 2024, I began drawing the Good Shepherd with the lost sheep tenderly wrapped around his shoulders. As I worked, rain pummeled our roof, saturating the ground with an endless deluge as tropical storm Helene reached my town of Black Mountain, NC. The next day, winds roared and threw trees to the ground like dominos. We lost power, water, and cell service. We didn't know it yet, but every creek and river had swelled with enormous force, sweeping away everything in their path. Landslides and extreme flooding ravaged all of Western North Carolina, taking homes, towns, and lives. We were miraculously spared, with no flooding or trees on our roof. As soon as the storm relented, we set out to find family and friends by foot. We walked through our town, which had become a maze-like wasteland, changing routes due to downed trees, power lines, and washed-out roads. When we found loved ones and neighbors, with relief and urgency, we asked: "Do you have enough water? Do you need food?" It would be nearly 6 days before emergency relief arrived. Meanwhile, neighbors survived by the help of their neighbors. Churches opened their doors. Firefighters persisted, despite perilous rescue missions. Helicopters air-lifted people to safety. When I began this artwork, I naively hoped to gain insight into Jesus' parable of the lost sheep. I did not wish to become the lost sheep and live through the greatest natural disaster to hit my hometown in over a thousand years. Now, over 6 weeks after the storm, what strikes me is the shepherd's singular pursuit of the lost and vulnerable. He steadies the sheep on his shoulders and steps out of the frame toward us. His gaze finds mine, and I almost hear him whisper, "I will never stop searching for the lost. I will never stop rejoicing when one is found."



Eagle River Presbyterian Church
March 30, 2025



Welcome to Eagle River Presbyterian Church

March 30, 2025

Weekly Walk

Sunday	10:00 am	Worship
Sunday	10:15 am	Children's Sunday school
Sunday	11:30 am	Food pantry workday
Tuesday	7:15 pm	Prayer group
Wednesday	9:30 am	Coffee hour at church
Wednesday	7:30 pm	Zoom Bible study

Last week's In-Person Attendance ----- 51
 Year-to-Date Regular Income ----- \$70,837.15
 Year-to-Date Regular Expenses ----- \$65,539.49

Today is our **workday in the food pantry**, after worship at 11:30. We will be re-packaging rice, stocking shelves, and other tasks. Plan to stay about 1 to 2 hours.

There will be a **Prayer ministry meeting** this Tuesday at 7:15 pm. We will also be meeting on the following dates: April 8 at 10:30 am, April 25 at 10:30 am, May 6 at 7:15 pm, and May 23 at 10:30 am. If you have questions, please speak with Todd Carter.



The dates have changed for our upcoming fellowship events: We will now be having a **potluck and game night on Saturday, April 12** and **hiking after worship** on May 18! A sign-up for the potluck is on the bulletin board by the kitchen - the food theme is Italian.

Candy donations are needed for the children's egg hunt on Easter Sunday, April 20. Please bring small, individually wrapped candies that will fit into standard-sized plastic eggs. Thank you!



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