

Forecast



Fall 2019

Our mission is to know Christ, to serve Him, and to make Him known.

Dear Church Family & Friends,

First, of all let me deeply express my gratitude for the opportunity to serve, build relationships and worship with you here at First Presbyterian of Kannapolis! I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here so far way more than expected, and because of you feel right at home! I feel an excitement in the air over outreach opportunities, upcoming events, special gatherings and groups. We certainly have a lot of great ways to get engaged, as well as more opportunities starting to happen now.

It has been a beautiful thing to have us all in worship holding hands declaring what we believe through the Apostle's Creed, dancing around the church together after VBS, and just celebrating togetherness in different ways and forms. We, as the Body of Christ, are all connected and need to remember that and celebrate that we don't have to be alone.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 says, "The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So, it is with Christ. For we were all baptized-whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free -and we were all given the one Spirit to drink."

I want to encourage you to encourage one another, to love one another and to serve together! We will have more ways and even more opportunities to do that coming up, so please pray about how you can get more involved in the life of the church, and our mission to make Christ known.

In the midst of all the great things that await the church, I know exist some anxieties.

"Do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?" ... Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." -- Matthew 6:25, 34

As we head back into groups, activities, schools start back, and you are wondering what's in store for the future of the church, rest assured that God has a plan!

Anxiety over tomorrow's concerns will rob you of the strength for today. Getting stuck in worry will steal your joy and render you ineffective for the work that God wants to do through your life. If the devil can keep you immobilized by fear he can steal from you the zeal to serve Christ in this generation. Remember how the disciples responded after Christ was killed? After they saw their dearly beloved Jesus crucified, their fear drove them into hiding. What if they had become so consumed with worry that they stayed in the shadows until the day they died? Thank God they didn't!

Let's not miss out on the incredible assignments God has for each of us. Let us press on in the strength and peace of God! **In, "Jesus" we are victorious!**

God loves His Church and He loves First Presbyterian Church of Kannapolis!

Blessings & Love in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Heath

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Please join us for
Genesis Sunday
on September 8!!!

The Fellowship
Team will provide
breakfast,

beginning at 9:30 in
the Fellowship Hall,

followed by introductions of our youth and adult
Sunday School classes. The Christian Education
Team has selected **'Living Empowered!'** as our
theme for this year's Sunday School:

" 'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the
Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.' " you,
Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

Come learn more about our Sunday School offerings
and find a class that fits you!

For adults:

- **Disciples Class:** led by Frank Gibson
- **Drummond Class:** led by Ron Lisenby
- **Good News Class:** led by Bill Jolley

For youth:

- **PreK – Kindergarten:** led by Emma Sechler & Tracy Caskey
- **Grades 1 – 5:** led by Chariti Lowder & Hannah Efird
- **Middle & High School:** led by Michelle Walker

Danny Bost will substitute as needed

Wednesday Night Life kicked off with a Family
Movie Night on Saturday, August 24th. Our church
family and friends enjoyed watching "Soul Surfer",
eating popcorn and snacking on their favorite candy
bars!



Regular Wednesday Night Life classes will begin Wednesday, September 4:

- **Adults**, led by Larry Efird, will study R. C. Sproul's book, "Mystery of the Holy Spirit". (Register on our website).



• **Preschoolers and Kindergarteners** meet with Alpha Barger and Linda Bost. They will learn from "Hearing Bible Stories" how God desires to know them personally.

• **1st through 5th Graders** are invited to KIDS (Kids in Divine Service) Church! In a unit on "Knowing Myself", they will discover what it means to be and live as a child of God.

• **Middle and High School Youth (NEW!)** begins with a study of our Family Movie Night film "Soul Surfer." Michelle Walker will explore with our youth how God gives us the ability to 'Live Empowered', using Bethany Hamilton's story as an example. Friends are welcome!!!

Watch the bulletin for upcoming Fall activities from your CE Team, including a Fall Festival / Vespers Service!!!

Women's Ministry Opportunities abound this fall!

Please come join your 'Sisters in Christ' as we grow in faith and fellowship together:



**WOMEN'S
GROUPS**

- Registration is open to all women for **Saltshakers Ladies Bible Study!** Saltshakers will meet on Mondays, September through April, at 6:00 pm. We will study Acts – "The Holy Spirit and the Beginning of the Church".
- **The Circle of Women** invites all women to join them as they begin a new year! We will meet on Monday, September 9 at 2:00p.m. at Editions Coffee Shop and Book Store, and continue monthly meetings on the 2nd Monday of each month through May. The current study is on women of the Bible.
- The **'Bad Girls' women's Bible study** is open to all and meets each Thursday at 10:30am at the Church. Join us as we study "The Women of Easter" by Liz Curtis Higgs!
- **Women Without Reservations** (formerly known as the Sunday Women's Circle) invites all ladies in the church to join us as we explore what it means to live Proverbs 31:25: "She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come." Our next meeting will be Friday, September 20 at 5:30pm at C3 – Coffee, Crepes, Creamery (5011 Weddington Road #60, Concord). It will be a time of fellowship and discussion about a devotional series we're beginning - "Covenant: The Study of Ruth, Esther, and Song of Songs" from Proverbs 31 Ministries. See <https://first5.org/plans/Covenant/> for information on how to find the plan and order an Experience Guide.

MISSIONS HEADLINES



THANK YOU to all those who donated or helped back book bags for Jackson Park Elementary. We were able to deliver 55 backpacks, stuffed with notebooks, pencils, a pencil pouch,

glue stick, erasers, crayons, and markers. Teachers also got a boost with dry erase markers, disinfectant wipes, hand sanitizer, tissues, and other miscellaneous items. During our annual Blessing of the Bookbags, we prayed over the bags and the children who would receive them. The school guidance counselor was able to hand out many bags at Open House, alleviating parents' worries about how to supply their children. Thank you for sharing God's love in such a tangible way!

The Missions Team was blessed to provide breakfast at A.L. Brown High School on Tuesday, August 13. Teachers were treated to Chick-fil-a nuggets, bagels and spreads, fruit, sweet treats, and juice. Principal Angelo DelliSanti posted on facebook: "Incredibly grateful for our friends at First Presbyterian Church for providing our staff with a great breakfast this morning!" Thanks to those who helped set-up and serve!

Operation Christmas Child time is here again! Once again, we will pack 400 boxes – 200 boy and 200 girl – this year, focusing on ages 10-14. In order to produce higher-quality, more consistent boxes, the Missions Team humbly requests that you make a monetary donation (just indicate OCC Shoeboxes) to go towards purchasing items. Or, if you would like to go shopping or 'adopt' an item, please see Michelle Walker for a list of needs. Then join us on Wednesday, November 20 in the Fellowship Hall for our Shoebox Packing Party!!! After a quick dinner, we will come together to pack and pray over our boxes. We'll bless them again during the worship service on Sunday, November 24. Thanks as always for your support of this special ministry!



Our **annual Yard Sale** to support Operation Christmas Child will be held Saturday, September 14 (rain date Sept. 21)! Sausage biscuits, hot dogs, drinks, and Amelia Caskey's baked goods will be available – yum!!! Sale items may be placed in the room beside the choir room up until Tuesday, Sept. 17. Please do not include used bedding, undergarments, swimsuits, or items that are stained or in disrepair. If you need assistance moving larger objects, please see a member of the Missions Team. Sorting and set-up will take place the evenings of Wednesday, September 18 – Friday, September 20. Please share our facebook post and invite your friends and neighbors!



Save Your Items for Our Yard Sale



HOPE NIGHT
SHELTER

Our church has been given the opportunity to serve at the **Salvation Army Hope Night Shelter** on Sunday, September 22 – Saturday, September 28. Volunteers must prepare a meal for approximately 30 people, set up beginning at 6:30pm, and serve from 7pm until 8pm. You are also requested to bring milk and cereal for breakfast the following morning. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Thank you for serving our neighbors in need!

A Missions Team will **travel to Southport, NC** on Wednesday, November 6 - Sunday, November 10. We will work through the United Methodist Committee on Relief to repair homes in the Boiling Spring Lakes area, where a dam breached during Hurricane Florence. If you would like to participate in this Missions Trip, please see Michelle Walker ASAP!



MISSION TRIP

Mark your calendars for **World Missions Sunday**, which we will recognize on Sunday, October 20. Watch the bulletin for upcoming details!



Session Notes

First Presbyterian has been blessed to have Heath Burchett fill our pulpit over the summer. Heath's weekly messages and his example of putting Christ's love into action through his ministries to the homeless and youth have been inspirational. We are pleased that Heath has agreed to continue as our pulpit supply through the end of October! Heath will also be available in the church office on Tuesdays for any covenant partner who wishes to call or drop by to chat.

Session is working closely with ECO's Ministry Partnership Team (MPT) to move forward on our journey. ECO has assigned Rev. Dave Rockness from Mooresville First Presbyterian to serve as moderator of our session during this time of transition. Session has completed a profile of our church and the profile has been approved by ECO, which is a required step to begin a pastor search.

The next step is to find a Transitional Pastor. ECO strongly recommends that a church employ a certified Transitional Pastor before beginning a search for a new long-term pastor. A Transitional Pastor not only performs traditional pastoral duties like preaching, pastoral care, and administrative leadership, he or she also helps the church discern a clear vision for the future. The Transitional pastor seeks to prepare a congregation for a new installed pastor.

Session has begun to review interested Transitional Pastor candidates, working in partnership with the MPT. We are working to fill this position as soon as possible. In the event that a Transitional Pastor is found before the end of October, our agreement with Heath to supply the pulpit could be ended with two weeks' notice (although we would certainly hope to see Heath again as a guest speaker in the future!).

After a Transitional Pastor has been in place for a short time, ECO will work with us to form a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) for a long-term pastor. The PNC will be elected by the congregation. ECO guidelines indicate that the PNC should be made up of at least 5 members, and should include a cross section of the congregation. Once a PNC is elected, it will work in partnership with ECO to search for our next long-term pastor. There is no set timeline for how long a Transitional Pastor serves before a new long-term pastor is called.

Ministry Teams

Session would like to thank everyone who has agreed to serve on a ministry team or in other ways. We are encouraged that so many folks have volunteered to serve! While the interim period between pastors can

present challenges, it is also an opportunity for us to become more connected and grow in faith and love through service. If you are interested in volunteering in any way and have not been contacted, please speak with an elder.

Following is an updated list of the ministry teams along with the chair of each:

Team	Chair
Building and Grounds	Gip Rumble
Christian Education	Judy Goodnight
Congregational Care	Renee Goodnight
Fellowship	Ryan Walker
Missions	Debbie McDaniel
(Elder) Nominating	Frank Gibson
Personnel	Bill Stricker
Stewardship	Jeff Barnhardt
Worship	Peggy Gibson

Other key minutes from Session Meetings:

- Approved a motion to provide a gift of \$ 1,700 to Habit Missions (Heath Burchett's ministry) using earnings from the Williams Fund for Missions.
- Approved creation of the new Congregational Care team.
- Approved a motion to obtain a blueprint from an architect for possible changes to the brickwork in front of the church.
- In the absence of a pastor, requests for use of the Good Samaritan Fund require review and approval by the session.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Barnhardt



Budget to date as of Aug. 2019	\$188,955
Year to Date Income (for budgeted items)	\$171,903
Year to Date Expenses (for budgeted items)	\$155,398
August Income (for budgeted items)	\$ 19,000
August Expenses (for budgeted items)	\$ 12,415

If you would like a copy of the budget, please contact the church office.



William & Debbie	Baker	09/01
Mike & Carol	Lowder	09/04
Andrew & Jenna	Baker	09/06
Phil & Jill	McLain	09/11
Virginia & Ron	Maguire	09/12
Chance & Jennifer	Williams	09/26
Donnie & Raegan	Swaringen	10/05
Mal & Debbie	McDaniel	10/06
Doug & Amelia	Goodnight	10/15
Sam & Kay	McAllister	10/19
Lindsay & Jason	Leece	10/25
John & Brenda Gail	Roberson	11/06
Lynn & Shannon	Sechler	11/09
Mark & Jennifer	Linn	11/20

Noah	Smith	09/01	Phil	McLain	09/25	Bob,	Hallman, Jr.	10/14	Thomas	Pless	11/06
Pat	Hill	09/02	Debbie	McDaniel	09/27	Evie	Sechler	10/17	Doug	Goodnight	11/07
Bill	Hammond	09/10	Donnie	Swaringen	09/28	Sylvia	Overcash	10/20	Sandy	Eaton	11/09
Dwight	Goodnight	09/15	Cindy	Griggs	09/29	Keira	Brady	10/25	George	Wiseman	11/15
Susan	Thomas	09/15	Risa	Little	09/29	David	Grey	10/25	Chris	Goodnight	11/16
Brenda Gail	Roberson	09/17	Zack	Martens	10/02	Carter	Wiseman	10/25	Emma	Sechler	11/16
Ryan	Craft	09/19	Connie	Rary	10/03	Amelia	Goodnight	10/27	Richard	Keasler	11/19
Bonnie	Goodnight	09/21	Ella	Sechler	10/04	Frank	Gibson	11/01	Torrence	Hallman	11/20
Frances	Milem	09/24	Juanita	Holt	10/06	Sharon	Copeland	11/02	Kendal	Wiseman	11/29
Tony	Sherrill	09/24	Mel	Eaton	10/09	Rylan	Craft	11/03			
William	Cranford	09/25	Caylin	Lowder	10/10	Luanne	Wiseman	11/04			
Lynn	Efird	09/25									



As we enter into the autumn season I am reminded of God making all things new. Every day is a gift from God and His mercies are certainly new every morning. This transition time at First Presbyterian has been a time of renewal and reinvigoration. I have been blessed to see our church worship in an authentic and joyous way and I am excited about what the Lord has in store for us! With the passing of our dear brother in Christ Mike Williams I am reminded of the song that he lived by, "One Day at a Time, Sweet Jesus." With the revitalization of downtown Kannapolis and Cannon Village our church seems to be at a crossroads. We are challenged to make more and better disciples of Christ, and I certainly see that being lived out here!

One of my pleasures in serving as music director here is seeing the way God is using every one of you for His

glory, whether in music ministry, discipleship, Christian education, missions, or any other area of ministry. This fall I will continue to strive to make our music ministry authentic, relevant and God honoring. This can only be accomplished through the Holy Spirit. I ask you to pray that our church would honor God in all we do.

Tim Keller wrote that "...the reality of God's nature and our obligations to Him are continuously presented to us...If this is true, then every artifact of human culture (singing) is a positive response to God's general revelation and simultaneously a rebellious assertion against his sovereign rule over us." What does this mean? It means that singing was a created thing by God. Before the fall of man, singing was God's idea and the matter of singing is important to Him. Perhaps before the creation of the world, the trinity used singing as a way to be glorified. Tim Keller also wrote a wonderful description of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit communing, dancing, and singing together before creation. God promises to sing over us one day, Zephaniah 3:17. Take a look at all of the references to singing in the Bible. I am sure there are more too:

- * Singing is a gift. It seems that singing was common way of gifting others in order to display joy. (Gen 31:27)
- * Singing implies worship. (Exo 32:18)
- * Singing is a declaration to the world about the might of God. (Judges 5)

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- * Singing Psalms and playing music was apparently used by the Lord to drive out evil spirits. (1 Samuel 16:14-23)
- * Singing is because of victory. (1 Samuel 18:6)
- * Singing is to celebrate. (2 Samuel 6:5)
- * Singing is a ministry. (1 Chronicles 6:32)
- * Singing is so that we may express our gratitude to God.
- * Singing is to declare His goodness in all times.
- * Singing is for men and for women. (Ezra 2:65)
- * Singing along with rejoicing are driven by music. (Job 21:12)
- * Singing is a way to "Shout to God". (Psalm 47:1)
- * Singing to the Lord so that our lips may praise Him. (Psalm 63:5)
- * Singing to recount God's faithfulness and all that He has done. (Psalm 107:22)
- * Singing is the soul-satisfying gift and eventual result of endured suffering. (Psalm 126:5)
- * Singing because we are crowned with unending joy. (Isaiah 35:10)
- * Singing is what God does when He delights in us and rejoices over us. (Zeph.3:17)
- * Singing is done after The Lord's supper. Also, Jesus sang! (Matthew 26:30)
- * Singing and praying are inseparable! (Acts 16:25)

- * Singing signifies that we are filled with Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18,19)
- * Singing is a result of the Word dwelling in us richly. (Colossians 3:16)
- * Singing will be for eternity. When the end of this world draws near, our bold declaration of who Christ is, will be through singing. (Revelations 5:12)

I urge you to consider using your voice to praise and worship God. God created you and He wants to hear you sing!

David



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