

Forecast



Spring 2020

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

Dear Church Family,

We come into a wonderful season of faith. Lent brings us to the Passion, which leads us to the empty tomb. That great, get up morning is a high point for every one of us!

I hope you see your own spiritual life in terms of the rhythms of this season. There are hard times, of course. The forty days of lent reminds us of Jesus' forty day fast in the desert and his encounter with evil personified. The mission of Christ led him to a terrible confrontation, the midnight arrest and all the other indignities and sorrows he experienced.

There is not one of us who is unfamiliar with difficulties. Not to the same extent, to be sure, but we have known hard times, pain and sorrow. Whatever you are going through, Jesus has been there.

But then there is that morning, when the stone rolled and the sun shone and those who were going to bury Jesus ran to the others as the first evangelists with one, simple message: He is alive! In Christ, we have hope and a new beginning.

I am praying for you that this season is both a reminder of Christ's presence and a renewal of your hope. God bless you, and I look forward to seeing you Sunday!

In Christ,

Pastor Stuart



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How Healthy is Our Church?

When you go to the doctor for a check up, you are asking what your level of health is. You want him or her to take blood samples (as much as we hate it). We want the physician to check out our trouble spots, to take a good listen to our hearts and ask us questions about how we have been feeling. The result is either a clean bill of health or (more likely) a set of prescriptions for what we need to do to get on the road to health.

That is pretty clear for an individual. But what about a church? How do you take our temperature or check our vital signs? Is our heart beat strong and true or is there some arrhythmia there?

Your Session is asking you to take the Church Health Assessment Tool, or CHAT. It is an online instrument that is open for each of us to take from March 1 to March 23. To take it, simply:

1. Get on the internet and go to www.healthychurch.net.
2. Click on the button that says "Take the Survey" on the left side of the screen.
3. Use the following information to log in:
Login: First Presbyterian Church
Password: 2020

So what will be measured? I'm glad you asked! Dr. Stephen Macchia has written extensively about this subject. After years of research, and thousands of interviews, he identifies ten traits of a healthy church. Let me quote him:

God's Empowering Presence

The healthy church actively seeks the Holy Spirit's direction and empowerment for its shared life and ministry.

Romans 8:16, "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."

God-Exalting Worship

The healthy church gathers regularly as the local expression of the Body of Christ to worship God in ways that engage the heart, mind, soul, and strength of the people.

John 4:23, "Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks."

Spiritual Disciplines

The healthy church provides training, models, and resources for members of all ages to develop their daily spiritual disciplines.

James 3:17, "But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure, then peace loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere."

Learning & Growing in Community

The healthy church encourages believers to grow in their walk with God and with one another in the context of a safe, affirming environment.

Romans 14:19, "Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification."

A Commitment to Loving & Caring Relationships

The healthy church is intentional in its efforts to build loving, caring relationships within families, between members and within the community we serve.

1 John 3:16, "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers."

Servant-Leadership Development

The healthy church identifies and develops individuals whom God has called and given the gift of leadership and challenges them to be servant-leaders.

Ephesians 4:16, "From Him (Christ) the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

An Outward Focus

The healthy church places high priority on communicating the truth of Jesus and demonstrating the love of Jesus to those outside the faith.

Luke 19:10, "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

Wise Administration & Accountability

The healthy church utilizes appropriate facilities, equipment, and systems to provide maximum support for the growth and development of its ministries.

Luke 16:11, "So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?"

Networking with the Body of Christ

The healthy church reaches out to others in the Body of Christ for collaboration, resource sharing, learning opportunities, and united celebrations of worship.

John 17:23, "May they (the church) be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."

Stewardship & Generosity

The healthy church teaches its members that they are stewards of their God-given resources and challenges them to be sacrificially generous in sharing with others.

2 Corinthians 9:6, "Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."

What will be the result of all this? We will get a greater clarity on where we are at, the possibility of measuring progress and a good chance for feedback from the body itself. So, take this survey soon. Right now, if you can. To your (our) health!

As we enter the season of Lent I once again am reflecting on how music is used for worship. The biblical response would be that we are commanded to sing in the scriptures. I am sure that we can all agree on that. However, apart from music that glorifies Christ in words we all have a different opinion about what makes music for worship appropriate. Some may argue that the traditional style of worship is outdated and not relevant to our current culture. Others would say that more modern styles of music do not hold the gravitas to draw us closer to a powerful almighty God. My guess is that most of you would be in one camp or the other. The tricky part about this is that there is no right or wrong and I certainly don't claim to have all of the answers. I think as a church we need to consider what is right for our church.

I have very eclectic tastes in music. Many of you know that I was an aspiring country singer turned opera singer. One constant musical genre has been sacred or Christian music. I have served as a church musician since I was a boy in some capacity, whether as a member of a choir, praise team, staff singer or as a music director and choral director. Needless to say, music has been a huge part of my life.

All of this experience and knowledge of music is somewhat of a blessing and a curse. I used to think that music was the most important aspect of a worship service, but I was wrong. Yes, music can be a powerful tool to lead us into closer fellowship and worship of Christ, but music can also be an idol. In the **Desiring God** article, *Good Music Can Become Your God; Five Reasons Jesus Is Better*, Bob Kauflin argues that music has an incredible power to make us feel connected. Music has the power to make us unified. Music has the power to comfort us. Music has the power to stir our emotions and yes stir our emotions for Christ. But, music cannot save us, only Jesus can. Music does not make us one, Jesus does. Music cannot comfort us. It only points us to the One who can. Jesus is our treasure. The giver is who we should focus on, not the gift. My point is that we should all search our hearts and ask ourselves if we are seeking God for who He is or are we seeking His good gifts.

I sure have enjoyed mixing things up on Sunday mornings. The praise band, choir, handbells, and children have helped us all worship in an authentic way. It is my prayer that the music ministry would continue to point us to Jesus Christ.

I am excited that we will once again join Kimball Lutheran Church for a Good Friday service at Kimball. This collaboration was very successful and well received for Christmas that Don and I decided to try it again.

Blessings,
David





Christian Education Team

A huge 'thank you' to all those who cooked for, participated in, or cleaned up after our second Agape Bistro! Our congregation enjoyed a delicious southern-style meal prepared by Ryan Walker, Pat Hill, and Chris Lowder. The youth served and entertained with a tribute to 'Hee Haw' and our wonderful JOY group. Kay Yates, David Hamilton, Garrett Brady, Dave and Jane Argabrite, and even Pastor Stuart got in on the fun! Youth participating were Katie Satterfield, Emma Sechler, Ella Sechler, Evie Sechler, Bonagher Hamilton, Linden Hamilton, Violet Hamilton, Abigail Malinovsky, Fred Caskey, Amelia Caskey, Toby Caskey, Caylin Lowder, Landon Walker, Noah Walker, and Erica Efird.



Take note of upcoming Youth opportunities!

During Wednesday Night Life in March, **all youth** have the chance to meet in the Fellowship Hall for something new during the last 30 minutes of their

meeting time! We will begin our activities with regular classes from 6:30-7:00, and end with a time of purposefully connecting with God through His Word, the Holy Spirit, and faith-filled guided movements from 7:00 to 7:30. Emily Griggs will lead these sessions, which will help our youth focus on the season of Lent and the theme of surrendering to God so that He can use us and fill us with His Spirit. Our goal is to encourage our youth to connect with Jesus as we prepare our minds, bodies and souls for Lent and Holy Week. Emily will provide exercise mats, but your youth may bring their own if they prefer. Dress comfortably and in clothes you can move in!

All youth are invited to Flour Power cooking studio in Cornelius, NC (21714 Catawba Avenue, Suite A-1) on Saturday, March 28 at 3:00pm. We will enjoy a time of cooking together, and have fun eating our creations! In order to attend, you must **RSVP to Michelle by Sunday, March 8.**

All youth and families, make plans to join us for an Easter event on Saturday, April 4! We will end with an Easter egg hunt and lunch outside, weather permitting. Invite your friends, family, and neighbors to come reflect on the miracle of Easter! **Please RSVP using the link on our website by Sunday, March 29**, so we will have adequate food and supplies.

A **Middle/Senior High Youth** lock-in is planned for Friday, April 24th! We will gather for dinner, a Biblically-based escape room, games, fellowship, and breakfast. Please let Raegan Swaringen or Michelle Walker know if your youth will participate.

The Middle/Senior High Youth are invited to the home of Ryan and Michelle Walker on Saturday evening, May 9 for dinner and a movie!

Youth Sunday will be June 7. In preparation, **all choristers** should plan to attend the following practices:

- Wednesday, April 22 at 6pm
- Wednesday, April 29 at 6pm
- Wednesday, May 6 at 6pm
- Wednesday, May 13 at 6pm

ALL Youth will practice on:

- Tuesday, May 2 at 6pm
- Saturday, May 6 at 10am



A Wednesday Night Life year-end celebration will be held on May 20! The congregation is invited to gather for a cookout, fellowship and fun!



Make plans to join us for Vacation Bible School - Sunday, July 12 through Thursday, July 16!



All women of the church are invited to First Presbyterian Church, Mooresville for their annual Spring Gathering! The event will take place on Saturday, March 28th, 2020 from 11am-1pm with special guest Anna Parsons Nobles. Please RSVP to the church at (704) 664-5275 if you are interested in attending.



Souper Bowl – Thank you to all who supported the Souper Bowl of Caring in 2020. A total of 253 food items (weighing 197 lbs.) and \$334.00 was collected. All donations went to the Cooperative Christian Ministry of Cabarrus County.

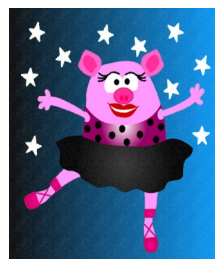
The Missions Team is sponsoring a second Mission Trip to Southport, NC on April 15-19. We will continue Hurricane recovery efforts with the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Please see Debbie McDaniel or Michelle Walker as soon as possible if you are interested in traveling with us!

The Kannapolis Bible Teaching Association Banquet will be held on Monday, May 4 at Shoe Show, Inc., 2201 Trinity Church Rd #3, Concord, NC 28027. Dinner will be served at 6pm. Please RSVP to Amy Hamilton, Sam McAllister, Sharon Cranford, or Bill Jolley if you would like to attend!

Mark your calendars for a day of fun on **Saturday, May 2!** Our annual Yard Sale for Missions will take place in the church parking lot from 8am to 1pm! Start collecting items that you would like to donate, then bring them to church during **one of two collection times:** Sunday, April 26, after church, and Thursday

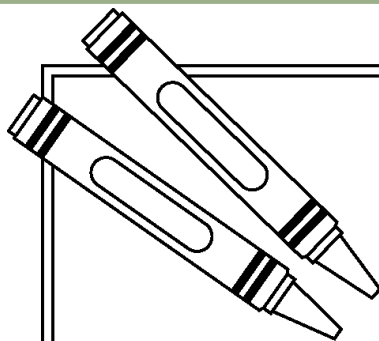


evening, April 30. Please note that items need to be clean and should NOT include undergarments, bathing suits or bedding. Missions Team members will be on-hand at the collection times to help donors sort the items in the Fellowship Hall. Proceeds go toward our goal of 400 Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. Children and youth will sell Krispy Kreme doughnuts and coffee during the morning hours of the Yard Sale and host a car wash to help fund youth outings and activities. Hot Dogs, chips, and drinks will be available for lunch to benefit the Missions Yard Sale.



Our church will host a craft booth during the *Jiggy with the Piggy* Festival in downtown Kannapolis, on May 2 from 9am – 5pm. Donations are welcome from any crafty church members! If you would like to staff the booth for any period of time, please see Debbie McDaniel or Michelle Walker.










Kannapolis City Schools has joined a new app – Purposity – that will allow you to follow and meet needs of KCS students. Simply download the app from your app store, and “follow” Kannapolis City Schools. If you see a need that you can meet, the app allows you to select that need and fund it all in one place. Just another way we can reach out to our community in support of students!



Just for KIDS

An Easter Message

Mary went to the tomb and found it empty! Find the words that an angel spoke to her. Write the name of each picture on the lines. Transfer the letters to the other spaces to find the verse.

		31	32	33	34
	1 2 3 4 5				
	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14		35	36	37
	15 16 17 18 19 20		38	39	40 41
	21 22 23 24 25 26 27				
	28 29 30		42	43	44

“ 18 42 14 31 3 14 17 7 13 3 17 34 15 17 20
 8 42 10 16 25 38 25 23 30 36 35 3 23 29
 44 42 19 31 27 43 31 ? 42 19 25 4 23 3 9
 42 10 24 19 ; 42 28 42 36 5 24 25 5 27 23 !”

Luke 24:5

Answers: cross; butterfly; flower; sunrise; egg; duck; man; vine; hat. “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen!”



Paul & Peggy	Barnhardt	03/14
Bob & Shirley	Faust	03/16
Edward & Jessica	Bell	03/27
Buster & Paula	Petty	03/31
Bill & Janice	Jolley	04/02
Frank & Peggy	Gibson	04/30
Larry & Carla	Efird	05/02
Chris & Chariti	Lowder	05/03
Mark & Renee	Goodnight	05/06
Christy & Jeffrey	Heintz	05/06
Richard & Risa	Little	05/07
Todd & Karen	Pless	05/07
Ronald & Connie	Lisenby	05/08
Bill & Sharon	Stricker	05/13
Ali & Ryan	Craft	05/24
Tony & Judy	Hunter	05/26
Ron & Alpha	Barger	05/29



Kay	Yates	03/05	James	Johnston	04/02	Don	Efird, Sr.	05/03
David	Reed	03/06	Brian	Efird	04/03	Judy	Hunter	05/03
Michael	Martens	03/09	Jessica	Bell	04/06	Jennifer	Williams	05/04
Caroline	Smith	03/09	Gip	Rumple III	04/06	CJ	Semcho, Jr.	05/05
Mike	Lowder	03/12	Mary Elizabeth	Jacobs	04/07	Debby	Baker	05/07
Fred	Caskey	03/13	Daniel	Pless	04/10	John	Roberson	05/08
Richard	Griggs	03/13	Tom	Cavin	04/11	Joyce	Deal	05/11
Bobby	Hallman, Sr	03/13	Kathy	Rumple	04/12	Adam	Caskey	05/12
Steve	Hodge	03/18	Betty	Sechler	04/12	Larry	Efird	05/13
Matthew	Pless	03/19	Lacy	Williams	04/12	Raegan	Swaringen	05/15
McKinley	Goodnight	03/21	Cindy	Martens	04/14	Virginia	Maguire	05/23
Judy	Hammond	03/21	Mal	McDaniel	04/15	Landon	Walker	05/23
Sam	McAllister	03/22	Toby	Caskey	04/16	Noah	Walker	05/23
Ryan	Walker	03/24	Abigail	Malinovsky	04/16	Rebecca	Eddings	05/26
Linda	Bost	03/27	Bill	Jolley, Jr.	04/19	Chris	Lowder	05/26
Michael	Eilers	03/27	Danny	Bost	04/20			
Todd	Pless	03/30	Kay	McAllister	04/21			
			Mark	Linn	04/22			
			Barbara	Wise	04/22			
			Whit	Whitaker	04/23			
			Presley	Baker	04/24			
			Charles	Seaford	04/24			
			Alison	Craft	04/25			
			Steve	Goodnight	04/25			
			Janice	Jolley	04/27			
			Katelyn	Wiseman	04/28			





Session Highlights

At the February Session meeting we discussed our plans for the upcoming stewardship focus. We also came to agreement on increasing the size of session to 9, with three year terms for the elders.

Building and Grounds spoke with AA and NA about security concerns for the building and they received those concerns

graciously. We are also looking at flooring for the Education Building.

Fellowship discussed the success of our Wednesday night dinners. We also decided to move to a "suggested donation" to take away any concern that someone may have if they are financially stretched.

Mission is thinking about developing a "Watchmen of the Streets" in Kannapolis.

The Session is reading *The Healthy Church* by Steve Macchi.

Budget to date as of February 2020	\$46,049
Year to Date Income (for budgeted items)	\$37,822
Year to Date Expenses (for budgeted items)	\$42,929
February Income (for budgeted items)	\$20,777
February Expenses (for budgeted items)	\$22,900
If you would like a copy of the budget, please contact the church office.	

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201 Vance Street
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