

# Forecast



Spring 2021

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



## Hello First Presbyterian Church of Kannapolis Family,

For any newcomers to the church, my name is Heath Burchett. I am the founder and Executive Director of Watchmen of The Streets-Habit Missions Ministry, Inc.,

which is a non-profit organization that outreaches to those experiencing homelessness locally, throughout NC and abroad. I have served as a Missionary, Youth and Family Pastor, Associate Pastor and Supply Pastor throughout the years. After a beautiful and yet tearful send off from FPC of Kannapolis after serving as Supply Pastor a couple of years ago, I am delighted to be back with you for several months! I truly have made lifelong friends, family and connections here at First Presbyterian Church of Kannapolis. I am forever grateful for your support and love that you continue to pour into me and the ministry! I have an eight-year-old son named, Israel and a girlfriend of three years named, Mary Alice. I earned my Master's Degree in Pastoral Ministry from Vintage Bible College & Seminary. Anyway, enough about me. I am excited to worship with you, reconnect and continue to grow in Christ together! I know that we are living in some difficult times, but the good news is that Christ is still on His throne and He loves His children (You), with an everlasting love! You maybe asking what can I do, how can I find purpose and serve God during times of quarantine, social distancing and a pandemic? I would like to share the following with you called, "Remember the Small Things" by Mother Teresa.

"Some of my sisters work in Australia. On a reservation, among the Aborigines, there was an elderly man. I can assure you that you have never seen a situation as difficult as that poor old man's. He was completely ignored by everyone. His home was disordered and dirty. I told him, "Please, let me clean your house, wash your clothes, and make your bed." He answered, "I'm okay like this. Let it be." I said again, "You will be better if you allow me to do it." He finally agreed. So, I was able to clean his house and wash his clothes. I discovered a beautiful lamp, covered

with dust. Only God knows how many years had passed since he last lit it. I said to him, "Don't you light your lamp? Don't you ever use it?" He answered, "No. No one comes to see me. I have no need to light it. Who would I light it for?" I asked, "Would you light it every night if the sisters came?" He replied, "Of course." From that day on the sisters committed themselves to visiting him every evening. We cleaned the lamp, and the sisters would light it every evening. Two years passed. I had completely forgotten that man. He sent this message: "Tell my friend that the light she lit in my life continues to shine still." I thought it was a very small thing. We often neglect the small things."

Please be encouraged to serve where you are and to do what you can! Whether you are out and about or stuck at home, there are many small things you can offer in service to others and Christ. You never know who you might bless through a simple smile, act of kindness, love, a prayer, a card, a gift or a phone call. I want to encourage you now more than ever to press in closer to a deeper relationship with Christ. In doing this, you will be not only be a recipient of His great love and peace, but you also will be a conduit of His love and peace to others. Don't neglect the small things, as often they are big in the lives of others.

*Blessings & Love,*

Pastor Heath

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## “Prepare Him Room...Part 2”

Take a look at the lyrics to a popular Christmas hymn, “Joy to the World.” A Music Director once suggested the church should consider singing this hymn at Easter. While it seems we just finished an Advent season contemplating how to “prepare Him room,” as growing Christians on this side of heaven, there is always more we can do to welcome our Savior into our hearts and our lives. Enter Lent.

We know that the birth of Jesus, celebrated at Christmas, is only part of the Gospel story. Easter completes Jesus’ fleshly work. And we can’t have one celebration without the other. As miraculous as Jesus’ birth was, the reason He took on flesh was to die and be raised to life. As sacrificial as it was, Jesus’ death on the cross wouldn’t satisfy God’s demand for justice unless He first took on our form and lived as we live. So it only makes sense that the effort we place in preparing for His birth be replicated in preparing for His death and resurrection.

What might it look like to “prepare Him room” in Lent? One suggestion is considering the music of this season. Some worship leaders believe that music during Lent should be bare, minimalistic, and simplistic. The idea is that while we are fasting and preparing our hearts to celebrate our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, on Easter day, our worship music is bare and stripped down without a lot of instrumentation and harmonic color. However, on Easter morning, we celebrate the risen Lord with our Alleluias - the music is celebratory with brass, harmony, and all kinds of color. This could be a powerful and profound way to experience worship music during Lent. As you sing your favorite Lenten hymns this season, meditate on the words as if you were chanting. God wants to hear you and the Holy Spirit will transform your heart and draw you closer.

Another way to “prepare Him room” is to focus on the three pillars of Lent: fasting, praying, and giving. Time spent studying God’s Word, meditating on it, and talking with Him helps focus our thoughts on Jesus’ path to the cross and his ultimate victory over death itself. Fasting and giving give us glimpses of the sacrifice that Jesus made for us.



To encourage you in your walk this Lent, and to enhance your time preparing Jesus more room, we would like to offer you the following devotional and musical suggestions:

\*Start a Lenten devotional. Many Lenten guides are available for purchase, but several are also available online.

-The You Version app (or Bible.com) has study plans of varying lengths.

Dayspring.com offers daily devotions in a -

-"Journey to the Cross Lent Series." You can sign up here: <https://www.dayspring.com/daily-devotion-signup>.

-Download a "40 Days of Lent Devotional" at <https://www.crosscards.com/printables/40-day-lenten-devotional.html>.

A Journey through Lent by Tim Keller - <https://gospelinlife.com/downloads/journey-lent-study-guide/>

Billy Graham Evangelistic Association offers free Easter devotional by Will Graham entitled "The Suffering of the King." You may request a copy here: <https://lp.billygraham.org/the-suffering-of-the-king>

**(\*\*Anyone without internet/printer access may contact the church office for copies of these studies.\*\*)**

\*Families, follow or create a Lenten Calendar. A sample can be found here: <https://www.upperroom.org/lent>. (This calendar follows 2020 dates for Lent, but the idea is the same.)

\*Collect extra change during Lent to donate to a Christian charity.

\* Begin a fasting schedule. Take one day a week, or certain hours in the day to fast.

\*Listen to Lenten hymns, paying special attention to the lyrics that contemplate Jesus' suffering and death. Here are some of David's and Kay's favorites:

\*"And Can It Be, That I Should Gain?" (Charles Wesley). The Dan Forrest arrangement of this is glorious!

\*"What Wondrous Love Is This" (Anonymous)

\*"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" (Paul Gerhardt)

\*"O vos omnes" (Pablo Casals)

\*"When I survey the wondrous cross" (Watts/Mason)

"Oh, to see the dawn (Getty/Townend)

\*"My Song is Love Unknown" (*Samuel Crossman*)

We know we have room to know God better – to experience His love, His forgiveness, His very Spirit living inside us. But observances like Advent and Lent call us to a more purposeful walk, focusing on how great He is and how completely undeserving we are of His grace. In any season, may we live as children and heirs of the Living God - looking forward to the day He comes again! "Joy to the World!" indeed!!!

In His Love,

David Hamilton, Michelle Walker, and Kay Yates





## **Christian Education:**

**Men's Fellowship** meets on the Second Saturday of each month. Join us in the Fellowship Hall for breakfast sandwiches and devotional time. A zoom link will also be sent for those wishing to join

virtually. Contact Dave

Agrabrite for more information.



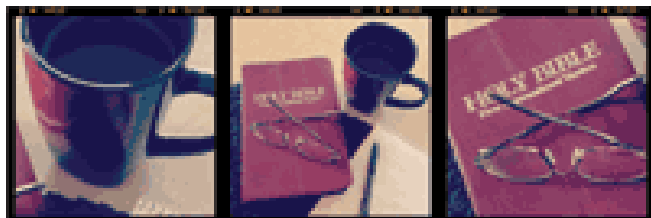
**Women's Ministry** :Women of the church are invited to join any ongoing Women's Ministries:

**Saltshakers Women's Bible Study** continues its focus on the Minor Prophets. They meet virtually on Mondays at 6pm. For more information or to join contact Sharon Cranford -

[skcranford@yahoo.com](mailto:skcranford@yahoo.com).

**The "Bad Girls" Bible Study** meets on Thursday mornings at 10:30 am in the Church Sanctuary. They are currently following a DVD based study of "Forward" by Dr. David Jeremiah. Kay McAllister leads this group of wonderful ladies.

**Women Without Reservations** will be studying "It's Not Supposed To Be This Way" by Lysa Terkeurst through Lent. The group currently meets via Zoom on Sunday evenings at 7 pm. Contact Michelle Walker for more information.



## **BIBLE STUDY OPTIONS**

**WATCH THE BULLETIN FOR UPCOMING**

## **EASTER ACTIVITIES:**

Children & Youth are invited to an Egg Roll in the church playground area on Saturday March 27. We will have activities and goodies that help us focus on Jesus' death & resurrection. If your family isn't ready to participate in person, bags and activities will be available for you to work on together at home. Please let Michelle Walker know if your child would like to participate or help lead.



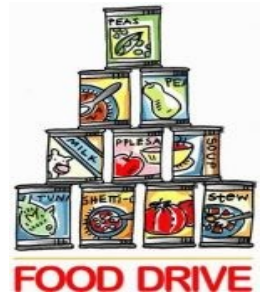
**Special**  
**Worship Services for Easter:**  
**Sunday, March 28th: Palm Sunday**  
**Friday, April 2nd: Good Friday Service in the Sanctuary**  
**Sunday, April 4th Easter Sunday Service, including the "flowering of the cross"**

A recording of the Last Supper presentation will also be made available during Holy Week on our YouTube Channel. Please watch the bulletin and emails for other special announcements as we celebrate the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Savior.

## MISSION TEAM NEWS

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Giving Tree in December – thank you all for the donations given. We collected school uniforms for KCS students and lots of items for the CCM Teaching Houses along with 205 pounds of groceries for CCM!

Our Souper Bowl of Caring, collection yielded \$35.00 and canned goods. All donations went to Cooperative Christian Ministries. Thank you to all who supported this cause.



Please Continue to pray for our local homeless. Our Kannapolis/Concord area Watchmen of the Streets, since forming last May, has helped almost 50 different homeless brothers and sisters. Some of them we've known since we started and continue to help. Others have come and gone; and some return. We continue to find new camps – just in the last month we've found two new areas and met about 10 new people. Many of the homeless we meet work, but at jobs where they don't earn enough to afford housing and the costs associated with it. Many are couples where one works but the other is job-hunting. So please pray for opportunities to come their way and for safety while they live on the streets or in the woods, especially during these cold, wet nights. Heath has applied for some local grant money that if we get, we will load up on supplies.



If you're looking for a small mission project to work on now, you could pack gallon Ziploc bags with supplies to be used as blessing bags – members can carry these in their cars and anytime they see a homeless person on the corner, give them a bag filled

with goodies they can use and maybe write a note of encouragement! These bags can be stuffed with small bottles of water, packs of crackers or other snacks, hot hands hand/feet warmers, socks, gloves or toboggans, small packs of tissues and/or wipes, toothbrushes & toothpaste, chapstick, etc. Keep a bag or two for yourself and bring extras to the church fellowship hall.

Watch your bulletin and emails for upcoming Missions opportunities;

March: "Baby Shower" Collection for Cabarrus Women's Center

May: "Law Enforcement Appreciation Bags" collection and distribution to Kannapolis PD

**Thank you for always contributing to any project we put before you. We love and appreciate your generosity and willingness to help those in need throughout our community!**



## Update from the Pastor Nominating Committee

The PNC has been working diligently to search for our next installed pastor. Since it was formed last July, the PNC has met almost every week and has completed our church information form, posted the open position to web sites, reviewed candidates, listened to sermons, and conducted many interviews and reference checks. Technology has been a blessing in that it has enabled us to listen to sermons and hold initial interviews virtually. We have also conducted several follow-up interviews in person, and no candidate will be nominated without an in-person interview and visit.

In searching for the next pastor, we are first and foremost looking for someone with a deep, abiding faith in Jesus and a commitment to the authority of scripture. We are also looking for someone with leadership skills who will help us engage with the community and build upon our strengths. We believe that relationship building is key to ministry, and thus we are looking for someone who connects well with all age groups and has a heart for the community. Many other characteristics and skills are being considered with each candidate, including the ability to preach engaging, biblically-based sermons and to perform compassionate pastoral care.

Once the PNC has selected a nominee, the ECO North Carolina Presbytery's Ministry Partnership Team (MPT) will also interview and review the candidate. After the MPT approves the candidate, the PNC will ask Session to call a congregational vote to approve the candidate and the terms of call.

Most important to this process is prayer. The PNC prays regularly and seeks the mind of Christ to discern who God is calling to be our next pastor. We request that you also pray for God's guidance for us and for the candidates who are seeking a new call.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any member of the PNC: Jeff Barnhardt, Tracy Caskey, Carol Lowder, Karen Pless, Lynn Sechler, or Alpha Barger (alternate).





### March

- 4- Jason & Rebecca Eddings
- 6 David Reed
- 14 Paul & Peggy Barnhardt
- 16 Bob & Shirley Faust
- 27 Edward & Jiessica Bell
- 31- Buster & Paula Petty

### April

- 2- James & Janice Jolley
- 30- Frank & Peggy Gibson

### May

- 2 -Larry & Carla Efird
- 3-Chris & Chariti Lowder
- 6- Mark & Renee Goodnight
- 7-Richard & Risa Little
- Todd & Karen Pless
- 8- Ronald & Connie Lisenby
- 13- Bill & Sharon Stricker
- 24- Ali & Ryan Craft
- 26- Tony & Judy Hunter



### March

- 9- Caroline Smith
- Michael Martens
- 12- Mike Lowder
- 13- Bobby Hallman
- Fred Caskey
- Richard Griggs
- 18- Linden Hamilton
- Steve Hodge
- 19- Matthew Pless
- 21-Judy Hammond
- 22- Sam McAllister
- 24-Ryan Walker
- 27- Linda Bost
- 30-Todd Pless

### April

- 2- James Johnston
- 3 - Brian Efird
- 6- Gip Rumble
- Jessica Bell
- 7-Mary Elizabeth Jacobs
- 10- Daniel Pless
- 11- Thomas Cavin
- 12- Betty Sechler
- Kathy Rumble
- Lacy Williams
- 14- Cindy Martens
- 15 -Mallory McDaniel
- 16- Abigail Malinovsky
- Toby Caskey
- 19- James Jolly
- 20- Danny Bost
- 21-Kay McAllister
- 22- Barbara Wise
- Mark Linn
- 23- Henry Whitaker
- 24-Presly Baker
- 25 - Ali Craft
- Steve Goodnight
- 27- Janice Jolley
- 28-Katelyn Wiseman

### May

- 3- Judy Hunter
- Robert Efird
- 4- Jennifer Williams
- 5- C.J. Semcho
- 7-Debby Baker
- 8-John Roberson
- 11-Joyce Deal
- 12 Adam Caskey
- 13- Larry Efird
- 15-Raegan Swaringen
- 21- Violet Hamilton
- 23- Landon Walker



Budget to date as of January 2021	\$20,411.33
Year to Date Income (for budgeted items)	\$16,522.00
Year to Date Expenses (for budgeted items)	\$17,760.52
<p>If you would like a copy of the budget,  please contact the church office.</p>	

# Forecast

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