



FIRST

PRESBYTERIAN

CHURCH

Welcome

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

~ Gathering before the Word ~**Welcome**

Eddie Spencer

Prelude and Preparation*Freely, Freely, Freely*

Gabriel

Lighting of the Candles

Erica Efird

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 95

Leader: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before Him with thanksgiving and extol Him with music and song.

All: For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods. In His hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to Him. The sea is His, for He made it, and His hands formed the dry land.

Leader: Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;

All: For He is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under His care.

Hymn of Praise No. 512Now with Joyful Exultation*

BEECHER

Prayer of Adoration*New Testament Reading**

John 1:1-3,14,18,29; Matthew 11:28-29

All: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made...The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth...No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is Himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made Him known...John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

Leader: “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Hymn of Prayer**WALKER’S SOUTHERN HARMONY***Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy (See insert)***Missions Update: Hamiltons**

~ Proclaiming the Word of God ~

Word with our Children		Roxanne Spencer
Offering and Special Music	NETTLETON/Robinson/Bernard <i>Come Thou Fount (Above All Else)</i> Chancel Choir	
*Scripture Reading	John 1:35-51	page 1050
Sermon	Call to Discipleship	Eddie Spencer
*Hymn of Grace No. 177	<i>Oh, To See the Dawn</i>	Getty/Townend
*Prayer and Benediction		
*Postlude	<i>I Know Whom I Have Believed</i>	McGrahaman

*All who are able please stand
CCLI# 2221136

To Our Guests

Welcome! We are delighted that you are worshiping with us this morning, and hope you find today meaningful and refreshing. Visitors are asked to fill out a Visitor Information Card, located in the pew, and place it in the offering plate. Prayer Requests may be noted on the reverse side of the same card.

Children's Activity Bags are available for children age 3 to grade 5. They include a children's bulletin related to the Sunday sermon, crayons, and scrap paper. **Children's Church** is available for children 4 years through 2nd grade. After the "Word with our Children," they will be escorted to their classroom on the choir hallway. Parents should report to the classroom immediately following worship to pick up their children.

A Nursery is available for newborns through age 4. It is located in the Educational Building. If you need assistance or directions, an usher would be happy to help you!

Update on Hamilton Family Mission

In October, the Hamilton family will take a Vision Trip to France through Greater Europe Mission (GEM). All missionaries in France meet annually at the Camp des Cimes (Camp of the Peaks) in the French Alps for worship, planning, and fellowship. The Hamiltons will have the opportunity to hear about all the ministry opportunities in France, and train and develop relationships with missionaries. David and Amy have had many inspiring Zoom conferences with the GEM France Field Leader and with missionaries in Western France, Normandy, and Paris. Please pray for the Hamilton family and for every aspect of their Vision Trip. More information about the Hamilton Mission and ways to support them can be found in the Narthex. Thank you for your prayers and support!

UPCOMING

DIG DEEPER

Dig Deeper into God's Word this fall with Wednesdays in the Word!

Our mid-week studies will begin on Wednesday, September 21 with small groups examining The Gospel of John. Pastor Eddie's Sunday sermons will introduce each week's study. Youth activities will also kick-off with PraiseMakers Kids' Choir and classes for children and youth. Dinner will be provided nightly on a donation basis. Please sign up in the Narthex if you would like to participate in the small group study!!!

The schedule is as follows:

5:45pm - Fellowship Meal in Fellowship Hall

6:00pm - PraiseMakers in Choir Room

6:30pm - Small Groups and Children/Youth Groups



Provide a meal for Salvation Army Night Shelter residents!

First Presbyterian will serve dinner at 7pm each night from Sunday, Sept. 25 through Saturday, Oct. 1. Items needed include an entree, side(s), and dessert for approximately 30 people. Meals must be dropped off by 6pm, but you are welcome to stay and serve. Sign-up in the Narthex or see Debbie McDaniel for more information.

Our Care Team is Growing!

Do you enjoy sharing God's love and encouragement with those who are suffering or going through a hard time? Do you want to celebrate with those who have happy life events? The First Pres Care Team's mission is simply to love on our members and community by sending cards, texts, or emails or giving them a call, letting them know that members of First Presbyterian care about them. If you would like to know more about this ministry and be a part of our team, contact Renee Goodnight - reneegoodnight@gmail.com - or Roxanne Spencer - roxanne.spencer62@yahoo.com.



The JOY Group

will have its first fall gathering on Friday, September 30 at 12:00pm in the Fellowship Hall! The Argabrites will provide baked ham, and others are asked to bring drinks, sides, and desserts. Please sign-up in the Fellowship Hall, and come ready with ideas for future activities!

New Shepherding Ministry

It is a tradition at First Presbyterian for elders to serve as shepherds of our members. We are continuing this practice, but our Session of active elders has expanded the ministry, to include past elders who will serve as additional shepherds. The purpose of our Shepherding ministry is as follows: "To give personal care to every active member and their family." Our present shepherds include: Dave Argabrite, Jeff Barnhardt, Tracy Caskey, Sharon Cranford, Lynn Efird, David Ellington, Frank Gibson, Mark and Renee Goodnight, Steve and Judy Goodnight, Cookie Hamilton, Carol Lowder, Tony Rary, Lynn Sechler, Donnie Swaringen, and Ryan Walker. If you have not been contacted by your shepherd, please let Pastor Eddie or Jeff Barnhardt know.



Men of the church

are invited to a Men's Fellowship Dinner on Thursday, October 6 at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Menu will consist of steak or chicken, baked potato, salad, drinks and dessert. Chris Mailliard, the Bible Teacher for A. L. Brown High School, will be our guest speaker. Please sign up in the Narthex by Sunday, October 2nd, if you would like to attend.

The Missions Team Operation Christmas Child Shoebox collection continues!

We will pack 200 boxes for boys ages 2-4, and 200 boxes for boys ages 10-14.

NEEDED FOR SUNDAY, September 11:

LOTS of #2 pencils to divide among boxes

149 manual pencil sharpeners

268 composition notebooks

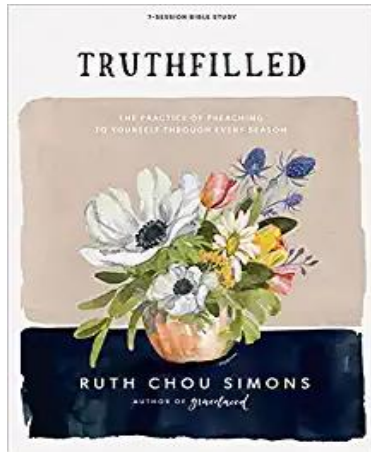
352 pair kid-safe scissors

Once these supplies are secured,
we'll move on to new items!

Thank you as always for your support of this ministry!



Upcoming Women's Events



Women Without Reservations is beginning the Truthfilled Bible Study by Ruth Chou Simons on Sunday, October 2nd. We will normally meet the first Sunday of each month, rotating among houses of members and sharing in leading the lesson or providing refreshments. This women's circle mainly consists of ladies raising younger children. Contact Chariti Goodnight - (704) 467-6439 or cggoodnightrun@yahoo.com - for more information.

There are TWO new Women's Circles forming!

One circle, consisting mostly of retired ladies, will meet on the last Monday of each month at 2:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Their first gathering will be Monday, September 26. Contact Carol Lowder - clowder1415@gmail.com or (704) 642-9051 - for more information.

The second circle, consisting mostly of ladies who work, will meet the last Tuesday of every month at 6:00p.m. Their first gathering will be Tuesday, September 27th. Contact Jill McLain - jillumclain@yahoo.com or (704) 796-7729 - or Vickie Ellington - mve52@outlook.com or (704) 706-4395 - for more information. Circles already in existence include Women Without Reservations and the "Bad Girls" Thursday morning Bible Study. All ladies are invited to be part of a women's circle. These groups are wonderful opportunities for growing in our relationships with one another and with God!



The Women's Council invites all ladies of the church to a "Parade of Tables" on Saturday, October 8th at 2:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Members of the council will decorate themed tables, while guests will enjoy delicious food, beautiful music, and a special guest speaker. Please sign-up in the Narthex if you would like to attend!

PRAYER CONCERNS

CHURCH FAMILY

SHIRLEY FAUST- RECOVERY FROM A STROKE AT GREENS OF CABARRUS

LINDA SAMPSON- RECOVERY FROM ESOPHAGEAL PROBLEMS

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CHURCH FAMILY

MIKE ALLEN (BARGER'S FAMILY)- CANCER DIAGNOSIS AND HAS STARTED CHEMO

LISA THREATT (CHARITI LOWDER'S MOM) -TESTING FOR TRIGEMINAL NEURALGIA

KENNEDY PAVLISKO (FRIEND OF SPENCER'S) -TEENAGE GIRL BATTLING CANCER

BUDDY TROUTMAN (JUDY HAMMOND FAMILY)- RETURNED TO HOSPITAL

BECKY MONTGOMERY (RENEE GOODNIGHT'S FRIEND)- SHOWING SOME IMPROVEMENT AFTER HER SECOND STEM-CELL TREATMENT

DANNY BOST – RECOVERY FROM PACEMAKER PROCEDURE

DONNA MAULDIN – HEALTH CONCERNS

HOMEBOUND

CINDY FISHER- TRANSITIONAL

PEGGY BARNHARDT – MORNINGSIDE

BARBARA HANCOCK- HOME

IRIS EFIRD- HOME

BARBARA WISE - OAKS AT HAMPTON, CUMMINGS, GEORGIA

LORETTA YOUNG - FIVE OAKS

Thank You

Bill and Bonnie Goodnight would like to express their appreciation to the church family for all the calls, texts, cards, prayers, and other acts of kindness expressed during their recent bout with Covid-19.

Your outreach and care mean so much!

SERVANTS

Elder Lock-Up: Ryan Walker

Children's Message: Roxanne Spencer

Children's Message next week: Malaina Meeks

Children's Church: Lynn & Shannon Sechler

Children's Church next week: Roxanne

Spencer & Vickie Ellington

Acolytes: Erica Efird

Acolyte next week: Amias Hamilton

Nursery: Sharon Stricker & Jenna Baker

Nursery next week: Kaitlyn Maxwell

Ushers: Jill McLain, Phil McLain, Lynn Sechler,
C.J. Semcho

Ushers next week: Jeff Barnhardt, Danny

Bost, Fred Caskey, Mark Goodnight

Greeter: Tracy Caskey, Gip Rumble

FINANCIALS FOR AUGUST

YTD Income \$175,441

YTD Expenses \$180,349

YTD Budget \$196,918

Last week's attendance: 9/11/22

Sunday School 74

Worship 125

THIS WEEK@FIRST PRESB

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

9:30AM - FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

9:45AM - INTERPRETIVE DANCE REHEARSAL ON CHOIR HALL

10:00AM - SUNDAY SCHOOL

11:00AM - WORSHIP SERVICE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

12:00PM - NA

6:30PM - MISSIONS TEAM

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

5:45PM - FELLOWSHIP MEAL

6:00PM - PRAISEMAKERS REHEARSAL

6:30PM - WEDNESDAYS IN THE WORD
(SMALL GROUPS; CHILDREN/YOUTH CLASSES)

7:30PM - ALLELUIA RINGERS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

10:30AM - LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

12:00PM - NA

6:00PM - CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

EVENING WEDDING

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 10 CENTS A MEAL

9:30AM - FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

9:45AM - INTERPRETIVE DANCE REHEARSAL ON CHOIR HALL

10:00AM - SUNDAY SCHOOL

11:00AM - WORSHIP SERVICE

6:00PM - SALVATION ARMY NIGHT SHELTER MEAL



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