



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

At the Name of Jesus

Vaughn Williams

Lighting of the Candles

Amias Hamilton

***Call to Worship**

***Hymn of Praise**

When Christ Went to the Temple

(sung to the tune: Lead on, O King Eternal)

*When Christ went to the Temple to worship God one day,
He entered through the courtyard where anyone could pray.
That court was for the nations--and all could enter in.
But Jesus found a market, a shameful robbers' den.*

*There, cattle, sheep, and pigeons were sold for sacrifice,
And moneychangers shouted of quality and price.
Outsiders could not enter the inner courts for prayer.
Their only place to worship was in the courtyard there.*

*When prayer gave way to profit, and pride closed many doors,
The Lord cried out in anger and made a whip of cords.
He shooed the sheep and cattle and scattered pigeons, too.
God's house was for all people-- not for a chosen few.*

*O God, you love the nations and call us all to pray.
Forgive us when our worship turns other folk away.
As Christ, in loving protest, fought prejudice and pride,
May we who follow Jesus now welcome all inside.*

***Prayer of Adoration and Lord's Prayer**

“Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.”

Affirmation of Praise

Words from James Stewart

Lord Jesus, when You came to earth You were the meekest and lowliest of all the sons of men, yet You spoke of coming on the clouds of heaven with the glory of God. You were so austere that evil spirits and demons cried out in terror at Your coming, yet You were so genial and winsome and approachable that the children loved to nestle in Your arms. Your presence at the celebration of a village wedding was like the presence of sunshine. No one was half so compassionate to sinners, yet no one ever spoke such red-hot scorching words

about sin. A bruised reed You would not break, Your whole life was love, yet You demanded of the Pharisees how they ever expected to escape the damnation of hell. You were a servant of all, washing Your disciples' feet, yet masterfully You strode into the temple, and the hucksters and money changers fell over one another to get away from the fire they saw blazing in Your eyes. There is nothing in history like the union of contrasts which confronts us in You. Lord Jesus, we trust and praise You."

***Song of Adoration No. 227**

Frey

He is Lord

Concerns and Celebrations of our Church Family

~ Proclaiming the Word of God ~

10 Cents a Meal

Michelle Walker

Offering and Special Music

McCracken/Stocker

Thy Mercy, My God

David Hamilton, tenor; George Maxwell, guitar; Kay Yates, piano

***Doxology**

***Scripture Reading**

John 2:13-25

page 1051

Sermon

Jesus and the Temple

Eddie Spencer

***Hymn of Hope No. 615**

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

THOMPSON

***Prayer and Benediction**

Lord of the Dance

Shaker Tune

***Postlude**

*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!

Today is our monthly 10 cents a Meal collection! Immediately following the worship service, children will be in the Narthex to collect your change. Donations support Cabarrus Meals on Wheels, Cooperative Christian Ministry, and Compassion International.

UPCOMING

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

A Fellowship Meal is served at 5:45p.m. on a donation basis.

This week's menu: Grilled chicken, green beans, mashed potatoes, Caesar salad, drinks and dessert.

PraiseMakers' kids choir will resume rehearsals at 6:00p.m.

At 6:30p.m., small groups will be exploring lessons from The Gospel of John, which Eddie's Sunday sermons introduce each week.

Children/youth classes will also be available as follows:

Explorers (preK-K): "Hearing Bible Stories" with Alpha Barger & Jane Argabrite

Seekers (1st-4th): "The Case for Christ for Kids" with Chariti Lowder & Shannon Sechler

Navigators (5th - 8th): "The Case for Christ for Kids" with Roxanne Spencer & Irene Davis

Voyagers (9th-12th): "The Case for Christ" Student Edition with Michelle Walker



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 25 people. Meals must be dropped off by 6pm, but you are welcome to stay and serve at 7pm. 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!

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.



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." If you have not been contacted by your shepherd, please let Pastor Eddie or Jeff Barnhardt know.

The Missions Team's collection of Operation Christmas Child Shoebox items continues!

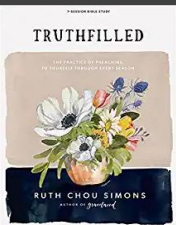
As a church family, we will pack 200 boxes for boys ages 2-4, and 200 boxes for boys ages 10-14. Our packing party is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 9th at 6:30pm.**

NEEDED FOR SUNDAY, September 25:
LOTS of #2 pencils to divide among boxes
261 composition notebooks
160 pair kid-safe scissors
310 glue sticks

Once these supplies are secured, we'll move on to new items! **If you would prefer to pack your own shoebox, there are empty boxes in the Narthex. Please return your box by Wednesday, November 9, including a \$10.00 donation to cover its shipping cost! You may also Build a Shoebox Online - see Michelle Walker for more information.**

Thank you for your faithful 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 meet at the home of Shannon Sechler, and Tracy Caskey will lead our lesson. This women's circle mainly consists of ladies raising younger children. Contact Chariti Lowder - (704) 467-6439 or cggoodnightrn@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 by Sunday, October 2nd if you would like to attend!

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please help us keep Prayer Concerns current with weekly updates.
Email the church or write down
on a prayer card & place in offering plate.

CHURCH FAMILY

Shirley Faust- Is home recovering from a stroke

Linda Sampson- Remains in hospital with Esophageal problems

Donna Mauldin- Moved to Pruitt Rehab. in Harrisburg

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

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

Dear congregation,

Thank you for all the birthday cards I received from you. You are very kind to me in many ways. God has been so good to me to give me a long, useful life. God is always so good. Take good care of my son and family. It's so good to have them so close. Thanks again for your cards and your devotion to God.

Love,
Rachel Spencer

Shirley Faust would like to thank her church family for all the cards, calls, visits, prayers, and other acts of kindness following her stroke and recuperation. She is glad to be home now!

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!

THIS WEEK@FIRST PRESB

Sunday, September 25

9:30am - Fellowship Breakfast
9:45am - Interpretive Dance Rehearsal on Choir Hall
10:00am - Sunday School
11:00am - Worship Service
4:00pm - Children's Ministry Team
6:00pm - Salvation Army Night Shelter Meal

Monday, September 26

2:00pm: New Afternoon Women's Circle
6:00pm - Salvation Army Night Shelter Meal

Tuesday, September 27

12:00pm - NA
6:00pm - Salvation Army Night Shelter Meal

Wednesday, September 28

5:45pm - Fellowship Meal
6:00pm - PraiseMakers Kids' Choir
6:00pm - Salvation Army Night Shelter Meal
6:30pm - Wednesdays in the Word
(Small Groups & Journey Youth)

Thursday, September 29

10:30am - Ladies' Bible Study
12:00pm - NA
6:00pm - Salvation Army Night Shelter Meal

Friday, September 30

6:00pm - Salvation Army Night Shelter Meal

Saturday, October 1

6:00pm - Salvation Army Night Shelter Meal

Next Sunday, October 2 WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

9:30am - Fellowship Breakfast
9:45am - Interpretive Dance Rehearsal on Choir Hall
10:00am - Sunday School
11:00am - Worship Service with Holy Communion

SERVANTS

Elder Lock-Up: Ryan Walker

Children's Message: Michelle Walker

Children's Message next week: Malaina Meeks

Children's Church: Roxanne Spencer & Vickie Ellington

Children's Church next week: Lynn Efird & Amelia Caskey

Acolytes: Amias Hamilton

Acolyte next week: Violet Hamilton

Nursery: Kaitlyn Maxwell

Nursery next week: Megan Quigg

Ushers: Jeff Barnhardt, Danny Bost, Fred Caskey, Mark Goodnight

Ushers next week: John Hammond, Tony Hunter, Amy Hurst, Chris Lowder

Greeter: Tracy Caskey, Gip Rumble

FINANCIALS FOR AUGUST

YTD Income \$175,441

YTD Expenses \$180,349

YTD Budget \$196,918

Last week's attendance: 9/18/22

Sunday School 52

Worship 111



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