



*Third Sunday of*  
**Advent**

## ~ Gathering before the Word ~

Welcome

Eddie Spencer

Lighting of the Candles

Camryn Lowder & Evie Sechler

Prelude and Preparation

Krug

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*  
Alleluia Ringers

### \*Call to Worship

During Advent we wait for the coming Savior who is our Prince of Peace.

**The Lord gives strength to His people, and blesses them with peace.**

In the midst of conflict, we look to the One who brings harmony.

**The Lord gives strength to His people, and blesses them with peace.**

In the midst of confusion, we look to the One who brings clarity.

**The Lord gives strength to His people, and blesses them with peace.**

In the midst of division, we look to the One who brings unity.

**The Lord gives strength to His people, and blesses them with peace.**

In the midst of separation, we look to the One who restores the broken.

**The Lord gives strength to His people, and blesses them with peace**

### \*Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Brian Efird Family

Words and Music by  
JOEL RANEY

Congregation:

Ev - er - last - ing Fa - ther, Prince of Peace,  
Won - der - ful Coun - se - lor, Al - might - y God.  
Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el. God with  
us, Em - man - u - el.

### \*Advent Prayer

\*Hymn of Praise No. 80 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

## **\*Prayer of Adoration**

### **Prayer of Confession**

“Gracious and holy Father, we confess our willingness to be loved but also our reluctance to love. We confess our readiness to accept Your pardoning grace but also our refusal to forgive others. In this Advent time, forgive us our failure to respond as we should. Come to us anew, and by Your grace, transform us to receive You with joy, as the shepherds; with gratitude, as Simeon; with obedience, as Mary; and with love, as You have loved us. We make our prayer in the strong name of Jesus, our Savior.”

### **Silent Prayers of Confession**

#### **Assurance of the Gospel**

Galations 4:4-5

“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.”

#### **Song of Response**

*Light of the World (Sing Hallelujah)*  
PraiseMakers

We The Kingdom

### **Concerns and Celebrations of Our Church Family**

#### **Offering & Special Music**

*Just Another Baby?*

Sleeth

Lucinda Stewart, soprano; David Hamilton, tenor; Kay Yates, piano

### **~ Proclaiming the Word of God ~**

#### **\*Scripture Reading**

Luke 1:46-56

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#### **Sermon**

Mary's Song

Eddie Spencer

### **~ Responding to the Word of God ~**

#### **\*Hymn of Response No. 76**

*O Come All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

### **\*Prayer and Benediction**

#### **\*Postlude**

*God Rest You Merry Gentlemen* traditional english carol

\*All who are able please stand

CCLI# 2221136

# Welcome to Our Church

**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!



## A Note of Thanks

Thank you for the gift sent to Samaritan's Purse from First Presbyterian Church for Operation Christmas Child. Your support makes it possible for us to share God's love with millions of children and their families around the world, and it means more than you know.

As we collect gift-filled shoeboxes and prepare them for shipping in the weeks ahead, we would be grateful for your prayers that more children than ever before would come to know God's greatest gift - His Son, Jesus Christ.

May God bless you,  
Franklin Graham



## GIVING TREE

# UPCOMING

## Please visit our "Giving Tree" in the Narthex!

This year, the Missions Team has chosen Cabarrus Women's Center as the recipient of our gifts. Please take a tag from the tree and return the item, unwrapped, beneath the tree by Sunday, December 25th.

**The JOY Group will have a Christmas Luncheon** on Friday, December 16th at the home of Ron & Alpha Barger (3270 Phaniel Church Road, Rockwell, NC, 28138). The group will meet at 12:00pm. Ham, drinks, and paper products will be provided. Others are asked bring a side or dessert. Please sign up in the Narthex.

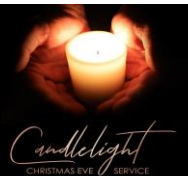
**Parents' Night Out! Youth of all ages are invited to a "Christmas at the Movies" party on Friday, December 16th from 5:30-8:30pm.** Come dressed as your favorite Christmas Movie character, or just wear some warm pjs! We'll enjoy dinner, play games, and Lucinda Stewart will show us how to decorate cookies for our shut-ins. Please sign up in the Narthex if your youth would like to attend!

**You are invited to a combined Christmas worship and musical celebration with Kimball Lutheran Church!** The service will take place at Kimball on Sunday, December 18th at 6:00pm. There will be a reception immediately following the worship service.



**Come caroling with us! Let's spread some Christmas cheer to our shut-ins with the beautiful music of the season,** as we hand out cookies made by our youth at their Christmas party. Meet at the church on Wednesday, December 21 at 6:00pm to carpool. We'll enjoy some warm refreshments on our return!

**CORRECTION: This year's Candlelight Christmas Eve Service will be held on Saturday, December 24 at 5:00pm!** Invite friends and family to this special time of reflection and worship.



Join us for worship on *Christmas Day* at 11:00am in the Sanctuary!

*There will be no Fellowship Breakfast or Sunday School scheduled.*





# PRAYER CONCERNS

## Church Family

**Judy Goodnight-** Myeloma treatment begins soon

**Sandy Bessent-** daughter, McKenzie Hampton, is on a ventilator

**Amy Hurst-** recovery from surgery on Monday

**Ronald Barger-** Moved to Rehab

**Danny Bost-** Report from biopsy

**Randy Childers-** severe back pain and upcoming surgery

**Frank Gibson-** Recovering at Home

**Connie Lisenby-** Excellent report

**Shirley Faust** – Hospitalized with illness

## FAMILY & FRIENDS OF Church Family

**Lacy Williams-** recovery from surgery on back

**Mike Allen (Bargers' family)-** being treated for Cancer

## HOMEBOUND

**Donna Mauldin-** St. Andrews Living Center

**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*

My dearest Church family,

I can not express the depth of my love for each of you. Your love, prayers and support has truly been a blessing. I could not have managed these past weeks without you!

Cindy Devoe and Family

## SERVANTS

**Elder Lock-Up:** Donnie Swaringen

**Children's Message:** Roxanne Spencer

**Children's Message next week:** Amelia Caskey

**Children's Church:** Ryan & Michelle Walker

**Children's Church next week:** Tracy & Amelia Caskey

**Acolytes:** Camryn Lowder & Evie Sechler

**Acolyte next week:** Landon & Noah Walker

**Nursery:** Jane Argabrite

**Nursery next week:** Kaitlyn Maxwell

**Ushers:** Mal McDaniel, Todd Pless, Jill McLain, Phil McLain

**Ushers next week:** Lynn Sechler, C.J. Semcho, Jeff Barnhardt, Danny Bost

**Greeter:** Ryan Walker, Debbie McDaniel

## FINANCIALS FOR NOVEMBER

**YTD Income** \$251,035.00

**YTD Expenses** \$247,776.00

**YTD Budget** \$270,762.00

**Last week's attendance:** 12/4/22

**Sunday School** 54

**Worship** 121

# *Poinsettias Given In Honor and Memory of Our Loved Ones*

<i>Given By</i>	<i>In Memory Of</i>	<i>In Honor Of</i>
<b>Norman &amp; Susan Baker</b>	Clarice & Fred Poole Birdia & Leif Baker	Carly & Connor Baker
<b>Charlene Booth</b>	Art Booth	Eva Garver
<b>Cindy DeVoe</b>	Linda Sampson	
<b>Bill &amp; Bonnie Goodnight</b>	Mr. & Mrs. Jim Goodnight Mrs. Eloise Watts Kelly Watts	
<b>Steve &amp; Judy Goodnight</b>	Alice Raye Grisdale C. L. & Martha Snuggs/J.C. Goodnight Bruce & Bernice Davis	Barbara Goodnight Wise
<b>Judy Hammond &amp; Family</b>	Bill Hammond	
<b>Pam Hooks</b>	Pansy & Carl Earnhardt	
<b>Amy Hurst</b>	Jerry Hurst Mr. & Mrs. Harold E. Belk Mr. & Mrs. Howard L. Belk Mr. & Mrs. Ira T. Chapman	Jason, Elise, Jeremy & Karen Hurst Carson, Jackson & Benjamin Hurst
<b>Jane, Anna, Victoria &amp; Mary Elizabeth Jacobs</b>	John & Mary Elizabeth Aiken Robert "Bob" Jacobs, Jr.	Pastor Eddie & Roxanne Spencer
<b>Alice Jeanes</b>	Clifford & Andrew Jeanes	
<b>Chris, Chariti, Caylin, Camryn &amp; Cierstyn Lowder</b>	David Threatt	Lisa Threatt Mike & Carol Lowder Don & Linda Greer
<b>Mike &amp; Carol Lowder</b>		Our children & their families Our grandchildren
<b>Susan Maiocchi</b>	Patricia Hope Halsall (My Mother) Ruth E. Maiocchi (My Mother-in-law)	
<b>Sam &amp; Kay McAllister</b>		Kim Stipe(daughter)
<b>Jerry Anne Phillips</b>		Lela Bishop
<b>Brenda &amp; Peggy Ramsey</b>	Mrs. Bertie Coggins Mrs. Evelyn Ramsey	
<b>Tony Sherrill</b>	Carolyn Sherrill, Tony E. Sherrill, Evelyn Sherrill, Lloyd Sherrill, Heather Sherrill, Jerry W. Sherrill	
<b>Phil Smith</b>	J. Ellen Smith Hatley(My Twin) Alice & Paul Smith	Pam Hooks
<b>Jenny &amp; Ken Sparks</b>		Linda Hathaway Randy Childers Kay Yates
<b>Lucinda Stewart</b>	Frank Black Holland Faye Taylor Mildred Taylor Fisher Rocky Fisher Ruth Taylor Griffin	Brandon Taylor Rapp
<b>Bill &amp; Sharon Stricker</b>		Our children & grandchildren
<b>Your Sister</b>		My sweet Iris Efird

# THIS WEEK @FIRST PRESB

## **Sunday, December 11** Third Sunday of Advent

9:30am - Fellowship Breakfast  
9:45am - GraceFull Movements  
10:00am - Sunday School  
11:00am - Worship Service

## **Tuesday, December 13**

12:00pm - NA

## **Thursday, December 15**

10:30am - Ladies' Bible Study  
12:00pm - NA

## **Friday, December 16**

12:00pm - JOY Group at Barger home  
5:30-8:30pm - Parents' Night Out

## **Next Sunday, December 18** Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30am - Fellowship Breakfast  
9:45am - GraceFull Movements  
10:00am - Sunday School  
11:00am - Worship Service with String Instrumentalists  
6:00pm - Combined Service at Kimball Lutheran



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