



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*Be Still, My Soul*

Sibelius

Lighting of the Candles

Erica Efird & Violet Hamilton

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 46

Leader: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

All: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

Leader: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns .

All: The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; He utters his voice, the earth melts. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Leader: Come, behold the works of the LORD, how He has brought desolations on the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; He burns the chariots with fire.

All: "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

Hymn of Praise No. 590Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

AZMON

Prayer of Adoration*Prayer of Confession**

Heavenly Father, we humbly confess that we are an anxious and fearful people. We do not trust You as we should and often rely upon ourselves. We are slow to seek You in prayer, weak in perseverance, and quick to forget Your faithfulness. Forgive us for doubting Your sovereignty and goodness. Forgive us for placing our trust in possessions, power, and the wisdom of man. Renew our minds and hearts that we might walk by faith and not by sight. By Your mercy, keep us steadfastly devoted to Christ and cause us to endure to the end, that we might receive Your great salvation. It is in the name of Jesus, our Refuge, we pray.

Silent Prayers of Confession**Assurance of the Gospel**

Romans 8:38-39

"For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Hymn of Assurance No. 363Blessed Assurance: Jesus Is Mine*

ASSURANCE

Concerns and Celebrations of Our Church Family

~ Proclaiming the Word of God ~

Word with Our Children		Amelia Caskey
Offering & Special Music	<i>Hold On to the Rock</i> Men's Ensemble	Choplin
*Doxology		
*Scripture Reading	Matthew 11:28-30	page 966
Sermon	"Power of Gentleness"	Eddie Spencer

~ Responding to the Word of God ~

Sending Song	<i>Gentle Like Jesus</i>	Sovereign Grace
*Prayer and Benediction		
*Postlude	<i>Jesus Loves Even Me</i>	Bliss

*All who are able, please stand
CCLI# 2221136

Welcome

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.

Wifi is accessible throughout our common areas. You may log in to First Presbyterian Guest with the password: Praise!!

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!

upcoming



WINTER WEDNESDAYS IN THE WORD

continue WITH OUR CHURCH-WIDE TEN COMMANDMENTS BIBLE STUDY!

A Fellowship Meal (baked potato bar, salad bar, drinks and dessert) will be served at 5:30pm on a donation basis. PraiseMakers Kids' Choir rehearses at 6:00pm. Adults and Journey Youth begin their studies at 6:30pm. Don't miss this opportunity to "dig deeper" into God's word!



FEEDING
KANNAPOLIS
HUNGER

& Linda's Closet

FIRST PRES **is delighted** TO ONCE AGAIN **partner** WITH **feeding** KANNAPOLIS HUNGER **for a** HEALTH & WELLNESS MARKET **on** SATURDAY, MARCH 4.

In addition, we will debut "Linda's Closet" - a clothing ministry named in memory of Linda Sampson - with a winter clothes distribution. **But we need YOUR help!** Volunteers are needed to prep the Market and the Closet, on Friday, March 3 from 6-9pm. We also need helpers to staff the Market and the Closet on Saturday, March 4 from 8am - 12pm. Please sign up in the Narthex if you are willing to serve. Clothing donations to Linda's Closet will be accepted as follows:

- ONLY new or gently used, clean winter/spring clothing items
- NEW undergarments still in the packaging (NO used undergarments)
- ALL sizes, baby to adult

Please bring your donations during one of these times, so that we can sort the items with you:

- Thursday, February 16 from 11am - 1pm
- Sunday, February 19 immediately following Worship
- Thursday, February 23 from 11am - 1pm

See Jenna Baker (Market) or Cindy DeVoe (Closet) with questions or for more information.



THE **next** JOY GROUP LUNCHEON **is Friday, FEBRUARY 24TH** **at noon** IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

Carol Lowder will be sharing a devotional. BBQ and buns will be provided. Please provide something to share. Sign up in the Narthex with what you plan to bring.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN **will** PARTNER **with** KIMBALL LUTHERAN **to host** SAMARITAN'S TABLE **on** THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 9TH.

Volunteers are needed to prep and package approximately 60 boxed meals in our kitchen, transport them to Kimball, and hand them out. See Phil McLain if you are interested in serving!

WOMEN of all AGES ARE invited to a SPRING LUNCHEON featuring SPECIAL GUEST CHELSEA COOLEY CLARK, MISS USA 2005!

Chelsea will speak on her reign as Miss USA, her walk with Christ, and what it means to be *Authentically Loved* - the title of a Journal she authored. Tickets are \$25, which includes lunch, dessert, and an autographed copy of *Authentically Loved*. Please register via our website - www.firstpresb.org - or by filling out the form in the Narthex and returning it to the church office with your payment. See Renee Goodnight for more information.



TODAY IS SOUPER BOWL OF CARING!

Place canned or dry goods in the "soup" container outside the Fellowship Hall. Monetary donations will also be accepted by our youth in the Narthex immediately following Worship. All contributions will be given to Cooperative Christian Ministry's to support our neighbors in need!



Please!
DONATE

KAY MCALLISTER is collecting NEW OR GENTLY-USED WINTER SCARVES, TOBOGGANS AND GLOVES to hang outside for folks in need, sharing the love of Christ in a tangible way. If you can donate, please let Kay know!

THE CHURCH STAFF presents "FULFILLING OUR PURPOSE: CELEBRATING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS and ANTICIPATING GOD'S FUTURE."

This booklet reviews God's work at First Presbyterian during 2022, and looks ahead to what God has in store for 2023. Pick up your copy in the Narthex!

THE BUILDING for a SITPATCH COMMUNITY SCHOOL IS complete!

Your donations made this building possible. A Sunday School class is even meeting in one of the upstairs rooms. Finishing work will be done in part by our Mexico Missions Team. A group will travel from First Presbyterian May 6 - May 12/13 to install windows and tile flooring, paint, move fill dirt, and host a Bible School. Anyone wishing to go should meet in the Parlor NEXT SUNDAY, February 19 at 9:30am. A final commitment is required by that date to secure your place! See Debbie McDaniel with questions or for more information.



prayer concerns

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

CHURCH FAMILY

DANNY BOST- **HEALTH CONCERNS**

JUDY GOODNIGHT- **CONTINUING TREATMENT**

SUSAN THOMAS - **HEALTH CONCERNS**

RANDY CHILDERS - **WAITING FOR BACK SURGERY**

BETTY SECHLER - **KNEE PROBLEMS**

BOB FAUST - **HOSPITAL WITH COVID**

PEGGY BARNHARDT - **DECLINING HEALTH AT MORNINGSIDE**

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CHURCH FAMILY

ABBIE WILLIAMS (JUDY HAMMOND'S SISTER-IN-LAW) - **RECOVERY FROM SURGERY**

ABBY GARMON (BILL STRICKER'S CO-WORKER'S 9-MONTH-OLD DAUGHTER) - **RETINA BLASTOMA**

DAVID BUCKLAND (FRIEND OF SPARKS) - **YOUNG MAN BATTLING LYMPHOMA**

MIKE ALLEN (BARGER'S FAMILY) - **CONTINUING TREATMENT FOR CANCER**

HOMEBOUND

SHIRLEY FAUST- **TERRABELLA IN SALISBURY**

BARBARA HANCOCK - **HOME**

IRIS EFIRD - **HOME**

BARBARA WISE - **OAKS AT HAMPTON, CUMMINGS, GEORGIA**

LORETTA YOUNG - **FIVE OAKS**

Welcome to our newest Covenant Partner!



Randy Childers comes to us via letter of transfer from Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church. Randy has been in church literally his entire life, as his mother was a church pianist. He is a father of four - Christopher, who passed away in 1988, Jessica, Andrew, and Ashlyn. A retired choir director and leader of the Piedmont Singing Men, Randy loves music and singing. He enjoys the people of First Presbyterian Church and is very happy to be here. Please extend your own welcome to Randy!

THIS WEEK@FIRST PRESB

Sunday, February 12 Souper Bowl of Caring!

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

Tuesday, February 14 Valentine's Day

12:00pm - NA

Wednesday, February 15 Wednesdays in the Word

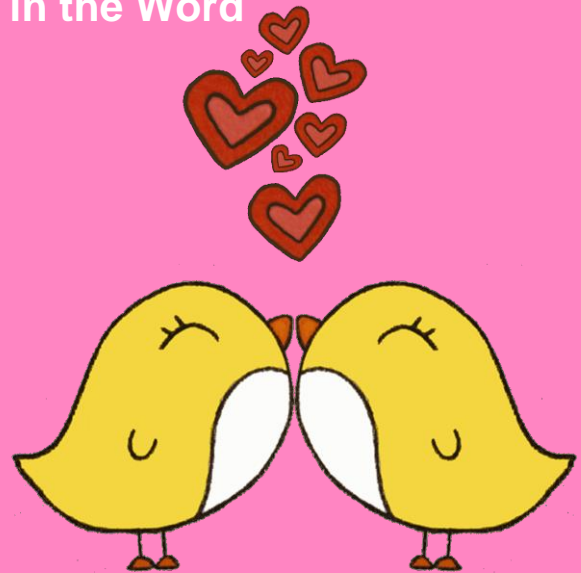
5:30pm - Fellowship Meal
6:00pm - PraiseMakers Rehearsal
6:30pm - Ten Commandments Study (Adults & Youth)

Thursday, February 16

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

Next Sunday, February 19

9:30am - Fellowship Breakfast
GraceFull Movements Rehearsal
Mexico Missions Team (Parlor)
10:00am - Sunday School
11:00am - Worship Service



SERVANTS

Elder Lock-Up: Dave Ellington
Children's Message: Amelia Caskey
Children's Message next week: Michelle Walker
Children's Church: Tracy & Amelia Caskey
Children's Church next week: Brian & Hannah Efird
Acolytes: Erica Efird & Violet Hamilton
Acolyte next week: Caylin Lowder & Noah Walker
Nursery: Abigail Malinovsky
Nursery next week: Jenna Baker
Ushers: Todd Pless, Jill McLain, Phil McLain, Lynn Sechler
Ushers next week: Jeff Barnhardt, Danny Bost, Fred Caskey, Mark Goodnight
Greeters: Lynn Sechler, Roxanne Spencer

FINANCIALS FOR JANUARY

YTD Income	\$24,953.80
YTD Expenses	\$21,718.67
YTD Budget	\$24,292.00

Last week's attendance: 2/5/23
Sunday School-80
Worship-131

SERMON NOTES

Love Quote of the Week

In each of my friends there is something that only some other friend can fully bring out. By myself I am not large enough to call the whole man into activity; I want other lights than my own to show all his facets...Hence true Friendship is the least jealous of loves. Two friends delight to be joined by a third, and three by a fourth, if only the newcomer is qualified to become a real friend. They can then say, as the blessed souls say in Dante, "Here comes one who will augment our loves." For in this love "to divide is not to take away."

C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*

