



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*The Old Rugged Cross*

Bennard

Lighting of the Candles

Amias Hamilton & Landon Walker

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 33:6, 8-11

Leader: By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of His mouth.

All: Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the people of the world revere Him. For He spoke, and it came to be; He commanded, and it stood firm.

Leader: The Lord foils the plans of the nations; He thwarts the purposes of the peoples.

All: But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of His heart through all generations.

Hymn of Praise No. 579Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

ST. DENIO

Prayer of Adoration*Prayer of Confession**

“Heavenly Father, we confess that we have been unfaithful to our covenant with You and with one another. We have worshiped other gods: money, power, greed, and convenience. We have not loved our neighbor as You have commanded, nor have we rightly loved ourselves. Forgive us, gracious God, and bring us back into the fullness of our covenant with You and one another. It is through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray.”

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

1 John 3:2-3

“Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who thus hopes in Him purifies himself as He is pure.”

Hymn of Meditation*What Wondrous Love is This*

SOUTHERN HARMONY

(see insert)

Concerns and Celebrations of Our Church Family**~ Proclaiming the Word of God ~****Word with Our Children**

Roxanne Spencer

Offering and Special Music*Gratitude*

CCLI #7158417

David Hamilton, tenor; George Maxwell, guitar; Amy Hamilton, djembe

***Scripture Reading**

1 Corinthians 1:18; Matthew 27

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Sermon

“Ironies of the Cross”

Eddie Spencer

~ Responding to the Word of God ~

***Sending Song**

Benediction

Selah

***Prayer and Benediction**

***Postlude**

I Love to Tell the Story

Fischer

*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 aged 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!

**Nominations for the
office of Elder are currently being accepted.**

Please prayerfully consider your nomination, along with the qualifications of the office. More information may be found on the Elder Nomination Forms, located in the Narthex.

UPCOMING

Fulfilling Our Purpose... Growing by Grace.

First Presbyterian has been gifted an opportunity not only to improve our facilities but expand our ministry capabilities! A generous couple has agreed to fund the majority of this project, which will leave us with a new outdoor pavilion dedicated in memory of Dr. Joe Crawford and in honor of his wife, Diane. If you would like to contribute toward this project, please pick up a 2023 Campaign brochure from the Narthex and return the Donation Card with your offering.



You are invited to a Community Prayer Walk on Saturday, March 25th!

Area churches will gather at Village Chapel at 9:00am. Following a welcome and worship time, individual churches will travel to their own prayer routes. A light breakfast will be provided, so please sign up in the Narthex by Sunday, March 19 if you plan to attend!

Winter Wednesdays in the Word continue with our church-wide Ten commandments Bible study!

A Fellowship Meal (menu this week: Mr. C's fried chicken, tater wedges, tossed salad, drinks & 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!

JOY GROUP

will meet Friday, March 31st @noon at China Grove Family Restaurant. Address: 216 South Main St, China Grove. Limited Transportation is available. Please sign up in the Narthex if you want to attend and indicate if transportation is needed. Meet at the church at 11:30am if you need a ride.



On Wednesday, March 29th, First Presbyterian will host a Seder presentation and tasting experience with Word of Messiah Ministries!

Their founder and President, Sam Nadler, is a Jewish believer in Jesus. He will lead us through "The Messiah in the Passover," as we learn more about Jewish tradition during this holy festival and how it points us to Jesus.

So that we may adequately prepare, please sign up in the Narthex or RSVP to the church office by Sunday, March 26!



**Women of all ages
are invited to a Spring Luncheon
on April 1 from 12-2pm, 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*. **The last day to register is Sunday, March 26th.** Please register via the announcement on our website - www.firstpresb.org - or by filling out the form in the bulletin and returning it to the church office with your payment. See Renee Goodnight for more information.



**Samaritan's Purse is
responding to the recent
earthquakes that rocked Turkey
and Syria.**

They immediately began to mobilize disaster relief and have deployed a 52-bed field hospital with 2 emergency operating rooms, and a pharmacy. If you would like to give towards their efforts, please mark your donation (online or in the offering plate) for "Earthquake Relief" by Sunday, March 26.



**Join us for special services with
Kimball Lutheran during Holy
Week!**

**Thursday, April 6 @ 6:30pm - Communion Service at
First Presbyterian**
**Friday, April 7 @ 6:30pm - Musical Worship Service
at Kimball Lutheran**



Journey Youth are invited to an Easter Celebration and Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 8 from 10am - 12pm!
Lunch will be provided. Please sign up in the Narthex!!!

THANK YOU to Phil and Jill McClain and their team (Dave and Jane Argabrite, Eddie, Jason and Lindsay Leece) who cooked, packaged and distributed 72 meals last week for Samaritan's Table ministry!

First Presbyterian is partnering with Kimball Lutheran quarterly this year to distribute to-go meals to our community. Our next Samaritan's Table meal is Thursday, June 8. If you would like to participate, please contact Phil McClain or Michelle.

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! Nearly 500 items have been taken!

PRAYER CONCERNS

CHURCH FAMILY

Danny Bost - **Health Concerns**
Hank Cranford - **Health concern**
Brenda Ramsey - **Recovery from a health concern**
Betty Sechler - **Severe knee pain**
Donna Hancock - **Surgery on April 21**

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF Church Family

Ellen Morrison (Judy Hammond's friend) - **Cancer**
Lela Bishop - **Recovery from broken femur**
Robert Little (Richard's brother) - **Treatment for cancer**
Mike Allen (Bargers' family) - **Beginning a 5 week radiation treatment at Emory**
Buddy Troutman (Judy Hammond's family) - **Health concern**
David Buckland (friend of Sparks) - **Young man battling lymphoma**
Shiela Cowan (Eric Cowan's sister) - **Recovery from kidney transplant surgery**

HOMEBOUND

Shirley Faust - **TerraBella in Salisbury**
Peggy Barnhardt - **Morningside**
Barbara Hancock - **Home**
Iris Efird - **Home**
Barbara Wise - **Oaks at Hampton, Cummings, Georgia**
Loretta Young - **Five Oaks**

SERVANTS

Elder Lock-Up: Ryan Walker

Children's Message: Roxanne Spencer

Children's Message next week: Michelle Walker

Children's Church: Lynn Efird & Amelia Caskey

Children's Church next week: Michelle Walker & Jenna Baker

Acolytes: Amias Hamilton & Landon Walker

Acolyte next week: Noah Walker & Caylin Lowder

Nursery: Kaitlyn Maxwell

Nursery next week: Amy Hamilton

Ushers: Danny Bost, Fred Caskey, Mark

Goodnight, John Hammond

Ushers next week: Tony Hunter, Amy Hurst, Chris Lowder, Mike Lowder

Greeters: Donnie Swaringen, Roxanne Spencer

FINANCIALS FOR FEBRUARY

YTD Income \$48,230.45

YTD Expenses \$46,492.47

YTD Budget \$48,584.00

Last week's attendance: 3/12/23

Sunday School - 66

Worship -108

THIS WEEK@FIRST PRESB

Sunday, March 19

9:30am - Fellowship Breakfast

- GraceFull Movements Rehearsal

9:45am - Choir Rehearsal

10:00am - Sunday School

11:00am - Worship Service

12:15pm - Handbells

Tuesday, March 21

12:00pm - NA

6:30pm - Missions Team

Wednesday, March 22

5:30pm - Fellowship Meal

5:30pm - Small Group Rehearsal

6:00pm - PraiseMakers Rehearsal

6:30pm - Ten Commandments Study (adults & youth)

Thursday, March 23

10:30am - Ladies' Bible Study

12:00pm - NA

5:30pm - Playground Committee

6:30pm - Kannapolis Bible Teaching Association

Saturday, March 25

9:00am - Community Prayer Walk

Sunday, March 26 10 Cents a Meal

9:30am - Fellowship Breakfast

- GraceFull Movements Rehearsal

9:45am - Choir Rehearsal

10:00am - Sunday School

11:00am - Worship Service

12:15pm - Handbells

