



First Presbyterian

“Sanctify them by the truth;

Your word is truth.

As You sent Me into the world,
I have sent them into the world.”

John 17:17-18

Welcome!

~ Gathering Before the Word ~

Welcome

Eddie Spencer

Prelude and Preparation for Worship

Lighting of the Candles

Caylin Lowder & Landon Walker

***Call to Worship**

Isaiah 9:6-7

Leader: For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders.

ALL: And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of peace.

Leader: Of the greatness of His government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over His kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

ALL: The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

***Hymn of Praise No. 601**

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

CORONATION

***Prayer of Adoration**

Reading on Christian Community

ROMANS 12: 9-18

“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”

***Song of God's Spirit No. 749**

Spirit of the Living God

Iverson

~ Proclaiming the Word of God ~

Word with our Children

Acting Out Drama Ministry

Offering and Special Music

Amazing Grace

Newton; arr. Valadez

PraiseMakers

Judy Goodnight, keyboard; Chris Lowder, drum

***Scripture Reading**

Hebrews 10:19-25

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Sermon

“Community Life”

Eddie Spencer

~ Responding to the Word of God ~

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

*Communion Hymn No. 840 *Behold the Lamb* Getty, Townend

*Prayer and Benediction

Postlude *Power In The Blood* Jones

*All who are able, please stand
CCLI# 2221136

Today is Worldwide Communion Sunday. Christians in every culture break the bread and pour the cup to remember Christ's death. We also affirm that He alone is the Lord of the Universe and Head of His Church. Whether the Lord's Supper is shared in a grand sanctuary, a mud hut, outside on a hilltop, or in a storefront, this meal teaches us that "*we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.*" (1 Corinthians 10:17) During the Lord's Supper, we seek God's spiritual presence. As we commune with God, we take time to look back and reflect on our crucified Savior's love and to look ahead and anticipate a coming Savior's glory. This frees us from despair as we face hostility, adversity, and heartache. Participating in the Lord's Supper should awaken in us a longing for another feast - the ultimate feast, when our Lord will make all things new. He will swallow up death forever. He will wipe away tears from all faces, and we will forever rejoice in our Lord's salvation.
(Second Presbyterian Church, Memphis, TN)

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 in the Church Nursery. 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!



As our church family celebrates the Sacrament of Holy Communion, we also traditionally collect for our Good Samaritan Fund. This fund allows the church pastor and staff to assist those in need – both in our church and in our community. If you would like to contribute, please place your donation in the ‘Good Samaritan Fund’ envelope, or mark your offering envelope ‘Good Samaritan Fund’.

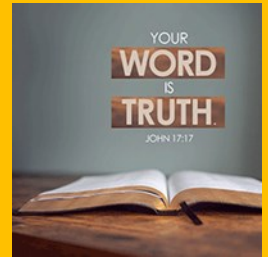


Wednesdays in the Word continue this week!

A Fellowship Meal will be served beginning at 5:30pm on a donation basis. This week’s menu will be bacon, eggs, grits, biscuits and gravy, fruit and drinks. PraiseMakers rehearse at 6pm. Classes/groups start at 6:30, including:

- “Foundations” - Adult class with Pastor Eddie,
- “Anxious for Nothing - Middle/Sr High with Michelle,
- “Unafraid” - Elementary children with Chariti & Chris,

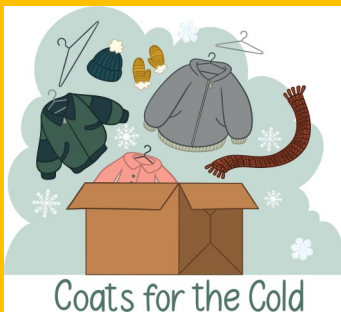
Join us as we dig deeper into God’s Word this fall!



A Men’s Fellowship Dinner will be held on Thursday, October 12 at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall (donation basis). We will enjoy a meal from Sonny’s BBQ, including bbq pork, bbq chicken, baked beans, macaroni and cheese, salad, drinks and dessert. Rodney Taylor will lead us in a time of devotion. Please sign-up in the Narthex by Sunday, October 8th! (Suggested donation is \$11 per person.)



The Journey Youth Fall Festival will be Sunday, October 29 at 4pm! Join us at the Walker farm as we fire up the grill and then the tractor for a hayride. We’ll play games, make crafts, and enjoy sweet treats together. Sign up in the Narthex by Sunday, October 22!



First Presbyterian Church, Linda’s Closet, and Feeding Kannapolis Hunger will host a Fall Health Fair and Cold Weather Clothing Giveaway on Saturday, November 4!

The health and wellness presentation will begin at 9:30am, with a fresh produce and egg giveaway to follow. Attendees can also shop for coats, gloves, and toboggans, as well as other needs in the closet. Soup, desserts, and bread will be served for lunch. There will be kids’ activities and music! But we need

your help! Please drop off donations of coats, gloves, and toboggans by Wednesday, November 1. Volunteers will also be needed to prep the market on Friday evening, as well as donate desserts, prepare and serve lunch, and help shoppers on Saturday. Sign up in the Narthex, and join us for a fun day of service!!!

Serving Christ Together



Thank you to all who donated towards Samaritan's Purse's disaster relief efforts in Maui. A total of \$603 was received from your offerings!

Operation Christmas Child Updates!

Collection Season is in full swing! Our missions team has committed to packing 400 boxes for ages 10-14, 200 boys and 200 girls. We are currently working on school supplies and need your help to fulfill the following: 168 composition notebooks (not wire-bound), 324 scissors, 64 pencils, 85 manual pencil sharpeners, 174 packs of colored pencils or crayons, and 390 packs of skinny markers. Place your donations in our collection bins in the Narthex or outside the Fellowship Hall. You may also make monetary donations (including online) - just mark your offering for "shoeboxes."



The Missions Team will host a Missions Meal (donation basis) immediately following the worship service on Sunday, October 22! Members of the Missions Team will provide soups and cornbread. The congregation is asked to contribute desserts. All donations received will go towards our OCC Shoebox packing efforts.

As always, THANK YOU for your support of this ministry!

Linda's Closet clothing ministry is in need of men's jeans in waist sizes 30 - 36 and girls' clothing, sizes 6 months - 5T. Thank you for your help!

The closet is open on Tuesdays, 11 am - 2pm.



The First Presbyterian Fence Ministry continues to bless individuals with hygiene and seasonal clothing items. Small bags with products like plastic bandages, lip balm, washcloths, towels and hand towels, combs and brushes, hair ties, deodorant, feminine products, plastic forks/spoons, ponchos, scarves, gloves, and toboggans are placed on the fence along Vance St. for those in need. If you would like to donate items, please see Sam or Kay McAllister; or make a donation to First Pres marked "homeless ministry" to support our fence and other homeless outreaches.

Prayer Concerns

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

- Irene Davis - loss of brother
- Barbara and Donna Hancock - recovery from Covid
- Randy Childers - Big Elm, Room 204
- Danny Bost- battling cancer
- Hank Cranford - health concerns

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CHURCH FAMILY

- Everett Halsell (Sue Maiocchi's dad) - diagnosed with cancer
- Justin Wallace (Melba Funderburk's grandson) - rare disease
- Sherry Bath (Amy Hurst's friend) - chemo and radiation treatments
- Ellen Morrison (Judy Hammond's friend) - cancer
- Buddy Troutman (Judy Hammond's family) - health concern
- Barbara Moss (Betty Sechler's sister) - recovery from stroke
- Leigh Ann Hall (Betty Sechler's daughter) - recovery from stroke
- Margarita Cowan (Eric Cowan's mom) - health concerns
- Johnny Campbell (friend of Stewarts) - stem cell transplant

HOMEBOUND

- Bob & Shirley Faust - Morningside
- Peggy Barnhardt - Morningside
- May Ackerman - Morningside
- Barbara Hancock - Home
- Iris Efird - Home
- Barbara Wise - Oaks at Hampton, Cummings, Georgia
- Loretta Young - Five Oaks



This Week @ FIRST PRES

Sunday, October 1

World Communion Sunday

9:30am - Fellowship Breakfast

- GraceFull Movements

Dance Rehearsal

- Acting Out Rehearsal

10:00am - Sunday School

11:00am - Worship Service with Holy Communion

Tuesday, October 3

11:00am - 2:00 pm Linda's Closet

12:00pm - NA

6:30pm - Session

Wednesday, October 4

Wednesdays in the Word!

5:30pm - Fellowship Dinner

6:00pm - PraiseMakers Rehearsal

6:30pm - Kids, Youth, & Adult Groups

Thursday, October 5

10:30am - Ladies' Bible Study

12:00pm - NA

Friday, October 6

5:00pm - Dress Rehearsal for Mahaley Wedding

Saturday, October 7

4:00pm - Mahaley Wedding

Next Sunday, October 8

9:30am - Fellowship Breakfast

- Graceful Movements

Dance Rehearsal

10:00am - Sunday School

- Confirmation Class

11:00am - Worship Service

SERVANTS

Elder Lock-Up: Ken Sparks

Children's Message: Acting Out

Children's Message Next Week: Amelia Caskey

Children's Church: Chris & Chariti Lowder

Children's Church next week: Tracy & Amelia Caskey

Acolytes: Caylin Lowder & Landon Walker

Acolytes next week: Abby Vriesema & Noah Walker

Nursery: Jenny Sparks

Nursery next week: Judy Hunter

Ushers: Tony Rary, Lynn Sechler, Phil Smith, Pam Hooks

Ushers next week: Ryan Walker, Jeff Barnhardt, Danny Bost, Mark Goodnight

Greeters: Sue Maiocchi, Dave Argabrite

FINANCIALS

FOR AUGUST

YTD Income \$201,317.45

YTD Expenses \$199,542.20

YTD Budget \$194,336.00

Last week's attendance: 9/24/23

Sunday School - 64

Worship - 105

