



**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 for Worship**

AMERICAN MELODY

*There is a Fountain*

**Lighting of the Candles**

Evie Sechler & Ingrid Townsend

**\*Call to Worship**

Heidelberg Catechism

Leader: What is your only comfort in life and death?

**ALL: That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him.**

**\*Hymn of Praise No. 440**

*He Leadeth Me*

AUGHTON/HE LEADETH

**\*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.”

**Prayer of Confession**

“Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In Your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be. Guide us, by Your Spirit, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your Holy Name. It's in the name of Jesus, the Good Shepherd we pray.”

**Silent Prayers of Confession**

**Assurance of the Gospel**

**Colossians 1:13-14**

“For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

\*

\*Song of Trust No. 465      *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*      Dorsey

~ Proclaiming the Word of God ~

Word with our Children      Roxanne Spencer

\*Doxology No. 965      OLD HUNDREDTH

Offering and Special Music      *Sweet Hour of Prayer*      Bradbury

Scripture Reading      Mark 4:1-9      Page 993

Sermon      "Power of the Parable"      Eddie Spencer

Celebration of our Veterans

~ Responding to the Word of God ~

\*Sending Hymn      *America the Beautiful*      Ward  
See Insert

\*Prayer and Benediction

Postlude      *God Bless America*      Berlin

\*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 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!

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST COVENANT PARTNERS



**Linda Hathaway** is transferring her membership from Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church by letter. At Mt. Olivet, Linda was a Sunday School teacher and active member. She is a widow, with one son and two grandsons, who retired from employment with Piedmont Behavioral Healthcare. Linda enjoys reading, playing games, cards or puzzles, cooking, dancing and spending time with family and friends. When she visited First Presbyterian at a friend's urging, she found its members to be friendly, loving, and caring. The warmth of the congregation helps fulfill her spiritual needs, as the church has done throughout her life.



**William "Junior" Harward** comes to First Pres via letter of transfer from Shadybrook Baptist Church, where he was baptized in 1962 and served as a Deacon. Junior is a widower, with three children and 7 grandchildren. He previously owned and operated his own HVAC business, and enjoys golf and hunting. Having been invited by a friend, Junior enjoyed both the service and fellowship. Here, he expects to receive the spiritual fulfillment he needs to be both a Christian leader and follower.



**The JOY Group will meet this Wednesday, November 15** at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Dave Argabrite will lead the program, which will include a clip from The Chosen on Jesus healing at the Bethesda pool. Ham will be provided. Please sign up in the Narthex for a side or dessert!



**Join us for Thanksgiving Day lunch** on Thursday, November 23! The meal starts at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Turkey and gravy will be provided; guests are asked to bring sides, desserts, and tea to share. RSVP in the Narthex by next Sunday, November 19!!!

**As we begin to prepare for Advent and Christmas**, a combined choir from Kimball Lutheran and First Pres will soon begin rehearsals for a cantata. The music will be presented at Kimball Memorial Lutheran on Sunday, December 10, at 6 pm. Please see Kay Yates if you would like to add your voice to the choir.



**The church will be decorated for Advent** on Saturday, December 2, beginning at 2:00pm. Help is needed to lift and carry boxes down from the third floor, set up the altar extension and large tree, and hang greenery!

## Serving Christ Together



**We were so blessed by the many families** that came out on Saturday, November 4 for our Fall Health Fair! We served well over 70 families with boxes of produce and eggs. All of the coats were given away within a short time and many received cold weather clothing from Linda's Closet. **THANK YOU** to all who volunteered their time and energy to make this event possible - we truly touched our community!!!

### **Our Shoebox Packing Party will be THIS Wednesday, November 15th!**

Chicken and sides will be served at 5:30, before we gather to pack and pray for our 400 boxes at 6:30pm. There's a job for everyone, so come enjoy the fun and fellowship!!!



### **First Presbyterian will once again serve as an Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Drop-off Center in 2023!**

During National Collection Week, November 13-20, volunteers will be needed to staff our center and receive shoeboxes from neighboring churches and community members.

We must then transport those boxes to Pitts Baptist on Monday, November 20. A sign-up board is in the Narthex with the hours for which help is needed. See Sue Maiocchi if you have questions or would like more information!



### **First Pres has reserved a limited number of slots at the Operation Christmas Child Processing Center in Charlotte!**

Our shift is on Friday, November 24 from 3pm-7pm. We will carpool in the church van, and gather for dinner at a restaurant in Charlotte following our shift. Volunteers must be at least 13 years old to participate. Please sign up in the Narthex, or see Michelle for more information.

**The First Presbyterian Fence Ministry** is currently collecting 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. 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.





## **Dear Pastor & Congregation,**

Thank you so much for all your prayers, calls and cards since my injury and surgery. I greatly appreciate all of you.

Love, Cookie Hamilton

**To My Church Family** - Thank you for your prayers and cards of encouragement during the loss of my step-father, Richard Roberts.

Sincerely, Todd Pless

## **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**

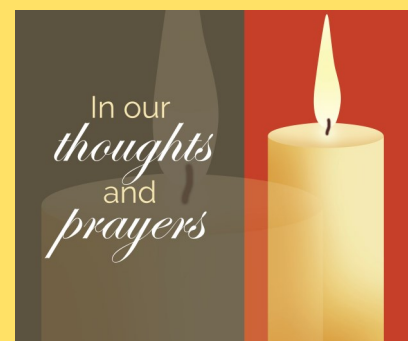
- Sandy Bessent and family - loss of Paul
- Roxanne Spencer and family - loss of mother
- Becky Seaford and family - loss of Charles
- Steve Goodnight and family - loss of sister, Barbara Wise
- Richard Robert's family - loss of Richard
- Kay McAllister - recovery from wrist surgery
- Danny Bost- battling cancer
- Jean Bost - recovery from toe surgery
- Hank Cranford - health concerns
- Farrar & Cindy Griggs - call and move to Pennsylvania

### **FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CHURCH FAMILY**

- Cathy Pifferetti (PO BOX 6, Spencer, NC 28159) - tragic loss of Frank
- Robert Little (Richard's brother) - new treatment for cancer
- Everett Halsell (Sue Maiocchi's dad) - beginning treatment for 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

### **HOMEBOUND**

- Bob & Shirley Faust - Morningside
- Peggy Barnhardt - Morningside
- Barbara Hancock - Home
- Iris Efird - Home
- Loretta Young - Five Oaks





# This Week @ FIRST PRES

## Sunday, November 12

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

## Monday, November 13

2:00-4:00pm - OCC Collection

## Tuesday, November 14

11:00am - 2:00 pm Linda's Closet  
12:00pm - NA  
4:30-6:30pm - OCC Collection  
6:30pm - Missions Team

## Wednesday, November 15

12:00pm - Joy Group Lunch  
2:00-4:00pm - OCC Collection  
5:30pm - Fellowship Dinner  
6:00pm - PraiseMakers Rehearsal  
6:30pm - OCC Packing Party

## Thursday, November 16

10:30am - Ladies' Bible Study  
12:00pm - NA  
5:00-7:00pm - OCC Collection

## Friday, November 17

2:00-4:00pm - OCC Collection  
5:30 pm - Agape Chinese Baptist  
Church Stream Fellowship

## Saturday, November 18

10am-12pm - OCC Collection

## Next Sunday, November 19

9:30am - Fellowship Breakfast  
- Graceful Movements  
Dance Rehearsal  
10:00am - Sunday School  
- Confirmation  
11:00am - Worship Service  
1:00-5:00pm - OCC Collection

## SERVANTS

**Elder Lock-Up:** Lynn Sechler  
**Children's Message:** Roxanne Spencer  
**Children's Message Next week:** Jenna Baker  
**Children's Church:** Sue Maiocchi & Amelia Caskey  
**Children's Church next week:** Sharon Stricker & Allison Hammett  
**Acolytes:** Evie Sechler & Ingrid Townsend  
**Acolytes next week:** Landon & Noah Walker  
**Nursery:** Lynn Efird  
**Nursery next week:** Katherine Vriesema  
**Ushers:** Danny Bost, Mark Goodnight, John Hammond, Tony Hunter  
**Ushers next week:** Amy Hurst, Mike Lowder, Sam McAllister, Jeff Barnhardt  
**Greeters:** Cookie Hamilton, Jeff Barnhardt

## FINANCIALS FOR OCTOBER

YTD Income \$251,004.60  
YTD Expenses \$246,982.81  
YTD Budget \$242,920.00  
Last week's attendance: 11/5/23  
Worship - 136  
Sunday School - 80

