



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

BLESSINGS

Count Your Blessings
Small Ensemble**Lighting of the Candles**

Landon & Noah Walker

Call to Worship*Psalm 103:1-2**

Leader: Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name.

Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all His benefits.

ALL: Who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.***Hymn of Praise***We Gather Together (see insert)*

KREMSER

Prayer of Adoration*Prayer of Confession**

“God, our heavenly Father, You are our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Every good and perfect gift comes from You. Yet we confess that we have doubted Your generous heart which delights to give what is good to Your children. We have murmured and complained against You. We have failed to give thanks to You in all circumstances. Empower us to cast off these and all other sins of our heart knowing that they are an affront and insult to You. Fill us anew with Your Spirit and deepen our gratitude so that we might serve and obey You with undivided and joyful hearts. It's in the name of Jesus our Lord, we pray.”

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

II Corinthians 8:9

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich.”

Song of Thanks No. 358Give Thanks*

Proclaiming the Word of God ~

Dedication of OCC Shoeboxes

Jenna Baker

***Doxology No. 965**

OLD HUNDREDTH

Offering and Special Music

Thank God I Do
Abigail Malinovsky, alto

Daigle/Ingram/Bhasker/
Moore/Ruess

Scripture Reading

Matthew 13:44-46

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Sermon

“Enamored by the Treasure”

Eddie Spencer

~ Responding to the Word of God ~

***Sending Hymn**

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come
(see insert)

ST. GEORGE'S
WINDSOR

***Prayer and Benediction**

Postlude

Now Thank We All Our God

Nun Danket

*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!



My Dear Church Family, We are so grateful to each and every one of you for the love and kindness you bestowed on the Bessent family these past few weeks. Thank you for the compassionate and caring phone calls, text messages, cards, encouraging words, flowers, food, and fellowship. You are all amazing and have no idea the comfort that you all provided.

We felt and are still feeling the love. We love you all!

With love, Sandy Bessent and Family

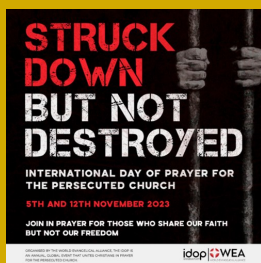
Thank you for the generous donation to Wednesday Homebound Meals.
Tony, John, Mark and Alpha

I would like to thank the Care Team and our special church members at First Presbyterian for the heartfelt get well cards and calls. You all are a special group of people in my life.
Phil Smith

Dear friends, Thank you for your cards and kind words of sympathy during the loss of my sister, Barbara Wise. I appreciate your thoughtfulness.
Steve Goodnight



We wanted to extend an heartfelt thank you to all who have supported, donated, volunteered and have held us in prayer. Our Coat giveaway was an Amazing success. We were able to distribute well over 100 coats, as well as, other warm clothing to over 150 people! Linda's Closet is in the processing of reorganizing and will be unable to take any more donations at this time due to lack of storage space.



International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church
In November, we join Christians around the world in observing an International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. This year's theme is based on 2 Corinthians 4:8-9: *"We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed."*

When sisters and brothers, who face all manner of suffering because of their belief in Christ, are asked how we who worship freely can help them, their first response is, "Pray for us!"

- Pray for the more than 360 million Christians around the world who, because of their faith, are under high levels of persecution.
- Pray for courage, strength, and protection for those imprisoned for their faith.
- Pray for holy boldness and gracious witness of the persecuted, even to their persecutors.
- Pray also for the assurance of God's presence and provision for those who have lost homes, livelihoods, and family members.
- Pray that Christians in free nations will begin to understand "the fellowship of suffering" (Philippians 3:10) and choose to stand with and support our persecuted brothers and sisters.

UPCOMING EVENTS



We Gather
Together



Join us for Thanksgiving Day lunch this Thursday, November 23! The meal begins at 1:00pm 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 with what dish you will share**, so we have a good variety! See David & Vickie Ellington for details.

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 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!

Our Journey Youth will present their Christmas extravaganza "We Are the Reason" on Sunday, December 3 at 6:00pm in the fellowship hall! We'll start with a delicious Christmas dinner provided by the Fellowship Team. Then you're sure to feel the spirit of Christmas as our youth lead us in song, dance, and lots of fun! Please RSVP in the Narthex. If you need a ride, see Michelle. Come remember with us the real reason we celebrate!!!



A combined choir from First Pres and Kimball Memorial Lutheran will present the Christmas Cantata, "Emmanuel - God with Us!" by Lloyd Larson on Sunday, December 10, at 6:00pm. It will be a service of lessons and carols with a variety of musical styles. You are invited to Kimball for this special reflection on the Advent and Christmas season.



The First Presbyterian Fence Ministry continues to bless individuals with hygiene and seasonal clothing items. Small bags with products like bars of soap, washcloths, toothbrushes, toothpaste, baby wipes, dry shampoo, combs and brushes, deodorant, feminine products, socks, underwear, and hats 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 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

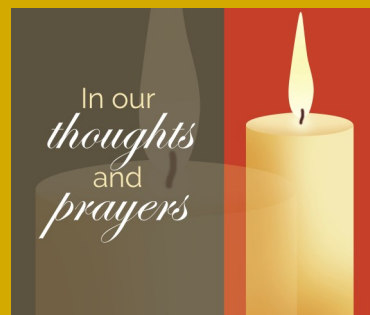
- Sandy Bessent and family - loss of Paul
- Roxanne Spencer and family - loss of mother
- Becky Seaford and family - loss of Charles
- Steve Goodnight and family - loss of sister, Barbara Wise
- Richard Robert's family - loss of Richard
- Kay McAllister - recovery from wrist and knee surgery
- Danny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

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CHURCH FAMILY

- 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
- Judy Hunter's friends - Barbara Coffey - cancer; and Thomas Dishman - received a heart at Duke

HOMEBOUND

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



This Week @ FIRST PRES

Sunday, November 19

9:30am - Fellowship Breakfast
- GraceFull Movements
- Acting Out Rehearsal
10:00am - Sunday School
- Confirmation
11:00am - Worship Service
1:00-5:00pm - OCC Collection
4:00pm - PraiseMakers Christmas
Rehearsal

Monday, November 20

9:30am-12:00pm - OCC Collection
2:00pm - Dorcas Circle of Hope

Tuesday, November 21

11:00am - 2:00 pm Linda's Closet
12:00pm - NA

Wednesday, November 22

11:00am-12:00pm - Praisemakers
Christmas Rehearsal

Thursday, November 23

Happy Thanksgiving!!!

1:00pm - Thanksgiving Lunch

Friday, November 24

3:00-7:00pm - OCC Shoebox
Processing in Charlotte
5:30 pm - Agape Chinese Baptist
Church Stream Fellowship

Next Sunday, November 26

9:30am - Fellowship Breakfast
- Graceful Movements
Dance Rehearsal
- Acting Out Rehearsal
10:00am - Sunday School
11:00am - Worship Service
4:00pm - PraiseMaker's Christmas
Rehearsal

SERVANTS

Elder Lock-Up: Lynn Sechler
Children's Message: Jenna Baker
Children's Message Next week: Michelle Walker
Children's Church: Sharon Stricker & Allison Hammett
Children's Church next week: Lynn Efird & Amelia Caskey
Acolytes: Landon & Noah Walker
Acolytes next week: Camryn & Caylin Lowder
Nursery: Katherine Vriesema
Nursery next week: Vickie Ellington
Ushers: Amy Hurst, Ryan Walker, Sam McAllister, Jeff Barnhardt
Ushers next week: Jill McLain, Phil McLain, Todd Pless, Tony Rary
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: 11/12/23
Worship - 97
Sunday School - 55

SERMON NOTES

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION - ACTIVE ELDERS

Tracy Caskey

Dave Ellington

Lynn Sechler

Cookie Hamilton

Chris Lowder

Ken Sparks

Sue Maiocchi

Tony Rary

Donnie Swaringen

Pastor Eddie Spencer, Moderator

Jeff Barnhardt, Session Clerk

