

ADVENT



2023

*The Story that Was,
Is and Will Be*

First Sunday of

Advent

~ Gathering Before the Word ~

Welcome

Eddie Spencer

Prelude and Preparation for Worship

Wexford Carol

IRISH TUNE

Lighting of the Candles

Scarlett Porter & Jade Arcos

***Call to Worship**

During Advent we wait for the coming Savior who is our Wonderful Counselor.

Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you.

We anticipate the One who hears our prayers.

Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you.

We anticipate the One who heals our infirmities.

Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you.

We anticipate the One who renews our faith.

Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you.

We anticipate the One who ignites our hope.

Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath*The Bell Family**

Words and Music by
JOEL RANEY

Congregation:

Ev-er-last-ing Fa-ther, Prince of Peace,
Won-der-ful Coun-sel-or, Al-might-y God.
Em-man-u-el, Em-man-u-el. God with
us, Em-man-u-el.

Advent Prayer**Hymn of Praise**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
(See Insert)

HYFRYDOL

***Prayer of Adoration**

Dance of Wonder *Breath of Heaven* Eaton
GraceFull Movements Dance Ministry

***Hymn of Joy No. 61** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL
(Stanzas 1-4)

Proclaiming the Word of God ~

Word With Our Children Acting Out Drama Ministry

***Hymn No. 76** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* ADESTE FIDELES

Offering and Special Music *Midnight Noel* arr. Hayes
Julianne Overcash, soprano; Kay Yates, piano

Scripture Reading Psalm 113 Page 604

Sermon "Advent: The Story that Was, Is and Will Be" Eddie Spencer

~ Responding to the Word of God ~

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

***Sending Hymn No. 88** *O Little Town of Bethlehem* ST. LOUIS

***Prayer and Benediction**

Postlude *The Savior Comes* Haweis

*All who are able, please stand
CCLI# 222113

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!



You can order poinsettias for our church this Sunday for \$14 and dedicate them in honor of or in memory of someone on the order form in the bulletin. The last day to order will be December 10th. Please be sure to put "Poinsettia" on the memo line of your check. If you would like to make a monetary donation instead as a Christmas offering, please mark your gift as "Christmas".



Our Journey Youth will present their Christmas extravaganza "We Are the Reason"

THIS EVENING at 6:00pm in the fellowship hall!
We'll start with a delicious dinner of ham, mashed potatoes and green beans provided by the Fellowship Team. The congregation is invited to share a dessert. Then you're sure to feel the spirit of Christmas as our youth lead us in song, dance, and lots of fun! If you need a ride, see Eddie or Michelle. Come remember with us the real reason we celebrate!!!



The Giving Tree is now in the Narthex.

This year the Missions Team has selected three families in need, referred to us by Kannapolis City Schools. Tags on the tree will designate items requested by family members. Please return all gifts and place under the tree by Sunday, December 17. Thanks, as always, for your support!

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 JOY Group will gather for a Christmas lunch at the home of Ron and Alpha Barger on Wednesday, December 13 at noon. Entrée will be provided. Please sign up in the Narthex for a side or dessert. See Dave Argabrite for more information!



First Presbyterian is pleased to welcome our 2023 Confirmation Class into membership on Sunday, December 17! In their honor, the Women's Council invites the congregation to a covered-dish luncheon immediately following worship that day. Mr. C's chicken will be provided, but please bring plenty of other dishes to share, including desserts.

Thank you for your support of our youth!!!

SERVING CHRIST TOGETHER

A MESSAGE OF THANKS FROM FRANKLIN GRAHAM.

I want to express my deep appreciation for the gift sent to Samaritan's Purse from First Presbyterian Church for Operation Christmas Child. We are truly grateful for your partnership in sharing God's love with children around the world through these gift-filled shoeboxes. Please pray with us that many children who receive shoeboxes would put their faith and trust in Christ.



Linda's Closet will be open this coming Saturday from 11am - 2pm to serve our community. If you would like to volunteer, please see Cindy DeVoe. At this time, donations have been so plentiful that we are not accepting items. We will let you know when that changes. Thank you

for your support of this ministry.

Feeding Kannapolis Hunger will pack Christmas boxes THIS FRIDAY, December 8th in the Fellowship Hall at 6pm. Volunteers are needed to help assemble the boxes. Pizza will be provided. Please sign up in the Narthex if you can help.



First Pres is once again providing the meal for Samaritan's Table at Kimball Lutheran on Thursday, December 14 at 5pm. Please see Phil McLain if you can assist in preparing the meal, boxing it up, or serving in the drive-thru line!

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 Church Family,

Thank you so much for your prayers, cards and calls. Your kindness meant so much to me!

Love & Blessings, Barbara Hancock

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

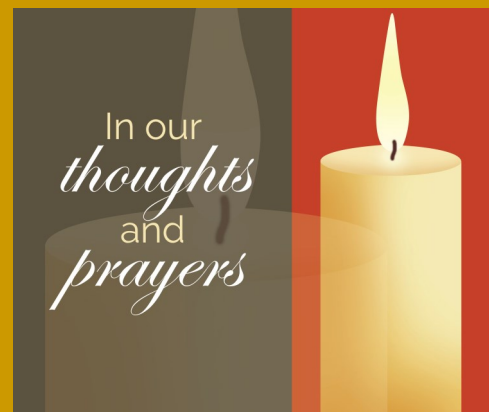
- Phil Smith- ankle surgery Wednesday
- Linda Bost and family - loss of Danny
- Sadie Porter and family- loss of grandmother
- Roxanne Spencer and family - loss of mother
- Sandy Bessent and family - loss of husband, Paul
- Becky Seaford and family - loss of husband, Charles
- Steve Goodnight and family - loss of sister, Barbara Wise
- Richard Robert's family - loss of Richard
- Kay McAllister - recovery from wrist and knee surgery
- Hank Cranford - Health Concerns

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF Church Family

- Bonnie Goodnight's father - health concerns
- Robert Little (Richard's brother) - new treatment for cancer
- Everett Halsell (Sue Maiocchi's dad) - treatment for cancer
- Justin Wallace (Melba Funderburk's grandson) - rare disease
- Sherry Bath (Amy Hurst friend) - chemo and radiation this week

HOMEBOUND

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



This Week @ FIRST PRES

Sunday, December 3

1st Sunday of Advent

- 9:30am - Fellowship Breakfast
 - Gracefull Movements
 - Dance Rehearsal
 - Acting Out Rehearsal
- 10:00am - Sunday School
 - Confirmation
- 11:00am - Worship Service with Holy Communion
- 6:00pm - "We Are the Reason"
PraiseMaker's Christmas Presentation

Tuesday, December 5

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

Thursday, December 7

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

Friday, December 8

- 5:30 pm - Agape Chinese Baptist Church Stream Fellowship

Saturday, December 9

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

Next Sunday, December 10

2nd Sunday of Advent

- 9:30am - Fellowship Breakfast
 - GraceFull Movements
 - Dance Rehearsal
- 10:00am - Sunday School
- 11:00am - Worship Service with String Trio
- 6:00pm - "Emmanuel - God With Us"
Cantata with Kimball Memorial

SERVANTS

- Elder Lock-Up:** Sue Maiocchi
- Children's Message:** Acting Out
- Children's Message Next week:** Amelia Caskey
- Children's Church:** Roxanne Spencer & Jenny Sparks
- Children's Church next week:** Tracy & Amelia Caskey
- Acolytes:** Scarlett Porter & Jade Arcos
- Acolytes next week:** Evie Sechler & Ingrid Townsend
- Nursery:** Debbie McDaniel
- Nursery next week:** Judy Hunter
- Ushers:** Lynn Sechler, Phil Smith, Pam Hooks, Ryan Walker
- Ushers next week:** Jeff Barnhardt, Ryan Walker, Mark Goodnight, John Hammond
- Greeters:** Ken Sparks, Renee Goodnight

FINANCIALS FOR OCTOBER

- YTD Income** \$251,004.60
- YTD Expenses** \$246,982.81
- YTD Budget** \$242,920.00
- Last week's attendance:** 11/26/23
- Worship - 89**
- Sunday School - 60**

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 | | |

