



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

In the Bulb There is A Flower

Sleeth

Lighting of the Candles

Scarlett Porter & Camryn Lowder

***Call to Worship**

Exodus 15:2,11

Leader: The Lord is my strength and my defense: He has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise Him, my father's God, and I will exalt Him.

ALL: Who among the gods is like You, Lord? Who is like You - majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?

***Hymn of Praise No. 581**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

HYMN TO JOY

***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.”

Affirmation of Faith

“We believe in one God, whose almighty Word brought forth the universe, who speaks to us by His Spirit through what He has created and through what has been written for us in Holy Scripture. We believe that at the right moment in time, God's Word became flesh in the life of Jesus of Nazareth, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. We believe that this good news of great joy which heralded Jesus' birth also points us to the cross on which Jesus died, and to His empty tomb. There the angel's message “He is risen!” heralded the glorious, good news of Christ's resurrection. We believe that this same Jesus is alive to meet us every day, and to offer us new and abundant life. We rejoice in the knowledge that He will one day return to rule in righteousness, to renew the earth, and to claim us as God's own.”

***Hymn of Consecration**

Another Year is Dawning

AURELIA

(see insert)

Concerns and Celebrations of Our Church Family

~ Proclaiming the Word of God ~

Word With Our Children		Jane Argabrite
Offering and Special Music	<i>I Wonder As I Wander</i> Joe Morris, tenor	Niles
Scripture Reading	John 12:20-26	Page 1065
Sermon	“Following Christ”	Eddie Spencer

~ Responding to the Word of God ~

The Celebration of the Lord's Supper

*Sending Hymn No. 174	<i>I Stand Amazed</i>	MY SAVIOR'S LOVE
*Prayer and Benediction		
Postlude	<i>Oh How I Love Jesus</i>	American Melody

*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!



The flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God and in honor of Judy Goodnight & Hank Cranford in celebration of their birth-



The 2024 Bible Reading Plan is now available.

Pick up a Bible Reading Plan bookmark in the Narthex.

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'.



Beginning this Sunday, the 9:30am gathering before Sunday School will transition from Fellowship Breakfast to Morning Coffee. Feel free to come and enjoy warm beverages and a time of fellowship!



ATTENTION, ALL PARENTS AND YOUTH! There will be an organization and planning meeting on **Wednesday, January 17 at 6:30pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Pizza, salad, drinks and dessert will be provided beginning at 5:45pm (sign up in the Narthex). Please bring your calendars and come ready to talk about opportunities for our youth (including music, dance, studies, and outings) in the coming year!!!

The JOY Group will gather for a lunch on Friday, January 26th at noon the Fellowship Hall.

Our menu will be Taco Bar, soup, desserts and drinks followed by games. We need three members to sign up to bring soup and five members to bring dessert, and someone to bring drinks. Bring a game at least four people can play, i.e. UNO cards, Dominoes, etc. Looking forward to seeing everyone! Sign up in the Narthex. See Dave Argabrite for more information!



SERVING CHRIST TOGETHER



Ministry Focus: Cabarrus Meals on Wheels (MOW)

Cabarrus Meals on Wheels is a non-profit organization that provides well-balanced, nutritious meals, 5 days a week, to eligible homebound seniors and individuals with disabilities. Each of the 31 Cabarrus routes ideally needs a driver and a helper. Having daily face-to-face contact during the week allows volunteers to develop relationships with those they are serving and provides a wellbeing check to alert of any potential problems. This in turn can help clients remain longer in their homes. Half of our monthly 10 Cents a Meal Collection is now designated for Cabarrus MOW, with the other half going towards our Compassion International children.

Dave and Jane Argabrite, who have volunteered for Cabarrus MOW since September of 2018, would be happy to talk to you or let you ride along with them if you want more information!

Linda's Closet will re-open this week on Tuesday, January 9

from 11am - 2:00pm Currently, Closet needs are coats, socks, hats, and gloves in all sizes. Donations have been so plentiful that no other clothing items are currently being accepted. If you would like to volunteer to serve with Linda's Closet, please see Cindy Devoe!



Thank you to all who have donated to the First Pres Blessing Fence!

So many items have been gifted to our community through this ministry. Currently, their only needs are 1 gallon or 1.5 gallon storage bags and small containers with screw-on lids (to hold soap and shampoo). Further needs will be updated as supplies are exhausted.

Please see Sam or Kay McAllister if you can help!



Thank you to all those who've prayed for me, sent cards, and visited me during my convalescence. First Presbyterian is truly blessed with wonderful souls. I'm grateful for each of you and glad to be a member. **Randy Childers**

Kay McAllister would like to thank everyone for their prayers, calls, texts, cards, meals, and other acts of kindness during her recent recovery from surgeries. Your expressions of love meant so much!!!

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

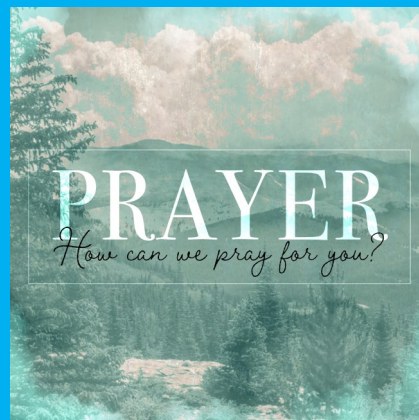
- Bill Jolley - health concerns
- Greg Arcos - mother died
- Phil Smith - recovery from surgery on ankle
- John Roberson - health concerns
- Barbara Boucher - health concerns
- Hank Cranford - health concerns

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CHURCH FAMILY

- Debra Dandro - treatment for cancer
- Martha Stricker (Bill Stricker's mother) - perforated intestine
- Barbara Coffey (Judy Hunter's friend) - stage 4 cancer
- Everett Halsell (Sue Maiocchi's dad) - beginning treatment for cancer
- Justin Wallace (Melba Funderburk's grandson)- rare disease

HOMEBOUND

- Randy Childers - Big Elm
- Bob and Shirley Faust - Morningside
- Barbara Hancock - Home
- Iris Efird - Home
- Loretta Young - Five Oaks



This Week @ FIRST PRES

Sunday, January 7

9:30am - Morning Coffee
10:00am - Sunday School
11:00am - Worship Service with Holy Communion

Tuesday, January 9

11:00am - 2:00 pm Linda's Closet
12:00pm - NA
6:00pm - Session

Thursday, January 11

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

Friday, January 12

5:30 pm - Agape Chinese Baptist
Church Stream Fellowship

Next Sunday, January 14

9:30am - Morning Coffee
10:00am - Sunday School
11:00am - Worship Service

SERVANTS

Elder Lock-Up: Donnie Swaringen

Children's Message: Jane Argabrite

Children's Message next week: Jenna Baker

Children's Church: Chris & Chariti Lowder

Children's Church next week: David & Vickie Ellington

Acolytes: Scarlett Porter & Camryn Lowder

Acolytes next week: Caylin Lowder & Abby Vriesema

Nursery: Chariti Lowder & Jenny Sparks

Nursery next week: Lydia Vriesema

Ushers: Jeff Barnhardt, Mark Goodnight, John Hammond, Tony Hunter

Ushers next week: Amy Hurst, Chris Lowder, Mike Lowder, Sam McAllister

Greeters: Dave Ellington, Roxanne Spencer

FINANCIALS

FOR NOVEMBER

YTD Income \$282,449.88

YTD Expenses \$272,957.28

YTD Budget \$267,212.00

Last week's attendance: 12/31/23

Worship AM - 86

No Sunday School 12/31/23

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



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