



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*Oh How I Love Jesus***Lighting of the Candles**

Scarlett Porter & Camryn Lowder

Choral Call to WorshipWe Have Come Into His House*

Ballinger

Hymn of Praise No. 590Oh, For A Thousand Tongues to Sing*
(Verses 1-4)

AZMON

Prayer of Adoration*Prayer of Confession**

“Merciful God, You made us in Your image, with a mind to know You, a heart to love You, and a will to serve You. But our knowledge is imperfect, our love inconsistent, and our obedience incomplete. Day by day, we fail to grow into Your likeness. In Your tender love, forgive us through Jesus Christ, our Lord. It is in His matchless name we pray.”

Silent Prayers**Assurance of the Gospel**

Ephesians 1:7-8

“In Him, we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight.”

Hymn of Assurance No. 167Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

ST. CHRISTOPHER

Concerns and Celebrations of Our Church Family**~ Proclaiming the Word of God ~****Word With Our Children**

Alpha Barger

***Doxology No. 965**

OLD HUNDREDTH

Offering and Special Music

Dallas Boovy, piano

Scripture Reading

Genesis 50:15-21

Page 53

Sermon

“The Joseph Story”

Eddie Spencer

Celebration of The Lord’s Supper

~ **Responding to the Word of God** ~

Sending Hymn No. 627

Just As I Am

WOODWORTH

***Prayer and Benediction**

Postlude

Glory to His Name

Stockton

*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.

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.

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 we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion, we traditionally collect for our Good Samaritan Fund. Donations to this Fund allow the Pastor and Church Staff to give immediate assistance to those in need - both in our congregation and our community. If you would like to contribute, please use the Good Samaritan Fund envelope found in the pew, or mark your offering for Good Samaritan Fund.

LOVE quote of the Week



“Agape love is selfless love...the love God wants us to have isn’t just an emotion but a conscious act of the will-- a deliberate decision on our part to put others ahead of ourselves. This is the kind of love God has for us.”

Billy Graham

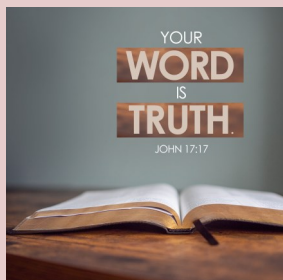
UPCOMING Events

Teen girls (Middle & High School) Bible Study with Amelia Caskey will begin TODAY, February 4 "Finding God Faithful - A Study on the Life of Joseph"

The next monthly studies and dinner meetings will be on March 17, April 7, June 2, and July 14.

Feel free to invite friends to join us for this special time of fellowship and devotion.

Let Amelia or Tracy Caskey know if you are interested.



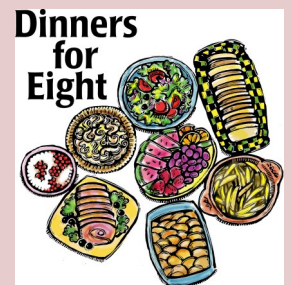
WEDNESDAYS IN THE WORD resume this week,

February 7! Children and youth are invited to gather at 6pm for Music Ministry, which will include singing or chimes. At 6:30pm, adults will meet in the Fellowship Hall for an Old Testament Survey with Rev. Dr. Trevor Smith. Roxanne Spencer and Lydia Vriesema will lead children to explore the "I AM" statements of Jesus. Middle High Youth are invited to meet with Michelle to investigate some

"Believe-It-or-Not" Bible stories. **Join us as we study God's Word together!**

Do you like to eat? Do you enjoy good company? Sign up for a monthly Supper club at First Pres!

Clubs will meet from February to April to allow church members to get to know each other better. Each supper will have eight people: the host couple provides an entrée & beverages, one couple provides two sides, one couple provides salad & dessert, and one couple is invited as guests by the host. Eating out is also an option. **Sign up in the Narthex if you are interested, or see Renee Goodnight.**



The JOY Group will meet for lunch on **Friday, February 23, at noon in the Fellowship Hall.** There will be a special presentation by Lee Goodman, Kannapolis Fire Department Risk Reduction Division.

Mark your calendars for the next First Pres GAME NIGHT on Friday, February 23rd at 6pm!

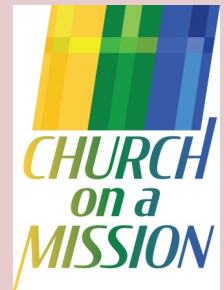
Games and popcorn will be provided. If you are interested in being a table host, or if you need a ride, please contact Vickie Ellington at (704) 706-4395. Chess players wanting to play a "chess master" should also let Vickie know ASAP so she can coordinate.



SERVING CHRIST TOGETHER

The Missions Team has scheduled a Domestic Missions Trip in 2024!

The site is in New Bern, NC for hurricane repairs. We are working with World Renew, an ECO partner. Work will begin on Tuesday, May 27th and continue through that week.



An informational meeting will be held **TODAY, SUNDAY, February 4,** immediately following worship. A sandwich lunch will be provided.



First Presbyterian will once again partner with Kimball Lutheran for Samaritan's Table **THIS**

Thursday, February 8 at 5pm. Volunteers prep to-go meals at First Pres, then hand them out in a drive-thru at Kimball. See Phil McLain if you are willing to help!

The Missions Team is sponsoring a Missions Lunch **NEXT Sunday, February 11** immediately following worship.

As part of the "Souper Bowl of Caring", Missions Team members will provide soup and drinks on a donation basis.

The congregation is asked to provide desserts. A collection bin will also be outside the Fellowship Hall for canned and dry goods. Donations and proceeds will go to Cooperative Christian Ministry.



Linda's Closet is open on Tuesdays from

11am - 2pm. Currently, Closet needs are socks, hats, and gloves in all sizes. Donations have been so plentiful that no other clothing items are being accepted at this time. 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.

Current needs: 1 & 2.5 gallon storage bags

Small sealable plastic containers

(to hold shampoo and conditioner)

Please see Sam or Kay McAllister if you can help!





Project 24 is our campaign to raise funds and execute work to improve our property. The top two priorities are: (1) replace the heating and air conditioning in the Fellowship Hall and third floor of the Education Building and (2) improve the restroom outside the Fellowship Hall. There are a number of other needs which will be prioritized after the first two items.

Please prayerfully consider making a contribution to this effort. You will be supporting the ministries of the church by helping provide a functional, attractive space for a variety of activities for our church family and community for years to come.

Contribute through the church website or by a check with “Project 24” on the memo line.



Bill & Sharon Stricker would like to thank our church family for all your acts of kindness during the illness and death of Bill's mother, Martha Stricker. Your calls, cards, prayers and gifts of love are greatly appreciated. We love you all!

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 Stricker and family- loss of his mother
- Bill Jolley - recovery from kidney stone procedure
- Barbara Boucher - health concerns
- Hank Cranford - health concerns
- Debra Dandro - treatment for cancer



FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CHURCH FAMILY

- Bruce Pruett (Terri's husband) - fracture of knee and back
- Emily Stansell (Lucinda's friend) - re-occurrence of brain cancer
- Barbara Coffey (Judy Hunter's friend) - stage 4 cancer
- Bill Stoudt (Vickie Ellington's brother-in-law) - part of leg amputated
- Terry Rainey (father of Walkers' friend) - cancer treatments
- OCC Shoeboxes - pray for the recipients, their families, and their communities (in Uruguay, Peru, Honduras, Colombia, & Equador) to truly experience the love of our great God!

HOMEBOUND

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

This Week @ FIRST PRES

Sunday, February 4

9:30am - Morning Coffee
- GraceFull Movements Dance Rehearsal

10:00am - Sunday School

11:00am - Worship Service with Holy Communion

12:00am - New Bern Mission Trip Informational luncheon

4:30pm - Teen Girl's Bible Study & Dinner

Monday, February 5

10:30am - Women's Council

Tuesday, February 6

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

12:00pm - NA

6:30pm - Session

Wednesday, February 7

6:00pm - Journey Youth Music Ministry

6:30pm - Wednesday's in the Word

Thursday, February 8

10:30am - Ladies' Bible Study

12:00pm - NA

5:00pm - Samaritan's Table at Kimball

Friday, February 9

5:30 pm - Agape Chinese Baptist Church Stream Fellowship

Next Sunday, February 11

9:30am - Morning Coffee

- GraceFull Movements Dance Rehearsal

10:00am - Sunday School

11:00am - Worship Service

12:00pm - Souper Bowl of Caring Missions Meal

SERVANTS

Elder Lock-Up: Tony Rary

Children's Message: Alpha Barber

Children's Message next week: Acting Out

Children's Church: Deb McDaniel & Chariti Lowder

Children's Church next week: Lynn Efird & Judy Hunter

Acolytes: Scarlett Porter & Camryn Lowder

Acolytes next week: Caylin Lowder & Abby Vriesema

Nursery: Megan Quigg

Nursery next week: Sharon Stricker

Ushers: Ryan Walker, Jeff Barnhardt, Mark Goodnight, John Hammond

Ushers next week: Tony Hunter, Amy Hurst, Chris Lowder, Mike Lowder

Greeters: Donnie Swaringen, Ryan Walker

FINANCIALS

FOR DECEMBER

YTD Income \$314,008.13

YTD Expenses \$297,738.86

YTD Budget \$291,504.00

Last week's attendance: 1/28/2024

Worship AM - 96

Sunday School - 63

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 | | |

