



FIRST

PRESBYTERIAN

CHURCH

Welcome

Our mission is to know Christ, serve Him,
and make Him known.

~ Gathering Before the Word ~

Welcome

Michelle Walker

Prelude and Preparation

Dallas Boovy, piano

Lighting of the Candles

Caylin Lowder & Abby Vriesema

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 19:1-6; 8:1

Leader: The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.

All: They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

Leader: In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun. It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, like a champion rejoicing to run his course. It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth.

All: O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!

***Hymn of Praise No. 551**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

All Creatures of Our God and King
(Stanzas 1-3, 6)

***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

“Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change, deliver us from our present bondage, lead us into the newness of life, and grant us grace to grow more and more in the likeness of Christ our Lord. It's in the name of Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit we pray.”

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of the Gospel

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”

Report from ECO National Gathering

Ryan and Michelle Walker

~ Proclaiming the Word of God ~

Word With Our Children

Acting Out Drama Ministry

***Hymn of Faith No. 755**

Speak, O Lord

Offering and Special Music

Fairest Lord Jesus

arr. Henry

Michelle Walker, keyboard; Kay Yates, piano

Scripture Reading

Matthew 12:33

Page 967

Sermon

“God Grows Rich Fruit”

Jeff Porter

~ Responding to the Word of God ~

Sending Song

Keep Me
Vocal Ensemble

Sumner

***Prayer and Benediction**

Postlude

Since Jesus Came Into My Heart

Gabriel

*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.

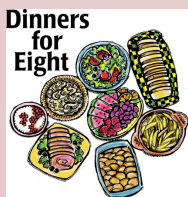
A Nursery is available for newborns through age 4. It is located in the Educational Building. If you need assistance or directions, an usher would be happy to help you!



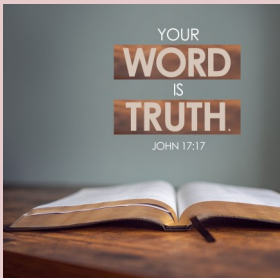
The flowers on the altar are placed to the glory of God and in honor of Hank & Sharon Cranford, Henry & Dora Cranford and A.W. & Ilene Bradsher.



Today we welcome Pastor Jeff Porter in Pastor Eddie's absence. Jeff was a pastor for 25 years serving several churches in North Carolina. He currently works for Samaritan's Purse in Donor Ministries. His wife, Susan, is a retired teacher and is a year-round volunteer for Operation Christmas Child. Jeff and Susan have a grown son, a lovely daughter-in-law, and two delightful grandchildren.



MONTHLY SUPPER CLUBS - There was not enough interest at this time. We will try again in the fall so stay tuned.



WEDNESDAYS IN THE WORD will continue this week! Children and youth are invited to gather at 6pm for Music Ministry. 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!**

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. The menu is soup, sandwiches, dessert and drinks. We need three people to sign up for soup, others can sign up to bring sandwiches or dessert. Drinks are being provided. Sign up in the Narthex.



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.



First Pres will host a Men's Fellowship dinner on Thursday, February 29th at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Wayne Frasier a retired Associate Reformed Presbyterian pastor, will be our guest speaker. Pastor Frasier served at Back Creek ARP for over two decades and was a moderator of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian General Synod. He has also been a leader in church planting and development in the ARP. The menu will include chicken, potatoes, salad, dessert and drinks, for a suggested donation of \$10. **Please sign up in the Narthex if you plan to attend!**

SERVING CHRIST TOGETHER

The Missions Team is sponsoring a Missions Lunch TODAY, 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.



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.

Linda's Closet is open on Tuesdays from 11am - 2pm. Currently, Closet needs are socks, hats, and gloves in all sizes. Donations have been plentiful that no other clothing items are being accepted at this time. If you would like to volunteer 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!

LOVE quote of the Week



“Power without love is reckless and abusive, and love without power is sentimental and anemic. Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love.”
Martin Luther King, Jr.

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

- Linda Hathaway - recovery from shoulder surgery
- Bill Stricker and family - loss of his mother
- Bill Jolley - recovery from kidney stone procedure
- Barbara Boucher - health concerns
- Hank Cranford - health concerns

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CHURCH FAMILY

- Bruce Pruett (Terri's husband) - fracture in his knee and back
- Emily Stansell (Lucinda's friend) - re-occurrence of brain cancer
- Barbara Coffey (Judy Hunter's friend) - stage 4 cancer
- Pastor Ken Salisbury (Lisa's husband) - recovery from eye surgery
- Bill Stoudt (Vickie Ellington's brother-in-law) - part of leg amputated
- Terry Rainey (father of Walkers' friend) - cancer treatments

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, 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

Tuesday, February 13

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

12:00pm - NA

Wednesday, February 14

Ash Wednesday

6:00pm - Journey Youth Music Ministry

6:30pm - Wednesdays in the Word

Thursday, February 15

10:30am - Ladies' Bible Study

12:00pm - NA

Friday, February 16

5:30 pm - Agape Chinese Baptist
Church Stream Fellowship

Next Sunday, February 18

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

10:00am - Sunday School

11:00am - Worship Service

SERVANTS

Elder Lock-Up: Tony Rary

Children's Message: Acting Out

Children's Message next week: Roxanne Spencer

Children's Church: Lynn Efird & Judy Hunter

Children's Church next week: Tracy & Amelia Caskey

Acolytes: Caylin Lowder Abby Vriesema

Acolytes next week: Evie Sechler & Ingrid Townsend

Nursery: Lydia Vriesema

Nursery next week: Amelia Caskey

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

Ushers next week: Sam McAllister, Mal McDaniel, Jill McLain, Phil McLain

Greeters: Donnie Swaringen, Ryan Walker

FINANCIALS

FOR JANUARY

YTD Income \$20,438.16

YTD Expenses \$17,988.94

YTD Budget \$26,396.67

Last week's attendance: 2/4/2024

Worship AM - 115

Sunday School - 80

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

