



**FIRST**  

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**PRESBYTERIAN**  

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**CHURCH**

*Welcome*

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

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~ Gathering Before the Word ~

Welcome

Eddie Spencer

**Prelude & Preparation for Worship**

*Abide With Me*

Monk

Derek Smith, trumpet; Becky Sandquist, piano

**Lighting of the Candles**

Cierstyn Lowder & Landon Walker

**\*Call to Worship**

Isaiah 61:1-3

Leader: The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,

**All: to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion -**

Leader: To bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

**All: They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of His splendor.**

**\*Hymn of Praise No. 281**

*God of the Ages*

NATIONAL HYMN

**\*Prayer of Adoration & 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**

Romans 8:28-32,35,37-39

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those He predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified. What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all—how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or

famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Hymn of Praise**                      *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory (insert)*    BATTLE HYMN

~ **Proclaiming the Word of God** ~

**Offering and Special Music**                      *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*                      Runyan  
Derek Smith, trumpet; Becky Sandquist, piano

**\*Scripture Reading**                      John 8:31-36                      Page 1060

**Sermon**                      “Freedom”                      Eddie Spencer

**Celebration of the Lord’s Supper**

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

**Sending Song**                      *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus*                      Lemmel  
Derek Smith, trumpet; Becky Sandquist, piano

**\*Prayer and Benediction**

**Postlude**

\*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.

**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 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 community. If you would like to contribute, please place your donation in the 'Good Samaritan Fund'

**Please make welcome our guest musicians, who will lead us in worship today.**

**Becky Sandquist is our pianist for today.** She has played piano since she was 8 years old, and has served in churches for most of her life. She lives in Kannapolis with her husband, Tom, who is the retired pastor of Concord Bible Church. She teaches piano, as well as sings and plays with the Piedmont Choral Society.

**Derek Smith is our guest trumpeter.** He taught chorus and band at the high school level in Stanly County, NC for 10 years, before becoming the Head of Performing Arts for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. Currently, he stays at home with his 8-month old son, Harlen, and teaches or plays in his spare time.



**Jeanene Atkinson is our newest staff member!** Jeanene has been faithfully cleaning our church for about a year and we have decided to hire her directly. If you see her around our church, please extend your own welcome to her!



**Thank you for your generous contribution!**

The spiritual and physical needs of people around the world continue to rise, and God uses these gifts to advance His Kingdom. Thank you for your partnership! Your investment in God's Kingdom is eternal! Your friends at Lifeline, Linda.

## Upcoming Events

**First Pres will again host a Feeding Kannapolis Hunger Market on Saturday, July 20!** The Market gives families healthy eating and living tips, as well as fresh produce and eggs. A sample recipe is also given out. Volunteers will be needed to set up on Friday, July 19 at 5:30pm and Saturday, July 20 at 8am, and clean up after the event. Sign up in the Narthex if you can help!



**Children and Youth are invited to join Michelle for "Musical Mondays" this July!** We will meet together on July 8, 15, and 22 to practice singing and maybe learn some new skills! Dinner will be served at 5:30pm, with music time from 6-7pm. See Michelle if you have any questions!



**Middle/Senior High Youth Boys are invited to a TopGolf Outing on Tuesday, July 9!** Meet at church at 8am for transportation to TopGolf University. We will “golf” from 9am-11am with our very own Mal McDaniel and Pastor Eddie as instructors! Then we’ll stop for lunch on our way back to church. **Sign up in the Narthex by TODAY, July 7, if you will attend!**

**Our Teen Girls Bible Study continues with Tracy & Amelia Caskey on Sunday, July 14!** The group is focusing on the life of Joseph and will meet at 4:30pm at the church. This session will end with dinner at the NW Swim Club and a chance to swim there if the girls would like. **See Tracy Caskey for more information!**



### **Celebrate Christmas in July with the Missions Team!**

We are beginning our Operation Christmas Child collection this month, having set our goal to once again pack 400 shoeboxes - 200 for girls aged 2-4, and 200 for girls aged 10-14. Our goal for July is



to collect 400 “WOW” items that will grab the child’s attention when they open the box.

For the toddler girls, it will be a stuffed teddy bear for \$3.39 each. For the older girls, it will be a bead crafting set for \$5.99. If you would like to contribute towards these items or the cost of shipping our boxes (\$10/box) you can do so online; or mark your donation “Shoeboxes” and place it in the offering plate.



If you would like to pack your own shoebox, please take a pre-printed box from the Narthex, or use one from home, and grab an instruction guide. Return your packaged box, with the \$10 shipping cost inside, by Sunday, November 17. If you would like to Build a Shoebox online, go to [www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/).



### **Calling all volunteers: the First Pres Journey Youth need you!**

If you are passionate about encouraging and leading our youth, please consider volunteering for our ministries - church nursery, children's message, children's church, Sunday School, Wednesdays in the Word, or special events like VBS!

Volunteers should either be members of First Pres for at least 6 months or regular attendees for 1 year. A short training session and background check are required. Current and new volunteers must attend one of the following training sessions for 2024:

Sunday, July 14 at 9:30am in the Session Room

Tuesday, July 16 at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall

Thursday, July 18 at 10:00am in the Session Room

Sunday, July 21 immediately following worship in the Fellowship Hall

**Please sign up for a time slot in the Narthex, or see Michelle.**



**Linda's Closet ministry is growing!** We need more help to sort and hang donations. Volunteers can come anytime on Tuesdays or Thursdays, 11am-2pm. No heavy lifting required. You can sit to sort/hang clothes. Please contact Cindy Devoe if you have any questions or can help.



**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:** Small (travel size) empty sealable plastic containers to hold shampoo and conditioner, ball caps, bandanas, small bottles of water, and sunscreen. **Please see Sam or Kay McAllister if you can help!**

### 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

- Jerry Phillips - home recovering from kidney stones
- Bonnie Goodnight - loss of sister-in-law, Delores Watts
- Kay McAllister - knee replacement surgery July 8
- Regina Starnes - surgery on July 11
- Judy Hunter - Covid
- Judy Goodnight - treatments continue
- Bob Hallman - home recovering from pneumonia
- Dawn Cavin - recovering from fractured hip
- Debra Dandro - continuing treatments
- Melba Funderburk - recovery from pneumonia & knee surgery



### FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CHURCH FAMILY

- Kim Stipe (Kay McAllister's daughter) - cancer
- Sam McAllister's daughter - frontal brain disturbance
- Katherine Kean (Alice Jeanes' sister) - esophageal cancer
- Barbara Moss (Betty Sechler's sister) - battling infection
- Sharon Copeland's father - leg issues
- Jennifer Watson (Frank Gibson's daughter) - battling cancer
- Sheena Allen (Wren Philpot's daughter-in-law) - recovery from surgery
- Justin (Melba Funderburk's grandson) - on call for a heart and kidney transplant
- Sam Dunn (Dave Argabrite's cousin) - lung cancer treatments
- Bob Teal (friend of Steve Goodnight) - lung cancer
- Buddy & Alice Troutman (friends of Hammonds) - health concerns

### HOMEBOUND

- Shirley Faust - Morningside
- Bob Faust - Accordius
- Barbara Hancock - Home
- Iris Efird - Home
- Loretta Young - Five Oaks

# This Week @ FIRST PRES

## Sunday, July 7

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

## Monday, July 8

5:30pm - Youth Dinner  
6:00pm - Musical Mondays for Youth

## Tuesday, July 9

8:00am - Teen Boys' TopGolf Outing  
11:00am - 2:00pm - Linda's Closet  
12:00pm - NA

## Thursday, July 11

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

## Friday, July 12

5:30pm - Agape Chinese Baptist  
Church Stream Fellowship

## Next Sunday, July 14

9:30am - Morning Coffee  
Volunteer Training in Session Room  
10:00am - Sunday School  
11:00am - Worship Service  
4:30pm - Teen Girls' Bible Study & NW  
Swim Club Outing

## SERVANTS

**Elder Lock-Up:** Ken Sparks

**Children's Message Next Week:** Jenna Baker

**Children's Church:** Debbie McDaniel & Jenny Sparks

**Children's Church Next Week:** David & Vicki Ellington

**Acolytes:** Cierstyn Lowder & Landon Walker

**Acolytes next week:** Camryn Lowder & Scarlett Porter

**Nursery:** Jenny Sparks

**Nursery next week:** Katherine Vriesema

**Ushers:** Sam McAllister, Mal McDaniel, Jill & Phil McLain

**Ushers next week:** Tony Rary, Lynn Sechler, Phil Smith, Pam Hooks

**Greeters:** Jeff Barnhardt, Donnie Swaringen

## FINANCIALS FOR JUNE

**YTD Income** \$137,107.83

**YTD Expenses** \$141,163.48

**YTD Budget** \$158,380.02

**Last week's attendance: 6/30/2024**

**Worship AM - 112**

**Sunday School - 74**

# 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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