



# THE WEEKLY FIRST

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This Sunday I am ending the current series, “Praying the Psalms”. Michelle and I are beginning to work on putting the series into print in the form of a devotional. The concluding Psalm we will consider is Psalm 100. Our focus will be on “praying our thanksgiving.

“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.  
Worship the Lord with gladness;  
come before Him with joyful songs.  
Know that the Lord is God.  
It is He who made us, and;  
we are His people, the sheep of His pasture.  
Enter His gates with thanksgiving  
and His courts with praise;  
give thanks to Him and praise His name.  
For the Lord is good and His love endures forever;  
His faithfulness continues through all generations.” (Psalm 100)

Psalm 100 is known by lots of people who may not even be aware they know the Psalm. In 1556 William Keith, as well as many British clergy, fled from England to Geneva Switzerland to escape the maniacal wrath of Queen Mary (1553-1558). Upon Keith’s return to England in 1561, he introduced the hymn tune OLD HUNDRETH to the words of Psalm 100. We sing the hymn tune regularly when we sing the Doxology.

Psalm 100 is an invitation to be a people of worship and thanksgiving. Learning to be a person of thanksgiving is not only honoring to the Lord but can be transforming in our lives and community.

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**[Sunday Bulletin](#) is Online!**



*Welcome*

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



### UPDATE

Installation of the new heating and air conditioning units is complete in the Fellowship Hall and in the third floor classrooms! The contractor will install an additional unit for the kitchen and an additional unit for the third floor hallway. Improvements to the Fellowship Hall

restroom are complete except for some finishing touches which are in progress.

Thank you to all who have contributed to Project 24. The team's work will continue as it will look at some smaller efforts to be determined this Fall.



We are continuing our Operation Christmas Child collection in August, having set our goal to once again pack 400 shoeboxes - 200 for girls aged 2-4, and 200 for girls aged 10-14.

**For August, our collection will focus on school supplies!** We need 193 wireless composition books, 112 packs of 24 ct crayons; 151 packs of skinny markers; 281 packs of pencils, 281 pencil sharpeners, 233 glue sticks and 352 pair of scissors. 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, boxes will soon be in 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 10.

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/).



**The Guardians Sunday School Class is invited to a cookout at the home of Donnie & Raegan Swaringen on Saturday, August 24!**

Gather at 4:30pm for fellowship and swimming, if you like. Dinner will begin at 6pm. Meat will be provided; guests are invited to bring appetizers, sides, or desserts. Please let Donnie or Raegan know if you will attend, and come with ideas for Sunday School this fall!

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**Bible Study Fellowship** will be offering a Women's group study of Revelation for the 2024-2025 year. It will meet at Multiply Church facility next to Big Lots in Concord on Wednesdays at 9:30am and **starts September 4.**

Children may come with their mother since classes are offered for all ages. The calendar follows the school's calendar with the same break times. You can enroll at [joinbsf.org](http://joinbsf.org), select an in-person group, and indicate the Concord, NC location. You will be greatly blessed!!! If you have questions, contact Sharon Cranford.

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**Mark your calendars for Genesis Sunday, which marks the start of a new Sunday School year!**

On September 8th, we will gather for breakfast at 9:30am in the Fellowship

Hall. At 10am, we will introduce youth and adult Sunday School offerings, then dismiss to our respective classes.

Classes include:

Explorers: 4 year old & Kindergarten; Alpha Barger & Judy Hunter

Seekers: 1st grade - 4th grade; Carol Lowder, Sharon Stricker & Pat Hill

Navigators: 5th grade & up; Tracy & Amelia Caskey

Drummond: Ron Lisenby

Disciples: Dave Argabrite

Friendship: Renee Goodnight & Vickie Ellington

Guardians: Raegan Swaringen & Michelle Walker

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**First Presbyterian will once again partner with Kimball Lutheran** for Samaritan's Table on Thursday, September 12 at 5 pm. Volunteers prep to-go meals at First Pres, then help hand them out in a drive-thru at Kimball.

See Phil McLain if you are willing to help!

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**South Rowan Public Schools Bible Teaching Association is having a Run For the Word 5K** fundraiser on Saturday, September 14 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Landis, NC. Funds raised support their 3 full-time teachers' salaries and benefits. They have hired a full-time teacher for China Grove

Middle School and Southeast Middle School. If interested, please pick up a flyer in the Narthex.





entree.

**Men of the church are invited to a Fellowship Dinner on Thursday, September 19 at 6pm.** Pastor Jim Harris of Calvary Baptist Church, Kannapolis, will be our guest speaker. The menu will include steak or chicken, baked potato, salad and dessert. Suggested donation is \$12.00 per person. Please sign up in the Narthex and indicate your choice of



## "Christmas" Themed Bridal Shower

**The First Pres Women's Council is hosting a "Christmas" themed Bridal Shower for Elizabeth Sechler on Sunday, Sept 22nd.** Please drop by the Fellowship Hall between 3:00-5:00pm to bless Elizabeth. She is registered at Target and Amazon.



**Ladies, Save the Date for an Afternoon Tea Party on Saturday, October 5th.** Josephine Haynes will be our guest speaker. There will be a fashion show and food featuring local businesses.



**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, sunscreen.

**Please see Sam or Kay McAllister if you can help!**



clothes because of each of you. Our Ministry is growing and becoming a powerful source of refuge and inspiration to our community.

**Thank you all for the outpouring of donations for the Back-to-School Event!** A very special heart felt thank you to all our amazing volunteers! So many families were blessed with new

## 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

- Judy Goodnight - treatments are going well
- Iris Efird - home under hospice care
- Shirley Faust - under hospice care and going to Accordius to be with Bob
- Debra Dandro - continuing treatments

### FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CHURCH FAMILY

- Kim Stipe (Kay McAllister's daughter) - chemo treatments
- Jessica Brown (Lisenby's granddaughter) - health concerns
- Zelda (Trish Nixon's 7 yr old granddaughter) - spinal surgery August 20th
- Jenny VanShavon (friend of Trish Nixon) - battling cancer
- Ellie Kingston (Cress' granddaughter) - recovery from knee surgery
- Everett Halsell (Sue Maiocchi's dad) - recovery from surgery
- Rachel Duval (Sam McAllister's granddaughter) - recovery from brain surgery
- Barbara Coffey (friend of Judy Hunter) - cancer
- Thomas Dishman (friend of Judy Huner) - on dialysis and waiting for a kidney
- Sheena Allen (Wren Philpot's daughter-in-law) - recovery from surgery
- Katherine Kean (Alice Jeanes' sister) - esophageal cancer
- Jennifer Watson (Frank Gibson's daughter) - battling cancer
- Bob Teal (friend of Steve Goodnight) - lung cancer
- Buddy Troutman (friend of Hammonds) - under hospice care

### HOMEBOUND

- Bob Faust - Accordius
- Barbara Hancock - Home
- Loretta Young - Five Oaks

## This Week@FIRST PRESB

### Sunday, August 18

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

### Tuesday, August 20

11:00am - 2:00pm - Linda's Closet  
12:00pm - NA  
2:00pm - Dorcas Circle  
6:30pm - KBTA in Session Room

### Thursday, August 22

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

### Friday, August 23

5:30pm - Agape Chinese Baptist  
Church Stream Fellowship

### Saturday, August 24

4:30pm - Guardians SS Cookout

Next Sunday, August 25  
10 Cents a Meal  
9:30am - Morning Coffee  
- GraceFull Movements  
Rehearsal  
10:00am - Sunday School  
11:00am - Worship Service

## SERVANTS

Elder Lock-Up: Jeff Barnhardt  
Children’s Message This Week: Acting Out  
Children’s Message Next Week: Michelle Walker  
Children’s Church: Chris & Chariti Lowder  
Children’s Church Next Week: Sue Maiocchi & Katherine Vriesema  
Acolytes: Camryn Lowder & Evie Sechler  
Acolytes next week: Caylin Lowder & Abby Vriesema  
Nursery: Vickie Ellington  
Nursery next week: Roxanne Spencer  
Ushers: Phil Smith, Pam Hooks, Jeff Barnhardt, Eric Cowan  
Ushers next week: Mark Goodnight, John Hammond, Tony Hunter, Amy Hurst  
Greeters: Dave Ellington, Debbie McDaniel

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION - ACTIVE ELDERS  
Raegan Swaringen   Dave Ellington   Lynn Sechler  
Cookie Hamilton   Chris Lowder   Ken Sparks  
Sue Maiocchi   Phil McLain  
Pastor Eddie Spencer, Moderator  
Jeff Barnhardt, Session Clerk




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