



# THE WEEKLY FIRST

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Last Sunday I ended the series, “The Moses Story” Part 1. Into the new year, I will teach Part 2. This Sunday we will look at Luke 5:27-32 and other occasions when Jesus fellowshiped with questionable kinds of folks. Jesus was accused of having dinner with all the wrong kinds of people. “The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’” (Luke 7:34) Sunday we will think on a few “Dinners with Jesus”.

I look forward to worshipping with you Sunday. Our music Sunday will feature a bagpiper. In addition to worshipping God and thinking on His Word, we will give thanks for those in our church family who have served our country. We will have a special prayer for our nation.

I also want to give a special invitation to “Saturday Game Night” this Saturday, November 9 at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

As the election has ended, I offer a few post-election comments. Below are a few thoughts on the “Bible and Politics” written by a friend of mine and a former Associate Pastor, Matt Kuiken with whom I worked alongside several years ago. If you would like the whole article, let me know and I will email it to you.

**Remember the main headline: Jesus is King.** Often in American politics, each election is made out to be an apocalyptic event. If this party gains or loses power, the world will end. No, it won’t. As the saying goes, “*The sky won’t fall until Jesus falls from it.*” Jesus is King and His purposes will be accomplished. After November 5th, not one spiritual reality will have shifted or changed.

**Pray.** The greatest political influence we have is not our vote (though important) it is our prayers. 1 Timothy 2:1 says, “*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good and pleasing in the sight of God our Savior.*” We must pray for the election and pray for the candidates. We must pray that God would give them salvation, wisdom, righteousness and discernment. After Election Day, we must pray for those who have been elected to have wisdom to

govern righteously. Prayer is the single greatest thing we can do.

**Serve Politically.** We need Christians who will serve in the political arena. This is not an easy calling. But Joseph, Daniel and Esther are three examples of faithful servants of God who made a tremendous impact in the political realm.

**Prize Character.** One of the political lessons of Israel’s history is that people inevitably reflect the character of their leaders. For this reason, the character of a political candidate is not a secondary issue. Proverbs 29:12 says, “*If a ruler listens to falsehood, all his officials will be wicked.*” In other words, the character of leaders is contagious.

**Respect Life.** The primary role of all political authority is to protect the lives of its citizens. Christian citizens have a responsibility from God to value the lives of the most vulnerable and those that society tends to overlook.

**Respect Conscience.** Our consciences and our reason should be informed by Scripture and prayer. We should respect differences in conscience among Christians. A candidate that you may not feel comfortable voting for, another person will. Don’t try to bind another’s conscience with your opinion.

**Maintain a Kingdom Mindset.** Political events have real consequences and should be taken seriously. But as Christians, we know the things that are most essential to our lives – things like: truth, salvation, true security, God-given identity – these are firmly fixed in Christ. Therefore, we must heed the words of Jesus, “*Seek first God’s kingdom and His righteousness*” (Matthew 6:33) for no political party or human government can give us these things.

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



**Monday, November 11th - Remember and pray for all our Veterans!**

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**We have postponed our trip to Western North Carolina** for another Saturday. If you are interested in serving on a one-day Mission Trip with Samaritan's Purse, please contact Sue Maiocchi. We will attempt to find another Saturday that more individuals can travel.



Continue to uphold all the victims, first responders, and relief workers in your prayers.



**Our Operation Christmas Child collection continues until Sunday, November 10th.**

You may contribute towards the cost of items still needed 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 packed your own shoebox, they are due **THIS SUNDAY, November 10th**. Please place your packed shoebox, with age and gender label attached, and \$10 shipping cost included, on the OCC table in the Narthex.

You can still pack a Shoebox online at [www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/).



**Plan to join us Wednesday, November 13th for our OCC Shoebox Packing Party!!**

We will pack and pray over 400 shoeboxes - 200 for girls aged 2-4, and 200 for girls aged 10-14.

Dinner (pizza, caesar salad, drinks) will be served at 6pm, and the packing begins right after! We'll end our celebration with dessert and warm drinks.

There's a job for everyone, come join us!!



**First Presbyterian will once again serve as an Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Drop-Off Center in 2024!** During National Collection week, November 18-25th, volunteers will be needed to staff our center and receive



shoeboxes from neighboring churches and community members. We must then transport those boxes to Pitts Baptist on Monday, November 25th. **A sign up board is in the Narthex with the hours for which help is needed. See Sue Maiocchi if you have questions or would like more information!**

Volunteers are needed to greet, unload boxes from parking lot, fill out paperwork, count, pack in cartons and most important PRAY over shoeboxes.

- Mon, 11/18 - 11am-1pm
- Fri, 11/22 - 10am-Noon
- Tue , 11/19 4pm-6pm
- Sat, 11/23 10am-Noon
- Wed, 11/20 1pm-3pm
- Sun, 11/24 1pm-3:30pm
- Thu, 11/21 5pm-7pm
- Mon, 11/25 10am-Noon



### CRAFT NIGHT

**Journey Youth are invited to a Chrismon Craft Night on Wednesday, November 20!** We will meet for play practice at 5:30pm, dinner at 6pm, and crafting at 6:30pm. We will learn what chrismons mean and make our own. Some ornaments will even go on our sanctuary Christmas Tree. Thanks to the Women's Council for providing the materials!

Sign up in the Narthex by Sunday, November 17.



**Join us for a Thanksgiving Day lunch on Thursday, November 28!** The meal starts at 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Turkey, gravy, tea and lemonade will be provided. Guests are asked to bring sides and desserts to share. **If you would like to decorate the tables, please see Vickie Ellington.**

**Please sign up the Narthex by Sunday, November 24th.**



**Sweet Potato Fundraiser to support Bible History Classes at Central Cabarrus High and West Rowan Schools. Orders must be in by Sunday, November 17th.**

If you are interested, please pick up a flyer in the Narthex.



### **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)
- Ziplock bags: 1 & 2 gallon
- First Aid items: band aids, wipes, vaseline
- Clean/gently used socks, hats, gloves and scarves
- Handwarmers
- Small bottles of water

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



**Linda's Closet** will resume its regular schedule on Tuesdays from 11am-2pm.

**As of right now, only fall, winter, and baby clothes donations are being accepted.** We do not have room to store spring and summer items. Please see Trish Nixon for information.

Thank you to all the volunteers who have worked so diligently!

### **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**

- Michelle Walker - recovery from surgery
- Noah Walker - recovery from pneumonia
- Jeff Barnhardt - recovery from broken arm
- Dave Argabrite - recovery from knee surgery
- John Hammond - growing stronger
- Judy Goodnight - health concerns
- Barbara Boucher - health concerns
- Debra Dandro - continuing treatments

#### **FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CHURCH FAMILY**

- Kim Stipe (Kay McAllister's daughter) - chemo treatments
- Zelda West (Trish Nixon's granddaughter) - Spina Bifida
- Robert Little (Richard's brother) - new treatment for cancer
- James Faber (Terri Pruett's son-in-law) - recovery from heart attack
- Lori Bradshaw (Hallman's neighbor) - loss of her mother
- Justin Wallace (Melba's grandson) - waiting for heart & kidney transplant
- Barbara Coffey (friend of Judy Hunter) - cancer
- Thomas Dishman (friend of Judy Hunter) - on dialysis and waiting for a kidney
- Jennifer Watson (Frank Gibson's daughter) - treatment for cancer
- Buddy Troutman (friend of Hammonds) - under hospice care

#### **HOMEBOUND**

- Linda Bost - Best of Care

- Barbara Hancock - Home
- Loretta Young - Five Oaks

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# This Week@FIRST PRESB

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**Sunday, November 10**

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

**Monday, November 11**  
**Happy Veterans Day!**

**Tuesday, November 12**

11:00am - 2:00pm - Linda’s Closet  
12:00pm - NA

**Wednesday, November 13**

5:30pm - PraiseMakers/Christmay Play Practice  
6:00pm - Dinner  
6:00pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
6:30pm - OCC Packing Party

**Thursday, November 14**

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

**Friday, November 15**

5:30pm - Agape Chinese Baptist  
Church Stream Fellowship

**Next Sunday, November 17**

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

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## SERVANTS

**Elder Lock-Up:** Phil McLain  
**Children’s Message Today:** Alpha Barger  
**Children’s Message Next Week:** Blessing of the Shoeboxes  
**Children’s Church:** Adam & Tracy Caskey  
**Children’s Church Next Week:** Lynn Efird & Megan Quigg  
**Acolytes:** Evie Sechler & Ingrid Townsend  
**Acolytes next week:** Michael Herbst & Noah Walker  
**Nursery:** Amelia Caskey  
**Nursery next week:** Megan Quigg  
**Ushers:** Tony Rary, Ryan Walker, Phil Smith, Pam Hooks  
**Ushers next week:** Lynn Sechler, Amy Hurst, Eric Cowan, Mark Goodnight  
**Greeters:** Ken Sparks & Tony Rary

Cookie Hamilton   Chris Lowder   Ken Sparks  
Sue Maiocchi   Phil McLain  
Pastor Eddie Spencer, Moderator  
Jeff Barnhardt, Session Clerk



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