

Hope

Peace

Joy

Love



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

*First Sunday of
Advent*

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

~ **Gathering Before the Word** ~

Welcome		Eddie Spencer
Prelude	<i>Be Still and Know</i>	Chapman
Lighting of the Candles		Cierstyn Lowder & Landon Walker
Choral Call to Worship	Prepare the Way of the Lord	Mayo

- *Lighting of the Hope Candle** The Walker Family
Leader: A voice of one calling: “In the desert people prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.
All: Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low;
Leader: The rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.
All: And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” (Isaiah 40:3-5)

- *Hymn of Hope No. 56** *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* HYFRYDOL

***Prayer of Adoration**

Apostle’s Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

- *Hymn of Praise No. 61** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL
(stanzas 1-4)

~ **Proclaiming the Word of God** ~

Word with Our Children		The Meaning of Chrismons
Offering and Special Music	<i>Wexford Carol</i>	Williams

***Scripture Reading**

Isaiah 9:1-7

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Sermon

“The Language of Advent”

Eddie Spencer

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

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

Communion Song No. 840

Behold the Lamb

COMMUNION HYMN

***Prayer and Benediction**

Postlude

Jesus, The Light of the World

Wesley

*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 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’ envelope, or mark your offering envelope ‘Good Samaritan Fund’.



All Adult Sunday School classes will meet together in the Fellowship Hall from December 8-22. We will begin with a fellowship breakfast at 9:30am, followed by class at 10am. There will be no Sunday School on December 29.

THANK YOU to all our volunteers who staffed the First Pres Drop-Off Collection last week.

We were privileged to collect and pray over 3,623 Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes!!! Please continue to pray for the safe delivery of these boxes, blessings on the volunteers who transport and distribute them, and God's love to be revealed to the children, families, and communities that receive them.



Today is the last day you can order poinsettias to dedicate in honor or in memory of someone. Order forms are in the Narthex. Please be sure to put "Poinsettia" on the memo line of your check. If you would like to make a monetary donation instead as a Christmas offering, please mark your gift as "Christmas".

Our Giving Tree is in the Narthex!

This year, the Missions Team has decided to adopt three families, referred by Cooperative Christian Ministry. Tags on the tree list items for both the children and the families, and information about the child is on the reverse side of the tag. Simply take a tag and return the item **-unwrapped, with the tag attached -** to the base of the tree by **Sunday, December 15**. Thank you for your support of this ministry!



The 65 voice Piedmont Choral Society will present its annual Christmas concerts, with orchestra, on Friday, December 6 at 7 pm and Saturday, Dec. 7 at 3 pm at Calvary Lutheran Church, 950 Bradley St NE, Concord. Concerts are free and no ticket is needed. Info: Kay Yates 704.699.6053.

Middle/Senior High Youth are invited to a Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 11th from 6-8pm in the Fellowship Hall! The Caskeys will host dinner, dessert, and a hot chocolate bar, but bring a treat or snack if you'd like to share! Wear your best ugly sweater for a contest, and bring a wrapped \$10 gift to exchange. There will also be games and prizes and fun galore! Friends are welcome, but please RSVP to Tracy Caskey by Sunday, December 8.



First Presbyterian will have a float in this year's Kannapolis Christmas Parade! The parade happens downtown on Saturday, December 14 at 6pm. Our theme is "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus." If you can help decorate the float on the morning of Saturday, December 14, please see Andrew Townsend or Megan Quigg.



First Presbyterian's Journey Youth will present "Let It Be Christmas" on Sunday, December 15th! All are invited to a "Christmas dinner" of ham, mashed potatoes, and green beans, beginning at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. The congregation is asked to provide desserts. Our musical program will begin at 6:15pm. Please sign up for the meal in the Narthex. If you need a ride, let Eddie or Michelle know. Let's joy in remembering the real reason we celebrate this special season!!



The Joy Group will meet for a Christmas

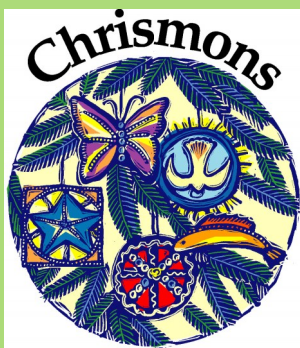
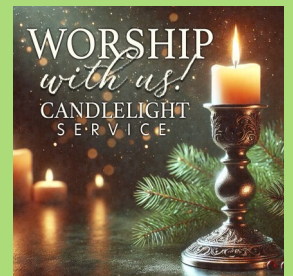
Lunch at the home of Ron & Alpha Barger on Wednesday, December 18th at noon. Bring a wrapped gift costing less than \$10 for a white elephant exchange. Ham, rolls and drinks will be provided. Please sign up in the Narthex by Sunday, December 15th to bring 1-2 side dishes and/or dessert. If you would like to carpool, meet at the Church at 11:15am.



Join us for Christmas Caroling on Wednesday, December 18!

We will leave the church at 6pm, and visit several homebound members before returning for warm refreshments. The church van will be available for transportation.

Invite friends and family to our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service on December 24! This year, we will gather at 5:30pm for a time of worship and reflection.



The beautiful Chrismons that adorn our sanctuary tree are lovingly cared for by the women of the church.

Chrismons are symbols that point to the Good News of the Gospel. They are traditionally white (representing purity or holiness) and gold (representing majesty and glory of the triune God) in color. Each week during Advent, we will feature one Chrismon. This week, as we meditate on the hope of Christmas, we consider the butterfly. A symbol of resurrection and new life, the butterfly reminds us of Christ's death and resurrection and the new life we have in Him. The butterfly also represents metamorphosis, or transformation. His love forever changes us, transforming us into the creation God meant us to be. **What hope we have in Christ!**

Linda's Closet



Anyone who has two shirts
should share with the one
who has none.

Luke 3:11

Linda's Closet is open on Tuesdays, 11am-2:00pm.

Special needs right now are kids (esp. boys) clothing.

Linda's Closet will be closed on Christmas Eve (12/24) and New Year's Eve (12/31). They will reopen on Tuesday, January 7.

Thank you to all who have donated to the First Pres Blessing Fence! See Sam or Kay McAllister if you can help with these needs:

- ◆ Feminine Products
- ◆ Men & Women's toboggans and gloves



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

- Sue Maiocchi & family - loss of father
- Tony Rary and family - loss of son-in-law
- Toby Caskey - recovering from pneumonia
- Fred Caskey - beginning physical therapy
- Alexis Howell - surgery Dec 13

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CHURCH FAMILY

- Rachel Spencer (Eddie's mom) - recovery from pneumonia
- Kim Stipe (Kay McAllister's daughter) - chemo treatments
- Zelda West (Trish Nixon's granddaughter) - Spina Bifida - fighting infections, two more surgeries needed
- Robert Little (Richard's brother) - new treatment for cancer
- Justin Wallace (Melba's grandson)- waiting for heart and 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) - 2nd round of chemo treatment
- Buddy Troutman (friend of Hammonds) - under hospice care

HOMEBOUND

- Linda Bost - Best of Care
- Barbara Hancock - Home
- Loretta Young - Five Oaks



This Week @ FIRST PRES

Sunday, December 1

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

Monday, December 2

10:30am - Women's Council

Tuesday, December 3

11:00am - 2:00pm - Linda's Closet
12:00pm - NA
6:30pm - Session

Wednesday, December 4

5:30pm - Youth Families' Dinner
6:00pm - PraiseMakers/Play Practice
6:00pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 5

10:30am - Ladies' Bible Study

Friday, December 6

5:30pm - Agape Chinese Baptist Church Stream Fellowship

Next Sunday, December 8

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

SERVANTS

Elder Lock-Up: Raegan Swaringen

Children's Message Today: Chrismons

Children's Message Next Week:

Chrismons

Children's Church: Jenny Sparks

Children's Church Next Week: Sue Maiocchi

Acolytes: Cierstyn Lowder & Landon Walker

Acolytes next week: Evie Sechler & Ingrid Townsend

Nursery: Sharon Stricker

Nursery next week: Debbie McDaniel

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

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

Greeters: Cookie Hamilton & Dave Argabrite

FINANCIALS

FOR OCTOBER

YTD Income \$247,328.82

YTD Expenses \$233,207.28

YTD Budget \$263,966.70

Last week's attendance: 11/24/2024

Worship AM - 133

Sunday School - 52

