

Hope

Peace

Joy

Love



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Second Sunday of
Advent

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

~ **Gathering Before the Word** ~

- Welcome** Eddie Spencer
- Prelude** *Angels Christmas Medley* English Carols
Abigail Malinovsky, clarinet; Patrick Deese, flute; Kay Yates, piano
- Lighting of the Candles** Evie Sechler & Ingrid Townsend
- Choral Call to Worship** *Prepare the Way of the Lord* Mayo
- Lighting of the Peace Candle** The Boucher-Bessent Family
- *Hymn of Peace No. 80** *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* MENDELSSOHN

***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 and holy Father, we confess our willingness to be loved but also our reluctance to love. We confess our readiness to accept Your pardoning grace but also our refusal to forgive others. In this Advent time, forgive us our failure to respond as we should. Come to us anew, and by Your grace, transform us to receive You with joy, as the shepherds; with gratitude, as Simeon; with humility, as Mary; and with love, as You have loved us. We make our prayer in the strong name of Jesus, our Savior.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of the Gospel

Galatians 4:4-5

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

- Dance of Adoration** *When I Think Upon Christmas* Hillsong Worship
GraceFull Movements Dance Ministry (Sieff/King/Tan)

~ Proclaiming the Word of God ~

Word with Our Children

The Meaning of Chrismons

Offering and Special Music

Silent Night

Gruber

Abigail Malinovsky, clarinet; Patrick Deese, flute; Kay Yates, piano

***Scripture Reading**

Isaiah 40:1-5

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Sermon

“The Language of Advent”

Eddie Spencer

~ Responding to the Word of God ~

Sending Song No. 88

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

***Prayer and Benediction**

Postlude

Once in Royal David's City

Gauntlett

*All who are able, please stand.

CCLI# 222113

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!



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.

Dear Church Family,

My family and I are so grateful for your support through my father's recent illness and passing. The Celebration of Life service and reception were wonderful. You welcomed Dad's Bridge-playing friends and our neighbors with open arms. I appreciate all the food, cards, phone calls, texts and words of kindness during this time of grieving. Your sister in Christ, Sue Maiocchi



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 think on the peace Christ offers us, we consider the angel. Angels are woven throughout the Christmas story. An angel appeared to Zacharias to foretell the birth of John the Baptist. The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to announce that she would bear God's Son. And of course, they brought news of Jesus' birth to the shepherds. But in each of these encounters, the angels also reminded their audience not to be afraid. The peace of God drives out our fear, guarding our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus!



Our Giving Tree is in the Narthex!

This year, the Missions Team has decided to adopt three families, referred to 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!

Middle/Senior High Youth are invited to a Christmas Party this 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 today, Dec. 8.



First Pres will again partner with Kimball Lutheran for Samaritan's Table on Thursday, December 12 at 5pm. Volunteers prep to-go-meals at First Pres, then help hand them out in a drive-thru at Kimball. See Phil McLain if you can help.

First Presbyterian will have a float in this year's Kannapolis Christmas Parade! The parade happens downtown THIS Saturday, December 14 at 6pm. Our theme is "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus." If you can help decorate the float at First Pres the evening of Friday, December 13 at 6:00pm or the morning of Saturday, December 14 at 10:00am, please see Andrew Townsend or Megan Quigg.





First Presbyterian's Journey Youth will present "Let It Be Christmas" next 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

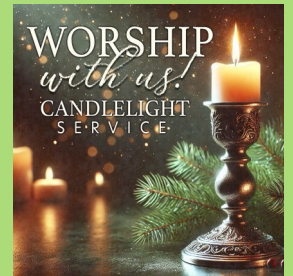
Lunch at the home of Ron & Alpha Barger on Wednesday, December 18th at noon. Bring a wrapped gift costing less than \$10 for a white elephant exchange. Ham, rolls and drinks will be provided. Please sign up in the Narthex by Sunday, December 15th to bring 1-2 side dishes and/or dessert. If you would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

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**.



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

- Tony Rary and family - loss of son-in-law
- Fred Caskey - beginning physical therapy
- Alexis Howell - surgery Dec 13
- Junior Harward -health concerns



FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CHURCH FAMILY

- Rachel Spencer (Eddie's mom) - recovery from pneumonia
- Catherine Cox (Alice Jeanes' sister) - cancer
- Kim Stipe (Kay McAllister's daughter) - chemo treatments
- Zelda West (Trish Nixon's granddaughter) - Spina Bifida - two more surgeries needed
- Anna Hinson (Becky Seaford's daughter-in-law's mother) - in cardiac rehab
- 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) - treatment for cancer
- Buddy Troutman (friend of Hammonds) - under hospice care

HOMEBOUND

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

SERVANTS

Elder Lock-Up: Raegan Swaringen

Children's Message Today: Chrismons

Children's Message Next Week: Chrismons

Children's Church: Sue Maiocchi

Children's Church Next Week: Lynn Efird & Amelia Caskey

Acolytes: Evie Sechler & Ingrid Townsend

Acolytes next week: Michael Herbst & Noah Walker

Nursery: Debbie McDaniel

Nursery next week: Lynn Efird & Amelia Caskey

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

Ushers next week: Ryan Walker, Jeff Barnhardt, Eric Cowan, Mark Goodnight

Greeters: Cookie Hamilton & Dave Argabrite

FINANCIALS

FOR NOVEMBER

YTD Income \$276,403.22

YTD Expenses \$258,407.96

YTD Budget \$290,363.37

Last week's attendance: 12/1/2024

Worship AM - 100

Sunday School - 69

This Week @ FIRST PRES

Sunday, December 8

- 9:30am - Fellowship Breakfast
(Guardians Class)
- GraceFull Movements
- 10:00am - Combined Adult Sunday
School in Fellowship Hall
- Youth Sunday School 3rd floor
- 11:00am - Worship Service

Tuesday, December 10

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

Wednesday, December 11

- 5:00pm - PraiseMakers/Play Practice
- 6:00pm - 8:00pm - Middle/High
Christmas Party in F. Hall
- 6:00 - 8:00pm - Elementary Pizza and
Bowling Outing
- 6:00pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 12

- 10:30am - Ladies' Bible Study
- 5:00pm - Samaritan's Table at Kimball
Lutheran

Friday, December 13

- 5:30pm - Agape Chinese Baptist
Church Stream Fellowship
- 6:00pm - Christmas Play Dress
Rehearsal
- 6:00pm - Christmas Parade Float Prep

Saturday, December 14

- 10:00am - Christmas Parade Float prep
- 3:00pm - Christmas Parade Staging
Begins
- 6:00pm - Kannapolis Christmas Parade

Next Sunday, December 15

- 9:30am - Fellowship Breakfast
(Friendship Class)
- 10:00am - Combined Adult Sunday
School in Fellowship Hall
- PraiseMakers/Play Practice in
Choir Room
- 11:00am - Worship Service
- 5:30pm - Fellowship Christmas Dinner
- 6:15pm - Let it Be Christmas! Youth
Production



SERMON NOTES

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION - ACTIVE ELDERS

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Raegan Swaringen | Dave Ellington | Lynn Sechler |
| Cookie Hamilton | Chris Lowder | Ken Sparks |
| Sue Maiocchi | Phil McLain | Jeff Barnhardt, Clerk |
- Pastor Eddie Spencer, Moderator**

