

*Hope*

*Peace*

*Joy*

*Love*



**FIRST**  
**PRESBYTERIAN**  
CHURCH

*Third Sunday of*  
*Advent*

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

**~ Gathering Before the Word ~**

- Welcome** Eddie Spencer
- Prelude** *Veni, Veni Emmanuel* arr. Valdez  
Jenny Jones & Becky Thoms, violin; Melanie Freeman, cello; Kay Yates, piano
- Lighting of the Candles** Michael Herbst & Noah Walker
- Choral Call to Worship** *Prepare the Way of the Lord* Mayo
- Lighting of the Joy Candle** The Sechler Family
- \*Carol of Joy No. 90** *How Great Our Joy* JUNGST
- \*Prayer of Adoration**

**Confession of Faith** Article 18 of the Belgic Confession  
Leader: Christians, what do we believe concerning the Incarnation?  
**All: We confess that God fulfilled the promise made by the mouth of the holy prophets when He sent the only and eternal Son of God into the world at the time appointed. The Son took the “form of a servant” and was made in “human form,” truly assuming a real human nature, with all its weaknesses, except for sin; being conceived in the womb of the blessed virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit, without male participation. And Christ not only assumed human nature as far as the body is concerned but also a real human soul, in order to be a real human being. For since the soul had been lost as well as the body, Christ had to assume them both to save them both together.**

- \*Carol of Joy No. 82** *Angels We Have Heard On High* GLORIA

**~ Proclaiming the Word of God ~**

- Word with Our Children** The Meaning of Chrismons
- Offering and Special Music** *Do You Hear What I Hear?* Regney  
Chancel Choir, String Trio; Kay Yates, piano

**\*Scripture Reading**

Luke 1:26-38

Page 1012

**Sermon**

“The Language of Advent”

Eddie Spencer

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

**Sending Song**

*O Holy Night*

Adam

Cindy Emerson, soprano; String Trio; Kay Yates, piano

**\*Prayer and Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Joy to the World*

Watts

String Trio

\*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.

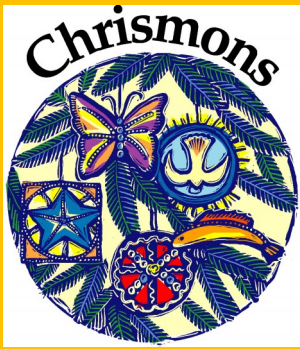
**A Nursery** is available for newborns through age 4. It is located in the Educational Building. If you need assistance or directions, an usher would be happy to help you!



**All Adult Sunday School classes will meet together in the Fellowship Hall until December 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 our guest soloist, Cindy Emerson and String Trio: Jenny Jones, violin; Becky Thoms, violin; and Melanie Freeman, cello. Artists’ bios for our musicians can be found on the back of the insert.





**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 celebrate the joy Christ brings to our life, we consider the star. Of course, during the Christmas season, we immediately think of the star that drew the wise men to Jerusalem, seeking the King of the Jews. The nativity star chrismon represents this star. Other stars you may see include: 5-point star, representing the number of wounds Jesus received on the cross; 6-point star (star of David), reminding us of the creation story and Jesus' lineage from King David; or 8-point star, symbolizing regeneration and baptism. As we celebrate the joy Christ's first coming brings to our lives, we also look with joyful anticipation to the day He - the "bright Morning Star" - returns. (Revelation 22:16)



**Giving Tree gifts are due back today, Sunday, December 15!** Please place your gift - **unwrapped, with the tag attached** - at the base of the tree in the Narthex. Gifts will be distributed to the families this week, along with wrapping materials and stocking stuffers. Thank you for your support of this ministry.



**TONIGHT First Presbyterian's Journey Youth will present "Let It Be Christmas!"** 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 **TODAY** 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 **TODAY**, 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.

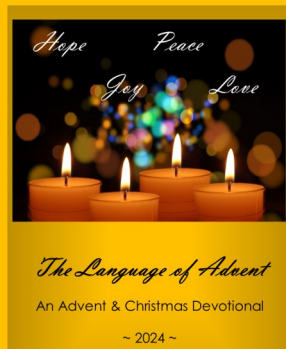
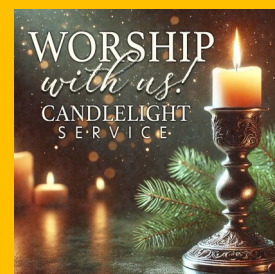


**Thank you to all who participated in prepping or presenting our float - 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus' - in the Kannapolis Christmas Parade!** We handed out hundreds of candy canes and postcards to our community Saturday night.



**Everyone is welcome to join us for Christmas Caroling this 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!** We will gather at 5:30pm for a time of worship and reflection. Special music, as well as lessons and carols, will draw us to pause and remember the Reason we celebrate.



**An Advent & Christmas Devotional** has been prepared by Eddie & Michelle to assist you in your daily time with the Lord this season. Pick one up in the Narthex! For a digital copy, please click on the link in the Thursday email, or check out our website.



**Linda's Closet will be open this Tuesday, 11am-2pm** but will close for the Christmas holidays on Tuesday, December 24 and Tuesday, December 31. Currently, there is a great need for men and young boys' winter clothes. (Please no spring or summer clothes at this time!) In the last weeks, an average of

700-800 articles of clothing have been distributed. The closet will resume its normal hours on Tuesday, January 7. If you are interested in volunteering, please see Trish Nixon. Thank you for your support of this ministry.

**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

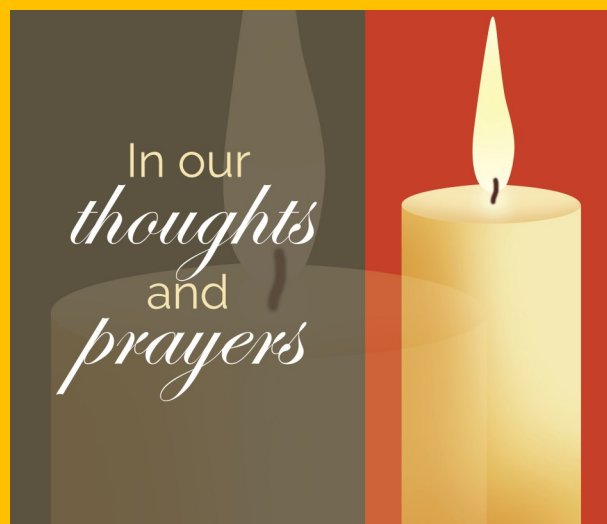
- Alexis Howell - surgery Dec 13

### FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CHURCH FAMILY

- Rachel Spencer (Eddie's mom) - hospice house
- Darrell Bost (Jean Bost's husband) - health concerns
- Patrick Goode (Devin's brother) - recovery from stroke
- Catherine Cox (Alice Jeanes' sister) - cancer
- Kim Stipe (Kay McAllister's daughter) - chemo treatments
- Zelda West (Trish Nixon's granddaughter) - Spina Bifida
- 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



# This Week @ FIRST PRES

## Sunday, December 15

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

## Tuesday, December 17

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

## Wednesday, December 18

- 12:00pm - Joy Group at Barger Residence
- 6:00pm - Christmas Caroling (Warm refreshments following!)

## Thursday, December 19

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

## Friday, December 20

- 5:30pm - Agape Chinese Baptist Church Stream Fellowship

## Next Sunday, December 22

- 9:30am - Fellowship Breakfast (Disciples Class)
- 10:00am - Combined Adult Sunday School in Fellowship Hall
- 11:00am - Worship Service

## SERVANTS

- Elder Lock-Up:** Raegan Swaringen
- Children's Message Today:** Chrismons
- Children's Message Next Week:** Chrismons
- Children's Church:** Lynn Efird & Amelia Caskey
- Children's Church Next Week:** Risa Little
- Acolytes:** Michael Herbst & Noah Walker
- Acolytes next week:** Caylin & Camryn Lowder
- Nursery:** Lynn Efird & Amelia Caskey
- Nursery next week:** Roxanne Spencer
- Ushers:** Ryan Walker, Jeff Barnhardt, Eric Cowan, Mark Goodnight
- Ushers next week:** Tony Hunter, Amy Hurst, Chris Lowder, Mike Lowder
- Greeters:** Cookie Hamilton & Dave Argabrite

## FINANCIALS

### FOR NOVEMBER

YTD Income	\$276,403.22
YTD Expenses	\$258,407.96
YTD Budget	\$290,363.37
<b>Last week's attendance: 12/8/2024</b>	
<b>Worship AM - 129</b>	
<b>Sunday School - 75</b>	

