



THE WEEKLY FIRST



I am deeply grateful for your prayers for my family and me. As of the writing of this, my mom is still with us but not for long. We are deeply grieved that we will soon lose one so dear and by God's grace has lived so faithfully. We are also confident my mom is on the precipice of an aliveness that we cannot imagine. The source of our confidence is in the One we celebrate at Christmas.

During the season of Advent and Christmas we celebrate the Incarnation of God. Immanuel, promised in the OT Scriptures, whose covenant assured His people He would be with them, whose presence dwelt in the Holy of Holies, came into the world in person. The promise, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" became true in Jesus. This is the good news of great joy we celebrate during this season of the year.

Yet as you read the Christmas story in the gospels, especially Matthew and Luke, you read as much about those who responded to the news of Christ as much if not more than the good news of great joy. We wrote about Mary's response in the Advent and Christmas devotional. On Sunday I will take a deeper look at Mary's response to Christ. In many ways, her response is a portrait of faith and joy.

Click on the link below to access the devotional.

[The Language of Advent Devotional](#)

[Sunday Bulletin is Online!](#)



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



All Adult Sunday School classes will meet together in the Fellowship Hall on December 15 & 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.



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



Giving Tree gifts are due back this Sunday, December 15! Please place your gift - unwrapped, with the tag attached - at the base of the tree.

Gifts will be distributed to the families this week, along with wrapping materials and stocking stuffers. Thank you for your support of this ministry!



First Presbyterian's Journey Youth will present "Let It Be Christmas" on THIS 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 by THIS Sunday, December 15th. If you need a ride, let Eddie or Michelle know. Let's joy in remembering the real reason we celebrate this special season!!



First Pres will again partner with Kimball Lutheran for Samaritan's Table TONIGHT, 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 on the morning of Saturday, December 14, 10:00am, please see Andrew Townsend or Megan Quigg.



The Joy Group will meet for a Christmas Lunch at the home of Ron & Alpha Barger on **Wednesday, December 18 at noon.**

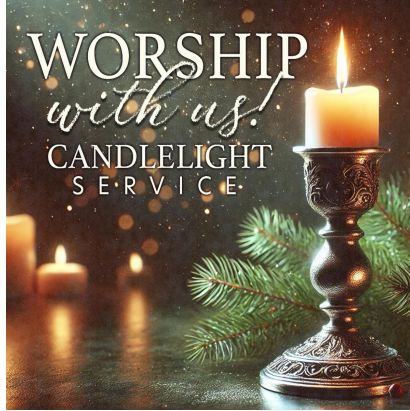
We will also have a "White Elephant" exchange. Each person should bring a wrapped gift costing less than \$10 to play in the exchange.

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. Dave & Jane Argabrite have room for 6 people. Driving directions will be available soon.



Everyone is welcome to 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**. Special music, as well as lessons and carols, will draw us to pause and remember the Reason we celebrate.



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:

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

Please see Sam or Kay McAllister if you can help!



Linda's Closet is open next Tuesday from 11am-2pm but will close for the Christmas holidays on Tuesday, December 24 and Tuesday, December 31. The closet will resume its normal hours on Tuesday, January 7.

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.

Please see Trish Nixon for information and to volunteer.

Thank you for your support of this ministry!

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 December 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-laws' mother) - in cardiac rehab
- Robert Little (Richard's brother) - new treatment for cancer
- 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

This Week@FIRST PRESB

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

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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Need to know someone's birthday or anniversary
so you can send a card?**

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<https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/>



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