



# THE WEEKLY FIRST



I pray for God's blessings on you, our church family and our participation in Christ Kingdom mission into 2025. We have prepared two Bible reading plans for your consideration in 2025. One plan is to read one and sometimes 2 chapters daily through the NT plus the poetic books of the Bible. The other plan is to read the entire Bible in a year with daily readings through a mixture of OT and NT books of the Bible. I pray God will give us as a church family a greater hunger and thirst for the Scriptures and the God of the Scriptures.

This Sunday it will be cold outside but the heat in the sanctuary is working great. We are beginning the New Year with a Sunday teaching series on the NT book of Galatians. In Acts 13-14, the Apostle Paul and others went on their first missionary journey. Jews and Gentiles in Galatia heard and believed the gospel and new churches were started. When Paul and his team left the area and continued their missionary journey, other religious teachers, "Judaizers" came into these newly planted churches and taught a different message. To be accepted by God you must believe in Jesus plus the OT law and the practice of circumcision.

This is the occasion that prompted the letter to the Galatians. In Galatians, as Tim Keller notes in his brief and excellent commentary on Galatians, the gospel is not just the ABC's of conversion or becoming a Christian, the gospel is the A-Z of the Christian life. It is the message revealed in the Scriptures and the spiritual foundation and power for living and participating in Christ's Kingdom mission. The passage on which the teaching is based this Sunday is Galatians 1:10-12.

[Sunday Bulletin](#) is Online!



Welcome

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



### Join us for Sunday School in 2025!

There are many opportunities for studying God's Word together in Sunday School. Children's classes continue to meet on the third floor for Preschoolers through Middle Schoolers.

#### Adult classes meet as follows:

**The Guardians Sunday School Class** will begin a new study this year, led by Raegan Swaringen. The study will be an in-depth look at the Gospel of Luke, called "Jesus, the Son of Man." It will last approximately 27 weeks, beginning Sunday, January 12. The Guardians class meets in the Session Room, just down the hallway from the church office.

**The Friendship Class** is led by a rotation of teachers. They will begin a study of spiritual gifts next Sunday, Jan. 12, that will last approximately 6 weeks. Trish Nixon will lead these lessons. Their classroom is across from the choir room in the lower level of the church.

**The Disciples Class**, led by Dave Argabrite, is currently studying the Book of Job. They meet on the 2nd floor of the Educational Building.

**The Drummond Class** will begin a series on the Book of Revelation on Sunday, January 19. It is entitled "Blessed Hope," by Robert Godfrey. Ron Lisenby leads the class. They meet on the 2nd floor of the Educational Building.



### Women Without Reservations will gather for dinner on Sunday, January 19 at 6:00pm.

Meet at Gianni's Trattoria Restaurant in Gibson Mill (325 McGill Ave NW Concord NC 28027).

Spouses are invited. Women Without Reservations is a women's group that

desires to embody Proverbs 31 - living without reservations as women of God and welcoming any woman of the church to join them! In this case, we do need to make reservations, though, so please let Michelle Walker know by Wednesday, January 15 if you can make it!



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



### **TWO 2025 Bible Reading Plans are now available!**

One is our traditional plan, prepared by Pastor Eddie. It takes us through the entire New Testament in addition to the books of Psalms, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes from the Old Testament.

The other plan takes the reader through the entirety of the Bible in a year. The plan is not in chronological order, but incorporates readings from both Old and New Testament throughout the year, divided by the genre of the writing. Each week will include portions of the Epistles, The Law, History, Psalms, Poetry, Prophecy, and the Gospels. It is taken from [www.bible-reading.com/bible-plan.html](http://www.bible-reading.com/bible-plan.html).

Each plan is available on a large bookmark, which you may pick up in the Narthex. We will also post the bookmarks on our website.

**Please make plans to join us on Saturday, January 11 to remove Christmas decorations from the sanctuary. We will meet at 10:00am. Strong arms and legs are also needed to carry items back to storage on the third floor!**



### **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** will resume its normal hours on Tuesday, January 7.

**Currently, there is a great need for men**

**and young boys' and young girls' (sizes 3-5) winter clothes.**

Please no spring or summer clothes at this time.

Please see Trish Nixon for information and to volunteer.

Thank you for your support of this ministry!

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### **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.**

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#### **CHURCH FAMILY**

- Pastor Eddie, Roxanne and the Spencer family - death of Eddie's mom, Rachel
- Richard Little and family - loss of his brother, Robert
- Debra Dandro - celebrating completed treatments
- George Maiocchi - in hospital with double pneumonia
- Phil Smith - ankle surgery on January 16
- Ronald Barger - broken ribs
- Susan Hathaway - pneumonia

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

- Patrick Goode (Devin's brother) - stage 4 cancer
- Mike Allen (Alpha Barger's family) - very ill
- Steve Smith (Becky Seaford's brother) - surgery next week
- Heidi Helms (daughter of family friends of Chariti Lowder) - 2 ye old at Duke University with rare condition - MIRM
- 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) - doing well, thank you for your prayers
- 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
- Irina (online message) - health concerns and for her son's current work situation.

#### **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, January 5**

##### **Epiphany Sunday**

9:30am - Morning coffee

10:00am - Sunday School

11:00am - Worship Service with Holy Communion

#### **Tuesday, January 7**

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

12:00pm - NA

6:30pm - Session

#### **Thursday, January 9**

12:00pm - NA

**Saturday, January 11**

10:00am - Undecorate the church

**Next Sunday, January 12**

9:30am - Morning Coffee

10:00am - Sunday School

11:00am - Worship Service

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## SERVANTS

**Elder Lock-Up:** Raegan Swaringen

**NO Children's Message Today**

**Children's Message Next Week:** Michelle Walker

**Children's Church:** Risa Little

**Children's Church Next Week:** David Ellington

**Acolytes:** Cierstyn Lowder & Noah Walker

**Acolytes next week:** Camryn Lowder & Evie Sechler

**Nursery:** Roxanne Spencer

**Nursery next week:** Vickie Ellington

**Ushers:** Todd Pless, Tony Rary, Lynn Sechler, Ryan Walker

**Ushers next week:** Phil Smith, Pam Hooks, Jeff Barnhardt, Eric Cowan

**Greeters:** Lynn Sechler, Donnie Swaringen

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### 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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