



**FIRST**  

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**PRESBYTERIAN**  

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**CHURCH**

*Welcome*

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

**~ Gathering Before the Word ~****Welcome**

Eddie Spencer

**Prelude**

Dallas Boovy

**Lighting of the Candles**

Camryn Lowder &amp; Evie Sechler

**\*Call to Worship**

Romans 11:33-36

Leader: Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!  
How unsearchable His judgments, and His paths beyond tracing out!

**All: Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been His counselor?**

Leader: Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?

**All: For from Him and through Him and for Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! Amen**

**\*Hymn of Praise No. 604***To God Be the Glory*

Crosby

**\*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**

Merciful God, You made us in Your image, with a mind to know You, a heart to love You, and a will to serve You. But our knowledge is imperfect, our love inconsistent, and our obedience incomplete. Day by day, we fail to grow into Your likeness. In Your tender love, forgive us through Jesus Christ, our Lord. It is in His matchless name we pray.

**Silent Prayers of Confession****Assurance of the Gospel**

1 Peter 2:24-25

He himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

**\*Hymn of Grace No. 174**

*I Stand Amazed*

My Savior's Love

**Reception of New Covenant Partner**

**~ Proclaiming the Word of God ~**

**Word with Our Children**

Michelle Walker

**Offering & Special Music**

*I Wonder as I Wander*

Niles

Joe Morris, tenor; Kay Yates, piano

**\*Scripture Reading**

Galatians 1:13-24

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**Sermon**

“God’s Grace Plus Nothing”

Eddie Spencer

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

**\*Sending Song No. 755**

*Speak, O Lord*

Getty/Townend

**\*Prayer and Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Sing Praise to God*

Reimann

\*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!

## Welcome to Our Newest Covenant Partner!



**Linda Johnston joins First Presbyterian** by reaffirmation of faith. She is a retired LPN (licensed practical nurse) and has two children and one grandchild. Linda enjoys reading, watching sports, and traveling. She found First Presbyterian after Dave and Jane Argabrite agreed to give her a ride on Sunday mornings. She was impressed with the kindness shown to her, and she looks forward to joining in church services and programs. Please extend your own welcome to Linda following the service today!



**We are thankful for your participation, service and giving to Christ's Kingdom work through First Presbyterian Church in the last year.** While it is difficult to measure Christ's Kingdom work in our lives and in and through our church, below are a few statistical highlights from our ministries in 2024.

- Total Giving - \$504,047
- General Fund Giving - \$310,652
- Good Samaritan Fund - \$8,170 used to minister to hundreds of people in crisis through our church
- Fence Ministry (Kay and Sam McAllister, leaders) – 2,682 bags that benefitted thousands in our community
- Tony's Kitchen (Tony Sherrill, leader) – 2,050 meals prepared and delivered to our church family and men from multiple Recovery houses
- Linda's Closet (Trish Nixon, Cindy DeVoe, leaders) – 1,945 people reached this year
- Special Offerings
  - o \$513 to Gideons International
  - o \$690 plus 98 pounds of food to Cooperative Christian Ministry
  - o \$679.83 to Cabarrus Women's Center for their Baby Bottle Boomerang
  - o \$4,270 to Samaritan's Purse for Hurricane Relief
  - o \$3,195.85 for 10 Cents a Meal (benefitting Compassion International and Cabarrus Meals on Wheels)
  - o \$7,425.60 towards our Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Packing

Many of you also give to other Missions through our church, including the Moscow Evangelical Seminary, Habit Missions, and local outreach efforts. In addition, our church and Missions Team blessed countless individuals in partnership with Feeding Kannapolis Hunger through egg and produce markets; hosted a Back-to-School Bash providing school supplies to children in our community; packed or collected 3,623 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes; and blessed three families including six children with your Giving Tree donations.



## Join us for Sunday School in 2025!

Youth classes continue on the third floor of the Educational Building.

**The Guardians Class** is beginning a 27-week study on the Gospel of Luke, led by Raegan Swaringen. (Session Room) **The Friendship Class** will survey spiritual gifts with Trish Nixon for the next six weeks. (Basement across from choir room) **The Disciples Class**, led by Dave Argabrite, is traveling through the Book of Job. (2nd floor, Educational Building) **The Drummond Class** starts a new study on the Book of Revelation next week with teacher Ron Lisenby. (2nd floor, Education Building) If you need more information, or help finding a class, see Eddie or Michelle!



## 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. . Please let Michelle know by Wednesday, January 15 if you would like to attend!



Pizza

**Journey Youth are invited to a Family Fun Day on Monday, January 20!** Meet us at Afton Pub & Pizza (5380 Village Dr NW, Concord at 12:00pm for lunch. Then we'll go to Stars & Stripes for bowling and laser tag! All ages are invited, friends included, but sign up in the Narthex ASAP.



**New Year Prayer Gathering!** As 2025 begins, we will gather to pray together on Wednesday, January 22nd. Join us from 6:30pm-7:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.



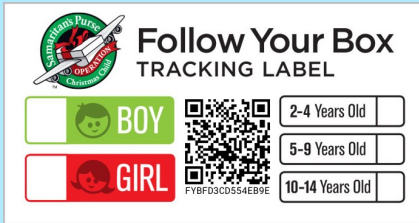
**Anyone passionate about the children and youth ministry in our church** is invited to a Children's Ministry Team meeting on Sunday, January 26 immediately following worship. Bring your calendar and your ideas to the parlor as we discuss upcoming plans. See Raegan Swaringen for more information!

**Linda's Closet is open Tuesdays 11am-2:00pm.** Currently, there is a great need for men, young boys', and young girls' (sizes 3-5) winter clothes at this time! If you are interested in volunteering, see Trish Nixon.



**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



**Our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes have shipped!** This year, our 415 boxes were distributed to Colombia (S. America), Guinea (W. Africa), and Ukraine (Eastern Europe). Please continue to pray for the children, families, and communities who will undoubtedly be blessed by these gifts!



**The Agape Chinese Baptist Fellowship Church** wishes to extend sincere gratitude to the First Presbyterian Church family for support of their fellowship over the past year. They will no longer need our facility to meet in on Friday nights. It was a joy to share our building with them.

### 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

- Ronald Barger - recovery from a fall
- George Maiocchi - recovery from double pneumonia
- Phil Smith - ankle surgery on January 16
- Dave Argabrite - heart procedure on January 28



### FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CHURCH FAMILY

- Patrick Goode (Devin's brother) - Hospice care
- Steve Smith (Becky Seaford's brother) - thank you for praying - surgery went well, pray for recovery
- Krystle (Chariti Lowder's friend) - family is going through illness and uncertainty
- Heidi Helms (daughter of family friends of Chariti Lowder) - 2 yr old - at home recovering from surgery
- Catherine Cox (Alice Jeanes' sister) - awaiting surgery
- Kim Stipe (Kay McAllister's daughter) - chemo treatments
- Zelda West (Trish Nixon's granddaughter) - Spina Bifida
- Justin Wallace (Melba Funderburk'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, January 12

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

## Tuesday, January 14

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

## Wednesday, January 15

6:45pm - Missions Team

## Thursday, January 16

1-:30am - Ladies' Bible Study  
12:00pm - NA

## Sunday, January 19

9:30am - Morning Coffee  
10:00am - Sunday School  
11:00am - Worship Service  
6:00pm - Women Without Reservations  
at Gianni's Trattoria

## SERVANTS

**Elder Lock-Up:** Phil McLain

**Children's Message Today:** Michelle Walker

**Children's Message Next Week:** Dave Argabrite

**Children's Church:** David Ellington

**Children's Church Next Week:** Debbie McDaniel

**Acolytes:** Camryn Lowder & Evie Sechler

**Acolytes next week:** Michael Herbst & Landon Walker

**Nursery:** Vickie Ellington

**Nursery next week:** Megan Quigg

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

**Ushers next week:** Mark Goodnight, Tony Hunter, Amy Hurst, Chris Lowder

**Greeters:** Lynn Sechler, Donnie Swaringen

## FINANCIALS

### FOR DECEMBER

YTD Income \$310,652.52

YTD Expenses \$286,821.59

YTD Budget \$316,760.00

Last week's attendance: 1/5/2025

Worship AM - 95

Sunday School - 56

# SERMON NOTES


### **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION - ACTIVE ELDERS**

<b>Raegan Swaringen</b>	<b>Dave Ellington</b>	<b>Lynn Sechler</b>
<b>Cookie Hamilton</b>	<b>Chris Lowder</b>	<b>Ken Sparks</b>
<b>Sue Maiocchi</b>	<b>Phil McLain</b>	<b>Jeff Barnhardt, Clerk</b>
<b>Pastor Eddie Spencer, Moderator</b>		



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