



THE WEEKLY FIRST



Please stay warm and safe if we have inclement weather over the next few days. If you need anything, please call or text me. The Christmas decorations have been taken down, so there will be no need to gather on Saturday morning for that purpose. Our elders will decide on Saturday whether we will cancel our services on Sunday morning. I will let you know on Saturday the status of our services.

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 McAlister, 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.

As we consider our church's ministry in 2025, I invite you to join me for a New Year Prayer Gathering. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, January 22 from 6:30pm - 7:30pm.

[Sunday Bulletin](#) is Online!



Welcome

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

UN-Decorating CANCELLED

Due to the weather forecast, the "un-decorating" of the church sanctuary has been cancelled for this Saturday, January 11. The undecorating has already be done.

Stay safe and warm, and we hope to see you on Sunday!



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!



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!



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!



TWO 2025 Bible Reading Plans are still 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.

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.



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 has resumed its normal hours on Tuesdays, 11:00am - 2:00pm.

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!

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) - thanks 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 year 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'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

This Week@FIRST PRESB

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

10:30am - 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

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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