



**FIRST**  

---

**PRESBYTERIAN**  

---

**CHURCH**

*Welcome*

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

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

Eddie Spencer

**Prelude***What A Friend*

Converse

**Lighting of the Candles**

Michael Herbst &amp; Landon Walker

**\*Call to Worship**

Psalm 103:1-5

Leader: Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name.  
Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all His benefits—

**All: Who forgives all our sins and heals all our diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.**

**\*Hymn of Praise***Praise Him! Praise Him!*

See insert

**\*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**

Almighty and most merciful Father, we are thankful that Your mercy is higher than the heavens, wider than our wandering, and deeper than all our sin. Forgive our rebellious attitude toward Your purposes, our drifting from Your way, and our refusal to love and serve others. Grant to us a new zeal to trust and follow You, to worship You and to advance Your kingdom, and grant us holy joy in so doing, in the blessed name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

II Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

**\*Hymn of Grace No. 796***Oh, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus*

EBENEZER

**Moment for Missions**

Linda's Closet

~ **Proclaiming the Word of God** ~

**Word with Our Children**

Dave Argabrite

**Offering & Special Music**

*For the Beauty of the Earth*  
Abigail Malinovsky, clarinet; Kay Yates, piano

Kocher

**\*Scripture Reading**

Galatians 2:1-10

Page 1151

**Sermon**

“Gospel Freedom”

Eddie Spencer

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

**\*Sending Song No. 465**

*Precious Lord*

Dorsey

**\*Prayer and Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Jesus is All the World to Me*

Thompson

\*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!



**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 or in and through our church, below are a few statistical highlights from our ministries in 2024.

- Total Giving - \$504,047
- General Fund - \$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 or items 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 assisted with clothes and accessories
- Special Offerings
  - \$513 to Gideons International
  - \$690 plus 98 pounds of food to Cooperative Christian Ministry
  - \$679.83 to Cabarrus Women's Center for their Baby Bottle Boomerang
  - \$4,270 to Samaritan's Purse for Hurricane Relief
  - \$3,195.85 for 10 Cents a Meal (benefitting Compassion International and Cabarrus Meals on Wheels)
  - \$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
- Packed 2,592 meals at Lifeline Christian Mission for Feeding Kannapolis Hunger
- Hosted a Back-to-School Bash providing new shoes and school supplies to children in our community
- Packed or collected 3,623 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes
- Blessed three families including six children with your Giving Tree donations
- Began partnership with Shady Brook Elementary for backpack food ministry



## 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 several 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** has started a new study on the Book of Revelation with teacher Ron Lisenby. (2nd floor, Education Building) If you need more information, or help finding a class, see Eddie or Michelle!



## Journey Youth are invited to a Family Fun Day tomorrow, 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 **please sign up in the Narthex before you leave today!**

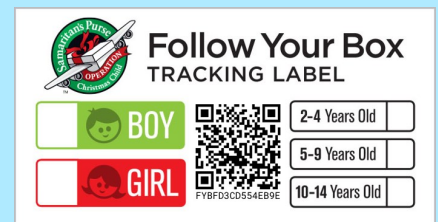


**New Year Prayer Gathering!** As 2025 begins, we will gather to pray together THIS Wednesday, January 22nd. Join us from 6:30pm -7:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. **Children and youth** are invited to meet with Michelle in the sanctuary for music rehearsal!



**Anyone passionate about the children and youth ministry in our church** is invited to a Children's Ministry Team meeting **next 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!

**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!



**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

## **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
- Phil Smith - ankle surgery on January 16
- Angel Dixon - recovery from infection
- 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) - recovery from surgery
- Krystle (Chariti Lowder's friend) - family is going through illness and uncertainty
- McKenzie Hampton (Sandy Boucher-Bessent's daughter) - Covid and pneumonia
- 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
- Neveah (friend of Mary-Gray Petersen) - in California - pray for California residents affected by wildfires

### **HOMEBOUND**

- Linda Bost - Best of Care
- Barbara Hancock - Home
- Loretta Young - Five Oaks





# This Week @ FIRST PRES

## Sunday, January 19

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

## Monday, January 20

12pm - Youth Pizza & Bowling Outing

## Tuesday, January 21

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

## Wednesday, January 22

6:30pm - New Year Prayer Gathering  
- PraiseMakers Rehearsal

## Thursday, January 23

10:30am - Ladies' Bible Study  
12:00pm - NA  
2:00pm - Gammi Pi in Fellowship Hall

## Next Sunday, January 26

### 10 Cents a Meal

9:30am - Morning Coffee  
- GraceFull Movements  
Rehearsal  
10:00am - Sunday School  
11:00am - Worship Service  
12:00pm - Children's Ministry Team in  
Parlor

## SERVANTS

**Elder Lock-Up:** Phil McLain

**Children's Message Today:** Dave  
Argabrite

**Children's Message Next Week:** Roxanne  
Spencer

**Children's Church:** Debbie McDaniel

**Children's Church Next Week:** Sharon  
Cranford

**Acolytes:** Michael Herbst & Landon Walker

**Acolytes next week:** Caylin Lowder &  
Ingrid Townsend

**Nursery:** Megan Quigg & Sharon Stricker

**Nursery next week:** Sue Maiocchi & Lynn  
Efird

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

**Ushers next week:** Mike Lowder, Sam  
McAllister, Jill & Phil McLain

**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: 1/12/2025**

**Worship AM - 101**

**Sunday School - 73**

# 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>

**Pastor Eddie Spencer, Moderator**

