



THE WEEKLY FIRST



As part of our Sunday worship during January and February, I am teaching a series on the New Testament letter to the Galatians. As the gospel of Christ expanded out of Jerusalem and Judea into Asia Minor, God used the Apostle Paul and others to evangelize and plant churches in Galatia (present day Turkey). In Galatia, Jews and Gentiles heard and believed the transforming gospel of Christ. They began forming unprecedented and counter-cultural communities in which “there is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28)

This created a crisis in the Christian movement, especially in Jerusalem. What was at stake was the nature and content of the gospel of Jesus itself. Are people righteous/accepted by God by faith in Christ alone? What about Gentiles being converted out of pagan religion? Do they need to follow Jewish law and cultural practices? What is the “truth of the gospel” (Galatians 2:5)? Is the Gospel “God’s grace plus nothing” – God’s grace alone, in Christ alone, received by faith alone, as revealed in Scripture alone, and lived out together by the spiritual power of Christ in us? Or is the gospel Jesus plus the Old Testament law; essentially becoming a cultural Jew?

In our passage this Sunday, Galatians 2:1-10, Paul is remembering a crisis in the early church about this very issue. We will consider the issue and glean some insights from the gospel for dealing with conflicts in our own lives and relationships.

This Wednesday, Jan. 22, at 6:30pm, you are invited to a New Year Prayer Gathering. During our time together, I will give a brief review of 2024 and we will spend time in prayer for our spiritual lives, church, community, nation and God’s global mission. At the same time, children and youth are invited to music rehearsal with Michelle in the Sanctuary.

[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. 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 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.



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 you need to sign up in the Narthex **THIS SUNDAY.**



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.

Children and youth are invited to meet with Michelle in the choir room to rehearse for an upcoming Agape Bistro!



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!



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
- Angel Dixon - recovery from infection
- 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) - recovery from surgery
- Krystle (Chariti Lowder's friend) - family is going through illness and uncertainty
- McKenzie Hampton (Sandy Boucher-Bessent) - 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'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
- 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
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This Week@FIRST PRESB

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

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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so you can send a card?**

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whenever you need it! And you know what? There is also an app for your phone!

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