



THE WEEKLY FIRST

For I am
not ashamed
of the gospel,
because it is the
power of God
that brings
salvation
to everyone who
believes.

ROMANS 1:16, NIV

I look forward to our worship on Sunday, Feb. 16. Attached in our “Weekly First” email is the bulletin. I do not always take sufficient time to announce the ministries and activities in our church. I urge you to read what’s going on and consider how you can participate. On Sunday, our children and Abigail will sing, while Amelia will play piano. During the teaching time, we will continue our series on Galatians.

In the New Testament book of Galatians, God teaches Christians how to believe and live the gospel. The Gospel is the “power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.” (Romans 1:16) Believing the Gospel is also our spiritual power for living our salvation. This is the truth Paul is teaching in Galatians 3.

The Galatian Christians had come under the influence of false teachers who insisted that, in addition to believing in Jesus, His followers must also become religious and cultural Jews. Your acceptance by God came from believing in Jesus plus religion. Paul’s response was blunt – “Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?” (Gal. 3:3)

God’s Gospel is an “as-if-God’s -grace -plus -nothing- gospel.” By faith in Christ and nothing else, we are declared righteous “as if” we lived a perfect life. By faith in Christ and nothing else, we are forgiven “as if” we paid the penalty for our sin. By faith in Christ and nothing else, we are spiritually united with the risen, ascended Christ “as if” we rose again from death to life. Doctrinally, the truth is “union with Christ.” By faith in Christ and nothing else, we are now “in Christ” and “Christ is in us.”

“Christians think that we are saved by the gospel, but then we grow by applying Biblical principles to every area of our life. But we are not just saved by the gospel, we grow by living the gospel into every area of our lives.” (Paul Kauffman). We spiritually grow

the same way we become a Christian, by believing the truth of the gospel. "In Christ" we have a new identity; we are forgiven, family and forever. We have a new spiritual life and power for living, "Christ in us."

Jesus says, "Remain in Me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me. 'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing.'" (John 15:4-5) "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." (Galatians 2:20)

This Sunday, we will continue to consider how the Gospel spiritually grows us.

[Two Important Church Updates Link](#)

[Sunday Bulletin is Online!](#)



Welcome

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



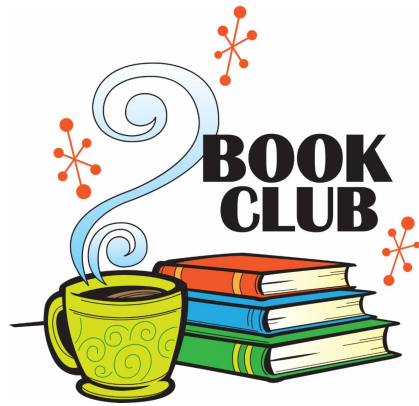
Thank you to all who participated in our Souper Bowl of caring last Sunday. Monetary donations of \$674 were collected for Cooperative Christian Ministry and 111 pounds of food were also donated. Your generosity will bless many in our community.



A new "Heart Sisters" women's Sunday School class meets on Sundays at 10am in the Parlor (right beside the Sanctuary). Leaders are Sharon Cranford, Sandy Boucher-Bessent, and Cookie Hamilton. Their desire is to foster authentic biblical relationships with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and one another. All ages are welcome. Please see Sharon, Sandy, or Cookie for more information.



You are invited to the 27th Annual Crossover Kannapolis Worship night on Sunday, February 23 at 6:00pm being held at Centerview Baptist Church, 415 Walter St, Kannapolis.



information.

Do you like to read? Come to a BOOK CLUB meeting Monday, March 3, from 10:00-11:30am in the parlor. Our first book is *At Home in Mitford* by Jan Karon. The club is open to men and women. We will meet once or twice month, depending on what is convenient for everyone. See Trish Nixon if you would like more



The Mission Presbytery and the Southern California Presbytery are fellow ECO Presbyteries which cover the LA region. They are setting up a fund to offer support to those in need following the disastrous wildfires that have marred the area. Your Missions Team has committed \$1,000.00 towards this effort.

If you would like to give to the fund, make your check to First Presbyterian Church, but designate “LA Fires” in the memo or on your offering envelope. The deadline to donate is THIS Sunday, February 16.

Please uphold in prayer all those affected by the fires, including those who are displaced, those who have lost property or possessions, and the first responders working around the clock to serve their communities.



Men’s Fellowship will meet on Thursday, February 27 at 6pm

in the Fellowship Hall! Menu will consist of steak or chicken, baked potato, salad, drinks and dessert. Speakers will be our very own Eric Cowan and Devin Goode, sharing their testimonies of God's work in their lives. **Please sign up in the Narthex by Sunday, February 23!**



Join us for our next JOY GROUP Luncheon on Friday, February 28th, at noon in Fellowship Hall! We'll enjoy a warm and delicious meal together, with sign-ups available for three people to bring soup and

others to contribute finger sandwiches or dessert.

Following lunch, Dave will present Stephen Davey's teaching on 1 Corinthians 13, a powerful message on love and its impact in our lives. Don't miss this time of fellowship, food, and encouragement! Sign up in the foyer or contact Dave Argabrite (Dargabrite@hotmail.com or phone/text 304-588-0156) for more details. We look forward to seeing you there!



You are invited to "Forever Fifties," an Agape Bistro presented by First Pres PraiseMakers and friends!

Invite guests and join us on Saturday, March 1 at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. You will enjoy dinner, served by our Journey Youth, followed by a variety show themed around the 1950s. Acts will delight you with the sounds of the decade, tickle your funny bone and show off the many talents of our youth! The event is free to JOY Group members; all others are on a donation basis. Profits will go toward new equipment in our playground area. Please see Michelle Walker or a youth member to get your ticket!



Women of the Church are invited to an Afternoon Tea on Saturday, March 8 at 2:00pm. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a beautifully decorated tea party, complete with refreshments and a fashion show. Our guest speaker, Josephine Haynes, will

lead us in a time of devotion. Please sign up in the Narthex or on our website (www.firstpres.org).



Wednesdays in the Word will soon embark on a 4-week Lenten study. Meetings will take place on Wednesdays, March 19 through April 9, at 6:30pm. Adults will meet in the Fellowship Hall with Pastor Eddie, while children/youth will meet on the third floor. PraiseMakers will continue to rehearse at 6pm. Join us as we prepare our hearts and minds for Holy Week and Easter.



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 new hours:
Tuesdays, 11:00am - 1:00pm.**

Currently, there is still a need for men and young boys' and young girls' (sizes 3-5) winter clothes.

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

- Peggy Gibson - recovery from a broken arm and hip surgery
- Susan Thomas - recovery from colon and gallbladder issues
- William Thomas - recovery from broken clavicle
- Devin Goode and family - loss of his brother, Patrick

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CHURCH FAMILY

- Catherine Cox (Alice Jeanes' sister) - recovery from surgery
- Pete Towery (Keri Petersen's father) - recovery from pulmonary embolism
- Amy Morgan (Sharon Stricker's son's mother-in-law) - surgery for cancer on Monday, Feb 17 at Duke
- Kim Stipe (Kay McAllister's daughter) - chemo treatments
- Zelda West (Trish Nixon's granddaughter) - Spina Bifida - two surgeries on February 20

- Justin Wallace (Melba's grandson) - recovery from heart & kidney transplants
- Darrell Black (Linda Hathaway family) - diagnosed with Hodgkins
- Barbara Coffey (friend of Judy Hunter) - cancer
- Thomas Dishman (friend of Judy Hunter) - on dialysis and waiting for a kidney
- Buddy Troutman (friend of Hammonds) - under hospice care

HOMEBOUND

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

This Week@FIRST PRESB

Sunday, February 16

- 9:30am - Morning Coffee
 - Gracefull Movements/ PraiseMakers Rehearsal
- 10:00am - Sunday School
- 11:00am - Worship Service

Tuesday, February 18

- 11am - 1pm - Linda's Closet
- 12:00pm - NA
- 6:45pm - Missions Team

Wednesday, February 19

- 5:30pm - Youth Families' Dinner
- 6:00pm - PraiseMakers Rehearsal
 - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 20

- 10:30am - Ladies' Bible Study
- 12:00pm - NA

Saturday, February 22

- 1pm-3pm - NexGen Open House

Next Sunday, February 23

10 Cents A Meal

- 9:30am - Morning Coffee
- 10:00am - Sunday School
- 11:00am - Worship Service
- 4:00pm - Last Supper Rehearsal

SERVANTS

Elder Lock-Up: Dave Ellington

Children's Message This Week: Alpha Barger

Children's Message Next Week: Michelle Walker

Children's Church: Adam Caskey

Children's Church Next Week: Vickie Ellington

Acolytes: Evie Sechler & Ingrid Townsend

Acolytes next week: Michael Herbst & Caylin Lowder

Nursery: Amelia Caskey

Nursery next week: Sharon Cranford

Ushers: Eric Cowan, Mark Goodnight, Tony Hunter, Amy Hurst

Ushers next week: Chris Lowder, Mike Lowder, Sam McAllister, Mal McDaniel

Greeters: Jeff Barnhardt, Debbie McDaniel

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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