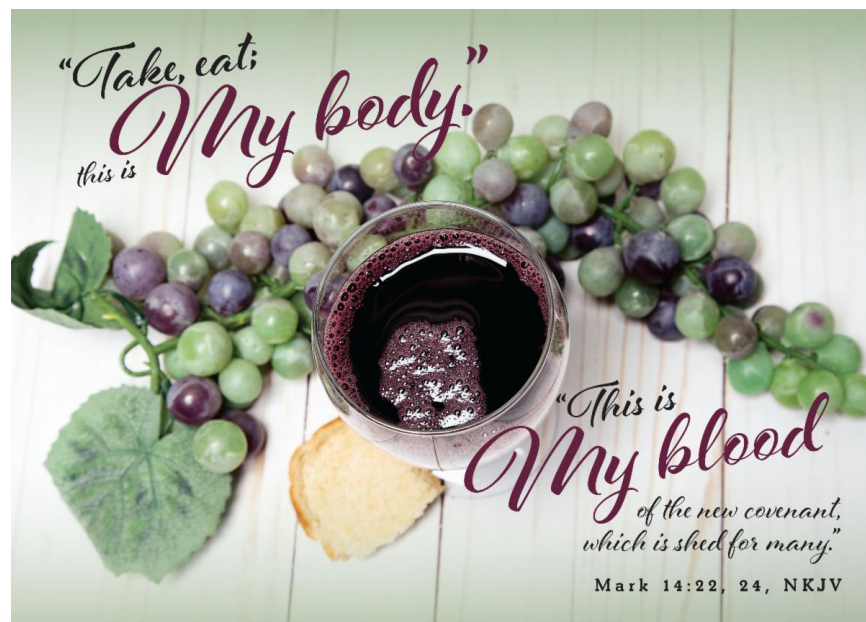




THE WEEKLY FIRST



Daylight Savings Begins This Weekend - Set your clocks ahead one hour!



For centuries, many Christians have taken the 6 weeks leading up to Easter to think deeply about the meaning of the Cross. For those who follow the church calendar, we know those 6 weeks as the season of Lent.

This year, Lent began on Ash Wednesday, March 5. For the next 6 weeks of Sundays, and on Wednesday nights beginning March 19, we are going to spiritually focus on the Cross of Christ.

This Lenten season, we will examine a few of Jesus' statements marked by the word "Amen". If you grew up with the KJV, you know it as "verily, I say to thee". Some versions translate the word, "truly". The NIV reads "I tell you the truth". The Hebrew word "Amen" is found throughout the OT and adopted into the Greek and English language. In the OT and other Jewish literature, it is used at the end of a statement to signify affirmation of or agreement with the truth being stated. Likewise, people in church, when they really agree with a word from a pastor will exclaim, "Amen"!

In contrast, and unprecedented in OT and Jewish literature, Jesus declares "Amen" before he speaks. Jesus announces His truth as authoritative before He vocalizes it. Who does this? Either a deluded person, one who thinks they speak for God, or the One who is God.

This Sunday we are looking at two of Jesus' "Amen" statements. The first of these is made during the institution of the Last Supper; the other right after the disciples left the Upper Room on their way to Gethsemane. "Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.' ... 'Truly I tell you,' Jesus answered, 'today—yes, tonight—before the rooster crows twice you yourself will disown Me three times.'" (Mark 14:25,30) We will examine each "Amen" and explore how the truths are spiritually connected.

[Sunday Bulletin](#) is Online!



Welcome

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



The Church Property Improvement Team (formerly Project 24) has arranged for work to be done in the restroom near the sanctuary. This restroom will be painted and will get new floor covering, fixtures, and mirrors. The work will be done in March and will be finished before Palm Sunday.

It is anticipated that the room will be unavailable for no more than one Sunday while the work is in progress. The team is studying other potential improvements (both indoors and outdoors) and will communicate more soon.



Moscow Evangelical Christian Seminary



Your Mission Team News

Our mission: "To be Christ's witnesses in Kannapolis, Rowan; Cabarrus counties, and even to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

Russia, with its 11 time zones, seems like the "ends of the earth" and maybe an unlikely place for our mission support, but there is exciting work (God's work) happening in Moscow, Russia and the former Soviet Union countries, such as Ukraine, Moldova, and Armenia. We support one student a year at the Moscow Evangelical Christian Seminary (est. 1993) through the One Mission Society. Sasha, their director, has spoken to us in

previous years about the challenges and triumphs of RE-growing the Christian church in Russia after decades of persecution.

Currently there are 700 students enrolled. Tuition costs \$1,200/year/student (a 3-yr program) for training full-time pastors, bi-vocational pastors and missionaries.



Please check your information in the Instant Church Directory.

If any corrections are needed, please call the church office 704-938-4623 or email them to firstpresb@firstpresb.org so updates can be made. Thank you.



Women of the Church will enjoy an *Afternoon Tea* THIS 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.



Operation Christmas Child's local volunteer teams will have a Celebration Event on Saturday, March 15 from

10:30am – 12pm in our Fellowship Hall. They will praise God for the shoeboxes collected last year, and prayerfully consider their plans for this year. If you are interested in learning more about Operation Christmas Child or becoming a year-round volunteer, you are welcome to attend!

Please RSVP to Sue Maiocchi or Michelle Walker this Sunday if possible.



The Navigators Sunday School Class, along with any Middle/Senior High Schoolers, are invited to a Downtown Picture Scavenger Hunt! Adam and Tracy Caskey will meet you at the church on Friday, March 21st at 6:00pm. After the scavenger hunt, you'll enjoy ice cream downtown. Pick up will be back at the church at 8:00pm. Friends are welcome – let Tracy know if you can come!



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.

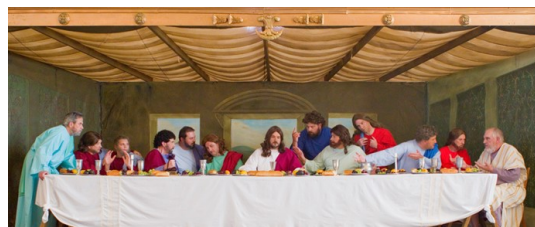


Health Market Egg and Produce Market & Linda's Closet

First Presbyterian and Feeding Kannapolis Hunger will host a Health Market on Saturday, March 22 at 9:30am. We will feature information and samples on healthy eating, along with an egg and produce giveaway.

Linda's closet will also be open for the community. Set up will be Friday, March 21 at 5:30pm (pizza provided), and volunteers are needed by 9am on Saturday, March 22.

Please sign up in the Narthex if you can help on either or both occasions!



First Presbyterian will present its 21st depiction of "The Last Supper" living drama on Palm Sunday, April 13, at 7:30pm. We will construct the altar "extension" on Sunday, March 23 at 3:00pm, and complete the set on Saturday, April 5. Anyone who is willing to help would be much appreciated. Bring a drill if you have one!



Women Without Reservations

Women Without Reservations will meet for dinner on Sunday, March 30 at 6:00pm.

Join us at the Cheesecake Factory in Birkdale Village.

We will also be "showering" Lauren Goodnight with diapers, pure wipes, and gift cards for her baby girl due May 17!

All women of the church are invited. Please let Michelle Walker know if you plan to attend so we can secure enough space at the restaurant.



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 arm and hip surgery
- John Hammond - heart surgery March 24th

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CHURCH FAMILY

- Catherine Cox (Alice Jeanes' sister) - recovery from surgery
- Richard Smith (Becky Seaford's brother) - pain and ongoing tests
- Scott Maiocchi and family (Sue's son) - loss of mother-in-law
- Richard Hough (Eddie's friend) - recovery from brain surgery
- Amy Morgan (Sharon Stricker's son's mother-in-law) - surgery for cancer on March 20 at Duke
- Kim Stipe (Kay McAllister's daughter) - chemo treatments
- Zelda West (Trish Nixon's granddaughter) - Spina Bifida - recovery from two surgeries
- Justin Wallace (Melba's grandson) - recovery from heart & kidney transplants
- Darrell Blalack (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
- Timmy Troutman (Buddy Troutman's son) - recovery from heart surgery

HOMEBOUND

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

This Week@FIRST PRESB

Sunday, March 9

Daylight Savings Begins

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

Tuesday, March 11

- 11am - 1pm - Linda's Closet
- 12:00pm - NA
- 3-6:30pm - Peek NexGen

Wednesday, March 12

- 3-6:30pm - Peek NexGen

Thursday, March 13

- 10:30am - Ladies' Bible Study
- 12:00pm - NA
- 3-6:30pm - Peek NexGen
- 6:00pm - Pilot Club in Fellowship Hall

Saturday, March 15

- 9:30am - OCC Celebration in Fellowship Hall

Next Sunday, March 16

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

SERVANTS

servants

Elder Lock-Up: Ken Sparks

Children's Message This Week: Dave Argabrite

Children's Message Next Week: Roxanne Spencer

Children's Church: Sue Maiocchi

Children's Church Next Week: Lynn Efird

Acolytes: Camryn & Cierstyn Lowder

Acolytes next week: Evie Sechler & Ingrid Townsend

Nursery: Debbie McDaniel

Nursery next week: Amelia Caskey

Ushers: Lynn Sechler, Phil Smith, Pam Hooks, Ryan Walker

Ushers next week: Jeff Barnhardt, Eric Cowan, Mark Goodnight, Tony Hunter

Greeters: Phil McLain, Roxanne Spencer

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION - ACTIVE ELDERS

Raegan Swaringen Dave Ellington Lynn Sechler
Cookie Hamilton Chris Lowder Ken Sparks
Sue Maiocchi Phil McLain



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so you can send a card?**

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