



**FIRST**  

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**PRESBYTERIAN**  

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**CHURCH**

*Welcome*

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

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

Eddie Spencer

**Prelude***Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer*

Hustad

**Lighting of the Candles**

Evie Sechler &amp; Ingrid Townsend

**\*Call to Worship**

Psalm 48:1-3,14

Leader: Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise, in the city of our God, His holy mountain. Beautiful in its loftiness, the joy of the whole earth, like the heights of Zaphon is Mount Zion, the city of the Great King. God is in her citadels; He has shown Himself to be her fortress.

**All: For this God is our God for ever and ever; He will be our guide even to the end.**

**\*Hymn of Praise No. 43***Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer*

CWM RHONDDA

**\*Prayer of Adoration****Prayer of Confession**

Lord Jesus Christ, Crucified Savior, Friend of sinners, we confess anew our need of Your forgiveness: we have thought ourselves great when we were small; we have thought ourselves right when we were wrong; our devotion for You has been divided; our love for our neighbors has been halfhearted. Forgive us, Lamb of God, for these and all our sins, and purify us that we may praise You and live for You, now and forever.

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

Psalm 103: 11-12

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

**\*Song of Assurance No. 167***Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

ST. CHRISTOPHER

~ Proclaiming the Word of God ~

**Concerns and Celebrations of Our Church Family**

**Word With Our Children**

Roxanne Spencer

**Offering**     *The Old Rugged Cross/O Sacred Head Now Wounded*     Hustad

**\*Scripture Reading**                      John 12:23-33                      Page 1065

**Sermon**                      “Life That is Truly Life”                      Eddie Spencer

~ Responding to the Word of God ~

**\*Sending Hymn No. 170**     *Man of Sorrows - What a Name*                      Bliss

**\*Prayer and Benediction**

**Postlude**                      *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*                      Hamlin

\*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.

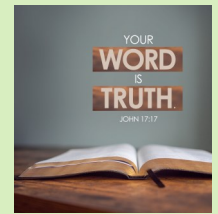
**Children’s Church** is available for children 4 years through 2nd grade. After the “Word with our Children”, they will be escorted to their classroom in the Nursery.

**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!



**Work on the sanctuary restroom will begin next week (week of March 17).** The restroom will be painted and will get new floor covering, fixtures, and mirrors. The room may be unavailable on Sunday March 24, but should be available shortly after that. The session has approved purchasing new equipment for the playground to add to what we already have. A climber and two bouncers will be purchased. Both the restroom work and new playground equipment will be funded by designated contributions that have already been received – not from the general budget. The team is studying other potential improvements (both indoors and outdoors) and will communicate as more is known.

**Wednesdays in the Word will soon embark on a 4-week Lenten study!** Join us each Wednesday, March 19 - April 9, as we contemplate Christ's Journey to the cross and the events of Holy Week. Adults will meet in the Fellowship Hall with Pastor Eddie. Children and Youth will meet on the third floor. The schedule is as follows: 5:30pm - Dinner for Youth; 6:00pm - PraiseMakers Rehearsal; 6:30pm - Adult and Youth Classes.



### 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.

**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 a 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!



**Linda's Closet will be open on Saturday, March 22 during the Health Market.** Volunteers will be needed. Please see Trish Nixon if you can help during the market. The closet is open weekly on Tuesdays, 11am-1:00pm.



**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!



**Middle and Senior High Youth are invited to the premiere of The Chosen, Season 5, at Southeast Cinemas – Carolina Mall!** The new Season of The Chosen begins with the events of Palm Sunday, and we will use these viewings as the basis for our Wednesday night discussions during Lent. Below is our schedule for viewing.

**Please sign up in the Narthex for each date you plan to attend!** See Michelle if you need more information.

Friday, March 28 – 6:45pm (Part 1); Meet at Chili's for dinner at 5:15pm

Friday, April 4 – 5:30pm (Part 2); Go to dinner after the movie

Saturday, April 12 – 1:00 pm (Part 3); Meet for lunch before the movie



**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 27! All women of the church are invited. Please let Michelle Walker know if you plan to attend.

Bring diapers/pure wipes and/or gift cards!



**This year, there will be multiple opportunities to pause during Holy Week** and contemplate more deeply Jesus' journey to the cross, His sacrificial death, and His triumphant resurrection.

Please invite others to these special services and events:

**Palm Sunday, April 13**

11am – Worship Service in Sanctuary

7:30pm – The Last Supper presentation (Leonardo da Vinci's famous painting “comes to life” as the disciples contemplate Jesus' declaration that one of them will betray Him.)

**Maunder Thursday, April 17**

6:30pm – Worship Service in Sanctuary

**Good Friday, April 18**

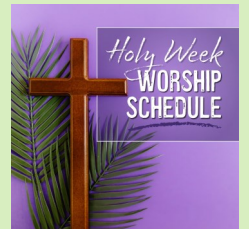
6:30pm – Worship Service with area churches in Sanctuary

**Saturday, April 19**

10am – 12pm – Children and Youth Easter Celebration (Join us for games, crafts, a cookout, and special treats as we contemplate Jesus' love for us.)

**Easter Sunday, April 20**

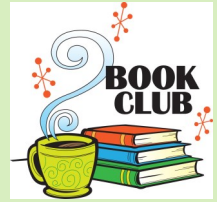
11am – Resurrection Worship Service with Special Music and Flowering of the Cross





**The JOY Group will be meeting for lunch at noon on Friday, March 28 at the China Grove Family Restaurant.** Please sign up in the Narthex. If you need a ride, contact Dave or Jane Argabrite.

**A BOOK CLUB will meet Monday, March 31 from 10:00-11:30am in the parlor.** Our first book is *At Home in Mitford* by Jan Karon. The book club is open to men and women. See Trish Nixon if you would like more information.



**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
- ◆ New or gently used bath towels

### 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
- Amy Morgan (Sharon Stricker's son's mother-in-law) - recovery from surgery for cancer that went well
- Kim Stipe (Kay McAllister's daughter) - chemo treatments
- Zelda West (Trish Nixon's granddaughter) - recovery from two surgeries
- Richard Hough (Eddie's friend) - recovery from brain surgery
- Justin Wallace (Melba Funderburk's grandson) - recovery from heart and kidney transplants and amputated foot
- Scott Maiocchi and family (Sue's son) - loss of mother-in-law
- Darrell Blalack (Linda Hathaway family) - chemo treatment for 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 PRES

## Sunday, March 16

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

## Tuesday, March 18

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

## Wednesday, March 19

3-6:30pm - Peek NexGen  
5:30pm - Youth Families' Dinner  
6:00pm - PraiseMakers Rehearsal  
6:30pm - Wednesdays in the Word

## Thursday, March 20

10:30am - Ladies' Bible Study  
12:00pm - NA  
3-6:30pm - Peek NexGen

## Friday, March 21

5:30pm - Health Market Set Up  
6:00pm - MH/SH Downtown Picture  
Scavenger Hunt

## Saturday, March 22

9:00am - Set up for Health Market  
9:30am to 1pm - Feeding Kannapolis  
Health Market/Linda's Closet

## Next Sunday, March 23

### 10 Cents A Meal

9:30am - Morning Coffee  
- GraceFull Movements  
Rehearsal  
10:00am - Sunday School  
11:00am - Worship Service  
3:00pm - Build Altar Extension for *The Last Supper* (Bring drills!)  
4:00pm - *The Last Supper* Rehearsal

## SERVANTS

**Elder Lock-Up:** Ken Sparks

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

**Children's Message Next Week:** Michelle Walker

**Children's Church:** Lynn Efird

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

**Acolytes:** Evie Sechler & Ingrid Townsend

**Acolytes next week:** Michael Herbst & Caylin Lowder

**Nursery:** Amelia Caskey

**Nursery next week:** Jennie Sparks

**Ushers:** Jeff Barnhardt, Eric Cowan, Mark Goodnight, Tony Hunter

**Ushers next week:** Amy Hurst, Chris Lowder, Mike Lowder, Sam McAllister

**Greeters:** Phil McLain, Roxanne Spencer

## FINANCIALS

### FOR FEBRUARY

**YTD Income** \$45,839.93

**YTD Expenses** \$52,418.45

**YTD Budget** \$53,269.84

**Last week's attendance: 3/9/2025**

**Worship AM - 112**

**Sunday School - 65**

