

I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

John 12:24

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Welcome

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

~ Gathering Before the Word ~**Welcome**

Eddie Spencer

Prelude

Dallas Boovy

Lighting of the Candles

Michael Herbst & Caylin Lowder

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol Him, all you people. For great is His love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

All: Praise the Lord!

Hymn of Praise No. 590O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

AZMON

***Prayer of Adoration and the 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

Heavenly Father, we confess that we have been unfaithful to our covenant with You and with one another. We have worshiped other gods: money, power, greed, and convenience. We have not loved our neighbor as You have commanded, nor have we rightly loved ourselves. Forgive us, gracious God, and bring us back into the fullness of our covenant with You and one another. It is through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray.

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

1 John 3:1-3

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. All who have this hope in Him purify themselves, just as He is pure.

Song of AssuranceJesus Paid it All*

See insert

~ Proclaiming the Word of God ~

Concerns and Celebrations of Our Church Family

Word With Our Children

Michelle Walker

Offering & Special Music

God Leads Us Along
Chancel Choir

Young

*Scripture Reading

Luke 23: 32-43

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Sermon

“Amen! You Will Be With Me”

Eddie Spencer

~ Responding to the Word of God ~

*Sending Hymn No. 177

Oh, To See The Dawn

Getty/Townsend

*Prayer and Benediction

Postlude

Nothing But the Blood

Lowry

*All who are able, please stand.

CCLI# 222113

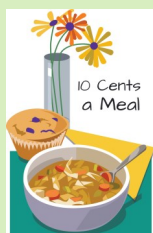
welcome

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!



This Sunday marks our monthly 10 Cents-A-Meal collection!

Our youth will be in the Narthex immediately following worship to collect your donations. These offerings are divided between Compassion International (we sponsor 3 children through this organization) and Cabarrus Meals on Wheels.



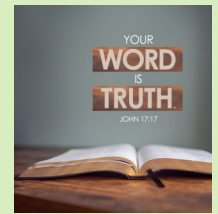
Work on the sanctuary restroom is in progress!

The room will likely be unavailable this Sunday March 23, but will be available by next Sunday. The room is being painted and will get new floor covering, fixtures, and mirrors.

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 Lenten study will continue this week!

Join us each Wednesday through 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.



The JOY Group will be meeting for lunch at noon THIS 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.

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 episodes 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

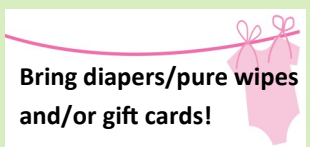
Saturday, April 12 – 1:00 pm (Part 3); Meet for lunch before the movie

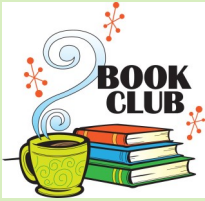


Women Without Reservations will meet for dinner on Sunday, March 30 at 6:00pm.

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. **Meet at Church at 5:00pm to carpool.**

Please let Michelle Walker know if you plan to attend.





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.

Make plans to attend these special Holy Week Services 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

11:00am – Worship Service in Sanctuary
7:30pm – *The Last Supper* presentation

Maunder Thursday, April 17

6:30pm – Worship Service with Communion 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

Easter Sunday, April 20

11:00am – Resurrection Worship Service with Special Music and Flowering of the Cross

The Last Supper - a Display of God's Faithfulness!



The 2025 performance of *The Last Supper* on Sunday, April 13, at 7:30pm, will mark the 21st presentation by the congregation of First Presbyterian Church, Kannapolis! The

original production of the tableau by Ernest Emurian took place on March 26, 1961, and showings have continued regularly in the 61 years since, yearly in the beginning, then most recently on a 3-year interval. 2022 marked the Church's most recent presentation. *The Last Supper* drama depicts Jesus and His 12 disciples, as imagined by artist Leonardo da Vinci, just after Jesus' announcement that one of the 12 will betray Him. In turn, the disciples "come alive" to ponder..."Is it I?" **Invite others and make plans to attend this moving worship service, as together we reflect on God's gift of salvation to all.**



Families and friends are invited to a Children and Youth Easter Celebration, Saturday, April 19, 10am -12pm. Join us for games, crafts, a cookout, and special treats as we contemplate Jesus' love for us. Please sign up in the Narthex!

Linda's Closet will be closed Tuesday, March 25 to reorganize after the Health Market. Regular Tuesday hours from 11:00am - 1:00pm will resume Tuesday, April 1st. To volunteer, 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 & new or gently used towels.

Thank you for your willingness to always open your church to the ministry of Operation Christmas Child!

And double thanks for showing us the ropes on how to work the tech on your new system. We are grateful for First Presbyterian and your steadfast partnership with OCC! Blessings, Susan Porter and the OCC Team.



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
- Amy Morgan (Sharon Stricker's son's mother-in-law) - recovery from surgery for cancer
- 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 transplants and amputated foot
- 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



join us in
PRAYER

This Week @ FIRST PRES

Sunday, March 23

10 Cents A Meal

9:30am - Morning Coffee
- Gracefull Movements & Acting
Out Rehearsal

10:00am - Sunday School

11:00am - Worship Service

3:00pm - Build Altar Extension for *The
Last Supper (Bring drills!)*

4:00pm - Last Supper Rehearsal

Monday, March 24

2:00pm - Dorcas Circle

Tuesday, March 25

12:00pm - NA

3-6:30pm - Peek NexGen

Wednesday, March 26

3-6:30pm - Peek NexGen

5:30pm - Youth Families' Dinner

6:00pm - PraiseMakers Rehearsal

6:30pm - Wednesdays in the Word

Thursday, March 27

10:30am - Ladies' Bible Study

12:00pm - NA

3-6:30pm - Peek NexGen

Friday, March 28

12:00pm - JOY Group at China Grove
Family Restaurant

5:15pm - Youth at Chili's

6:45pm - *The Chosen* at Southeast
Cinema

Next Sunday, March 30

9:30am - Morning Coffee
- GraceFull Movements
Rehearsal

10:00am - Sunday School

11:00am - Worship Service

4:00pm - Last Supper Rehearsal

6:00pm - Women Without Reservations
at Cheesecake Factory &
Showering Lauren Goodnight

SERVANTS

Elder Lock-Up: Ken Sparks

Children's Message this Week: Michelle
Walker

Children's Message next Week: Acting
Out

Children's Church: Sharon Cranford

Children's Church next Week: Roxanne
Spencer

Acolytes: Michael Herbst & Caylin Lowder

Acolytes next week: Camryn Lowder &
Mary Gray Peterson

Nursery: Jenny Sparks

Nursery next week: Megan Quigg

Ushers: Amy Hurst, Chris Lowder, Mike
Lowder, Sam McAllister

Ushers next week: Mal McDaniel, Jill &
Phil McLain, Todd Pless

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: 3/16/2025

Worship AM - 77

Sunday School - 55

