



THE WEEKLY FIRST



This Sunday we welcome 11 members of the Piedmont Choral Society who have graciously accepted Kay's invitation to help lead our worship. In addition to the talented singers from the Piedmont Choral Society, we are delighted to welcome Melanie Freeman, cellist and Derek Smith, trumpeter. It will be a good Sunday to invite friends and family to First Presbyterian to worship God.

I will be teaching from Jesus' Prayer in John 17. On Thursday night before retreating to the Garden of Gethsemane and in conclusion of His Thursday night teaching (John 13-17), Jesus prays: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that Your Son may glorify You. For You granted Him authority over all people that He might give eternal life to all those You have given Him." (John 17:1-2)

What is this "eternal life"? This will be the subject for the message Sunday.

Click the link below for a Lenten Devotional.

[Lenten Devotional 2025](#)

[Sunday Bulletin is Online!](#)



Welcome

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



PROJECT UPDATES:

Work is underway right now to replace all of the lights on the ceiling in the sanctuary with LED lights. Work is also underway to replace the burned-out chandelier lights. This is expected to be completed this week.

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. This work is expected to be completed by early summer.

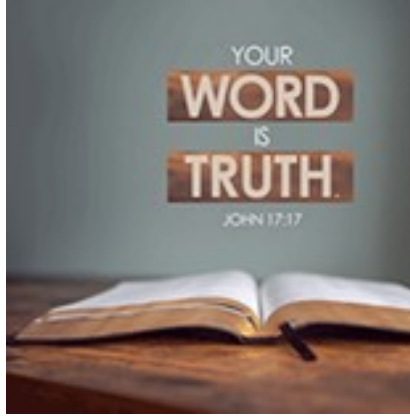
The team is studying other potential improvements (both indoors and outdoors) and will communicate as more is known.



Ladies' Thursday Bible Study group enjoying lunch together after the completion of their latest study.

New topic for Ladies' Thursday Bible Study

Come join our Ladies' Bible Study which meets on Thursdays at church beginning at 10:30am. Our new study is by Priscilla Shirer, **Discerning the Voice of God**. The author states, "Wherever you are in your spiritual walk, God will find a way to speak to you in a way you will understand. Become acquainted with the voice that has spoken from a fire and a cloud; with visible signs and an invisible Spirit; through a burning bush and burning hearts." The challenge as we study is to hear His voice more clearly in our lives.



Our Wednesdays in the Word concludes its Lenten study next Wednesday.

Join us Wednesday, April 9, as we continue to 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



A BOOK CLUB will meet Monday, April 14 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.

On Thursday, May 15 the Book club plans to visit The Mitford Museum in Hudson, NC. The museum is the former school of the author, Jan

Karon. We will meet at church at 9:00am and enjoy lunch at the museum.

If you would like to join them, please see Trish Nixon.



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

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

Maundy Thursday, April 17

- 6:30pm – Worship Service with Holy Communion in Sanctuary

Good Friday, April 18

- 6:30pm – Worship Service with area churches at Kimball Memorial Lutheran

Saturday, April 19

- 10am – 12pm – Children and Youth Easter Celebration

Easter Sunday, April 20

- 11:00am – Resurrection Worship Service with Special Music and



The Last Supper - a Display of God's Faithfulness! - Part 3

At His final Passover, Jesus startled His disciples when He told them, "One of you will betray Me." Their reaction was disbelief that anyone so close to the Master could do such a thing. They immediately searched their hearts, one by one, asking, "Is it I, Lord?" Writer Ernest Emurian spent several months studying Leonardo da Vinci's famous painting before giving words to the disciples' thoughts in his stirring drama, *The Last Supper*. Cast members include: Leonardo da Vinci (David Ellington, 2nd year), Leonardo's Assistant (Landon Walker), Narrator (Randy Whitley, 7th year), Jesus (Lynn Sechler, Jr., 6th year), Nathaniel (Mark Goodnight, 9th year), James the Lesser (Caleb Goodnight), Andrew (Fred Caskey, 2nd year), Simon Peter (Jim Lewis, 6th year), Judas Iscariot (Sam McAllister, 7th year), John (Phil McLain, 14th year), James (Toby Caskey), Thomas (William Cranford, 2nd year), Phillip (Phil Smith), Matthew (Donnie Swaringen, 3rd year), Thaddeus (Bill Stricker, 11th year), and Simon, the Zealot (Lee Efir, 15th year).

While the Women of the Church initiated the idea of presenting *The Last Supper* to the congregation, and the men volunteered to serve as the cast, the drama quickly became a church-wide project involving many members willing to serve with their time and talents. Volunteers working behind the scenes help with the construction of the set; make and alter costumes; provide music; set the stage; apply make-up and add wigs and beards; usher and greet guests; act as lighting technicians; organize publicity; staff the nursery; provide meals; and direct the production. With much prayer and collaboration, *The Last Supper* has proved to be a work of love and a blessing to everyone who sees it.

Don't miss First Presbyterian's 21st presentation on Palm Sunday, April 13 at 7:30pm.

Be sure to invite family and friends to 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 -12:30pm. Join us for games, crafts, a cookout, and special treats as we contemplate Jesus' love for us.
Please sign up in the Narthex.



Northwest Cabarrus Bible Teaching Association 14th Annual Car & Truck Show and Craft Fair benefiting NCHS Bible Courses is Saturday, May 3, 2025 from 9:00am – 3:00-pm at the NC Research Campus, 150 N. Research Campus Drive in Kannapolis.

If you are interested in more information,

please pick up a flyer in the Narthex.



**Kannapolis Bible Teaching Association (KBTA)
Fundraising Banquet
Monday, May 5, 2025**

6:00pm to 7:30pm

At Shoe Show, Inc. 2201 Trinity Church Road, Concord

If you would like to attend, please sign up in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Eddie.



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
- New or gently used bath towels

Please see Sam or Kay McAllister if you can help!



Linda's Closet is open on Tuesdays from 11:00am - 1:00pm.

No more winter clothes are needed at this time. Lightweight spring jackets would be appreciated until May. Also, men's and children's clothes are still needed.

Devotionals are often requested by closet visitors. If you have any to share, they would be appreciated.

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 - recovery from quadruple by-pass surgery

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CHURCH FAMILY

- Catherine Cox (Alice Jeanes' sister) - recovery from surgery
- Sam McAllister's daughter, Lori - has MS and now has pneumonia

- Sam McAllister's granddaughter, Rachel - exploratory surgery for brain cancer
- Kathy (Charlene Booth's friend) - recovery from two brain surgeries due to an accident
- Richard Hough (Eddie's friend) - recovery from brain surgery
- Amy Morgan (Sharon Stricker's son's mother-in-law) - starting chemo in three weeks
- 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 transplants kidney and amputated foot
- 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, April 6

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

Monday, April 7

- 10:30am - Women's Council

Tuesday, April 8

- 11am - 1:00pm - Linda's Closet
- 12:00pm - NA
- 3-6:00pm - Peek NexGen
- 6:45pm - Missions Team

Wednesday, April 9

- 3-6:00-pm - Peek NexGen
- 4:45pm - Children/Youth meet at Southeast Cinemas
- 6:30pm - Wednesdays in the Word

Thursday, April 10

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

Saturday, April 12

- 6:00pm - *The Last Supper Dress* Rehearsal

Next Sunday, April 13

- 9:30am - Morning Coffee
- GraceFull Movements & Acting Out Rehearsal
- 10:00am - Sunday School
- 11:00am - Worship Service
- 3:00pm - Last Supper Cast Assembles
- 7:30pm - *The Last Supper* Dramatic Presentation; Reception Following

SERVANTS

Elder Lock-Up: Ken Sparks

NO Children's Message this week

Children's Message Next Week: Acting Out Drama Ministry

Children's Church: Jenny Sparks

Children's Church next week: Michelle Walker

Acolytes: Evie Sechler & Ingrid Townsend

Acolytes next week: Caylin & Cierstyn Lowder

Nursery: Vickie Ellington

Nursery next week: Lynn Efird

Ushers: Tony Rary, Lynn Sechler, Phil Smith, Pam Hooks

Ushers next week: Ryan Walker, Jeff Barnhardt, Eric Cowan,
Mark Goodnight

Greeters: Sue Maiocchi and Renee Goodnight

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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