



FIRST

PRESBYTERIAN

CHURCH

Welcome

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

~ Gathering Before the Word ~**Welcome**

Eddie Spencer

Prelude**Lighting of the Candles**

Caylin Lowder & Mary Gray Petersen

***Call to Worship**

1 John 3:1-2

Leader: See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him.

All: 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.

Hymn of Praise No. 859Be Thou My Vision*

SLANE

***Prayer of Adoration and 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.

Celebration of Graduates***Hymn of Thanksgiving No. 863***Take My Life and Let it Be*

HENDON

~ Proclaiming the Word of God ~**Offering & Special Music***It Matters to the Master*

McCutcheon

Vocal Ensemble feat. Camryn Lowder & Mary Gray Petersen;
Angela Swicegood, piano

***Scripture Reading**

Ephesians 1:11-14

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Sermon

“Hope Explained”

Eddie Spencer

~ Responding to the Word of God ~

*Sending Song

Go Now in Peace
Vocal Ensemble; Angela Swicegood, piano

Besig

*Benediction

Postlude

*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!

We welcome Angela Swicegood, our guest musician, this morning!

Angela has served as a guest organist in the Charlotte area since 2000. She currently works with Park Scholarships and Jenkins MBA program at NC State. Angela and her husband, Steve, live in the Mountain Island Lake area, and they have two sons.



Today is Graduation Sunday! We are honoring our 2025 graduating high school seniors during the Worship Service. Please join us for a reception in their honor immediately following worship in the Fellowship Hall.

Congratulations to our High School Graduates!



Ella Anne Sechler will receive her diploma from Northwest Cabarrus High School on May 22.

During her senior year, she was a member of the girls' Golf Team, the English Honor Society, and the National Technical Honor Society. While attending high school, Ella has also worked at Lennon Boutique in Kannapolis. After graduation, she will continue her employment there as she contemplates furthering her education in business and/or cosmetology. Ella deeply appreciates the love, support, and prayers she has received growing up in First Presbyterian Church. She is excited to see where God leads her and would be grateful for continued prayers as she seeks His direction for her future. Ella's parents are Lynn and Shannon Sechler. Her grandparents are Steve and Judy Goodnight and Betty Sechler. She is sister to Elizabeth, Emma, and Evie.



Devin Bell is graduating on May 23 from The Cannon School.

This fall Devin will be attending Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire. He is going to major in Anthropology. Devin enjoys the outdoors, hiking, kayaking and tennis. His other hobbies include playing piano and chess. At the Cannon School, Devin was recently inducted into the Cum Laude Society, a National Scholarship Society for secondary schools. He was also inducted into the World Languages Honor Society for Chinese. Devin is the son of Edward and Jessica Bell, and brother to Brannon.

First Pres is partnering with the Cabarrus Women's Center for their "Baby Bottle Boomerang!" Simply pick up a baby bottle from the baskets in the Narthex. Fill it with loose change or a donation, or set it out for others to donate. Return the filled bottle by Father's Day, June 15. The Cabarrus Women's Center is a life-affirming pregnancy support center. See a Missions Team member for more information.



This summer, from June through August, Pastor Eddie will lead a combined adult Sunday School class in the Fellowship Hall. Missions Speakers will also join us throughout the summer. On Sunday June 1st, we welcome Jane Daniel of the Cabarrus Women's Center. Join us in the Fellowship Hall for breakfast, beginning at 9:30am, and Jane's presentation at 10am. Please join us as we continue to study God's Word together!



Mark your calendars for Youth Sunday, June 8! Rehearsals continue on the following Wednesdays: May 21, and June 4 at 6pm (dinner provided at 5:30pm). The final rehearsal will be Saturday, June 7 at 10am followed by lunch and an outing to Jocko's mini golf!

Youth Summer Kick-Off! This summer, our youth will enjoy many opportunities for fellowship, learning, and service. We begin with a **COLOR** Wars party on Saturday, June 21 in the playground area. Wear clothes that can get messy and wet, and bring an old towel. The fun begins with a cookout at 5pm. Invite friends and join us - just sign up in the Narthex so we have enough food!



The Women's Council will be electing new officers and representatives this fall. The Women's Council exists to serve all the Women of the Church and unite them in our mission to "know Christ, serve Him, and make Him known". If you are interested in serving on the Women's Council, which meets monthly to plan events and times of fellowship, please let Sharon Stricker or Judy Goodnight know.

The Missions Team is collecting "pull tabs" for the Charlotte area Ronald McDonald House found on soda and other canned goods. Please rinse the tabs and place them in the container in the Narthex.



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

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

Donations Needed: new boy & girl underwear; children's clothes, and men's clothes, especially pants.

Volunteers are needed on Tuesdays during closet hours and during the week for prep. If you can help, please contact Trish Nixon.



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

- Debra Dandro - recovery from surgery
- Barbara Boucher - improving after falls

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CHURCH FAMILY

- Bryan (Becky Seaford's son) - recovery from hip replacement surgery
- Amy Morgan (Adam Stricker's mother-in-law) - continuing with treatments
- Karen Miller (friend of Cresses) - non-small-cell carcinoma in lung
- Diane Crawford Odland (former pastor's wife) - diagnosis of cancer
- Henry (Diane Belotti's great nephew) - 2 year old with brain cancer
- Rachel Duval (Sam McAllister's granddaughter) - recovery from brain surgery
- Kim Stipe (Kay McAllister's daughter) - recovery from surgery
- Zelda West (Trish Nixon's granddaughter) - recovery from two surgeries
- Darrell Blalack (Linda Hathaway family) - one more chemo treatment for Hodgkins
- Barbara Coffey (friend of Judy Hunter) - cancer
- Thomas Dishman (friend of Judy Hunter) - recovery from kidney transplant

HOMEBOUND

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



This Week @ FIRST PRES

Sunday, May 18

Graduation Sunday!

9:30am - Morning Coffee
- GraceFull Movements
Rehearsal

10:00am - Sunday School

11:00am - Worship Service

12:00pm - Graduates' Reception in
Fellowship Hall

Monday, May 19

2:00pm - Dorcas Circle in Fellowship
Hall

Tuesday, May 20

11am - 1:00pm - Linda's Closet

12:00pm - NA

3:30-6:00pm - Peek NexGen

Wednesday, May 21

3:30-6:00pm - Peek NexGen

5:30pm - Youth Meal

6:00pm - Youth Sunday Rehearsal

Thursday, May 22

10:30am - Ladies' Bible Study

12:00pm - NA

3:30-6:00pm - Peek NexGen

Next Sunday, May 25

9:30am - Morning Coffee
- GraceFull Movements
Rehearsal

10:00am - Sunday School

11:00am - Worship Service

SERVANTS

Elder Lock-Up: Jeff Barnhardt

Children's Message This Week:

Recognize Grads

Children's Message Next Week: Roxanne
Spencer

Children's Church: Risa Little

Children's Church Next Week: Sharon
Cranford

Acolytes This Week: Caylin Lowder &
Mary Gray Petersen

Acolytes Next Week: Evie Sechler & Ingrid
Townsend

Nursery: Sharon Stricker

Nursery Next Week: Lynn Efird

Ushers: Mark Goodnight, Tony Hunter, Amy
Hurst, Chris Lowder

Ushers Next week: Mike Lowder, Sam
McAllister, Jill & Phil McLain

Greeters: Ken Sparks & Tony Rary

FINANCIALS FOR APRIL

YTD Income \$98,369.69

YTD Expenses \$101,571.15

YTD Budget \$106,539.68

Last week's attendance: 5/11/2025

Worship AM - 105

Sunday School - 64

SERMON NOTES

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION - ACTIVE ELDERS

Raegan Swaringen

Dave Ellington

Lynn Sechler

Cookie Hamilton

Chris Lowder

Ken Sparks

Sue Maiocchi

Phil McLain

Jeff Barnhardt, Clerk

Pastor Eddie Spencer, Moderator



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