



**FIRST**  

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**PRESBYTERIAN**  

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**CHURCH**

*Welcome*

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

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~ **Gathering Before the Word** ~

**Welcome**

Eddie Spencer

**Prelude**

**Lighting of the Candles**

Ingrid & Oliver Townsend

**\*Call to Worship**

John 15:13-15

Leader: My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are My friends if you do what I command.

**All: I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from My Father I have made known to you.**

**\*Hymn of Praise No. 831**

*Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*

HYFRYDOL

**\*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.

**Concerns and Celebrations of Our Church Family**

**Scripture Reading (in unison)**

Hebrews 2:17-18; 4:14-16

For this reason He had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that He might become a merciful and faithful High Priest in service to God, and that He might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because He Himself suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted. Therefore, since we have a great High Priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet He did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

**\*Song of Prayer No. 896**

*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*

Medema

## ~ Proclaiming the Word of God ~

**Word with Our Children**

Roxanne Spencer

**Offering & Special Music**

*Lily of the Valley*  
Chancel Choir

Hays

**\*Scripture Reading** Proverbs 17:17; 18:24; 26:18-19; 27:5,6,17

**Sermon**

“God’s Wisdom On Friends”

Eddie Spencer

## ~ Responding to the Word of God ~

**\*Sending Song No.**

*Friend in Jesus*  
PraiseMakers & Chancel Choir

Ingram/Cain/Matz

**\*Prayer and Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

\*All who are able, please stand.  
CCLI# 222113

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 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!

**A special thank you and welcome to Steve Thweatt,  
our guest musician, this morning!**

**Dear Church family, Thank you so, so much for all the texts, calls, cards, thoughts, and prayers during my breast cancer journey!** They all meant so much from my diagnosis in November 2023 to recovery from my last (fourth and hopefully final) surgery in May of this year. I am cancer free and finally officially released to start back doing all the things including running, biking, kayaking, and enjoying the water. Again, many, many thanks for all the love you sent my way!

**Love, Debra Dandro**

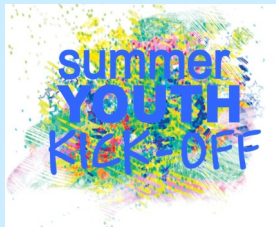
**Pastor Eddie and Roxanne will be out of the office from Monday, July 21 through Sunday, August 3.**

Dr. Trevor Smith, who led our Old Testament C.A.S.K.E.T. study, will substitute for Pastor Eddie on Sunday mornings. Should you need assistance during the week, please contact the church office (704) 938-4623; Steve Goodnight (980) 228-6450; or Michelle Walker (704) 223-1778.



**On Sunday, August 17, we will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of our Sanctuary's dedication with combined Sunday School, a special worship celebration, a display of items from the 1975 time capsule, and a reception on the front steps.** In conjunction with this commemoration, First Pres will launch "Building on the Cornerstone" – a fundraising effort for an exterior renovation which will include replacing shrubbery and walkways, repairing brickwork on the porches, adding more green space, and improving entryways and the courtyard. A full presentation will take place during Sunday School on August 10. We encourage you to invite family, friends, and past church members, and make plans to attend our celebration of God's faithfulness, as we anticipate His future for our church.





**Youth and friends, are invited to a “Share Your Gifts Summer”!** Our theme verse will be Colossians 3:23: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord...” Events will help us get to know each other, meet some new friends, and remember that we all have gifts to share.

**Wednesday, July 23: Gift of Serving at FPC Missions Night!**

We will pack bags for the Fence Ministry, Shady Brook Elementary, and Ronald McDonald House. Dinner is served at 5:30pm.

**Sunday, July 27: Family & Friends Pool Party for youth and families!** Join us for an afternoon at the pool at the NW Swim Club, 5000 Durneigh Dr., Kannapolis. Come as early as 3pm, then enjoy a cookout with hamburgers and hotdogs at 5pm. Please bring a side or dessert to share. **Sign up in the Narthex or on our website!**



**Self-Defense Class!** We are gauging interest from individuals of any age who would like to learn self-defense techniques. No dates have been set yet, but if you are interested, please sign an information sheet in the Narthex. See Vickie Ellington if you would like additional information - (704) 706-4395.

## MISSIONS FOCUS



**More Missions Speakers are scheduled for Sunday School! Join us for a continental breakfast beginning at 9:45am on the following Sundays:**

July 27 - Jeremy Churchill, The Outreach Foundation

August 3 - Ronald McDonald House

August 31 - Alisha Dixon, AYA House

**It's that time! We're beginning our collection for Operation Christmas Child!** This year the Missions Team has decided to pack 500 boxes for the 10-14 age group - 250 girls and 250 boys. Our collection will begin with a gift to “WOW” the children. For girls, a Barbie doll, there are several available for just under \$6 at Walmart. For boys, a harmonica, Amazon has some in the \$6.99-\$7.99 price range. If you purchase one of these place it in the red collection bin in the Narthex. You may also give online or with an offering marked for “Shoebboxes”. **You are also invited to a prayer walk this Saturday, July 26 at 9am to pray for our church's Drop-off collection this Fall.**



**Join us for an FPC Missions Night THIS Wednesday, July 23 at 6:00 pm!** Our youth will pack bags for Ronald McDonald house, and Shady Brook Elementary. Others will help organize for Linda's Closet, pack bags for our Fence Ministry, or help our Care Team make cards. We will also pray for these Missions.

## ONGOING OUTREACH



**The Missions Team is collecting “pull tabs” for the Charlotte area Ronald McDonald House.** These tabs can be found on soda cans, soup/vegetable cans, pet food containers, or other canned goods. Please rinse the tabs and place them in the container in the Narthex. **We would love to have as many as possible to give to our speaker on August 3!**

**Linda's Closet is open the 1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesdays for guests from 11:00am -1:00pm** for the months of July, August & September. Other Tuesdays will be “work days”. Boys clothes sizes 2-16 and men's clothes are especially needed. See Trish Nixon if you are interested in volunteering.



**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 and new or gently used 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

- Chad Eudy - health concerns

### FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CHURCH FAMILY

- Pat Haynes (Renee Goodnight's mother) - recovery from foot surgery
- Amy Morgan (Adam Stricker's mother-in-law) - continuing with treatments
- Kristen Cranford (Sharon's daughter) - health concerns
- Karen Miller (friend of Cresses) - non-small-cell carcinoma
- 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 surgery
- Barbara Coffey (friend of Judy Hunter) - cancer
- Thomas Dishman (friend of Judy Hunter) - kidney transplant

### HOMEBOUND

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

# This Week @ FIRST PRES

## Sunday, July 20

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

## Tuesday, July 22

11:00am - Linda's Closet Workday  
12:00pm - NA  
6:00pm - "Bldg on the Cornerstone"  
Team Meeting

## Wednesday, July 23

5:30pm - Youth & Families Dinner  
6:00pm - "Gift of Sharing" with FPCK  
Missions Night

## Thursday, July 10

12:00pm - NA

## Saturday, July 26

9:00am - OCC Prayer Walk

## Next Sunday, July 27

9:30am - Morning Coffee  
10:00am - Sunday School with Jeremy  
Churchill, The Outreach  
Foundation  
11:00am - Worship Service with Dr.  
Trevor Smith

## SERVANTS

**Elder Lock-Up:** Raegan Swaringen

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

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

**Children's Church This Week:** Jenny  
Sparks

**Children's Church next week:** Tracy  
Caskey

**Acolytes This Week:** Ingrid & Oliver  
Townsend

**Acolytes Next Week:** Michael Herbst &  
Mary-Gray Petersen

**Nursery:** Jenny Sparks

**Nursery Next Week:** Tracy Caskey

**Ushers:** Tony Hunter, Amy Hurst, Chris  
Lowder, Mike Lowder

**Ushers Next week:** Sam McAllister, Mal  
McDaniel, Phil & Jill McLain

**Greeters:** Chris Lowder, Donnie Swaringen

## FINANCIALS FOR JUNE

**YTD Income** \$152,252.30

**YTD Expenses** \$151,604.14

**YTD Budget** \$159,809.52

**Last week's attendance:** 7/13/2025

**Worship AM - 115**

**Sunday School - 74**

# 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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