



**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**

Michelle Walker

**Prelude**

Dallas Boovy

**Lighting of the Candles**

Michael Herbst & Mary-Gray Petersen

**\*Call to Worship**

Psalm 34:3-8

Leader: Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt His name together!

**All: I sought the Lord, and He answered me; He delivered me from all my fears.**

Leader: Those who look to Him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame.

**All: This poor man called, and the Lord heard him; He saved him out of all his troubles.**

Leader: The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him and He delivers them.

**All: Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him.**

**\*Hymn of Praise No. 372**

*When Morning Gilds the Sky*

LAUDES DOMINI

**\*Prayer of Adoration**

Dr. Trevor Smith

**Prayer of Confession**

Gracious Father, we come to You this morning and to You alone, for no one else can give us life. But sin has broken the road before us into a thousand pieces which give way whenever we walk upon them. Sin has broken us too so that we do not hate greed and sloth and selfishness as we ought. Sin has left us thinking we don't need You. So forgive us our foolish pride and our hard heartedness. And hear us as we confess our known sins to You in the silence of these next few moments.

**Silent Prayers of Confession**

**Apostle's Creed**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

**\*Song of Prayer No. 618** *Spirit of God, Who Dwells Within My Heart*

MORECAMBE

~ **Proclaiming the Word of God** ~

**Concerns and Celebrations of Our Church Family**

**Word with Our Children**

Michelle Walker

**Offering & Special Music**

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Manz

**\*Scripture Reading**

1 Corinthians 10:13

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**Sermon**

“Escapes to Freedom”

Dr. Trevor Smith

~ **Responding to the Word of God** ~

**\*Sending Song No.946** *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

AR HYD Y NOS

**\*Prayer and Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

*Fantasia on “Nun Danket”*

Livingston

\*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 Dr. Trevor Smith, our guest speaker and Angela Swicegood, our guest musician, this morning!**



**The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God, in loving memory of Hank Cranford, and in honor of Hank & Sharon's anniversary.**

**Pastor Eddie and Roxanne will be out of the office 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.



**Our "Share Your Gifts Summer" ends TODAY with a pool party at 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. See Michelle Walker if you have not signed up yet.

**Our annual "Blessing of the Bookbags" will occur during worship on Sunday, August 10.**

All students are invited to bring their school backpacks as we pray over our youth and the 2025-26 school year. We will also have magnets available in the Narthex for our Church family to "adopt" a child to pray for in the coming year.



**Christmas play practice will soon begin!** An interest meeting will be held immediately following worship on Sunday, August 10 in the Fellowship Hall. ALL youth are invited to participate!



**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.



**Dear Church Family,** I can't thank you enough for all the prayers, calls, visits, meals, and gift cards, both while I was in the hospital and as I was recovering at home. Your kindness and support have been such a comfort to me during this difficult time. Knowing I was being lifted up in prayer and cared for so deeply has meant more than words can express. I feel incredibly blessed to have such a loving and thoughtful church family.

**With heartfelt thanks and love, Shannon Sechler**

**Dear First Pres Church & Care Team,** Thank you so much for the prayers and get well cards. I really appreciate you thinking about me while I am recovering from my fall. It definitely lifted my spirit when I read each card. Thank you so much for showing Jesus' love to me!! **In Christ, Diane Bellotti**



### **Are you interested in learning Self-Defense?**

A class is being formed with a retired fireman, who has over 40 years teaching experience. Cost will be \$15; please sign up in the Narthex by TODAY if you are interested! Contact Vickie Ellington for more information - (704) 706-4395.

## **MISSIONS FOCUS**



### **Your support in our Baby Bottle Blessings Campaign has been amazing and the results were incredible!**

Your congregation was very generous with over \$1,200 given in support of our ministry. These funds will be put to good use glorifying God through actions showing His love.

**Cabarrus Women's Center**

### **More Missions Speakers are scheduled for Sunday School!**

Join us for a Continental Breakfast beginning at 9:45am on the following Sundays:

August 3 - Representative from 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 "Shoeboxes".

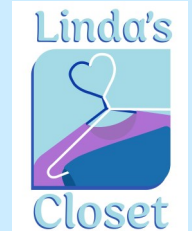


## ONGOING OUTREACH



**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, also new underwear for men/women/children are 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
- Betty Sechler - knee replacement surgery July 29
- Jenny & Ken Sparks - passing of Jenny's mother, Nadine S Hildebran

### 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-in-law) - aortic aneurysm
- 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 27

9:45am - Fellowship Breakfast  
10:00am - Sunday School with Jeremy Churchill, The Outreach Foundation  
11:00am - Worship Service with Dr. Trevor Smith  
3:00pm - Youth & Friends Pool Party & Cookout at NW Swim Club

## Tuesday, July 29

11am -1pm - Linda's Closet  
12:00pm - NA

## Thursday, July 31

12:00pm - NA

## Next Sunday, August 3

9:30am - Morning Coffee  
10:00am - Sunday School with Ronald McDonald House  
11:00am - Worship Service with Dr. Trevor Smith and Holy Communion

## SERVANTS

**Elder Lock-Up:** Raegan Swaringen

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

**NO Children's Message Next Week**

**Children's Church This Week:** Tracy Caskey

**Children's Church next week:** Sharon Stricker

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

**Acolytes Next Week:** Caylin & Cierstyn Lowder

**Nursery:** Tracy Caskey

**Nursery Next Week:** Sharon Stricker

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

**Ushers Next week:** Todd Pless, Tony Rary, Lynn Sechler, Ryan Walker

**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: 7/20/2025**

**Worship AM - 137**

**Sunday School - 59**

# SERMON NOTES

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION - ACTIVE ELDERS

**Raegan Swaringen**

**Cookie Hamilton**

**Sue Maiocchi**

**Sharon Cranford**

**Chris Lowder**

**Phil McLain**

**Tony Rary**

**Ken Sparks**

**Jeff Barnhardt, Clerk**

**Pastor Eddie Spencer, Moderator**



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