



**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**

*Meditation*

C.M. Widor

**Lighting of the Candles**

Evie Sechler & Ingrid Townsend

Choral Cal to Worship

*The Family Prayer Song*

Chapman

Chancel Choir; PraiseMakers; Amy Hicks, guitar; Kay Yates, piano

**\*Call to Worship**

Isaiah 28:16; Ephesians 2:19-22

Leader: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation.”

**All: Those who believe are “fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of His household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone.”**

Leader: In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.

**All: And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.”**

**\*Hymn of Praise No. 254**

*For All the Saints*

SINE NOMINE

**\*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.”**

**Celebration of First Presbyterian**

Larry Efird

**Reading on the Church**

1 Peter 2:4-10

Leader: As you come to Him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to Him— you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

**All: For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in Him will never be put to shame.”**

Leader: Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” and, “A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

**All: But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.**

**\*Hymn of Assurance No. 247**     *I Love Your Church, O Lord*     ST. THOMAS

**~ Proclaiming the Word of God ~**

**Word with Our Children**     Roxanne Spencer

**\*Doxology No. 965** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*     OLD HUNDREDTH

**Offering & Special Music**     *You Are My All In All*     Jernigan  
Chancel Choir; PraiseMakers; Amy Hicks, guitar; Kay Yates, piano

**\*Scripture Reading**     Matthew 16:13-19     Pages 1020-21

**Sermon**     "Building on the Cornerstone"     Eddie Spencer

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

**\*Sending Song**     *To God Be the Glory*     Crouch  
Chancel Choir; PraiseMakers

**\*Prayer and Benediction**

**\*Postlude**     *Festival Voluntary*     F. Peeters

\*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 Christopher Brayne, our guest musician, this morning!**

## Building on the Cornerstone



**We are pleased to welcome you to the celebration of our Sanctuary's 50th Anniversary!** Please take time to look around the Fellowship Hall and the Narthex for displays of church history and remembrances from members. You are invited to a reception on the Front Steps immediately following the Worship Service.

**Dear First Presbyterian Family,** Thank you for all the calls, texts, cards, conversations and food you sent Ken and me recently. Your kindness and caring means a lot during my mother's passing. I want to especially thank Roxanne and Eddie for diligently checking on me. Thank you Youth of First Presbyterian for the sweet cards you sent. I love them. This church family is indeed a community living and sharing Christ's love. Jenny & Ken Sparks



**Dear Friends,** Thank you for your generous contribution of \$500.00 in support of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Charlotte. Your ongoing support ensures that our House and hospital programs remain a source of strength and stability during life's most challenging moments. Thank you for standing with us and helping Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Charlotte reach further for the families we serve. Warm regards, Darrell McGill Jr., Corporate Relations Manager

**We are deeply grateful** for Kay Yates who has served in our music ministry since 2014. Following her "retirement" this Spring, she has even served as our volunteer choir director this summer. Please share your thanks with Kay as we celebrate her love for our Lord and her heart for the music ministry at First Pres.



**Join us for Movie Night in the Pavilion on Friday, September 5!** Set in the 1970s, the movie tells the story of a Christian movement amongst hippies in Southern California, including its influence on a now-prominent pastor. All ages are invited for dinner (pizza & salad) at 7pm. The movie will start around 8pm. We will move into the Fellowship Hall if weather is inclement. Registration is requested (online or in

the Narthex) so we have enough food. Please invite friends and family, don your 70's best, and bring a lawn chair or beach blanket for some "revolutionary" fun!!!

**FaithFest - a Christian Music Festival - is back this September in Wilkesboro, NC!** The youth

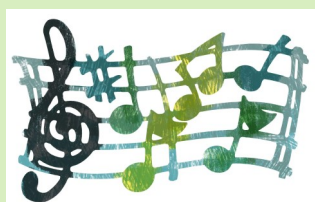
and families are invited to attend on Saturday,

September 13. We will leave the church around 2pm. Food trucks and vendors are available on site. We will return after the last act, around 10pm. Please sign up in the Narthex ASAP so we can arrange transportation! See Michelle for more info.





**A Ladies' Bible Study meets each Thursday at 10:30am.** They are following Max Lucado's "In the Footsteps of the Savior" - a video study. It is a journey through the hills, dust, and homes of the Holy Land, including Capernaum, Galilee, Bethany, Jerusalem. and others. Weaving insights from his own travels to Israel with teaching from his books, Lucado will guide us to walk where Jesus walked and ponder the promises Jesus made. **See Alpha Barger for more information.**



**Want to have some "wicked" good fun this fall?** *Wicked*, the musical, is coming to Blumenthal Performing Arts in Charlotte! A group will travel to the 7pm performance on Sunday, October 26. **Seating is limited, so please see Michelle Walker by TODAY if you would like to go.**

**A self-defense class will be held THIS Saturday, August 23 from 10:30am - 12pm in our Fellowship Hall.** All ages, male and female, are invited to join us. The class will be led by a retired fireman, who has over 40 years of teaching experience. The cost is \$15.00 per person. Contact Vickie Ellington for more information - (704) 706-4395.



## MISSIONS FOCUS



**The Missions Team invites you to an all-church Sunday School presentation!** On Sunday, August 24 at 10:00am, Adam & Toby Caskey will detail their recent Mission trip to Alaska! Children, youth, and adults will meet in the Fellowship Hall. Continental breakfast begins at 9:45am.

### Mark your calendar for our next FPC Missions Night!

Join us on Wednesday, August 27 at 6:00pm as we continue to highlight the missions of our church, find ways we can be involved, and pray over our outreach efforts.



**Collection for our 500 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes continues!** We will pack 250 for girls and 250 for boys, ages 10-14. For the month of August our focus is school supplies. **Needs are:**

Wooden pencils      Packs of skinny markers  
Pencil sharpeners      Ink pens  
Wireless notebooks or note pads

Place donations in the red collection bin in the Narthex. You may also give online or with an offering marked for "Shoeboxes".



## ONGOING OUTREACH



**Linda's Closet is open the 1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesdays from 11:00am -1:00pm** in August & September. Other Tuesdays will be "work days". See Trish Nixon if you can volunteer. Current needs:  
\* Boys clothes, sizes 2-16 \* Men's clothes \*New underwear for all



**Thank you for donating to the First Pres Blessing Fence!**  
See Sam or Kay McAllister if you can help with current needs:  
\*small cosmetic bags \*feminine products \*new/gently-used towels



**The Missions Team is collecting "pull tabs" for the Charlotte-area Ronald McDonald House.** Rinse the tabs (from sodas, soup/veg cans) and place them in the container in the Narthex.

## 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

- Sharon Cranford - hip replacement Sept . 4
- Chad Eudy - health concerns
- Betty Sechler - recovery from knee surgery
- Bynam Phillips (Jerry Phillips' son) - gravely ill
- Angel Dixon - recovery from infection

### FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CHURCH

- Sonny Darling (Lisa Salisbury's grandson) - in hospital
- Thomas "Bran" James (friend of Pam Hooks) - 10 yr old with stomach cancer
- Family of Henry Byham (Diane Bellotti's 2<sup>1/2</sup> yr old great-nephew) - on his passing
- 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 surgery 9/15
- Jane McDaniel (Mal & Debbie's daughter-in-law) - testing for health concerns
- Chris Race (family of Trish Nixon) - colon cancer
- Cara Mistal (Trish Nixon's niece) - cancer
- Christine Bork (Trish Nixon's niece) - cancer
- 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) - another surgery in September
- 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, August 17

9:45am - Morning Coffee  
10:00am - Building on the Cornerstone  
Sunday School Celebration  
11:00am - Building on the Cornerstone  
50th Anniversary Worship  
12:00pm - 50th Anniversary Reception  
on Front Steps

## Tuesday, August 19

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

## Thursday, August 21

10:30am - Ladies' Bible Study  
12:00pm - NA

## Saturday, August 23

10:30 am - Self Defense Class

## Next Sunday, August 24 -

### 10 Cents a Meal!

9:45am - Fellowship Breakfast  
10:00am - All-Church Sunday School w/  
Adam & Toby Caskey  
11:00am - Worship Service

## SERVANTS

**Elder Lock-Up:** Ken Sparks

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

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

**Children's Church This Week:** Lynn Efird

**Children's Church next week:** Debbie  
McDaniel

**Acolytes This Week:** Evie Sechler & Ingrid  
Townsend

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

**Nursery:** Lynn Efird

**Nursery Next Week:** Debbie McDaniel

**Ushers:** Mark Goodnight, John Hammond,  
Tony Hunter, Amy Hurst

**Ushers Next week:** Chris Lowder, Mike  
Lowder, Sam McAllister, Mal McDaniel

**Greeters:** Tony Rary, Debbie McDaniel

## FINANCIALS FOR JULY

**YTD Income** \$174,641.81

**YTD Expenses** \$171,193.16

**YTD Budget** \$186,444.44

**Last week's attendance:** 8/10/2025

**Worship AM - 130**

**Sunday School - 70**

# 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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