



**FIRST**  

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**PRESBYTERIAN**  

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**CHURCH**

*Welcome*

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

**~ Gathering Before the Word ~****Welcome**

Pastor Eddie

**Prelude***America, the Beautiful*

arr. Philip Keveren

**Lighting of the Candles**

Ingrid &amp; Oliver Townsend

**\*Call to Worship**

John 15:13-16, 17

Leader: Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

**All: You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business.**

Leader: Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit.

**All: This is my command: Love each other.**

**\*Hymn of Praise No. 876**

BEACH SPRING

*God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending***\*Prayer of Adoration****Confession of Sins**

Covenant God, we humbly confess that we can be an anxious and fearful people. We do not trust You as we should: we are slow to seek You in prayer and quick to forget Your faithfulness. Forgive us for doubting You. Forgive us for placing our trust in possessions, power, and the wisdom of people. Renew us that we might walk by faith and not by sight. Keep us steadfastly devoted to Christ. For we pray in the strong name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Silent Prayers of Confession****Assurance of the Gospel**

John 6:39-40

“And this is the will of Him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that He has given Me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in Him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day .”

**\*Hymn of Assurance No. 897**

CONVERSE/ERIE

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

## ~ Proclaiming the Word of God ~

### Concerns and Celebrations of Our Church Family

**\*Doxology No. 965**

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

### Offering & Special Music

**\*Scripture Reading**

Exodus 33:7-11

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**Sermon**

“Friendship with God”

Pastor Eddie

## ~ Responding to the Word of God ~

**\*Sending Song No. 396** *For the Fruit of All Creation*

AR HYD Y NOS

**\*Prayer and Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

*Land of Rest*

setting by Gilbert M. Martin

\*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!



**We are pleased to welcome Dr. Valarie Valois as our Director of Music!** To call Valarie accomplished is an understatement - she brings years of experience as a pianist, organist, vocalist, conductor, composer, and teacher to First Pres. Valarie has studied and performed all over the world, and we are blessed to have her on staff. When not performing or planning services, Valarie enjoys gardening, reading, documentaries, good food, and

“celebrating the simple and extraordinary miracles of living every day.” Please take time to extend your own words of greeting to Valarie!



**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!!!

**Genesis Sunday is set for September 7!** We will begin at 9:30am with breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. At 10am, Fall Sunday School classes will be introduced for all ages. Offerings this year are:

- Disciples Class (Dave Argabrite) - Books of 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, and 1 & 2 Peter
- Friendship Class (Vickie Ellington) - Our Heritage as Presbyterians
- Heart Sisters (Sandy Bessent & Becky Seaford) - Spiritual Disciplines
- Guardians Class (Raegan Swaringen) - The Gospel of Luke
- Navigators (Tracy & Amelia Caskey) - Middle & Senior High Youth
- Seekers (Carol Lowder, Sharon Stricker, Alpha Barger)- Elementary Youth



**Fall Wednesday Night Activities Begin September 10!** September schedule is as follows:

September 10: *Wednesdays in the Word* Pastor Eddie will lead an adult class from 6:30pm-7:30pm. Children and youth will meet for pizza at 5:30pm, play practice from 6:00pm-6:45pm, then have their own classes until 7:30pm. (Continues

on the 1st Wednesday of each month.)

September 17: *Wednesdays in Prayer* Adults will meet at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary, and follow guided prayer time together. Children and Youth schedule remains the same. (Continues on the "middle" Wednesdays of each month.)

September 24: *Wednesdays in Mission* continue as we participate in many of the Missions Projects of our Church. Children and Youth schedule remains the same. (Continues on the last Wednesdays of the month.)

**FaithFest Christian Music Festival is coming soon!** Youth and families are invited on Saturday,

September 13. We will leave the church around 2pm and return after the last act, around 10pm. Artists featured include Jason Crabb, Cochren & Co., Ben Fuller, Charity Gayle, and Phil Wickham. Special guest spaker is Greg Laurie. Food trucks and vendors are available on site. Please sign up in the Narthex ASAP so we can arrange transportation! See Michelle for more info.







**The Dorcas Circle of Hope will resume meeting on Monday, Sept. 22 at 2pm in the Fellowship Hall.** They meet regularly on the 4th Monday of the month for fellowship and Bible study. This year, their focus will be on Randy Alcorn's book, *Heaven*. All ladies are welcome. See Carol Lowder for more information.



**The Building on the Cornerstone capital campaign is underway to raise funds to make exterior renovations to the church property.** Our aspiration is to complete fundraising by early 2026, and have the work done in the spring. The vision is to rejuvenate the outside of the church for continued ministry well into the future. If you would like to donate, mark your offering for "Cornerstone".



**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".

**Join us on September 21 for an Operation Christmas Child Sunday!** A church-wide Sunday School at 10am will feature guest speaker Marvellous Okonne. Marvellous received a shoebox gift as an 8-year-old living in Central Africa. He will share how that gift continues to remind him of God's love.

During the worship service, we will celebrate 5 years as a Drop-Off Collection site for area shoeboxes.

Following worship, the Missions Team will provide a spaghetti dinner on a donation basis. All proceeds will go towards our shoebox packing efforts.

**Thank you for your faithful support of this ministry!**



## ONGOING OUTREACH



**Linda's Closet is open the 1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesdays of the month from 11:00am -1:00pm.** Other Tuesdays are "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

- Connie Lisenby - surgery on September 5
- Angela Miller - recovery from bad fall and broken wrist
- Jerry Phillips and family - on the passing of her son, Bynum Phillips
- Sharon Cranford - recovery from hip replacement
- Chad Eudy - health concerns
- Betty Sechler - recovery from knee surgery

### FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CHURCH

- Sonny Darling (Lisa Salisbury's grandson) - recovering from hospital stay
- Thomas "Bran" James (friend of Pam Hooks) - 10 yr old with stomach cancer
- 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 31

9:45am - Fellowship Breakfast  
10:00am - Sunday School w/  
Alisha Dixon of the AYA  
House  
11:00am - Worship Service

## Tuesday, September 2

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

## Thursday, September 4

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

## Friday, September 5

7:00pm - Movie Night  
12:00pm - NA

## Next Sunday, September 7

9:30am - Fellowship Breakfast  
10:00am - Genesis Sunday/Sunday  
School  
11:00am - Worship Service

## SERVANTS

**Elder Lock-Up:** Ken Sparks

**Children's Message This Week:** none

**Children's Message Next Week:** none

**Children's Church This Week:** Megan Quigg

**Children's Church next week:** Risa Little

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

**Acolytes Next Week:** Landon Walker & Mary-Gray Petersen

**Nursery:** Megan Quigg & Lynn Efird

**Nursery Next Week:** Risa Little

**Ushers:** Phil & Jill McLain, Todd Pless, Tony Rary

**Ushers Next week:** Lynn Sechler, Phil Smith, Pam Hooks, Ryan Walker

**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:** 8/24/2025

**Worship AM - 116**

**Sunday School - 67**

# 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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