



FIRST

PRESBYTERIAN

CHURCH

Welcome

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

~ **Gathering Before the Word** ~

Welcome

Pastor Eddie

Prelude

Like a River Glorious

Setting by Walters

Lighting of the Candles

Mary-Gray Petersen & Landon Walker

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 103:1-5

Leader: Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name.
Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all His benefits,

All: Who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

***Hymn of Praise No. 604**

To God Be the Glory

Crosby

***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.

Confession of Faith

Heidelberg Catechism Question 1

Leader: What is your only comfort in life and death?

All: That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him.

***Hymn of Assurance No. 833**

There is a Redeemer

Green

~ **Proclaiming the Word of God** ~

Offering and Special Music *My God, and Is Thy Table Spread*

Valarie Valois, organ

Setting by Callahan

***Scripture Reading**

Psalm 103:8-18

Page 595

Sermon

“Love as the Perfect Father”

Pastor Eddie

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

~ Responding to the Word of God ~

***Sending Song**

How Beautiful
Chancel Choir

Paris

***Prayer and Benediction**

***Postlude**

Eternal Father, Strong to Save Setting by Lachenauer

*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!



As our church family celebrates the Sacrament of Holy Communion, we also traditionally collect for our Good Samaritan Fund. This fund allows the church pastor and staff to assist those in need - both in our church and in our community. If you would like to contribute, please place your donation in the 'Good Samaritan Fund' envelope, or mark your offering envelope 'Good Samaritan Fund'.

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* At 6:30pm, Rev. Dr. Trevor Smith will lead adults through a time of guided prayer in the Sanctuary. 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 THIS Saturday, September 13!

Youth and families 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 speaker is Greg Laurie. Food trucks and vendors are available on site. **TODAY, Sept 7, is the last day to sign up.** All who plan to attend FaithFest are asked to meet in the parlor immediately following worship TODAY, Sept 7.

The Women's Council, which represents all the women of First Presbyterian, will resume monthly meetings on Monday, September 8 at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall. Officers will also be elected at this meeting. ALL women who are interested in the work of the Women's Council or would like to serve on the Council are welcome to attend. See Sharon Stricker for more information, or if you can't make the meeting time.



The JOY Group (Just Older Youth) is back this fall!

Anyone 55 or older is invited to gather monthly for fun, inspiration, practical tips, fellowship, and friendship. We will meet on Friday, September 26th at 12pm in the Fellowship Hall. Chicken Salad on Croissants and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side or dessert to share. Sign up in the Narthex

or see Dave or Jane Argabrite for more information. Come join the JOY – because life is better when we share it together!



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 revitalize the outdoor property around the church. Changes will be made to improve the appearance, safety, and security of the church grounds while reducing the effort required for ongoing maintenance. Plans are for the work to be done in the spring of 2026. If you wish to contribute, write a check to First Pres with "Cornerstone" on the memo line or contribute through the church website. Thanks to all who have contributed already!



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 September, our focus is personal care items. **Needs are:**

250 hair combs 250 hair brushes
 250 boys' ankle socks 250 girls' ankle socks
 250 packs girls' and 250 packs boys' underwear
 250 girls' hair accessories 250 boys' sunglasses

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 - recovery from surgery
- Tony Rary - multiple myeloma
- Carol Lowder - breast cancer; surgery 10/2
- Sandy Boucher-Bessent - eye surgery 9/17 and 10/1
- Angela Miller - recovery from surgery on 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

- Thomas "Bran" James (friend of Pam Hooks) - 10 yr old with stomach cancer
- Sonny Darling (Lisa Salisbury's grandson) - more testing needed
- 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, September 7

9:45am - Fellowship Breakfast
10:00am - Genesis Sunday for Sunday School in Fellowship Hall
11:00am - Worship Service with Holy Communion

Monday, September 8

10:30am - Women's Council in Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, September 9

11am -1:00pm - Linda's Closet Workday
12:00pm - NA
3:30pm-6pm - Peek NexGen
6:45pm - Missions

Wednesday, September 10

3:30pm-6pm - Peek NexGen
5:30pm - Youth/Families Dinner
6:00pm - Christmas Play Practice
6:30pm - Wed in the Word with Pastor Eddie
6:45pm - Children/Youth Classes

Thursday, September 11

10:30am - Ladies' Bible Study
12:00pm - NA
3:30pm-6pm - Peek Nex Gen
6:00pm - Pilot Club in Fellowship Hall

Saturday, September 13

2:00pm - Youth & Families to FaithFest

Next Sunday, September 14

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

SERVANTS

Elder Lock-Up: Cookie Hamilton

Children's Message This Week: none

Children's Message Next Week: Michelle Walker

Children's Church This Week: Risa Little

Children's Church next week: Vickie Ellington

Acolytes This Week: Mary-Gray Petersen & Landon Walker

Acolytes Next Week: Michael Herbst & Caylin Lowder

Nursery: Risa Little

Nursery Next Week: Vickie Ellington

Ushers: Lynn Sechler, Phil Smith, Pam Hooks, Ryan Walker

Ushers Next week: Jeff Barnhardt, Eric Cowan, Mark Goodnight, John Hammond

Greeters: Sue Maoicchi, Roxanne Spencer

FINANCIALS FOR JULY

YTD Income \$174,641.81

YTD Expenses \$171,193.16

YTD Budget \$186,444.44

Last week's attendance: 8/31/2025

Worship AM - 122

Sunday School - 50

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



First Presbyterian Church • 201 Vance Street • Kannapolis, NC 28081
704-938-4623 • www.firstpresb.org