



FIRST

PRESBYTERIAN

CHURCH

Welcome

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

~ Gathering Before the Word ~

Welcome

Pastor Eddie

Prelude

Ceaseless Praise

Giamanco

Lighting of the Candles

Oliver Townsend & Landon Walker

***Call to Worship**

Based on 1 Peter 2

Leader: Come to Him, the Living Stone, rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to Him.

All: As His holy priesthood, we gather to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Leader: Come to Him as His chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession.

All: Let us declare the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

***Hymn of Praise No. 776**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN FESTE BURG

Prayer of Adoration

Confession of Sins

Heavenly Lord, Your name is a strong tower. The righteous run to it and are safe, for You are our refuge and strength. Yet, we confess that our fears are legion. We are afraid to love, afraid to commit ourselves, afraid of what others think, afraid of rejection, afraid of failure, and afraid of what the future might bring. Show us that Jesus Christ is Your protection of us, Your presence with us, and Your power in us. Forgive us, for the glory of our Savior's name, Jesus Christ the Lord.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of the Gospel

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

***Hymn of Assurance**

Rock of Ages

See Insert

~ Proclaiming the Word of God ~

Concerns and Celebrations of Our Church Family

Word With Our Children

Acting Out Drama Ministry

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

Offering and Anthem

People of the Lord
Chancel Choir

JENNY VAN TSCHEGG

***Scripture Reading**

James 2:1-13

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Sermon

“Gospel Community”

Pastor Eddie

~ Responding to the Word of God ~

***Sending Song No. 925**

Go to the World

ENGELBERG

***Prayer and Benediction**

***Postlude**

Built on the Rock KIRKEN/Setting by Giamanco

*All who are able, please stand.

CCLI# 222113

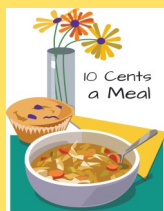
welcome

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!

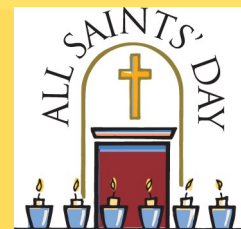


This Sunday marks our monthly 10 Cents-A-Meal

collection! Our youth will be in the Narthex immediately following worship to collect your donations. These offerings are divided between Compassion International (we sponsor 3 children) and Cabarrus Meals on Wheels.

Next Sunday, Nov. 2, we will commemorate All Saints

Sunday. Our worship will include a time to remember those in our church family who passed away between November 2024 and October 2025. If there is a name you believe should be included, please see Pastor Eddie or Michelle today!



Reformation Sunday

Today, many Protestant churches celebrate Reformation Day. On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed 95 Thesis/Protests on the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, Germany. These protests were surreptitiously printed into the German language and became a catalyst for a movement which eventually became widely known as the Protestant Reformation.

Luther, Calvin and other Reformers, guided by biblical convictions, sought to reorient Christianity on the foundations of the Apostles and Prophets with Jesus Christ as the Chief Cornerstone (Eph 2:29). The five "Solas" (Latin phrases which gave unity and summarized the core theological convictions of the Protestant Reformation are as follows:

- Sola Scriptura (Scripture Alone): The Bible alone is our highest authority.
- Sola Fide (Faith Alone): We are saved through faith alone in Jesus Christ.
- Sola Gratia (Grace Alone): We are saved by the grace of God alone.
- Solis Christus (Christ Alone): Jesus Christ alone is our Lord, Savior, and King.
- Soli Deo Gloria (To the Glory of God Alone): We live for the Glory of God alone.

In these days, may God grant us deeper faith and courage to hold fast to the Word of God, rest in the Gospel of Christ, and live for the glory of our great and glorious God.



All are invited to attend the Chili Cookoff and Homemade Dessert Sale NEXT Sunday, Nov. 2 after the worship service! This will be a time for fellowship as well as a fundraiser for the campaign.

Please sign up in the narthex THIS Sunday if you can bring any of the following items:

- 1) a crockpot of chili (can be any variety – mild, spicy, veg, etc.)
- 2) a homemade dessert to sell (cake, pie, cookies, fudge, etc.)

Also please sign up if you can help with setup or cleanup.



Christmas Play Practice continues, as we prepare for our presentation on December 7! Upcoming practices include:

Wed, Oct. 29 - 5-6pm in Sanctuary (Serve at Supper 6-7:30pm)

Wednesday, Nov 5 - 5:30-6pm in Sanctuary (Dinner at 5pm)

Wednesday, November 12 - 5-5:30pm in Sanctuary

Wednesday, November 19 - 6-7:30pm in Sanctuary (Dinner at 5:30pm)

Sunday, November 23 - 4:30-5:30pm in Sanctuary

Sunday, November 29 - 3-4:30pm in Sanctuary





The JOY Group will meet again on Friday, October 31 at 12pm in the Fellowship Hall. Heath Burchett will be sharing updates from his "Watchmen of the Streets" ministry. Sign up in the Narthex to bring soup, side or dessert. Brush up on your trivia for some fun and games!

The next Men's Fellowship Dinner will be held Thursday, November 6 at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. Menu will be steak or chicken, potato, salad and dessert for a suggested donation of \$15. **Sign up in the Narthex by next Sunday, November 2nd.**



Our Wednesday in Mission, October 29 from 6:00-7:30pm, will be a Winter Clothing Giveaway and Soup Supper! You can help! Please donate new or gently used winter coats, gloves, toboggans, and clothing. Volunteers will also be needed to cook soup, serve, assist shoppers, and clean up. Youth will help serve the meal. **Place donations in the Linda's Closet bins outside the Fellowship Hall and sign up in the Narthex if you can serve with us!**

Collection is ending for our 500 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes continues! We will soon pack 250 girls and 250 boys, ages 10-14. If you would still like to donate, you may give online or with an offering marked for "Shoeboxes", by NEXT Sunday, Nov. 2nd!



It's time to pack our OCC shoeboxes! Wednesday nights in November will be dedicated to our packing efforts. All ages are invited to join in! **Wednesday, November 5; 6:00pm: OCC Craft Night** We'll finish our girls' hairbows and boys' tic tac toe sets.

Wednesday, November 12: OCC Packing Party

5:30pm - Pizza dinner (Donation basis) 6:00pm - Packing

Help us pack, pray for, and organize our OCC shoeboxes! We'll celebrate with dessert and hot cider after packing.



First Pres will once again serve as an OCC Shoebox Drop-Off Location from Monday, November 17 through Monday, November 24. Volunteers are needed to greet our guests, and help collect, count and cartonize their shoebox donations. Cartons will be transported to Pitts Baptist Church on Monday, November 24 at 12pm. The schedule is in

the Narthex. **Please sign up if you can help, or see Michelle Walker for more information!**



Come see the next step in a shoebox's journey!

We have secured 30 volunteer spots at the OCC Warehouse in Charlotte to process shoebox donations on Saturday, November 22 from 2pm-6pm. Meet at church at 1pm to carpool and join us for dinner immediately after. Volunteers must be 13 or over, and chaperones are required for youth. **Sign up in the Narthex or see Michelle Walker for more information**



Dear Church Family, Roxanne and I are so grateful for your commemoration of Pastor Appreciation Sunday. Although I wasn't present in-person, your thoughts and concerns for me are certainly appreciated. We are blessed to serve you, and we love you all!

Eddie and Roxanne Spencer

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



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

- Jean Bost - recovery from a fall
- Heath Culp - recovery from dental surgery
- Tony Rary - multiple myeloma treatments
- Carol Lowder - good report - treatments begin in November
- Walker Family - loss of Tommy Walker
- Judy Hunter - loss of friend Barbara Coffey
- Chad Eudy - health concerns

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CHURCH

- Sara Bailey Wooten's niece - recovery from injuries after accident
- Thomas "Bran" James (friend of Pam Hooks) - 10-yr-old with stomach cancer
- Zelda West (Trish Nixon's granddaughter) - recovery from another surgery
- Jessica McDaniel's stepdad - sepsis
- Rachel Duval (Sam McAllister's granddaughter) - recovery from brain surgery
- Kim Stipe (Kay McAllister's daughter) - recovery from surgery

HOMEBOUND

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



This Week @ FIRST PRES

Sunday, October 26

10 Cents A Meal

Reformation Sunday

9:30am - Morning Coffee

10:00am - Sunday School

11:00am - Worship Service

7:00pm - *Wicked* Outing

Monday, October 27

2:00pm - Dorcas Circle in F Hall

Tuesday, October 28

11am -1:00pm - Linda's Closet Workday

12:00pm - NA

3:30pm-6pm - Peek NexGen

Wednesday, October 29

3:30pm-6pm - Peek NexGen

5-6:00pm - Christmas Play Practice

6pm-7:30pm - Soup/Clothing Giveaway

6:00pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 30

10:30am - Ladies' Bible Study

12:00pm - NA

3:30pm-6pm - Peek Nex Gen

Friday, October 31

12:00pm - JOY Group in Fellowship Hall

Next Sunday, November 2

All Saints Sunday

Daylight Savings Time Ends

9:30am - Morning Coffee

10:00am - Sunday School

11:00am - Worship Service with Holy Communion

12:00pm - "Building on the Cornerstone"
Chili Cookoff/Bake Sale

SERVANTS

Elder Lock-Up: Jeff Barnhardt

Children's Message This Week: Acting
Out Drama Ministry

NO Children's Message Next Week

Children's Church This Week: Jenny
Sparks

Children's Church next week: Sue
Maiocchi

Acolytes This Week: Oliver Townsend &
Landon Walker

Acolytes Next Week: Caylin Lowder &
Evie Sechler

Nursery: Jenny Sparks

Nursery Next Week: Sue Maiocchi

Ushers: Amy Hurst, Sam McAllister, Mal
McDaniel, Tony Rary

Ushers Next week: Phil & Jill McLain, Phil
Smith, Pam Hooks

Greeters: Raegan Swaringen & Renee
Goodnight

FINANCIALS FOR SEPTEMBER

YTD Income \$222,688.05

YTD Expenses \$222,856.55

YTD Budget \$239,715.28

Last week's attendance: 10/19/2025

Worship AM - 112

Sunday School - 63

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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