



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FIRST

PRESBYTERIAN

CHURCH

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

~ **Gathering Before the Word** ~

Welcome

Pastor Eddie

Prelude

See Amid the Winter's Snow

Setting by Forrest

Lighting of the Candles

Camryn Lowder & Noah Walker

Choral Call to Worship No. 480

Wait for the Lord

Chancel Choir

Lighting of the Joy Candle

Dave & Jane Argabrite

***Hymn of Praise**

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

See insert

***Prayer of Adoration**

Prayer of Confession

Gracious Father, who faithfully fulfilled Your promise of redemption through the advent of Your one and only Son, we confess with broken hearts that we have continued in our sin and rebellion and have grieved You with our callous hearts. Please forgive us for all our sins, for we are truly sorry and do earnestly repent. Restore and renew our spirits by Your grace that we may draw near to You, obey You, enjoy You, and glorify Your matchless Name, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer."

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of the Gospel

1 John 4:9-10

This is how God showed His love among us; He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

***Hymn of Advent**

Gentle Shepherd

See insert

~ **Proclaiming the Word of God** ~

Concerns and Celebrations of Our Church Family

Word with Our Children

Roxanne Spencer

Offering and Anthem*I Wonder as I Wander*

Joe Morris, soloist; Valarie Valois, soloist, pianist; Chancel Choir

***Scripture Reading**

Matthew 1:18-25

Page 955

Sermon

“Wonder of Wonders”

Pastor Eddie

~ Responding to the Word of God ~***Sending Song No. 80***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

Prayer and Benediction**Postlude***O Jesus, What A Wonderful Child!*
Chancel Choir & PraiseMakers

Setting by Hayes/VAV

*All who are able, please stand.

CCLI# 222113



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!



The First Presbyterian Chancel Choir invites you to “A Family Christmas Celebration” TONIGHT, Sunday, December 14 at 7:00pm. Spend an evening listening to the beautiful music of the season presented by Dr. Valarie Valois and our Chancel Choir. Our youth will also lend their talents. We will welcome Angela Renee Simpson, soprano vocalist, and Gay Tatman, flautist, as our featured guest musicians. If you need transportation, please see Michelle or Eddie. Bring friends and family to this special worship service!



Mark your calendars for Christmas Caroling to our homebound church family! We will carpool from the church on Wednesday, December 17 at 6pm and travel to several homes nearby. Desserts and hot drinks will await our return. Come make a joyful noise with us!

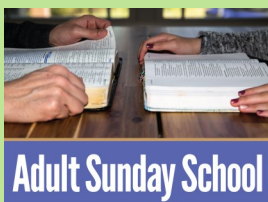
Invite family and friends to our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service on December 24! This year, we will gather at 5:30pm for a time of worship and reflection.



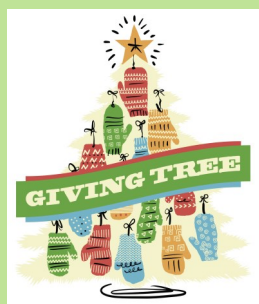
The church was notified this week that the “Building on the Cornerstone” capital campaign will be awarded a generous grant! Your contributions and the grant will total around \$205,000 or almost 98% of the goal! The team has engaged a landscaping and hardscaping firm to work on a design for the renovations, which will start in the spring. There is still time to contribute if you wish, just

write a check to the church with ‘Cornerstone’ on the memo line or give through the church website.

The Session has approved our church budget for 2026. Please see the Thursday email for a link to the 2026 Budget Report. Printed copies are available for you to pick up in the Narthex.



Adult Sunday School will meet for combined classes on December 14 & 21. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 10am. There will be **NO** Sunday School, for any ages, on December 28 .



The First Pres Giving Tree is in the Narthex! This year's beneficiaries will be Shady Brook Elementary families and Meals on Wheels recipients. Deposit your gift in the corresponding gift bin under the tree by TODAY Sunday, December 14. Please only wrap the gift if the tag indicates it should be wrapped! See Sue Maiocchi or Janet Harte with questions.

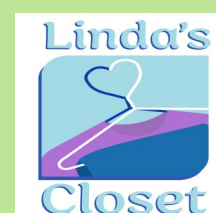
Linda's Closet is open the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays

from 11:00am -1:00pm. Other Tuesdays are "work days". The closet will be closed from December 17 - January 5 and will reopen Tuesday, January 6.

Current needs:

- boys clothes, sizes 2-16
- costume jewelry
- new underwear for all

See Sue Maiocchi if you can volunteer.



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



Many thanks to a wonderful loving congregation for all the kindnesses sent to me during my recent illness. I'm doing well, trying to recover at home. What a caring, compassionate group you are! **Love & appreciation, Jerry Phillips**



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

- Debby Baker - health concerns
- Frank Gibson - hospice house
- Vicki Morris - upcoming knee replacements on December 23rd
- Tony Rary - multiple myeloma treatments
- Regina Starnes - health concerns
- Steve Goodnight - recovering at home
- Bonnie Goodnight - health concerns and caring for her father, Lester Watts
- Julie Doby - broken hip pocket and femur

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CHURCH

- Diane Belotti's brother, Robert Hudak - recovery from spine surgery
- Sherry Clodfelter (friend of Jane Jacobs) - in the hospital with serious health issues
- Thomas "Bran" James (friend of Pam Hooks) - 10-yr-old - stem cell treatment in January
- Rachel Duval (Sam McAllister's granddaughter) - cancer
- Kim Stipe (Kay McAllister's daughter) - cancer treatments in January

HOMEBOUND

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



This Week @ FIRST PRES

Sunday, December 14

3rd Sunday of Advent

9:30am - Morning Coffee
10:00am - Sunday School (Adults in Fellowship Hall)
11:00am - Worship Service
7:00pm - "A Family Christmas Celebration" Musical Presentation

Tuesday, December 16

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

Wednesday, December 17

6:00pm - Christmas Caroling & Dessert Party

Thursday, December 18

10:30am - Ladies Bible Study
12:00pm - N/A

Next Sunday, December 21

4th Sunday of Advent

9:30am - Morning Coffee
10:00am - Sunday School (Adults in Fellowship Hall)
11:00am - Worship Service

SERVANTS

Elder Lock-Up: Sue Maiocchi

Children's Message This Week:

Roxanne Spencer

Children's Message Next Week: Michelle Walker

Children's Church This Week: Vickie Ellington

Children's Church next week: Amelia Caskey

Acolytes This Week: Camryn Lowder & Noah Walker

Acolytes Next Week: Evie Sechler & Ingrid Townsend

Nursery: Vickie Ellington

Nursery Next Week: Amelia Caskey

Ushers: Eric Cowan, Mark Goodnight, John Hammond, Tony Hunter

Ushers Next Week: Amy Hurst, Chris Lowder, Mike Lowder, Sam McAllister

Greeters: Cookie Hamilton & Dave Argabrite

FINANCIALS FOR NOVEMBER

YTD Income \$281,973.05

YTD Expenses \$281,666.54

YTD Budget \$292,984.12

Last week's attendance: 12/7/2025

Worship AM - 117

Sunday School - 71

SERMON NOTES

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION - ACTIVE ELDERS

Raegan Swaringen

Sharon Cranford

Tony Rary

Cookie Hamilton

Chris Lowder

Ken Sparks

Sue Maiocchi

Phil McLain

Jeff Barnhardt, Clerk

Pastor Eddie Spencer, Moderator



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