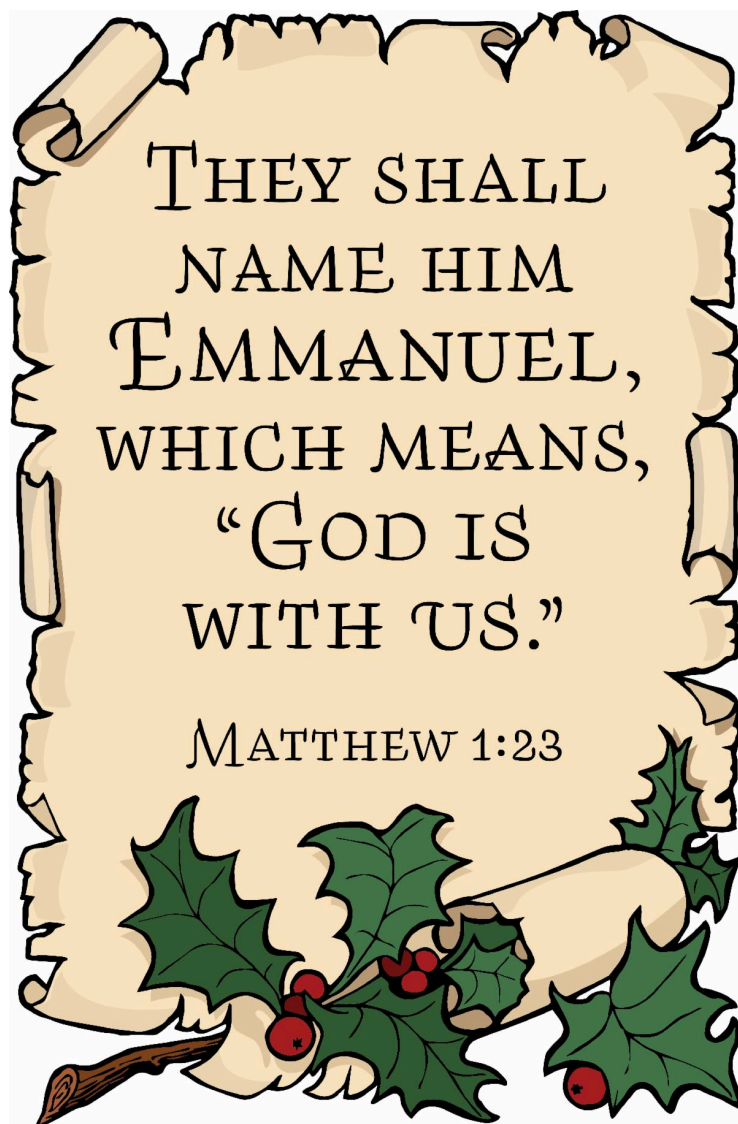




# THE WEEKLY FIRST

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Our Advent preparation continued last Sunday evening with *A Family Christmas Celebration*. Despite the brutal cold, many of you came out to hear “the song” of Christmas continue. Dr. V, the Chancel Choir, Abigail, Jessica, and all our guest musicians lent their talents for a glorious night of worship. On Wednesday evening, we sang again, caroling to 5 different houses and spreading Christmas cheer.

This Sunday, we invite everyone to gather in the Fellowship Hall to sing Christmas carols during our Sunday School hour. Our GraceFull Movements Dance Ministry will participate in the worship service, as we continue to reflect on the coming of the Christ child. Then, on Wednesday evening, our choir and musicians will lead us in worship during our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service. Prelude music begins at 5:15pm, and the service, with lessons and carols, commences at 5:30pm.

Let us not get lost in the busyness of this time of year. Instead, let us gaze in awe at the tiny Baby in the manger. “Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!” (Montgomery)

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**The Session has approved our church budget for 2026.**

Please click the link below to see the 2026 Budget Report.

Printed copies are available for you to pick up in the Narthex.

[2026 Budget Report](#)



The Building on the Cornerstone campaign has raised over \$207,000 for improvements to the church’s outdoor property, including a recent generous grant! A landscaping and hardscaping company is currently completing a design for the project, and work is anticipated to begin in the late winter or early 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.

[Sunday Bulletin](#) is Online!



There are three Bible Reading Plans available for you in 2026! The plans are designed to encourage daily Bible Reading and time meditating on God’s Word.

- The 2026 Bible Reading Plan focuses on the New Testament, with Old Testament readings from Psalms, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes.
- The Bible in a Year – Mixed Readings takes you through the entire Bible in one year. Each week, you will read from an Epistle, Old Testament Law, Old Testament History, Psalms, Poetry, Prophecy, and a Gospel.

- The Bible in a Year – Chronological Plan takes you through the entire Bible in one year. It is arranged chronologically, so you read events, psalms, and letters in the order in which they occurred.

Printed “bookmarks” with these plans may be found in the Narthex. You can also access them from our website.



## Adult Sunday School

**There will be NO Sunday School on December 28, for any ages.**



**Our annual Candlelight Christmas Eve Service will be next Wednesday at 5:30pm. (Prelude begins at 5:15pm)** We will celebrate the birth of our Savior with lessons and teaching from scripture and music of praise and worship, including vocal ensembles and instrumentalists. All are welcome, so please invite guests to join us!



**Linda's Closet' will be closed through January 5th and reopen Tuesday, January 6th.**

**See Sue Maiocchi if you can volunteer.**

Current needs:

- Boys clothes, sizes 2-16
- Costume Jewelry
- 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

## 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



- Peggy Gibson and family - loss of Frank
- Vickie Morris - upcoming knee replacement on December 23
- Steve Goodnight - recovering at home
- Bonnie Goodnight - caring for her father, Lester Watts
- Debby Baker - health concerns
- Tony Rary - multiple myeloma treatments
- Regina Starnes - health concerns
- Julie Doby - broken hip pocket and femur

**Family & Friends of Church**

- Diane Belotti's brother, Robert Hudak - recovery from spine surgery
- 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 treatment in January

**Homebound**

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

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# This Week @ FIRST PRES

**Sunday, December 21**

**4th Sunday of Advent**

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

**Tuesday, December 23**

12:00pm - NA

**Wednesday, December 24**

5:30pm - Candlelight Christmas Eve Service (Prelude begins at 5:15pm)

**Thursday, December 25**

**Merry Christmas**

12:00pm - NA

**Next Sunday, December 28**

**10 Cents A Meal**

(No Sunday School Classes)  
11:00am - Worship Service

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## Servants

**Elder Lock-Up:** Sharon Cranford  
**Children’s Message This Week:** Michelle Walker  
**NO Children’s Message Next Week**  
**Children’s Church This Week:** Amelia Caskey  
**Children’s Church next week:** Jenny Sparks  
**Acolytes This Week:** Evie Sechler & Ingrid Townsend  
**Acolytes Next Week:** Kinsley Culp & Mary-Gray Petersen  
**Nursery:** Amelia Caskey  
**Nursery Next Week:** Jenny Sparks  
**Ushers:** Amy Hurst, Chris Lowder, Mike Lowder, Sam McAllister  
**Ushers Next Week:** Mal McDaniel, Jill & Phil McLain, Tony Rary  
**Greeters:** Cookie Hamilton & Dave Argabrite

Raegan Swaringen   Sharon Cranford   Tony Rary  
Cookie Hamilton   Chris Lowder   Ken Sparks  
Sue Maiocchi   Phil McLain  
Pastor Eddie Spencer, Moderator  
Jeff Barnhardt, Session Clerk



First Presbyterian Church of Kannapolis | 201 Vance Street, Kannapolis, NC | (704)  
938-4623 | [WEBSITE](#) | [EMAIL](#)



First Presbyterian Church of Kannapolis | 201 Vance Street | Kannapolis, NC 28081 US

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