



**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

*Wonderful, Wonderful Jesus*

Setting by D. Phillips

Lighting of the Candles

Caylin Lowder, Scarlett Porter

Call to Worship

Psalm 111:1-4

Leader: Praise the Lord. I will extol the Lord with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly.

**All: Great are the works of the Lord; they are pondered by all who delight in them.**

Leader: Glorious and majestic are His deeds, and His righteousness endures forever.

**All: He has caused His wonders to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and compassionate.**

**\*Hymn of Praise No. 537**    *Open the Eyes of My Heart*

Baloche

**\*Prayer of Adoration**

**Confession of Sin**

God of grace, You have given us Jesus, the Light of the World, but we confess that we sometimes choose darkness and cling to things that hide the brightness of Your love. We often gratify the flesh and refuse to walk in the newness of life we have in Jesus. Forgive us, Father, and fill us with Your Spirit that we might walk in the light of Jesus, boldly proclaim the Gospel of Jesus, and tell of Your glory shining in the face of Jesus, our Lord and our Light forever.

**Silent Prayers of Confession**

**Assurance of the Gospel**

1 John 1:8-9

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**\*Hymn of Assurance No. 366**

*My Jesus, I Love Thee*

GORDON

## ~ Proclaiming the Word of God ~

### Concerns and Celebrations of Our Church Family

**Word With Our Children**

Alpha Barger

**\*Doxology No. 965**

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

**Offering and Anthem No. 69** *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout* Cooney

**\*Scripture Reading**

Ephesians 1:1-8

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**Sermon**

“Blessed”

Pastor Eddie

## ~ Responding to the Word of God ~

**\*Sending Song No. 102** *Arise, Your Light is Come*

FESTAL SONG

**\*Prayer and Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

*How Brightly Shines the Morningstar*

Pachelbel

\*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!



**Thank you to all who contributed to the Building on the Cornerstone campaign!** The fundraising campaign has been a success, and the team has engaged a landscaping and hardscaping company to make the improvements to our property. Plans are for the work to begin in the late winter and to be completed in the spring. More details will be shared about the work and schedule as the date draws nearer.



**Sunday School classes have resumed.** Plan to join us each Sunday at 9:30 am for morning coffee and 10:00am for studying God's Word together.

Adult Sunday Classes include:

**Disciples Class**, led by Dave Argabrite, will begin a study of the book of Hebrews next week.

**Friendship Class**, led by Debbie McDaniel and Renee Goodnight, is studying the Reformation and how it impacts us today. Their current focus is "What's so Great About the Doctrines of Grace" by Richard D. Phillips.

**Guardians Class**, led by Raegan Swaringen and Ron Lisenby is currently studying the Gospel of Luke.

**Heart Sisters**, led by Becky Seaford and Sandy Boucher-Bessent, are continuing their study of spiritual gifts, disciplines, and fruits. Currently focused on spiritual disciplines used to develop spiritual gifts and draw closer to God.

**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.





**Linda's Closet is open the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 11:00am - 1:00pm. Other Tuesdays are workdays.**

Current needs:

- Kids clothes, especially boys, sizes 5-16
- 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



**As we ask God to guide our plans in 2026, we also reflect on all He accomplished through First Presbyterian in 2025.**

Beyond monetary tithing, we are grateful for all who gave of their time and talents to serve our Lord at First Presbyterian Church. Whether you cooked for church events or homebound, delivered meals,

washed dishes, made coffee, cleaned, donated items, staffed missions events, led children's church or a Sunday School class, performed in a play, danced or sang with the choir, maintained our building or grounds, changed paraments, updated choir folders, ran video or sound equipment, made crafts, assembled donation bags, organized rooms or files, hung clothes, greeted guests, ushered, tutored children, hung fence items, packed a shoebox, bought Giving Tree gifts, handed out produce, served as an Elder or leader of a team, or simply prayed for our ministries, we thank you! And if you're looking for a place to serve in 2026, see an Elder, Eddie, or Michelle. To God be the glory!



**Take a look in our "Lost and Found: bin, located in the Narthex. There are several cups/tumblers and other items waiting for their owners. After a few weeks, they will be disposed of.**

## 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

- Bonnie Goodnight and family - loss of her father, Lester Watts
- Peggy Gibson and family - loss of Frank
- Jeff Barnhardt - kidney stones
- Debby Baker - recovery from pneumonia
- Vicki Morris - recovery from knee replacement surgery
- Tony Rary - multiple myeloma treatments
- Regina Starnes - health concerns
- Julie Doby - broken hip pocket and femur

### FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CHURCH

- Trey & Semra Goodnight (Mark Goodnight's nephew and wife) - Semra, pregnant, receiving treatments for aggressive breast cancer, being induced this month
- Steve Smith (Becky Seaford's brother) - cancer has returned, beginning chemo
- 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 treatments in January

### HOMEBOUND

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



# This Week @ FIRST PRES

## Sunday, January 11

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

## Tuesday, January 13

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

## Wednesday, January 14

6:00pm - Chancel Choir Practice

## Thursday, January 15

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

## Next Sunday, January 18

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

## SERVANTS

**Elder Lock-Up:** Ken Sparks

**Children's Message This Week:** Alpha Barger

**Children's Message Next Week:** Dave Argabrite

**Children's Church This Week:** Roxanne Spencer

**Children's Church next week:** Lynn Efird

**Acolytes This Week:** Caylin Lowder & Scarlett Porter

**Acolytes Next Week:** Cierstyn Lowder & Oliver Townsend

**Nursery:** Roxanne Spencer

**Nursery Next Week:** Lynn Efird

**Ushers:** Jeff Barnhardt, Eric Cowan, Mark Goodnight, John Hammond

**Ushers Next Week:** Tony Hunter, Amy Hurst, Chris Lowder, Mike Lowder

**Greeters:** Sue Maiocchi, Donnie Swaringen

## FINANCIALS FOR DECEMBER

**YTD Income** \$304,303.51

**YTD Expenses** \$310,907.09

**YTD Budget** \$319,619.00

**Last week's attendance:** 1/4/2025

**Worship AM - 100**

**Sunday School - 52**



# 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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