



*Welcome*

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

**~ Gathering Before the Word ~****Welcome**

Pastor Eddie

**Prelude***I Am Thine, O Lord*

Doane/Setting by Phillips

**Lighting of the Candles**

Cierstyn Lowder &amp; Kinsley Culp

**\*Call to Worship**

Isaiah 12

Leader: "I will praise you, Lord. Although You were angry with me, Your anger has turned away and You have comforted me. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord Himself, is my strength and my defense; He has become my salvation."

**All: With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. In that day you will say: "Give praise to the Lord, proclaim His name; make known among the nations what He has done, and proclaim that His name is exalted.**

Leader: Sing to the Lord, for He has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world.

**All: Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.**

**\*Hymn of Praise No. 219***Now with Joyful Exultation*

BEECHER

**\*Prayer of Adoration and 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.

**Apostle's Creed**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

\***Hymn of Assurance No. 670** *I Waited Patiently for God* NEW BRITAIN

**~ Proclaiming the Word of God ~**

**Concerns and Celebrations of Our Church Family**

\***Doxology No. 965** OLD HUNDREDTH  
*Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

**Offering and Anthem No. 443** *My Life Flows On in Endless Song*  
Joe Morris, Chancel Choir, Valarie Valois

\***Scripture Reading** Psalm 18

**Sermon** “Praying Strength” Pastor Eddie

**~ Responding to the Word of God ~**

\***Sending Song No. 867** ST. ANNE  
*For Such a Time As This*

**\*Prayer and Benediction**

\***Postlude** I will Sing My Maker’s Praise Schop/setting by Behnke

\*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!



**Building on the Cornerstone work is expected to begin in late February!** New concrete walkways, outdoor lighting, landscaping, and irrigation, and brickwork will make our property safer, more attractive, and easier to maintain. Despite some disruptions, services and activities will continue. More details can be found in the Narthex. If you would still like to contribute, approximately \$10,000 is needed to cover irrigation and new railings. Designate your offering "Cornerstone" or give via our website. We are so grateful to all who have given!

## *Please welcome our newest covenant partners!*



**Dianne Lowe** came to the Concord area from Greenville, SC in 2022, following the death of her husband. She has 4 children and 8 grandchildren, and teaches piano at Music & Arts. Dianne's hobbies include reading, quilting, hiking, and pickleball. She was raised in a Christian home and saved at age 3. Dianne can say that God has used any trials to deepen her relationship with Him and accomplish good. She was drawn to First Pres by the preaching and prayers, loves her Heart Sisters Sunday School class, and wants to be part of the ministry as she serves her Savior and deepens her heart knowledge of Him.



**Regina Starnes** has two adult sons and two grandchildren. She is a retired CT/Radiology Technologist who enjoys music and singing. Regina was baptized as a teenager at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Salisbury. She loved summers spent at church camps – as a camper and later as an employee. Regina was drawn to First Presbyterian by the compassion of the members, the preaching of the Gospel, and the genuine love shown for others. She attends the Friendship Sunday School Class.

Please greet Dianne and Regina and welcome them into membership. If you would like more information about becoming a member, see Eddie or Michelle.



**We know the destinations for our 507 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes!** Receiving countries were **Chile, Guatemala, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Peru**. Thank you for your faithful prayers for our boxes' safe delivery and their fruitful impact for Christ in the lives of the children that receive them! A total of **12,205,900** shoeboxes were collected for OCC in 2025. **For one of example of how God is using OCC in Peru, see the weekly email.**



**Join us in the Souper Bowl of Caring!** On Sunday Feb. 1 & 8, bring canned and dry goods to benefit Cooperative Christian Ministry's food pantry. Donation bins will be outside the Fellowship Hall and in the Narthex. If you prefer to give a monetary donation, youth will be in the Narthex on Sunday, February 8 to collect.

**Middle and Senior High Youth are invited to a “Big Game” Watch Party on Sunday, Feb. 8 at Pastor Eddie’s house!** Pizza, wings, and drinks will be provided. Bring a snack or dessert to share. Come from 6pm until halftime. Sign up in the Narthex or RSVP to Michelle!



**Elementary Youth will go bowling on February 22 after church!** We will leave right after worship, go to Pizza Hut on Cannon Blvd for lunch, and then head to Foxfire Lanes to bowl. Parents are invited to attend. Please sign up in the Narthex by Sunday, February 15!

**Our first Men’s Fellowship Dinner of 2026 will be Thursday, Feb. 26 at 6pm.** Trey Ninteau, Northern Cabarrus Co. Area Representative for Fellowship of Christian Athletes, will be our guest speaker. Menu is steak or chicken, baked potato, salad, dessert, and drinks for a suggested donation of \$15. Sign up in the Narthex by Sunday, Feb. 22.



### *Lenten Offerings*

First Presbyterian will partner with Kimball Memorial Lutheran for an **Ash Wednesday Service on February 18**. The service will take place at Kimball with a combined choir.

**Wednesdays in the Word will resume March 4-25.** Pastor Eddie will lead Lenten Services in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30pm. Children and Youth will gather for dinner at 5:30pm, PraiseMakers Rehearsal at 6, and classes from 6:30-7:30.

We will gather at Kimball Memorial on **Maundy Thursday, April 2** for a combined service. Kimball will join us at First Presbyterian on **Good Friday, April 3**.



**Pastor Eddie & Roxanne, and Michelle & Ryan, will represent First Pres at the ECO National Gathering in Atlanta, GA this week.** They will be out of the office Tuesday, Feb 3 - Thursday, Feb 5. Should you need help in their absence, please call an Elder or the Church Office.



**Linda's Closet is open the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays each month, 11:00am - 1:00pm.** Other Tuesdays are workdays. We only accept donations of new or clean, gently used clothing, shoes, or handbags. **See Sue Maiocchi if you can volunteer.**

**Current needs:**

\*Kids clothes, especially boys, sizes 5-16   \*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   \*new/gently-used towels   \*feminine products

### **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
- Andy Oakes - loss of long-time friend
- Debby Baker - health concerns
- Vicki Morris - recovery from knee replacement surgery
- Tony Rary - multiple myeloma treatments
- Regina Starnes - health concerns

### **FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CHURCH**

- Trey & Semra Goodnight (Mark Goodnight's nephew and wife) - Semra and Trey welcomed their healthy baby boy, Edis. She will now be receiving stronger treatments for aggressive breast cancer
- June (Elizabeth McRobbie's mother) - suffered a stroke; in palliative care
- Bruce Warnix (friend of our Church family) - recovering from heart surgery
- Steve Smith (Becky Seaford's brother) - cancer has returned, beginning chemo
- Diane Belotti's brother, Robert Hudak - recovery from spine surgery
- Diane Belotti's daughter, Julie Griffin - cellulitis after foot 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, February 1**

### **Souper Bowl of Caring!**

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

## **Monday, February 2**

10:30am - Women's Council in Fellowship Hall  
2:00pm - Dorcas Circle in Fellowship Hall

## **Tuesday, February 3**

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

## **Wednesday, February 4**

3:30-6:30pm - Peek NexGen  
6:00pm - Chancel Choir Practice

## **Thursday, February 5**

10:30am - Ladies Study/Session Room  
12:00pm - NA  
3:30-6:30m - Peek NexGen

## **Saturday, February 7**

5:00-9:00pm - Deana Wolf in FHall

## **Next Sunday, February 8**

### **Souper Bowl of Caring!**

9:30am - Morning Coffee  
10:00am - Sunday School  
11:00am - Worship Service with Holy Communion  
6:00pm - MH/SH "Big Game" Watch Party

## **SERVANTS**

**Elder Lock-Up:** Raegan Swaringen

**NO Children's Message This Week**

**NO Children's Message Next Week**

**Children's Church This Week:** Tracy Caskey

**Children's Church next week:** Debbie McDaniel

**Acolytes This Week:** Cierstyn Lowder & Kinsley Culp

**Acolytes Next Week:** Camryn Lowder & Landon Walker

**Nursery:** Tracy Caskey

**Nursery Next Week:** Debbie McDaniel

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

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

**Greeters:** Chris Lowder, Debbie McDaniel

## **FINANCIALS FOR DECEMBER**

**YTD Income** \$304,303.51

**YTD Expenses** \$310,907.09

**YTD Budget** \$319,619.00

**Last week's attendance:** 1/25/2026

**Inclement Weather - Virtual Service**

# 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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