



THE WEEKLY FIRST



As I write and you receive this email, our hope is to worship in-person on Sunday but the weather outlook is concerning. We will contact you if our elders cancel our service. We are pre-recording our service tomorrow in preparation of possible inclement weather. Our celebration of the Lord's Supper has been moved to next Sunday, February 8.

On behalf of the elders, I encourage you to maintain consistent giving, especially with our shortfall in 2025. Ministry expenses exceeded our income by \$6,000 and our 2025 Budget by \$15,000. Additionally, inclement weather and lower attendance in January 2026 have impacted giving. While we do not frequently address the topic of tithing at our church, your continued support is essential.

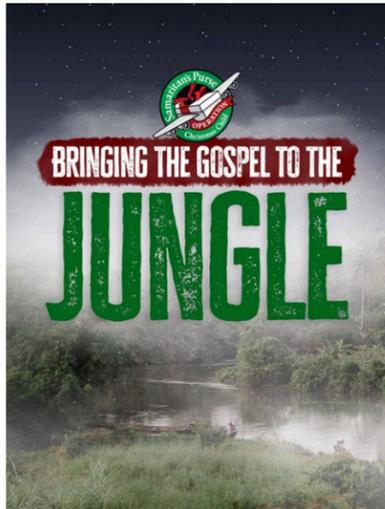
One reason I do not frequently address the topic of church giving is my conviction that when a church is actively engaged in ministry and mission, financial giving will follow. Our church had an average attendance of approximately 120 individuals in 2025, with a strong participation in Sunday School by Presbyterian standards. Despite operating with minimal resources—a modest budget, one full-time pastor, four part-time staff members, and committed lay leadership—we have engaged in ministry and mission.

In 2025, our General Fund budget was \$319,619, while actual income totaled \$304,303. Remarkably, our congregation contributed over \$61,000 to outreach, ministry, and mission efforts. Although we allocated \$23,000 for local, denominational, and global mission activities, you provided an additional \$27,700. When combined with spending from missions funds by our Missions Team, more than 20% of our giving in 2025 supported missional endeavors, which is both impressive and encouraging. Furthermore, this figure does not reflect the extensive hands-on ministry by our lay leaders and servants.

We are currently preparing our Annual Report, but one example will suffice. Our Linda's Closet in 2025 distributed an estimated 21,000 pieces of clothing and apparel to 2,147 people. More importantly, thousands of people were welcomed into our church with a Christlike compassion and hospitality by 19 faithful volunteers.



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.



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.

We invite you to experience what our Lord is doing in the jungles of Peru through a dynamic multimedia presentation. **(Click on the link below.)** To God be the glory!

[Bringing the Gospel to the Jungle](#)



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!

[Cornerstone - January Update](#)

[Sunday Bulletin](#) is Online!



Welcome

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



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.



The Missions Team is once again sponsoring Souper Bowl Sunday! As football fans gear up for national playoffs, our church will collect canned and dry goods to benefit Cooperative Christian Ministry's food pantry. On Sundays, February 1 and February 8, look for donation bins outside the Fellowship Hall and in the Narthex. If you would prefer to give a monetary donation, youth will be in the Narthex on Sunday, February 8 to collect.

Please be sure to check the Lost and Found box in the Narthex for any items you may have left behind. If you lost a



piece of jewelry, please contact the office. Items will be disposed of at the end of February.



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. Please 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 Nintean, 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. Please 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**.



Linda's Closet' is open the first and third Tuesdays each month, from 11:00am - 1:00pm. Other Tuesdays will be work days.

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
- *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
- 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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION - ACTIVE ELDERS

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



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