



FIRST

PRESBYTERIAN

CHURCH

Welcome

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

~ **Gathering Before the Word** ~

Welcome

Pastor Eddie

Prelude

Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

setting by Putnam

Lighting of the Candles

Gabriel Miller & Mary-Gray Petersen

***Call to Worship**

Ephesians 4:3-6

Leader: Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bonds of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called.

All: One Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

***Hymn of Praise**

Redeemed
(see insert)

ADA

***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."

Profession of Faith

Romans 8:31-39

Leader: What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

All: He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?

Leader: Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn?

All: Christ Jesus is the one who died, more than that, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

Leader: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For Your sake we are being killed all day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

All: For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

***Hymn of Assurance**

Jesus Paid It All
(see insert)

ALL TO CHRIST

~ **Proclaiming the Word of God** ~

Concerns and Celebrations of Our Church Family

***Doxology No. 965**

OLD HUNDREDTH

Offertory and Anthem

Down to the River to Pray
Chancel Choir

setting by McDonald

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 4:1-16

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Sermon

“Church Growth 101”

Eddie Spencer

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

***Sending Song No. 284**

Lift High the Cross
(verses 1-3,7)

CRUCIFER

***Prayer and Benediction**

***Postlude**

Improvisation on CRUCIFER

*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!



The Building on the Cornerstone spring 2026 project is essentially complete, and the work has been fully funded! This past week, a new rail was installed on the front porch, and two new rails were installed at the Fellowship Hall front entrance. All that remains is repair of the broken window. This will be the last update for the spring 2026 outdoor renovations. The Building on the Cornerstone program will continue and will consider other potential property improvements in the near future.



Nominations for the office of Elder at First Presbyterian are now being accepted. An Elder Recommendation Form may be found as an insert to your bulletin. Please read the form and prayerfully consider any nominations. Return the Recommendation Form to the Offering Plate by Sunday, May 3. Elders will be selected at a congregational meeting on Sunday, June 28, and installed during worship on Sunday, July 5.

Calling all youth! We will soon embark on a study of what "the Church" is, who "the Church" is, and where you fit in! Guests will share insights with us as we look at what God designed "the church" to be, to look like, and to do. **Lesson #1 is "The Church shows up for each other!"** This spring, let Michelle know if your youth has an activity (sport, play, recital, etc.) that we can show up for and support them!



Our next opportunities are:

Thursday, April 30: *Charlie March's football game at Carolina Int'l School (9545 Poplar Tent Rd, Concord)* Game begins at 4:30pm and ends at 5:30pm. Please plan to drop-off and pick-up there.

Saturday, May 9: *Mary-Gray Petersen's volleyball game at West Cabarrus YMCA.* We will meet at Afton Pub & Pizza for lunch at 11:15am (5380 Village Dr. NW, Concord), then walk to the Y for her game at 12:30pm. Pick up will be at the Y (5325 Langford Ave. NW, Concord) at 1:30pm.

Wednesday, May 13: *Oliver Townsend's baseball game at Virginia Foil Park in Mt. Pleasant.* We will leave church at 4:30, eat at What-a-Burger in Mt. Pleasant, and then go to the game at 6. **Please sign up in the Narthex, especially if you need transportation!!!**



Ladies are invited to a Spring "Mix & Mingle", sponsored by the Women's Council! Tomorrow, Monday, April 20, we will gather at 6pm for fellowship, a meal, and an opportunity to know one another better. Dinner will be a salad bar and desserts, provided by the women of the church. Invite friends to join us. **Please let Roxanne Spencer know TODAY if you plan to attend.**



The annual Kannapolis Bible Teaching Association fundraising banquet will be held on Monday, May 4!

You are invited to join us at Shoe Show Headquarters (2201 Trinity Church Road, Concord) from 6-7:30pm for dinner, reflection, and celebration of what God is doing in Kannapolis City Schools through this ministry. **Please sign up in the Narthex THIS SUNDAY if you plan to attend, so we can secure sufficient seating.** See Sam McAllister or Steve Goodnight for more information!



The Cabarrus Women's Center is hosting "a Morning of Prayer for Life" on Saturday, April 25.

You are invited to drop-by from 9:30am-11:30am to pray for lives touched at this location. The Cabarrus Women's

Center is a life-affirming pregnancy support center. It is located at 163 Winecoff Ave. NW, Concord.

The South Rowan Bible Teaching Association is holding their annual Drive-Thru Chicken Dinner on Thursday, May 7th at First Reformed Church in Landis,

offering a lunch or dinner option. Lunch can be picked up from 11:00am-1:00pm and dinner pick up is from 4:00pm-7:00pm. Meals are \$14 each and include half a bbq chicken, baked beans, slaw, roll and homemade dessert. The deadline for purchasing tickets is Thursday, April 30th. If you would like to purchase a ticket, please contact the church office or see Michelle Walker.



All Middle & High School Students are invited to the Cabarrus County Fellowship of Christian Athletes' Spring Weekend!

The event takes place Friday afternoon/evening, May 1 and Saturday morning, May 2 at the Community Church of Mt. Pleasant. We will gather for worship, teaching, fellowship and fun! Dinner on Friday, as well as breakfast and lunch on Saturday, are included. **Please sign up in the Narthex by**

NEXT Sunday, April 26 if you would like to attend. Michelle will attempt to provide transportation. ******The First Pres Missions Team is providing lunch at the gathering on May 2. If you can volunteer to help prep or serve the meal, please see Michelle.******

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: Spring & Summer clothing for all, especially children's and New underwear and socks for all



Thank you for donating to the First Pres Blessing Fence! See Sam or Kay McAllister if you can help with current needs:
Two Gallon Size Ziploc Bags & Ball Caps

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 - cancer
- Jean Bost - treatment for UTI and blood clot in lung
- Efird Family - loss of Rev. Charles Efird (grew up at First Pres)
- Tony Rary - multiple myeloma treatments
- Regina Starnes - health concerns
- Richard Little - treatment for multiple myeloma
- Mac Atwell (Lauren Goodnight's uncle) - recovery from surgery

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CHURCH

- Trey & Semra Goodnight (Mark Goodnight's nephew and wife) - Semra 's MRI and PET scan came back clear, 3 more chemo sessions, then surgery
- Chalora Leece (Jason Leece's mom) - surgery to remove kidney
- Margaretta Cowan (Eric's mom) - in hospice at home
- Richard Hough (friend of the church) - in serious condition in the hospital
- Robert Ellison (Sparks' in-law) - declining health
- Meredith Milam (Stricker's niece) - undergoing chemotherapy for uterine cancer
- Karen Pless' mom - recovery from stroke & broken clavicle
- Steve Smith (Becky Seaford's brother) - chemotherapy
- Robert Hudak (Diane Belotti's brother) - recovery from spine surgery
- Thomas "Bran" James (friend of Pam Hooks) - 10-yr-old undergoing stem cell treatment
- Kim Stipe (Kay McAllister's daughter) - cancer

HOMEBOUND

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



This Week @ FIRST PRES

Sunday, April 19

9:30am - Morning Coffee
- GraceFull Movements
Rehearsal

10:00am - Sunday School

11:00am - Worship Service

Monday, April 20

6:00pm - Ladies' Mix & Mingle in
Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, April 21

11:00-1:00pm - Linda's Closet

12:00pm - NA

3:30-6:30pm - Peek NexGen

Wednesday, April 22

3:30-6:30pm - Peek NexGen

6:00pm - Chancel Choir

Thursday, April 23

10:30am - Ladies Study/Session Room

12:00pm - NA

3:30-6:30m - Peek NexGen

Next Sunday, April 26

9:30am - Morning Coffee

- Gracefull Movements
Rehearsal

10:00am - Sunday School

11:00am - Worship Service

SERVANTS

Elder Lock-Up: Cookie Hamilton

Children's Church This Week: Debbie
McDaniel

Children's Church next week: Roxanne
Spencer

Acolytes This Week: Gabriel Miller & Mary
-Gray Petersen

Acolytes Next Week: Landon Walker &
Oliver Townsend

Nursery: Debbie McDaniel

Nursery Next Week: Roxanne Spencer

Ushers: Sam McAllister, Mal McDaniel, Jill &
Phil McLain

Ushers Next Week: Lynn Sechler, Phil Smith,
Pam Hooks, Noah Walker

Greeters: Phil McLain & Roxanne Spencer

FINANCIALS FOR MARCH

YTD Income \$76,504.30

YTD Expenses \$72,375.86

YTD Budget \$81,740.01

Last week's attendance: 4/12/2026

Worship AM - 109

Sunday School - 64

