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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PERMIT NO. 12



First
Presbyterian



January 7, 2026

Vol. 199 No. 1



Potluck Breakfast

Sunday, February 1 at 9:00 AM

Town Hall Style Meeting

Sunday, February 1 at 9:30 AM



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

January 11, 18, 25
9:00 - Early Service
10:00 - Sunday School
11:00 - Traditional Service

February 1
9:00 - Potluck Breakfast
9:30 - Town Hall
11:00 - Blended Service

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Men's Breakfast
Tuesdays at 7:15 AM
Cagney's Kitchen
(1244 Fairview Drive)

**Midweek Bible Study with
Pastor Jon**
Wednesdays at Noon
Fellowship Hall

Prayer Shawl Ministry
2nd and 4th Wednesdays
1:00 PM at Nancy Gilbert's
Contact: Emelie North

Thursday Prayer Group
Thursdays at 10:30 AM
Prayer Room, 2d Floor
Contact: Emelie North

Christian Education News

Warming Tree

On Sunday, January 4, YD's sorted and counted all of the mittens, gloves, socks, scarves, and hats on the Mitten Tree. A special thank you to all who donated to help keep the students at Stoner-Thomas School warm this winter.

This year we collected:

- * 62 hats
- * 76 pairs of gloves
- * 51 pairs of socks
- * 2 scarves
- * 4 coats

This year we also collected blankets for Grace Food Ministry. Thanks to your generosity, we collected:

- * 28 blankets

Sunday School Classes

Please join us on Sunday Mornings at 10:00 AM for Sunday School!

- * **Preschool/ Elementary** (Ages Two Years through Fourth grade) meet in the Elementary Sunday School Room upstairs.

This class builds a strong foundation to the Word of God for your child.

- * **Middle School** (Grades 5 through 8) meet in the Middle School Sunday School Room upstairs.

This class allows youth to build on their faith foundation through Bible study, service, and discussion.

- * **Senior High School** (Grades 9 through 12) meet in the Youth Room downstairs.

The teachers in this group use numerous questions from a youth-oriented study to actively engage their students in digging deeper, all in a loving and comfortable atmosphere. Each year, this class leads worship on Youth Sunday. After choosing an overall theme, the youth select hymns and scripture, write prayers, and prepare a creative sermon.

- * **Adult Classes** (High school grads and up)
 - * John Knox Class meets in church parlor.
 - * The Joyful Class meets upstairs.
 - * The MOJOs (Multiplying Our Joys on Sundays) Class meets upstairs.

Adult Sunday School provides an in-depth study of scriptures. Please be on the lookout for announcements in the newsletter concerning which classes are engaged in what studies, the dates, and teachers.

An infant nursery is available upon request.

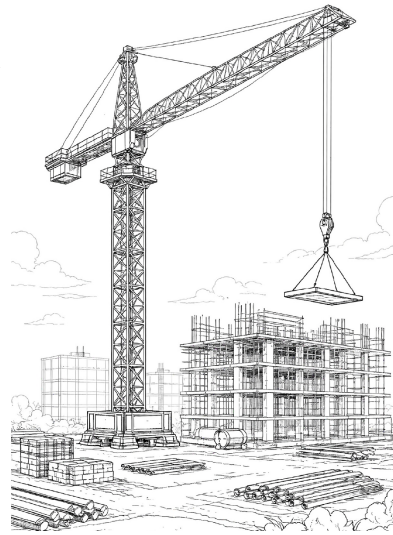
February Breakfast

The men of the church will host a potluck breakfast on Sunday, February 1 at 9:00 AM in the fellowship hall. Everyone is invited. Please bring a breakfast item to share! Sign ups will begin Sunday, January 11.



From the Pastor's Desk

Did you see the news report last month about an industrial crane and strong winds in New York City? On December 18, city residents called emergency services to report a construction crane spinning in the wind with no workers on site to stop it. It looked, at first, like someone had forgotten to secure the crane before leaving for the day. Gusting winds caused the boom to rotate freely, turning in every direction.



When the construction company was contacted, they shared an important detail. Anticipating strong overnight winds, the workers had placed the crane into “weathervane” mode before leaving for the day. In this mode, the crane is designed to rotate freely with the wind to align in a direction that puts the least amount of stress on the structure from wind pressure. What looked alarming was actually a well-engineered safety feature.

That story makes me think about wind in the Bible. In Scripture, wind is often a sign of God’s presence. In the creation story, a wind from God swept over the face of the deep before God spoke light into being (Genesis 1:2). Jesus told Nicodemus that God’s Spirit is like a wind that blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. (John 3:8). On the Day of Pentecost, the disciples heard the sound of a mighty rushing wind before they were filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:2).

As we begin 2026, let’s keep paying attention to the wind of the Holy Spirit in our life together. That news story from New York makes me wonder if the church has a spiritual version of “weathervane mode.” In this mode we are grounded and secure in Christ, yet open and responsive to the wind of the Spirit. When the wind of the Spirit moves, we trust it enough to let it guide us in the direction of mission and ministry.

That movement may direct us to continue the good work we are already doing. It may also direct us toward new, unexpected, or unconventional mission and ministry. Here’s the point: in weathervane mode, we don’t resist the

wind/spirit, but align with it, attentive and faithful, and ready to move.

I think it’s also worth asking whether each of us has a personal “weathervane mode.” Are there practices or habits of the heart that keep us open and responsive when the Spirit moves us? Together, let’s pray that in 2026, as individuals and as a church, we remain rooted in faith and ready to turn as we listen for the wind of the Spirit and move with it wherever God may lead us.

Happy New Year!

Together in weathervane mode,

Jon



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 1:00 PM at the home of Nancy Gilbert. Anyone who is interested in being part of this ministry is invited to join in. If you do not know how to knit or crochet, they will be happy to help you learn. If you have questions or know of anyone who could use a prayer shawl, please contact Emelie North.

Midweek Bible Study

Our Midweek Bible Study with Pastor Jon will continue each Wednesday at Noon in the fellowship hall. You are welcome to join in any week!

Thursday Prayer Group

Each Thursday, a group meets at the church at 10:30 AM in the Prayer Room to pray for the needs of church members, friends and loved ones of the church family, and others in our community and around the world. All are welcome to participate. Prayers may be silent or spoken.



FOOD PANTRY COLLECTIONS

(Please bring all items to the church lobby.)

Pastors' Pantry - Mixed Veg. and Plastic Bags

Monthly Goal = 125 cans of mixed vegetables

Collected for December = 68 cans

First Hope Ministries - Jelly & Peanut Butter

Monthly Goal = 125 jars of jelly & peanut butter

Loaves & Fishes - Pop-top MRE's

Easy-to-open, ready-to-eat foods for the homeless

DAVIDSON MEDICAL MINISTRIES

Items needed for Davidson Medical Ministries are: soap, shampoo, hand towels, combs, toilet paper, paper towels, ink pens, large paper clips, and tape.

SHELTER MEALS

Every third Wednesday of the month, First Presbyterian is committed to preparing and serving a meal to the residents of the Homeless Shelter. Many thanks to all who have volunteered for this outreach ministry.

Jan. 21 - Mountcastle Insurance

Feb. 18 - McMurray Small Group

Mar. 18 - Amy McNeill and friends

If you would like to volunteer to prepare and serve a meal to the homeless at the shelter, please contact Carol Beck.

Helping Our Seniors

We want to help our Seniors! If you need help with a task around the house or a ride to church or a doctor appointment, please contact Donna Via or Beverly Black.

February Birthdays

1 - Marie Muskovin

4 - Laura Fulp

7 - Charles Bowyer

9 - Jan Morton

11 - Ken Davis

13 - Macie Anderson,

Andrew Dinges,

Andrew Morton

14 - Anne Hood,

Ben Kiefer,

Carmen Morton Rabon

19 - Kaitlyn McNeill

20 - Pam Eller

21 - Miles Jennings

22 - Tom Lackey,

Bill McMurray

23 - Johnny Beck

24 - Dale-Manning Chesson



January birthdays were printed in the previous edition of the *ACTION*.

Can you help us keep this list up-to-date? If we have left someone out, please let us know.

Two Cents A Meal Offering

The Two Cents A Meal Offering is directed toward programs that address hunger in our region. Locally, Pastors' Pantry and First Hope Ministries have received Presbytery grants from this fund. Donations may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church. Please note “2 Cents a Meal” on the donation.

Prayer Concerns

Bobby Ver Halen (serving in the Army)
 Dave & Anna Fulp (serving in the Navy)
 Wilson Parson (serving in the Marines)
 Tobias Ludwig - NC State Trooper
 Brandi Pope - Denton EMT
 Phillip Hegler - Davidson County Sheriff
 Jim McCutchen (brother of Ginger Briggs & Margie Clark) - Parkinson's disease
 Gloria Bulluck & family
 Phyllis Hedrick
 Alex Nicely - end stage kidney failure
 Jo Leonard
 Randy Ver Halen
 Michael Knight

Margi Cole (mother of Terri Lamb)
 Travis Best (son-in-law of Tom & Ann Lackey) - diagnosed with cancer
 Beckey & Jeff Griffith & family - death of Beckey's brother, Rick Benfield
 Brian Turlington & Family - death of sister-in-law, Laura Turlington
 Lane & Jan Morton & Family - death of their mother, Jane "Susie" Morton
 Ken White & Family - death of his sister
 Bill McMurray & Family - death of his sister
 Gordon Wright & Family - death of Nancy
 Family & Friends of Tommy Wilson

Richard Widener	Beckey Griffith	Christa-Maria Grier
Jean Marsh	The Hillers	Martha Briggs Winters
The Fosters	Brianna Ver Halen	

Betty Tucker is recuperating from surgery to repair a broken hip. If you'd like, you may send cards to her:

100 Hedrick Drive, Room 427
 Thomasville NC 27360

In Memoriam

The church family extends its sympathy to Gordon Wright and his family due to the death of his wife, Nancy Miller Wright, on December 11, 2025. Please keep Gordon and all his family in your prayers.



Memorial Gifts

The church has received gifts in loving memory of **Neal Beck** from Carol Jordan (Garden Fund) and Ken and Susan Gardner (Garden Fund).

The church has received gifts in loving memory of **Barbara Atkinson** from Charles and Jeri Bowyer (Music Fund) and Ken and Susan Gardner (Garden Fund).

The church has received a gift in loving memory of **Neill Caldwell** from Charles and Jeri Bowyer (Music Fund).

The church has received a gift in loving memory of

Navahlia Quesenberry from Charles and Jeri Bowyer (Garden Fund).

The church has received a gift in loving memory of **Cathy Skeen** from Celia and Ben Stalvey (Music Fund).

The church has received a gift in loving memory of **Charlotte Graham Gingerelli** from Mary Ellen Cone (Music Fund).

The church has received gifts in loving memory of **Nancy Wright** from Burr and Rebecca Sullivan (Garden Fund) and Susan and Ken Gardner (Garden Fund).

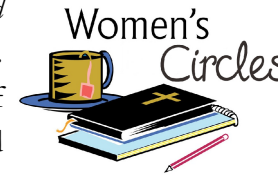
Congratulations!

The church family congratulates Rev. Lester Smith, a friend of First Presbyterian and a member of the Race Unification Committee, who was recently called by Mt. Tabor United Church of Christ in Lexington, NC, to be their pastor.



February Circle Meetings

Presbyterian Women's Circles will meet at the church on Monday, February 2, 2026. The Morning Circle meets at 10:30 AM in the parlor, and the Evening Circle meets at 7:00 PM in the Joyful Classroom. Norma Byerly will lead the devotion for the Morning Circle, and Celia Stalvey will lead the Bible study for both Circles. We will be collecting items for Dragonfly House: *individual toiletries (shampoo, tampons, pads, Irish Spring soap, toothbrushes (adult and child sizes), toothpaste, snacks (no Yoo-Hoo), inexpensive toys, toddler and youth colored t-shirts, and kitchen and heavy duty trash bags.* Please drop your donations off as you enter through the Third Avenue entrance.



Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed Monday, January 19, 2026, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Town Hall Style Meeting

After breakfast on February 1, Pastor Jon will lead a town hall style meeting in the fellowship hall. This will be a meeting to reflect on where we've been and what is ahead for us.

What are your ideas to pass along to the Session? Where do sense the moving of the Spirit for First Presbyterian Church?

In between a delicious breakfast and our blended worship service, this town hall will be about providing a space to share and reflect and listen.



Offering Envelopes

New offering envelopes are available in the lobby for pick up. They are in alphabetical order by last name. If you do not see an envelope packet with your name on it and would like one, please contact Financial Secretary Alma Carlton.

Time and Talent Reminder

If you would like to submit a Time and Talent form, there is still time to do so! Please pick up a form from the lobby, mark those areas of service in which you are interested, and leave the form in the wall pocket outside the office manager's office door.

New Staff Member!

Last month the Session hired Jamelia Burch as our new custodian. The Personnel Ministry Team met with her in November and recommended her hiring. Jamelia will be working at the church on weekday afternoons and at other times as needed. She is very contentious and will be a great addition to our church staff.

