

\* Hymn 54

*Make a Joyful Noise to God*

\* Confession of Sin

**God of abundant love and unlimited grace,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
by exploiting our relationship with you for power,  
for certainty, for our own gain.  
We have ignored patient discernment  
and have neglected listening to your voice.  
We are sorry, and we humbly repent.  
Forgive us. Restore us. Guide us back to your heart.**

\* Assurance of Forgiveness

\* Response 581

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, amen.***

**Proclamation of the Word**

Children's Message

*Praise The Lord!*  
Natalie Sleeth

Family Choir

Scripture: Psalm 133

Charles Coleman

Scripture: Philippians 4:10-20

Sermon

Dr. Barry Sang

A Moment for Reflection

**Responding to the Word**

\* Affirmation of Faith

*The United Church of Canada*

**We are not alone; we live in God's world.  
We believe in God: who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.  
We trust in God.  
We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,**

**our judge and our hope.  
In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.  
We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Announcements

Minute for Ministries

Del Denny  
Embracing the Unchurched

Celebrations

Offering

Offertory

*My Faith, It is an Oaken Staff*  
J. Wayne Kerr

\* Doxology 606

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*  
***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.***

\* Prayer of Dedication

**Sending to share the Word**

\* Hymn 336

*We Gather Together*

\* Benediction

\* Benediction Response 367 *Even So, Lord, Quickly Come (V4)*

Postlude

*We Gather Together*  
Wilbur Held

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\*Those who are able are invited to stand.  
**Bold** indicates words spoken in unison.

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**The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God  
and in observance of their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary,  
by David and Carole Simmons**

**Giving Challenge Update**

166 megaphones  
(including 15 commitments from kids & youth!)  
81 hands & feet – \$816,469.00

We are at 68% for our goal of at least 120 hands & feet!

**Joys and Concerns:**

Ellen Muire, Lois Boyd (Ellie Grover's mother), Richard Franklin, John Smith, CC Crofton

Acey and Carol Worthy on the death of their cousin, Ronnie Boyer

Drs. Randy and Barrie Kirby, on the birth of their grandson on November 16. His parents are Richard and Hannah Kirby Lyman

**Continuing Concerns:**

Ann Blankenship, Malcolm Bullock, Dave Clingensmith (Fred Aggers's brother-in-law), Maria Hudson, Vonnie Jordan (Mike Jordan's mother), Harriet Murphy, Tom Overcash, Mary Repsher, Elizabeth Romska, Betty Bonner Steele (David Carmichael's mother), Jesse Tart, Sharon Whittington

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**Ministry Area – Deeply Rooted**

**Worship Services: This morning,** we welcome the Rev. Dr. Barry Sang to our pulpit. Barry is Professor of Religion and Emeritus at Catawba College, where he taught for 38 years. He earned his Master of Divinity degree from Colgate Rochester Theological Seminary in New York State, and his Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy in Biblical Studies from Drew University in New Jersey. He was ordained into the Christian ministry by the American Baptist Churches, USA, in 1977 and was ordained an elder in the Presbyterian Church, USA, in 1998. Barry is grateful to be active in our music ministries, usually serving alongside his wife of 43 years, Kathy. Thank you, Barry, for leading us in worship this morning.

**Worship Services: Acolytes:** Charles Coleman and Alex Robinette

**Care: Blessing Bunch** will be addressing Christmas cards on Tuesday, November 21, at 10:00, in the Fellowship Hall. Please contact Libby Fowler with names of loved ones currently serving in the armed forces. The deadline to send addresses is November 20. Libby Fowler: 704-639-2624 or [johnsons@carolina.rr.com](mailto:johnsons@carolina.rr.com)

**Care: Hanging of the Greens!** Please join us on Saturday, December 2, at 9:00 am, to help decorate our church campus for Advent and Christmas! All ages are welcome. Many hands make lighter work, so come on out and enjoy some great fellowship, too!

**Grow in Friendship: Save the date for the Christmas Extravaganza!** Sunday, December 17, at 5:00 pm. Food, games, and fellowship await! Bring a side dish to share; the rest will be provided. RSVP by Dec. 8!

**Grow in Friendship: JOY Christmas Party @ the Gables Clubhouse!** Sunday, December 3, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Music, photo booth, Karl's Christmas stories, and a White Elephant gift exchange with the people at your table. \$5 limit, or wrap something from home that you think would bring a smile to a friend's face. And, great food! For last names A-M, bring a dessert, N-Z, and an appetizer. Limited to 50 people, so please RSVP as soon as possible. Nov. 26 is the deadline and spots may not be available if you wait too long.

**Grow in Friendship: Advent Gatherings are coming!** Join us for some food and fellowship in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays, December 3, 10, 17, and 24.

**Ministry Area – Core**

**Staff: Don't assume we know** - Your pastors and congregation want to care for you through prayer, visitation, letters, and more, but we can't do that unless you tell us something is going on. Let us love you.

**Ministry Area – Branching Out**

**Your help is needed TODAY!** If you are able-bodied, please stay a few minutes after the service to help us move all the chairs and set up for the TWAM Soup Supper & Worship. Thank you.

**Youth: TWAM Soup Supper & Worship** – Join us Sunday, November 19, at 5:00, in Lewis Hall for our annual Soup Supper & Worship. A free-will donation will go to support the TWAM Trip.

**Youth: College Care Packages** are boxed, addressed, and ready for shipping. Please pick up a box from the front of the communion table and take it to the Post Office and ship it.

**Embracing the Unchurched:** Come Ride with Us in the Christmas Parade! First Pres will be riding on a trolley in the “Tis the Season Spectacular” Parade on Wednesday, November 22. We need riders and people to hand out goodies to the children. Email David Carmichael ([jdcarmichael2@gmail.com](mailto:jdcarmichael2@gmail.com)) to sign up or for more info. We will meet in our parking lot at 12:15 then be finished by 4:30.

**Embracing the Unchurched: Italian Dinner!** Steve Thomas's non-profit is inviting our community for an Italian Dinner on Tuesday, December 5, from 4:00-6:00 pm, at the Salisbury Civic Center. Cost: Donate a canned good that evening for each person attending and enjoy some great food. Food will be provided by Il Colosseo.

**Reach: Yoga!** We will have an all-level yoga class in Lewis Hall from 9:00-10:15 am on Wednesdays, November 29 and December 6, 13, and 20. Beginners and the not-very-flexible are welcome! A suggested donation of \$10 per class is welcome. Come on and join us!

**Showing Up:** We now have the One Church One Child Christmas Star tree set up and ready with 60 stars! Each star represents a child in Rowan County who may not receive any gifts for Christmas. Please take a star off the tree in Lewis Hall, print your name and phone number on the spreadsheet on the line with your star's number, then purchase a \$30 gift for your child. Put it unwrapped in a gift bag with the star attached on the outside and bring it back to Lewis Hall no later than Sunday, December 3!

**This Week's Events**

November 19	8:30	Worship in Lewis Hall
	9:45	Sunday School
	11:00	Worship in Lewis Hall
	5:00	TWAM Soup Supper & Worship
November 20	5:00	Fund Team
	7:00	Session
November 21	10:00	Staff
	5:30	Handbells
	7:00	Choir
November 22	12:00	Church Office Closes
November 23-24		Church Office Closed

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# First Presbyterian Church

November 19, 2023  
11:00 am



**Missional Priorities**

Spirit-Centered Discipleship      Friendships Across Differences  
Hands-on Local Mission              Embracing the Unchurched

**Worship of the Living God**

**Gathering Around the Word**

Prelude Tim Waugh  
*Awake! Awake to Love and Work*  
Wilbur Held

Welcome Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

\* Call to Worship  
We lift our eyes to God  
**who is enthroned in the heavens!**  
As the eyes of servants  
**look to the hand of their leader,**  
as the eyes of children  
**look to the hand of their parents,**  
so our eyes look to the Lord our God,  
**our love, our grace, our Lord.**