

Connect and Serve

Please see the website (firstpreswc.com) for a complete list of programs and ways to connect.

Outdoor Coffee Hour – As weather permits, we are going to continue to have coffee hour out front on the sidewalk instead of Fellowship Hall for the rest of the summer. Please join as you are leaving the service. Grab a cup and connect with longtime friends or meet people for the first time. Special thanks to our deacons for faithfully providing coffee every Sunday - inside or outside.

Join Our Sunday School Teaching Team! - The Faith Formation team is looking for caring individuals to help shape young hearts and minds in our Sunday school program this coming school year. This is a wonderful opportunity to make a lasting impact on the spiritual growth of our children while strengthening the bonds of our church family.

What we're looking for:

- A heart for children and faith formation
- Commitment to teach 1-2 Sundays per month during the 9 am service
- Willingness to learn and grow alongside our students

What we provide:

- Comprehensive curriculum and teaching materials
- Training and ongoing support from experienced teachers
- A supportive team environment where you're never alone

Teaching Sunday school is more than just a volunteer role—it's a chance to be part of something bigger. You'll help nurture the next generation of believers while discovering how much these young people will teach you in return.

No teaching experience required—just enthusiasm and a desire to serve! Interested? Please contact Sara Pantazes by calling the church office or at spantazes@firstpreswc.com.

Our sympathy and prayers are with Stephen Soulas and his family on the death of his father.

The Rosebud is to the Glory of God and in honor of Madison Margaret Jones and Kennedy Mary Jones, born July 13, 2025, children of Charlotte and Will Jones and grandchildren of Barbara and Paul Lucas.

First Pres is Going to the Movies - New Date! - We have a block of seats reserved at Uptown Theater for a showing of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* on Monday, August 4 at 7 pm. Your admission is free and includes popcorn! Sign up on the church website. Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center is located at 226 N. High Street, West Chester.

Summer worship schedule

In-person services will continue throughout the summer.

9:00 am Traditional and 10:45 am Contemporary.

We will hold a single worship service at 10:00 am on August 31 - Labor Day weekend.

Summer office schedule

Open Mondays – Thursdays,
9:00 am – 4:00 pm and
closed on Fridays.

The office will be closed on Monday,
September 1 for the Labor Day holiday.

First Presbyterian Church of West Chester

July 20, 2025



Order of Worship for the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude Sweet, Sweet Spirit Doris Akers
arr. Mark Hayes

Call to Worship*;
Christ, the image of the invisible God:
He is the one we worship and serve.

Christ, the one who reconciles all things to himself:
He is the one we strive to imitate.

Christ, the one who welcomes sinners and saints:
He is the one whose welcome never fades.

Christ, the creator who gives life, and makes new life:
He is our hope in this age and the age to come.

Hymn 298* Lord, You Give the Great Commission

Welcome

Prayer of Confession
**Holy God, you are our hope in every age.
You created us, love us, and are bringing new life
where no life seems to be found. (con't)**

**Please rise in body or spirit*

**We know of your strength, and we know
our hope in Christ. Yet, we limit you in our lives;
we claim to know better, we claim to know
all that you are, but so often we live in ways
that do not reflect your love. You welcome us
unconditionally, and we reject others
because of superficial preferences.
We hurt others because we seek
power over reconciliation. Forgive us for the ways
that we have sinned against you
and sinned against others. Reconcile us to yourself
so that we may be reconciled to one another. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness
Christ is our hope, the mystery that has been hidden
throughout the ages and generations but has now been
revealed to his saints.
**In him we receive our hope
through the forgiveness of sins. Amen.**

Response*
**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.**

Passing of the Peace*

Special Music Arise, My Soul, Arise Dan Forrest

First Scripture Reading Psalm 15 OT p. 495

Prayers of the People and The 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.**

*After the prayer, children are invited to join their teachers
for Summer Sunday School in Social Hall.
They will return to their families after the sermon.*

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory *Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)*
Crocker, Houston, and Ligthelm

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication*
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Hymn 693* Though I May Speak

Second Scripture Reading Colossians 1:15-28 NT p. 200

Sermon *Closing the Distance*
Rev. Andrew Esqueda

Hymn 761* Called as Partners in Christ’s Service

Blessing*

Postlude Allegro Benedetto Marcello

*All are welcome in worship. We are a community of people of
all ages who cry, vocalize, stim, fuss, stand, sit,
and come and go as needed.
The sounds of people are the joyful noise of God’s creation.*

*Audio amplifiers are in a basket at the back of the sanctuary.
There are also screens in Fellowship Hall that stream the service if
you need to step out.*

*The nursery is available for children ages 0-3 years. Please ask a
greeter if you would like additional information
about Sunday School or children’s programming.*

Assisting in worship today:
Kiana Rivera, Alto

First Presbyterian Church Staff
Rev. Andrew Esqueda, Senior Pastor
Rev. Caroline Cupp, Senior Associate Pastor
Sándor Kádár, Director of Music
Sara Pantazes, Director of Faith Formation
Elizabeth Hess, Director of Engagement
Amanda Erno, Children’s Music Director
Ann Ellis, Choir Accompanist
Kiana Rivera, Lead Singer, Contemporary Band
Jennifer Rosenberg, Preschool Director
Greg Ondo, AV Tech
Claire Kramer, Office Administrator
Peter Galloway, Director of Operations
Sara Ford, Facilities Manager

Emails at firstpreswc.com/staff



Blood Drive
First Presbyterian Church of West Chester
Fellowship Hall
130 W. Miner Street
West Chester, PA 19380


Tuesday, August 26, 2025
12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: firstpreswc to schedule an appointment.

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.
If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation.
Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

Give Aug 1 to 28 for \$15 e gift card & successful donations get A1C testing. Terms: rcblood.org/Test



American Red Cross

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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