

Connect and Serve

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

Summer Worship Schedule – Will continue throughout the summer – 9:00 am Traditional and 10:45 Contemporary. Please note that we will hold a single worship service at 10:00 am on Sunday, August 31 due to the Labor Day holiday weekend.

Kids Program Summer Break - Sunday morning programming for preschool and elementary aged children is now on summer break as leaders rest and prepare for the coming school year. Children attending worship in August are encouraged to participate in worship with their families and take advantage of the Kids Worship Center in the back of the Sanctuary. The Nursery will remain open every Sunday for children ages 3 and under. We look forward to resuming Sunday School on Kick-off Sunday, September 7!

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.

Wednesday Lunch – Please note that there will not be a lunch served this Wednesday, August 13. Lunches will resume the following week on Wednesday, August 20. To get involved as a volunteer with the lunch program this fall, please contact Pastor Caroline at ccupp@firstpreswc.com

Back to School Blessing - It's almost that time of year again! On Sunday, August 24 we will be sharing a back-to-school blessing during both services for all our students and those who work in education. We look forward to blessing and celebrating the start of a new school year together.

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.

Church Picnic - First Pres is going to kick-off fall with a church picnic on Sunday, September 7! We'll meet outside (in the "backyard" along the alley) from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm. The main dish (fried chicken) will be provided but we'd love to have contributions of your favorite side dish, salad or dessert. We are also in need of set-up/clean-up volunteers and lawn game loans. Please see the sign-up tab at firstpreswc.com or speak to Elizabeth Hess. We hope you can join the fun!

Greeting Help Needed - If you'd like to help out on Sunday mornings with greeting and handing out bulletins, we are in need of adding more volunteers to this wonderful group. Greeting isn't just a task, but a ministry of welcoming others to First Pres - and as a bonus, it helps you learn more names and faces! Consider trying it for one Sunday to see what you think. Please reach out to Elizabeth Hess or sign up through the website to help out.

First Pres Travelers – The group's next trip, October 6-9, is to The Ark Encounter, Creation Museum, PA Trolley Museum, America's River Roots Festival, and the Flight 93 Memorial and Museum. For a flyer and info contact Thom & Irene Clapper at psuthom@verizon.net.

First Presbyterian Church of West Chester
August 10, 2025



Order of Worship for the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris
Antonio Vivaldi

Call to Worship*
God's faithful love endures forever and ever.
**Because of God's everlasting goodness,
we offer God our thanks and praise.**

God's faithful love endures forever and ever.
**Because of God's care and concern for humanity,
we offer God our thanks and praise.**

God's faithful love endures forever and ever.
**Because of God's transforming powers and actions,
we gather as a community of faith, and we offer God
our thanks and praise. Amen.**

Hymn 65 * Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Welcome

Prayer of Confession
**Holy God, we hear the call to trust in you always,
but honestly, some days our stresses and doubts
feel even more real to us than God. We remember how
Abraham dared to believe in God's promises,
but belief like this is hard. (con't)**

**Please rise in body or spirit*

We are often inclined to think, “God helps those who help themselves,” instead of daring to rely on the word of our Creator. When the world seems filled with dangers, we can be quick to protect ourselves, and we forget the wisdom of scripture. With God’s help, we confront our fears and struggles, and we call upon a power greater than our own to resist their pull. Hear us, Holy One, as we confess our frailty and failings. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

If we ask for forgiveness, God will grant it. Christ does not hold our sin against us and is quick to forgive.
In this moment we have asked and in Christ Jesus, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. 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*

First Scripture Reading Genesis 15:1-6 OT p. 12

Special Music His Eye Is on the Sparrow
arr. Luigi Zaninelli

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.**

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Wayfaring Stranger
arr. Mark Hayes

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 819 * Be Still, My Soul

Second Scripture Reading Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 NT p. 225

Sermon An Uncertain Faith
Rev. Andrew Esqueda

Hymn 835 * Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Blessing*

Postlude Improvisation on
Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Assisting in worship today:

Emily Bullock, Mezzo-Soprano

*All are welcome in worship. We are a community of people of
all ages who cry, vocalize, stum, 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.*

Summer Office Schedule – Summer hours are 9:00am – 4:00pm Monday through Thursday (closed Fridays). The offices will be closed on Monday, September 1 for the Labor Day holiday.

Red Cross Blood Drive – First Pres is hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, August 26 from 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. While blood donations are always needed, summer is a particularly critical time. Two incentives are being offered:

- Each presenting donor will get a \$15 e-gift card to a merchant of their choice
- A free A1C test will be performed on successful donations

See the weekly E-News for more details.

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