

### ***Connect and Serve***

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

**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!

**New Member Class - Save the Date** - If you're interested in learning more about becoming a member at First Pres, plan to attend the next New Members Class. We'll meet on Sunday, Sept. 28 at 11:45 in the Chapel, beginning with lunch. Reach out to Elizabeth Hess (ehess@firstpreswc.com).

**Spiritual Connections** starts a new book on Monday, September 15, 6:30 p.m. *Tending the Wild Garden: Growing in the Fruit of the Spirit* by Eugenia Anne Gamble explores the true meaning behind each of the virtues in Paul's list, guiding us to discover anew what it means to be a deeply loved child of God indwelt by God's Spirit. All women are encouraged to join the discussion on the first and third Mondays via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. Contact Ellen Endsloew at eendsloew@verizon.net with questions or to obtain the Zoom link.

**Clothing Closet Biannual Clothing Drive** - The First Pres Clothing Closet is in need of appropriate clothing for children to start the school year. If you are going through your child's closet and find items that are no longer of use, please consider donating them to the church clothing closet. There is a blue bin in Fellowship Hall for donations.

We appreciate suitable items in girls' and boys' sizes 3 through 14/16. Most pressing needs are as follows:

- \* solid-colored shirts and pants in girls' size 3, 4, 5 and 6
- \* girls 12, 14, 16 long-sleeve shirts and pants
- \* boys' size 5 through 16 short and long -sleeve tee shirts, as well as shorts and pants
- \* Fall jackets are also appreciated

We are grateful for any items used or new that are donated to our outreach to help those in our community.

**Women's Fall Bible Study** - All women are invited to take part in a seven-week study that will take place on Wednesdays from 9:30-11am, beginning October 1. We'll be doing a workbook and video study by Megan Fate Marshmann called *Relaxed: Letting Go of Self-Reliance and Trusting God*. People describe Jesus in a lot of different ways, but have you ever thought of Him as relaxed? This doesn't mean that Jesus didn't grieve or become angry, but the Gospels portray Him as never in a hurry to be anywhere other than where He was, trusting and obeying His Father. Could the same be said of you? Are you relaxed? You can be. We long to know peace, purpose, and contentment, but life's stresses, the world's discouragements, and our own striving for growth often get in the way. All women are welcome: sign up on the church website, or contact Elizabeth Hess (ehess@firstpreswc.com).

**School's Off Day Camp is Back!** - First Pres is excited to offer 2 School's Off Day Camps this fall to provide a fun, safe place for elementary aged children to go when schools are closed. This fall's camps will take place on Tuesday, September 23 and Monday October 20 from 9 - 3:30 pm. The registration form can be found on the church's website under the Sign-up tab. Talk to Sara Pantazes with any questions.

**Volunteers Needed for Schools' Off Camps** - It's great when kids come to First Pres to play for the day, but they can't be here alone! School's Off Day Camps are a meaningful program that the church offers to support working parents and we need your help to keep it going. We need volunteers from 8:45 - 12:15 or 12:15 - 3:45 on Tuesday, September 23 and Monday October 20. If you're able to help, talk to Sara Pantazes.

**Moms Group** - All moms of babies through high schoolers are invited to our monthly moms gatherings! We'll meet up at the church picnic on Sunday, Sept. 7 (11:30am-1:30pm) as our fall kickoff, and then starting in October we'll meet the first Sunday of every month from 4-5:30 at the church. If you're not already on the email list, reach out to Mary Hambleton (emham@verizon.net) to get the reminders each month. We'd love to have you join us!

### **Miner Street Stringers**

An exciting playing opportunity for all string players who have been playing for more than a year. The Miner Street Stringers would like to invite you to play with them! We play 3-4 times per year for Sunday services and other special events here at First Pres. Please contact Adriana Park at [teachvln@aol.com](mailto:teachvln@aol.com) for more information.

First Presbyterian Church of West Chester

August 31, 2025



## **Order of Worship for the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

Prelude Day by Day arr. Mark Hayes

Call to Worship\*  
Sing aloud to God, our strength;  
**Shout for joy to the Lord of Life.**

Blessed be the one, holy and living God.  
**Glory to God forever.**

Hymn 837\* What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

Welcome

Prayer of Confession  
**Lord, all that we have is a gift from you,  
yet we do not live lives of gratitude.  
We ignore strangers  
and turn away from those in need.  
We seek honor for ourselves  
and allow pride to take root in our hearts.  
Forgive our foolish ways, O God,  
and restore us to you,  
that we may walk in the way of love. Amen.**

*\*Please rise in body or spirit*

Assurance of Forgiveness  
Hear the good news:  
God has forgiven our sins, erasing the record against us.  
In Jesus Christ we are made new.  
**Thanks be to God!**

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 Psalm 81:1, 10-16 OT p. 541

Special Music I Speak Jesus Charity Gayle

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 Praeludium XXIV J. S. Bach

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 702\* Christ Be Beside Me

Second Scripture Reading Hebrews 13:1-8 NT p. 227  
15-16

Sermon “Responding to Grace”  
Rev. Caroline Cupp

Hymn 700\* I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

Blessing\*

Postlude Improvisation on  
I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

*Assisting in worship today:*  
Kiana Rivera, Lead Singer  
Elizabeth Hess, Liturgist

*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.*

*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](mailto:firstpreswc.com/staff)*