

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

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

**Our sympathy and prayers** are with Sue Adams and family in the death of her husband, Bob.

**New Sermon Series for Fall** - You're invited to join us for our new fall series "What's Your Rock?" It's a 6-week series that will kick-off our fall together as we explore the enumerable ways in which Christ is present in our lives even when we don't see him or feel him, and how he offers us a foundation that will never shake.

**Wednesday Lunch Supply Drive** - Our Wednesday Lunch program continues to thrive, providing hot, nourishing meals each week at 11:30am. The main course is prepared by our friends downstairs at Mistral French & Fast; volunteers bring sides and desserts to share, and then we all eat together. If you would like to support this ministry, we would love for you to stop by one week and check it out. Donations of disposable plates and silverware are also greatly appreciated; there is also an Amazon Wishlist link in the E-News. Thank you to all who support this program!

**School's Off Day Camp is Back!** - First Pres is excited to offer two 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 School's 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.

**Miner Street Stringers** are an exciting playing opportunity for all string players who have been playing for more than a year. MSS 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.

**Nursery Families Play Date** - First Pres is excited to invite all families with Nursery aged kids (preschool and under) to get together for a play date! Hosted by Pastor Andrew, his wife Megan, and their toddler, we'll be gathering at Marshall Square Park on Saturday, September 20 from 9 -10:30 am. A nut-free snack will be provided. If it rains, our back-up location is Fellowship Hall at church. We hope to see many of our Nursery families there for a fun time of playing and fellowship!

**Bibles for Third Grade Students** - Every fall, First Pres gifts a Bible to the church's 3rd graders to encourage them to continue growing in their faith. If you would like a 3rd grader in your life to receive a Bible, please contact Sara Pantazes by calling the church office or emailing Sara ([spantazes@firstpreswc.com](mailto:spantazes@firstpreswc.com)) by September 30. The Bibles will be presented in worship on October 5, but children do not need to be present in worship to receive one.

**Men's Fall Study:** This fall the Thursday evening men's group will take up a study of the Book of Hebrews. It is like no other letter in the New Testament, yet gives us so much understanding of the gospel and some of the deepest issues of the Christian faith, exhorting the reader to hold on by faith to the true rest found only in Christ. Our main aid in understanding the Book of Hebrews will be *Exhorting Jesus in Hebrews, A Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary* by Dr. R. Albert Mohler. This group meets on Thursdays from 7-9 p.m. on Zoom. All men are welcome! Please feel free to contact Phil Heaver at [fivormor59@aol.com](mailto:fivormor59@aol.com) or 610-310-0388 with any questions you may have.

First Presbyterian Church of West Chester  
September 14, 2025



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

*\*Please rise in body or spirit*

Prelude      Allegro from Horn Concerto in Eb  
WW. A. Mozart

Call to Worship\*  
Come, let us praise God together  
in the company of his gathered people.  
**The works of our God are unparalleled.**

All the world reveals his glory and majesty.  
**Our God is full of grace and mercy,  
and his righteousness never fails.**

So come and worship, communion of saints  
and followers of Christ.  
**Let us sing a joyful noise  
in reverence and honor to our God.**

Hymn 33\*      Praise the Lord! God's Glories Show

Welcome

Prayer of Confession  
**Loving God, help us. When we have run away,  
when we have turned our backs on your love,  
when we have sought immediate satisfaction  
and not long-term healing, help us.  
Forgive us for the ways we have been selfish,  
when we have been mean, (con't)**

when we have closed our ears to the cries of others.  
Heal us when we are so broken we cannot move,  
when we don't know how to stop the pain  
of our wounds, when we are too ashamed  
to seek community, when we are too afraid  
to ask for help from others. Give us the courage,  
the strength, and the hope to accept your grace  
and hear your call in Christ.

Assurance of Forgiveness  
We were created not for destruction, but for redemption.  
Christ redeems us, redeems our community,  
and redeems our world.  
In Him we find forgiveness and peace. 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\*

Children's Message  
During the singing of the following response, children may join  
their teachers for Sunday School. Families can pick up their  
children after the service in their classrooms on the 2nd floor.

Response God of Great and God of Small Hymn 19

First Scripture Reading Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 OT p. 616

Anthem The Gift to be Simple  
arr. Bob Chilcott

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 Larghetto from Horn Concerto in Eb  
W. A. Mozart

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 298\* Lord, You Give the Great Commission

Second Scripture Reading Hebrews 12:1-2 NT p. 226

Sermon What's Your Rock? - Week 2  
Rev. Andrew Esqueda

Hymn 727\* Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

Blessing\*

Postlude Rondo from Horn Concerto in Eb  
W. A. Mozart

Assisting in worship today:  
Doug Congdon-Martin, French Horn  
The Chancel Choir

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)