

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

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

**The Chancel Flowers** are given by Barb Scott in memory of loved ones.

**Stock the Shelves** – In response to the government’s pause on SNAP benefits, First Pres’s Session is collecting groceries each week to give to the West Chester Food Cupboard. To participate, bring in an unexpired, unopened item to church on Sunday or throughout the week and we’ll get it to the WCFC. **This week’s food item is Peanut Butter.** Thank you for supporting our community during this difficult time.

**Worship Night** - The Contemporary Worship Band is excited to host our second annual Worship Night here at First Pres. We hope that you will join us on Sunday, November 16th from 5:30-7:30pm. This will not be a service, but an opportunity to worship and enjoy some new company while singing and playing to the honor and glory of God. We are thrilled to open up our doors not only to our church, but the community surrounding it. Please invite friends and family to tag along with you and keep the band in prayer, as we set up for a very powerful night.

**Community Thanksgiving** - On Wednesday, November 26 we’ll celebrate our 3rd Annual Community Thanksgiving during the usual Wednesday Lunch time (11:30-1pm). Come on your own or with family, invite friends, and bring a dish to share (or just come hungry!). We’ll have great food, good fellowship, and kick off the holiday season together. To sign up, please visit the sign-up tab on the website.

**Getsemani Church Visit** - Our sister church in Guatemala is visiting! Amanda, Aurelia, Libni and Vidal are coming to fellowship and worship with us from November 13-18. We are hoping to have them engage with many people from the congregation. Opportunities include: Afternoon visit to Chester County History Center and BBQ dinner in Malvern (Fri 14th); Brandywine River Museum/ Colonial Plantation and host or attend dinner (Sat 15th); Potluck dinner (Mon 16th). Also, we are looking for anyone fluent in Spanish who can help with translating - this can be a tag team effort. Contact Elizabeth Guman at ecguman@gmail.com.

**The rosebud** is to the Glory of God and in honor of Felix Norris Howard, born October 29, 2025, child of Kate and Max Howard, grandchild of Adriana and Dennis Park.

**Deck the Halls: Wreath Workshop, Kids Advent Party, Decorating** - On Sunday, November 30, First Pres will be bustling with holiday fun! **There will be one worship service at 10 am that day**, and then immediately following, there are several options for you to come enjoy the Christmas spirit.

*Decorate the Church for Christmas:* Every Christmas season the church looks festive with all the wonderful decorations that enhance celebration of Christ’s birth. This year church members and friends of all ages are invited to stay after the 10 am worship service on Sunday, November 30 to join in the fun of decorating. We’ll be putting up the many wreaths, garlands and pine roping that will accompany us on our journey to Bethlehem. We hope you will join in as the excitement builds during this holy time of year.

As the Decorating Team plans for the holiday weeks ahead, we are looking for magnolia, boxwood, and laurel clippings to enhance the decorations inside and outside our lovely church for Advent and Christmas. If you have access to clippings please contact Beth Congdon-Martin at [congdonmar@aol.com](mailto:congdonmar@aol.com) to arrange for pick-up or delivery by November 30.

*Kids Advent Party:* Preschool - 5th graders are invited to gather for holiday crafts and games. Parents are not required to stay with their children for this party but are welcome to join the fun if desired. If you are willing to help with this party, please talk to Sara Pantazes.

*Christmas Wreath Making:* This will be our fifth year of the popular wreath-making workshop. Adults are able to decorate a freshly made wreath from a tree farm in Downingtown. We’ll have plenty of decorations for you to make a one-of-a-kind wreath that will last the season. This will take place in Fellowship Hall. Registration and payment (\$20) is required for this event; sign-ups are on the church website.

First Presbyterian Church of West Chester

November 9, 2025



### **Order of Worship for the Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost**

*\*Please rise in body or spirit*

Prelude

Ride On, King Jesus

arr. Anna Laura Page

Call to Worship\*

Knock and the door will be opened:

**Seek and you will find.**

Ask and the Lord will hear you:

**Pray and make your requests known to God.**

Worship the Lord in splendor and holiness:

**Let us sing praises to the God  
who is alive and listening.**

Hymn 263\*

All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!

Welcome

Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, we know that our requests are often selfish,  
yet you hear us anyway.**

**We know that you listen to our praise  
and our complaints and yet we often come to you last.**

**Help us to lead lives of prayer,**

**where you are always first on our minds**

**(con’t)**

and first in our hearts.  
Forgive us for expecting you to listen to our cries  
in times of need,  
but failing to take seriously  
the cries and needs of others.  
Bring us into closer relationship with you  
so that our lives might reflect your love and your will  
for all to have their daily bread.  
Help us to never cease praying, to ask, to question,  
and to wonder with you as our loving Father. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness  
The Lord has heard our cries, answered our prayers,  
and through Christ has brought us into full relationship  
with him through the forgiveness of sins.  
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. 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 Choir Anthem    Never Forget to be Thankful  
Natalie Sleeth

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    Psalm 5:1-3            OT p. 490

Special Music    Somebody's Knockin' at Your Door  
arr. Brenda Austin

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            Gloria in excelsis Deo            Antonio Vivaldi

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 812\*            O Save Me, God, and Hear My Cry

Second Scripture Reading            Psalm 13            OT p. 494

Sermon            *Reorienting Life: A Call to Prayer*  
Rev. Andrew Esqueda

Hymn 39\*            Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Blessing\*

Postlude            Allegro moderato  
from Tuba Concerto  
Ralph Vaughan Williams

*Assisting in worship today:*  
Patrick Koehler, Tuba  
The Celebration Singers  
The Chancel Ringers  
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)*