

Connect and Serve

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

In Memoriam

Kay S. Leto

Member of First Presbyterian Church

June 26, 1995 – November 1, 2025

Our sympathy and prayers are with her family and friends.

Holiday Schedule - Please note that there will be a single worship service on Sunday, November 30, at 10:00 am. Also, the church offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 27 and 28, in recognition of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Stock the Shelves - Due to the pause in SNAP benefits, West Chester Food Cupboard recently experienced the busiest week in its history. The food you bring in each week has made an impact, and given people access to groceries that wouldn't otherwise have been available to them. To participate, bring 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 Tuna.** Thank you for supporting our community during this difficult time.

First Pres Travelers has a trip to a Murder Mystery Dinner (noon) on Wed. March 3 at the Mount Hope Estate & Winery in Lancaster. The cost is \$105 per person which covers the dinner, bus, driver tip, and fees. If you are interested in going, please respond ASAP to Thom and Irene Clapper at psuthom@verizon.net.

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 **tonight** 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.

Stewardship – Please refer to the e-mail sent out on Thursday as well as the postal mailing you received for information you can use to prayerfully consider your financial support of the mission and ministry of First Pres.

Giving Trees - The Giving Trees will be up and ready for all Santa's Helpers on Sunday, November 23. There will be 2 gift card trees and 1 gift tree. Thank you for your support!

Deck the Halls: Wreath Workshop, Kids Advent Party, and Decorating - On Sunday, November 30, First Pres will be bustling with holiday fun! **After the single worship service at 10 am that day**, there will be several options for you to 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 help put up the many wreaths, garlands and pine roping that will accompany us on our journey to Bethlehem. The Decorating Team is 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 to arrange for pick-up or delivery.

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 16, 2025



Order of Worship for the Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

**Please rise in body or spirit*

Prelude How Firm a Foundation
arr. Tammy Waldrop

Call to Worship*
We gather to worship in your presence
To pray and sing to the living God

We worship God and God alone
We live for God and God alone

May our worship be sincere and honoring
to God Most High
**And may we be transformed by it
to serve God's Kingdom as we worship with our lives.**

Hymn 267* Come, Christians, Join to Sing

Welcome

Prayer of Confession
**Holy God, we come to you knowing that we struggle
to follow you daily. We follow others instead of you;
we fail to love our neighbors and build
your beloved community. Holy One, forgive us.
Take away whatever holds us back. (con't)**

Show us the way to confidence and generosity,
so that we may be known as your people:
repairers of the broken places
and restorers of communities to justice and peace.
Change our hearts, O God, and make us
more like your Son, Jesus. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness
Though we may have strayed, when we come to Jesus,
we can be sure that the kingdom we are offered
cannot be shaken.
We are changed, we are restored, and we are forgiven
in the name of Christ. 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

Special Music Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land
arr. Mark Arnold

First Scripture Reading Psalm 35:9-18 OT p. 509

Anthem Like a River in My Soul Tim Osiek

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 Great Is Thy Faithfulness
arr. Martha Thompson

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 610* O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Second Scripture Reading Isaiah 58:1-8 OT p. 524

Sermon Feasting and Fasting
Rev. Andrew Esqueda

Hymn 819* Be Still, My Soul

Blessing*

Postlude Prelude in C Minor J. S. Bach

Assisting in worship today:
The Miner Street Bell Connections
The JuBellation 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.

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.

Pizza and a Parade - The popular West Chester Christmas
Parade is on Friday, December 5 at 7 pm. If you’re planning
to attend the parade, then you can also plan to have a (free)
pizza dinner at the church beforehand! Come into town early
to find your parking spot, and then come to church at 5:30
pm. We’ll have pizza for First Pres parade-goers, and also
hot coffee and hot chocolate to go! Sign up through the
website.

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