

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Bringing hope to the heart of Charleston and beyond.



**Reign of Christ Sunday
November 23, 2025 | 10:30am**

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

16 Leon Sullivan Way • Charleston, WV 25301 • 304-343-8961 • www.firstpresby.com

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. William C. Myers

Ministers: All members of the congregation

*A warm welcome is extended to all who worship today.
May the gift of worship we offer honor God and serve as a blessing to you.*

We are grateful you chose to worship with us today. Please take a moment to sign in via the Friendship Pads located at the ends of the pews. We use this information to keep in touch about church events. We hope you will take a moment to read about news and events happening in the life of the church, found in the worship bulletin after this morning's order of service. Please share news and notes with your friends and neighbors!

All children are welcome and encouraged to participate in worship.

A reflection for worship:

*Let all things now living A song of thanksgiving
To God our Creator triumphantly raise;
Who fashioned and made us, Protected and stayed us,
By guiding us onto the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, Pure light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
Till shadows have vanished, All fearfulness banished,
As forward we travel from light into Light.*

—Katherine K. Davis, 1939

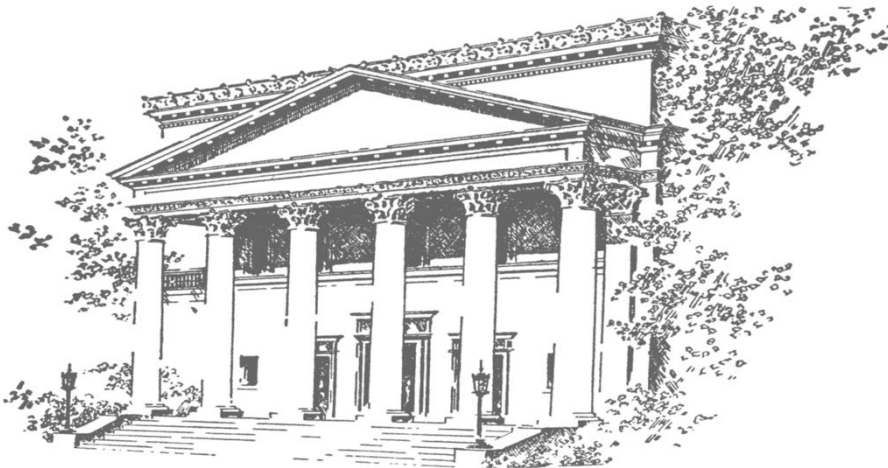
The following scriptures are provided for silent meditation during the prelude:

Lectionary

Jeremiah 23:1-6 • Luke 1:68-79 or Psalm 46 • Colossians 1:11-20 • Luke 23:33-43

Cover art:

Christ and Saint John the Evangelist (c. 1300)
Cleveland Museum of Art



*Seek the welfare of the city
where I have sent you...
and pray to the Lord
on its behalf for in its welfare
you will find your welfare.*
Jeremiah 29:7

The Worship of Our Lord

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO...

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

**indicates congregation standing, as able.*

OPENING VOLUNTARY Andante grazioso

Louise Farrenc

WELCOME

Pastor Myers

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRAISE ALMIGHTY GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Susan Smith

One: The nations are in an uproar, and kingdoms totter.

All: Yet our God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

One: The Shepherd we need is here. The King we crucified still reigns.

All: Let us give thanks and rejoice, for Christ's mercy and justice hold firm when all else shakes.

One: Come, let us worship the Lord, who reigns over all creation.

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Susan Smith

All: O Lord, our refuge and strength, though nations rage and kingdoms totter, your throne stands firm, your mercy reigns. You gather the scattered, calm the storms, and make peace where there is fear. We praise you, O God of Jacob, our unshakable rock, our ever-present help. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE #336 We Gather Together

KREMSER

CONFESS TO OUR FORGIVING CREATOR

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Myers

One: This is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. I will forgive their evil deeds, and I will remember their sin no more.

All: We confess our sins to God, trusting God will forgive us and remember our sins no more.

Generous God,

You give beyond measure,

Bringing forth abundance day by day.

We confess our failure to acknowledge your goodness.

We confuse our efforts with your providence.

We conflate our deeds with your gifts.

Forgive our sins.

Grow in us thankful hearts, ready to praise your faithfulness.

Form in us grateful spirits, quick to trust in your gracious care;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor Myers

One: Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good. In Jesus Christ, our sin is forgiven and our lives are made new.

All: God's steadfast love endures forever. Thanks be to God.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** Holy God, We Praise Your Name

GROSSER GOTT, WIR LOBEN DICH



1. Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we bow be - fore you.
2. Ho - ly Fa - ther, Ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it: three we name you,



All on earth your scepter claim; all in heaven above adore you.
while in essence only one; un - di - vid - ed God we claim you,



In - fi - nite your vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.
and a - dor - ing, bend the knee while we own the mys - ter - y.

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Pastor Myers

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.**LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD****SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Susan Smith

*page 725, Old Testament***SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Psalm 46

Susan Smith

One: This is the word of the Lord.

*page 517, Old Testament***All: Thanks be to God.****ANTHEM**

Let All Things Now Living

Welsh folk melody, Katherine K. Davis

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us; pure light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
Till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished, as forward we travel from light into light.

By law God enforces, the stars in their courses, the sun in its orbit obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing; with glad adoration, a song let us raise,
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving: to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 23:33-43

Pastor Myers

One: This is the word of the Lord.

*page 89, New Testament***All: Thanks be to God.****A TIME FOR CHILDREN**

Susan Smith

Birth - K may meet in the Nursery (Room 114) for a lesson and a snack.
Children in grades 1-5 are dismissed to Children's Church in Room E-117/119
or they may remain in the sanctuary with their parents.

SERMON

"When Nations Rage and Kingdoms Totter — God is God!"

Pastor Myers

***HYMN #620**

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

LAUDA ANIMA

DEDICATE OUR LIVES TO GOD

JOYS & CONCERNS

Pastor Myers

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Myers

**All: 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.

SUNG RESPONSE TO PRAYER

God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength

WINCHESTER OLD



1. God is our ref - uge and our strength, our ev - er - pres - ent aid,
2. Though hills a - mid the seas be cast, though foam - ing wa - ters roar,
3. Where God a - bides a riv - er flows; that cit - y will re - joice.
4. Since God is in the midst of it, the cit - y walls shall stand,



and there - fore, though the earth be moved, we will not be a - fraid.
yea, though the might - y bil - lows shake the moun - tains on the shore.
But na - tions fear and king - doms shake be - fore God's thun - dering voice.
se - cure and safe with God's sure help, when trou - ble is at hand.

OFFER OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Please bring your offering forward during the offertory.

You may also text "firstpresby" to 73256 to give from your mobile device.

OFFERTORY

Chorale Prelude on *Gott sei gelobet und gebenedeiet*
(God be praised and blessed)

Johann Christoph Bach

***OFFERING RESPONSE #607** Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.***

OLD HUNDREDTH

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION**

Pastor Myers

GO FORTH TO SERVE

***HYMN #643**

Now Thank We All Our God

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

***BENEDICTION**

Pastor Myers

CONCLUDING VOLUNTARY

Toccata on ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

Hugo Gehrke

OUR WORSHIP CONTINUES IN OUR SERVICE TO OTHERS

Worship is broadcast on Sundays at 11:00am on WCHS 580AM
Worship is also available on our YouTube channel: First Presby WV
Follow us on Facebook: First Presbyterian Church Charleston, WV

WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Dr. William C. Myers
Susan Smith

AUDIO & VIDEO

Byron Goodew
David Cottrell

THE MUSIC TODAY

Jayson Keeton, Director of Music & Organist
The Sanctuary Choir

CUSTODIAL SERVICES

David Feibelman

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THE STAFF OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

William Myers, Pastor/Head of Staff
Jayson Keeton, Director of Music & Organist
Jenny Pitchford, Financial Services Manager
Susan Smith, Christian Education Coordinator
Diana Vorhees, Office Administrator
Chelsea Greathouse, Office Assistant

Anne Moses, Director of the Preschool
Erin Stone, Preschool Office Administrator
Bernard Wooten, Preschool Custodian
Curtis Allen, Preschool Custodian
Steven Barrett, Facilities Manager
Jeff Kirk, Church Custodian

First Presby Weekly News November 23, 2025

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session has called a congregational meeting for this Sunday, November 30, immediately following worship for the stated purpose of electing Church officers and members of the Nominating Committee.

LOGOS

No LOGOS this Wednesday, November 26th due to Thanksgiving break.

ROOT AND BRANCH – Interfaith Discussion Group

You are invited to an Interfaith Discussion Group on Monday, November 24th at B'nai Jacob (1599 Virginia St East) at 7pm. Multiple religious community leaders will be present including special guest Rabbi Adam Berman, who has recently taken over for Rabbi Urecki. The discussion will be on Judaism's Contributions to Christian and Muslim Religious Life. This event is free and open to the public with refreshments available.

ADVENT WORKSHOP

Mark your calendars now. The annual Advent Fair will be Sunday, December 7th following the worship service. Lunch will be provided. You, your family, and friends will be able to choose from a variety of crafts: Advent wreath; Christmas pillow case; "stained glass" tea light holder; shadow theater box; plus a few surprises.

ADVENT CALENDAR AND DEVOTIONALS

Advent starts next Sunday, November 30th. The Christian Education committee is pleased to provide an advent calendar and a choice of two devotionals entitled *The Will to Dream*. *The Will to Dream* highlights the stories of Advent–Epiphany as witnesses to God's dream of a new world. From Isaiah's visions to Mary's song, from Zechariah's prophecy to the defiant journey of the magi, these scriptures call us to nurture prophetic imagination. Dreams remind us of the possibility: there is enough love, mercy, and courage for all.

The Will to Dream Devotional features everything you need to engage scripture thoughtfully and prayerfully: weekly scripture readings; a written reflection; plus discussion questions.

The Will to Dream Practices for Families is a devotional resource for households of all shapes and sizes, with weekly reflections, practices, and coloring pages—plus podcast recordings for busy families.

The Advent calendar offers a simple way for households to mark Advent together. Each day includes a short activity that is easy to complete and meaningful for all ages.

CENTS-ABILITY

The kids and buckets will be coming down the aisles so have your coins ready! Centsability will benefit local hunger ministries as well as the national and international projects of the Presbyterian Hunger Program. In October, we raised \$230.00 and our running total is \$838.91. Great job First Presby!

First Presby Weekly News November 23, 2025

PRESBYTERY CHURCH PRAYERS

Each week we pray for other congregations in our presbytery, along with the Presbytery of West Virginia and other ministry partners. This week please pray for Belle First Presbyterian Church, Marlinton Presbyterian Church and Westminster Presbyterian Church in Vienna.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Sunday, November 23

9:15am	Discovery Class	<i>Dining Room</i>
10:30am	Worship	<i>Sanctuary & YouTube</i>
11:00am	Worship Radio Broadcast	<i>WCHS-580AM</i>
12:00pm	Hope Village – LAST DAY!	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>

Monday, November 24

8:30 am	Aerobics	<i>A201</i>
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Tuesday, November 25

10:00am	Staff Meeting	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
2:00pm	Nancy Thomas Funeral	<i>Sanctuary</i>
4:00pm	Christmas Decorating	<i>Sanctuary</i>

Wednesday, November 26

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>A201</i>
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Thursday, November 27

OFFICE CLOSED – Happy Thanksgiving

Friday, November 28

OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, November 29

Sunday, November 30

10:30am	Worship	<i>Sanctuary & YouTube</i>
11:00am	Worship Radio Broadcast	<i>WCHS-580AM</i>

DISCOVERY CLASS

Nov 23	“Walk the Walk” – Rick Vorhees
Nov 30	NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Weekend
Dec 7	Christmas Mission Project

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

Sunday, November 23	Luke 19:11-27
Monday, November 24	Matthew 19:1-12
Tuesday, November 25	Matthew 19:13-22
Wednesday, November 26	Matthew 19:23-30
Thursday, November 27	Matthew 20:1-16
Friday, November 28	Matthew 20:17-28
Saturday, November 29	Matthew 20:29-34



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF CHARLESTON

