

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.

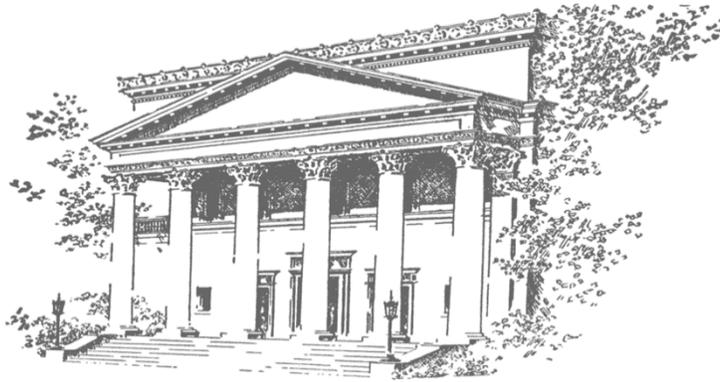
Jeremiah 29:7

First Presbyterian Church

16 Leon Sullivan Way
Charleston, WV 25301-2487
304-343-8961
www.firstpresby.com

Pastor:
The Rev. Dr. William C. Myers

Ministers:
All members of the congregation



The Worship of Our Lord

The Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 25, 2026

10:30am

Welcome to First Presby! We are grateful you chose to worship with us today. Please take a moment to sign in via the Friendship Pads located at the end 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 weekly Green Sheet.

Please share news and notes with your friends and neighbors!

REFLECTION FOR WORSHIP

The following lectionary readings are provided for silent meditation during the prelude:
Isaiah 9:1-4 • Psalm 27:1, 4-9 • 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 • Matthew 4:12-23

*"We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools."
— Martin Luther King Jr.*

*"Man's capacity for justice makes democracy possible; but man's inclination to injustice makes democracy necessary."
Reinhold Niebuhr*

*indicates congregation standing, as able

OPENING VOLUNTARY Chorale Prelude for the 3rd Sunday after Epiphany Johann Christoph Bach

INTROIT Light Dawns on a Weary World William P. Rowan, Mary Louise Bringle

Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to see all people's dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world: the promised day of justice comes.
The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;
The hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace, as all the world in wonder echoes *shalom*.

WELCOME Pastor Myers

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRAISE ALMIGHTY GOD

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Diana Vorhees

One: We have walked through darkness, having seen a great light.

All: The light of God gathers us, even when the ground feels unstable.

One: We stand together as a people of hope.

All: Let us worship the God who lifts us from the pit and calls us into the light.

One: Let us worship the Lord together!

***PRAYER OF ADORATION** Diana Vorhees

All: God of light, you meet us in the darkness. You lift us from despair and gather us into your presence. Help us to stand together, not by fear or obligation, but by hope.

Strengthen us to live as a community shaped by your love, that we may be witnesses to your light in a world that needs it. Amen.

CONFESS TO OUR FORGIVING CREATOR

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Myers

One: When we are afraid, we fracture. When we are divided, we forget your promise. When we try to stand alone, we stumble.

All: **Let us bring our hearts before God, seeking forgiveness and restoration.**

**Gracious God,
We confess the ways we fail to stand together.
We follow our fears instead of your light.
We cling to our own strength instead of your guidance.
Forgive us.
Restore us.
Gather us as your people,
that we may reflect your hope and love.**

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: God's light shines into every darkness. The grace of God lifts us up. Friends, believe the good news!

All: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** Great Is Thy Faithfulness (vs. 1)

FAITHFULNESS

Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;

there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.

Thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions they fail not.

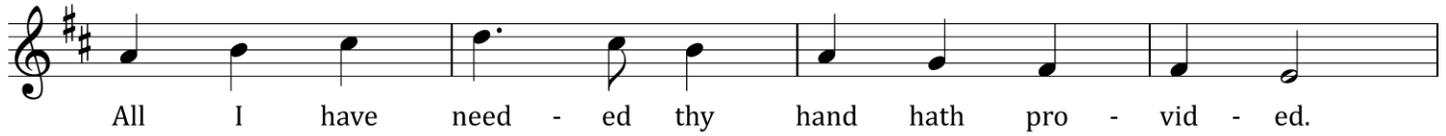
As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.



Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!



Morn - ing by morn - ing, new mer - cies I see.



All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed.



Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!

*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 Isaiah 9:1-4

Diana Vorhees
page 638, Old Testament

SCRIPTURE LESSON 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Diana Vorhees
page 165, New Testament

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Christ, Be Our Light

Bernadette Farrell

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 4:12-23

Pastor Myers
page 3, New Testament

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"United We Stand"

Pastor Myers

***HYMN**

Put Your Hand in the Hand (*sing twice*)

Gene MacLellan

Put your hand in the hand of the man who stilled the wa - ter, _____ put your
 hand in the hand of the man who calmed the sea; _____ take a
 look at your - self and you can look at oth - ers dif - f'rent - ly, by put - ting your
 hand in the hand of the man from Gal - i - lee. _____

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

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying (*sing 3x*)

CHILDREN PRAYING

Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren pray - ing. Lord, send your
 Spir - it in this place. Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren
 pray - ing. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

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	Intonation a Sesto Tono	Andrea Gabrielli
*OFFERING RESPONSE #607	Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow <i>Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.</i>	OLD HUNDREDTH
*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION		Pastor Myers
GO FORTH TO SERVE		
*HYMN #321	The Church's One Foundation	AURELIA
*BENEDICTION		Pastor Myers
CLOSING VOLUNTARY	Cantabile (from <i>École d'Orgue</i>)	Jacques Lemmens

OUR WORSHIP CONTINUES IN OUR SERVICE TO OTHERS.

Worship is broadcast 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
Diana Vorhees

NURSERY

Margaret Jones

AUDIO & VIDEO

Byron Goodew
David Cottrell

CUSTODIAL SERVICES

David Feibelman

THE MUSIC TODAY

Jayson Keeton, Director of Music & Organist
Lindsay Marchio, soprano

Service music reprinted under CCLI License No. 3604127.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY:

An AED machine, Pediatric/Adult Resuscitators, and a First Aid Kit are located in the main church hallway on the wall by the front offices.

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

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting will be postponed to Sunday, February 1st immediately following worship. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the Annual Report for 2025, including Financial Statements. We will also receive our budget for 2026, which was approved by Session on January 21st, and vote on any changes to the terms of call for Pastor Myers.

SUNDAY ADVENTURE

Due to the impending snow storm, the Sunday Adventure is postponed for February 15th.

The Clay Center is offering us an afternoon of fun. From 1:00 – 3:00 there will be a special planetarium show just for us, a chance to see their new Digital telescope, plus a STEM activity in the classroom. Afterwards you are free to explore the museum. This adventure is for all ages! The cost for this special adventure is \$6.50 for children under 18 and \$9 for Adults. Please let Susan Smith know if you plan to attend, space is limited to 40 people. You can reach Susan by email susan@firstpresby.com or phone 870-665-2128.

LIFT: WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAM

Changes are coming to the Wednesday night program, including a name change; LOGOS is now LIFT – Living in Faith Everyone is welcome to join us for a free dinner and a time of fellowship starting at 5:45pm. After dinner children K-5th can attend a class just for them. This 45 minute fast paced class uses the *Growing in God's Love* curriculum which includes a Bible story, an activity, and music. Adults can choose to attend Pastor Myer's class or stay in the dining hall and continue fellowshiping. At 7:00 we celebrate communion in the Chapel; this short 15 minute worship service is for all who wish to attend.

LIFT AFTER DARK with PASTOR MYERS

Jan 28 WEEK 3 — “How Do Presbyterians Look at the World?”

The Reformed Lens

Purpose: Connect Jesus' teachings to the Reformed theological tradition.

Themes:

- **Sovereignty of God**
- **The Reality of Human Brokenness** (but not hopelessness)
- **Grace First**
- **Discipleship as gratitude**
- **Corporate responsibility** (sin & redemption are communal, not just personal)
- The **Missional** posture of the church
- Being a **“thinking faith”** tradition (Scripture + tradition + reason + experience)

Documents you might highlight:

- Brief Statement of Faith
- The Great Ends of the Church
- Sections of the Book of Confessions that shape ethics

Engagement:

- “The Reformed Priorities Sorting Game.”
Groups rank 8–10 values (grace, justice, individual freedom, community well-being, doctrinal clarity, etc.). Then reveal how Reformed theology orders them.

Goal: Ground participants in a tradition that gives structure without shutting down thought.

First Presby Weekly News January 25, 2026

YOUTH GROUP

The Youth group will meet every second Sunday from 3:00 – 5:00. There will be fun, food, and fellowship for middle school and high school students. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk with Susan.

TIME FOR REFRESHMENT

Join Pastor Myers on Thursday afternoons at 4:30pm in the Ruffner Room starting September 18 for tea, shortbread/cookies, and conversation. We'll talk about life, faith, church, politics, maybe even church politics! Bring your opinions. Bring your questions. All are welcome. Whatever is on your mind, we'll talk about it! You can come occasionally. You can come every week. Our only purpose is to enjoy the fellowship and get to know each other a little better. Please enter through the side ramp door.

MISSION COMMITTEE LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

The Mission and Witness Committee is a vibrant group of church members who find ways each month to make our community and our world a better place for people to live in. We are a busy bunch who together have helped keep people warm, fed, housed, clothed, addition free and in touch with their spiritual selves. We are energetic and have a need for more members with various interests and skills. Think about joining us. We meet the first Thursday of each month. Email Karen Scherr (kmscherr100@gmail.com) if you are interested or call the church office (304-343-8961). We would love to work together frequently or occasionally, whenever you might be available.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Sunday, January 25

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

Monday, January 26

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
--------	----------	------------------------------

Tuesday, January 27

10:00am	Staff Meeting	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
5:30pm	Hope Center Board Meeting	<i>Room 412</i>

Wednesday, January 28

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
10:00am	Knitting Club	<i>Room 406</i>
5:45pm	LIFT	<i>Dining Room/Various</i>
6:00pm	LIFT After Dark	<i>Ruffner Room</i>

Thursday, January 29

8:00am	Shoney's Group	<i>Zoom</i>
11:00am	Lesson with Susan	<i>Chapel</i>
4:30pm	Time for Refreshment	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
5:30pm	Bell Choir	<i>Choir Room</i>

Friday, January 30

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
7:00pm	Concert Series	<i>Sanctuary</i>

Saturday, January 31

1:00pm	Robin Harlow Funeral	<i>Sanctuary & YouTube</i>
--------	----------------------	--------------------------------

Sunday, February 1

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

DISCOVERY CLASS

- Jan 25** No Class
- Feb 1** "Jesus as Exorcist and Healer" – John Nesius
- Feb 8** "Let Your Light Shine" – Rob Kuenzel
- Feb 15** "A Rabbi's Journey" – Rabbi Adam Berman of Banai Jacob

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

- Sunday, January 25** Mark 7:31-37
- Monday, January 26** John 4:43-54
- Tuesday, January 27** John 5:1-18
- Wednesday, January 28** John 5:19-29
- Thursday, January 29** John 5:30-47
- Friday, January 30** John 6:1-15
- Saturday, January 31** John 6: 16-27

