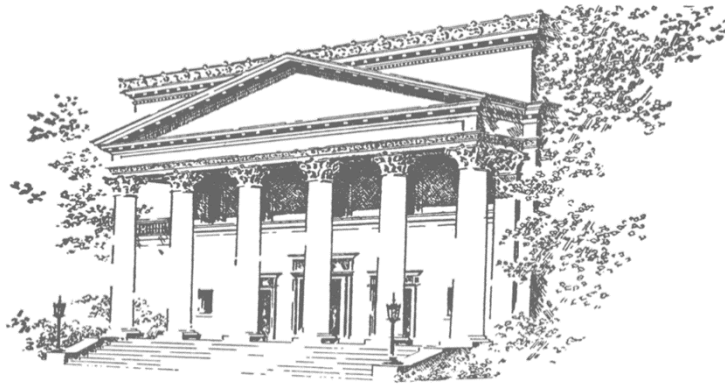


Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you... and pray to the Lord on its behalf  
for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

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 Ascension of the Lord  
The Seventh Sunday of Easter  
May 17, 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 people who walked in darkness have seen a great light."  
— Isaiah 9:2*

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it – that is the whole story of God's new creation.  
— N.T. Wright*

*"The wound is the place where the Light enters you."  
— Rumi*

*The following lectionary readings are provided for silent meditation during the prelude:  
Acts 1:6-14 • Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 • 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 • John 17:1-11*

**\*indicates congregation standing, as able**

### THE CHURCH GATHERS TO...

### PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

**OPENING VOLUNTARY**      Trumpet Tune (from *Voluntary V in D Major*)      John Stanley

**INTROIT**      You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd      French melody, Sylvia G. Dunstan  
Clothed in light upon the mountain, stripped of might upon the cross,  
Shining in eternal glory, beggared by a soldier's toss,  
You, the everlasting instant; you, who are both gift and cost.

**WELCOME**      Pastor Myers

**CHIMING OF THE TRINITY**

## PRAISE ALMIGHTY GOD

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 29)

The Rev. Laurel B. Hamilton

One: The voice of the Lord is over the waters;

**All: The God of glory thunders,  
the Lord thunders over the mighty waters.**

One: The voice of the Lord is powerful;

**All: The voice of the Lord is majestic.**

One: The voice of the Lord strikes with flashes of lightning;

**All: The voice of the Lord shakes the desert;**

One: The voice of the Lord twists the oaks  
and strips the forests bare.

**All: And in his temple all cry, "Glory!"**

One: Let us worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.

### \*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Pastor Laurel

**All: Ascribe to the Lord, you heavenly beings!  
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name!  
Come, Holy Spirit, to shake us.  
Come, Lord Jesus, to bring us peace.  
Amen.**

### \*HYMN OF PRAISE #41 O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!

LYONS

## CONFESS TO OUR FORGIVING CREATOR

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Laurel

One: Most merciful God,

**All: we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*(Silence is kept for personal confession.)*

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: "'Tis grace has brought us safe thus far; and grace will lead us home."  
Through Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

GLORY TO GOD



1. Glo - ry to God, \_\_\_\_\_ whose good - ness shines on me,  
2. World with - out end, \_\_\_\_\_ 7 with - out end. A - men.



and to the Son, \_\_\_\_\_ whose grace has par - doned me,  
World with - out end, \_\_\_\_\_ 7 with - out end. A - men.



and to the Spir - it, \_\_\_\_\_ whose love has set me free.  
World with - out end, \_\_\_\_\_ 7 with - out end. A - men.



As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

**\*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**

Genesis 1:1-5

Pastor Laurel  
*page 1, Old Testament*

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

2 Corinthians 4:5-6

Pastor Laurel  
*page 180, New Testament*

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

O Lord, Most High

Thomas Tallis, arr. Richard Shephard

O Lord Most High, eternal King, by thee redeemed, thy praise we sing.  
The bonds of death are burst by thee, and grace has won the victory.

Ascending to the Father's throne you claimed the kingdom as your own;  
And angels wonder when they see how changed is our humanity.

Be thou our joy, O Mighty Lord, as you will be our great reward;  
Let all our glory be in thee both now and through eternity.

This hymn of glory, let us sing, new hymns throughout the world shall ring;  
By a new way none ever trod, Christ takes his place, the throne of God.

O risen Christ, ascended Lord, all praise to thee let earth accord,  
Who art, while endless ages run, with Father and with Spirit, One. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

John 1:1-5

The Rev. Dr. Robert F. Bardin  
*page 91, New Testament*

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**A TIME FOR CHILDREN**

Cents-ability

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**

“Tohu Wa-bohu”

Rev. Bardin

**\*HYMN #22**

God of the Sparrow

ROEDER

**DEDICATE OUR LIVES TO GOD**

**JOYS & CONCERNS**

Pastor Myers

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

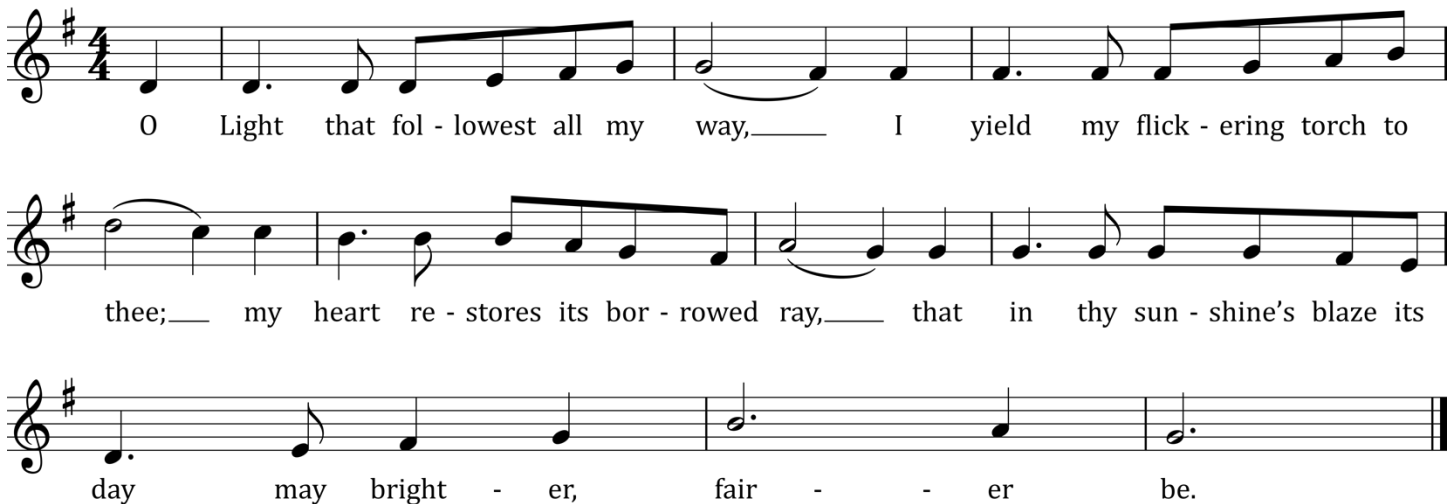
Pastor Myers

**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**

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go (vs. 2)

ST. MARGARET



O Light that fol - lowest all my way, I yield my flick - ering torch to  
thee; my heart re - stores its bor - rowed ray, that in thy sun - shine's blaze its  
day may bright - er, fair - er be.

**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**

God on the Mountain

Tracy G. Dartt

*Lindsay Marchio, soprano*

Life is easy when you’re up on the mountain and you’ve got peace of mind like you’ve never known.  
But things change when you’re down in the valley. Don’t lose faith for you’re never alone.

*For the God on the mountain is still God in the valley. When things go wrong he’ll make them right.  
And the God of the good times is still God in the bad times. The God of the day is still God in the night.*

You talk of faith when you’re up on the mountain, but talk comes so easy when life’s at its best.  
Now it’s down in the valley of trials and temptations, that’s where your faith is really put to the test.

**\*OFFERING RESPONSE #607 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow**

OLD HUNDREDTH

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all people here below  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.***

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION**

Pastor Myers

## GO FORTH TO SERVE

**\*HYMN #744**

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

FESTAL SONG

**\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. Bardin

**CLOSING VOLUNTARY**

Vivace (from *Voluntary V in D Major*)

John Stanley

### 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

The Rev. Dr. Robert F. Bardin

The Rev. Laurel B. Hamilton

#### NURSERY

Melanie Stevens

#### AUDIO & VIDEO

Byron Goodew

David Cottrell

#### CUSTODIAL SERVICES

David Wolf

#### THE MUSIC TODAY

Jayson Keeton, Director of Music & Organist

Lindsay Marchio, soprano

The Sanctuary Choir

*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.

This morning we welcome The Rev. Dr. Robert F. Bardin and The Rev. Laurel Hamilton to worship. Both are former colleagues of Jayson's, and we thank them for coming into town to participate in Friday night's hymn festival and our worship this morning. Jayson and Laurel worked together at First Presbyterian Church in Homewood, IL from 2010–2013, when Jayson moved to North Carolina. Jayson and Bob worked together at First Presbyterian Church in Goldsboro, NC until 2020.

**BOB BARDIN** is married to Sally, a retired Counselor (LPC) and they share 4 children and 2 grandchildren. He is a graduate of N.C. State University and Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, VA. In more than 40 years of previous ministry he has served five churches: two in North Carolina, one in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, one in Troon, Scotland, and one in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. After retiring from First Presbyterian Church, Goldsboro in 2020, he served as an Interim Pastor at Elizabethtown Presbyterian Church, Elizabethtown, NC, and at Mount Olive Presbyterian Church, Mount Olive, NC. In September of 2024, he and Sally moved to Elizabethtown, and he has served as Pastor of Elizabethtown Presbyterian Church since. With family roots in rural Greene and Edgecombe counties, he is a confirmed lover of Eastern North Carolina. "I have often poured peanuts in my Pepsi, enjoyed the whine of a porch swing, and washed tobacco gum from my hands with Lava Soap." He says that each of the churches he has served has been the best church he has served. Bob has been a faithful attender of Daily Mass in the Roman Catholic Church for more than two decades.

**LAUREL HAMILTON** is a pre-natal Presbyterian. She graduated from McCormick Theological Seminary in 1996, and then took the scenic route to ordination as Minister of Word and Sacrament in 2018. She'll tell you proudly that her grandchildren were in attendance. Currently serving Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Schererville, IN (extreme northwest Indiana), she loves leading the people of God in the worship of God and caring for them the best she can.

#### 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

**Patrick Barron**, Custodian

## MEAL TRAIN FOR SUSAN

As you may know, Susan is enduring chemo for her recent cancer diagnosis. When asked how to help, she requested meals. Tammy Hovis, her Deacon, has offered to start a meal train where members can sign up to provide Susan and her husband Greg a meal. There are a few spots left in June and July! If you are interested in participating, please contact Tammy Hovis at [thovis75@hotmail.com](mailto:thovis75@hotmail.com).

## DELICIOUS OPPORTUNITIES

As we transition to warmer days, let's remember to visit our church's **Fair-Trade shop**, which is open on Sunday mornings before and after worship service and also through the week when the office is open. Purchases of olive oil, coffee, chocolate, tea, and nuts help many of our mission partners around the world earn a fair wage for their work. Also, remember to stop by the **Panera Bread table** on Sundays, where many breads and pastries are available. Your donations for these delicious treats help to buy food for many in our community who are hungry.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Theme: Kids Who Make a Difference to Neighbors Near and Far

Date: Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup> – Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>

Time: 5:00 – 7:15 PM

Join us as we learn how we can make a difference to our neighbors. Activities include: Art, Music, and nightly mission projects that impact our neighbors. Each evening starts with a delicious dinner and a Bible story before dividing into groups for the activities. Volunteers are still needed. Registration forms are available on the table in the back of the church.

One of the mission projects will be to assemble hygiene kits. We are collecting the following items for the kits: washcloths; toothbrushes (in original packaging); fingernail or toenail clippers; bath-size bar soap (in original packaging); travel-size lotion (fragrance-free, new); travel-size shampoo (new); travel-size toothpaste; sturdy wide-tooth comb (6" minimum, no handles).

## WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

We will start a study about some of the women in the New Testament on Wednesday, May 13th at 1:00 in the Ruffner room. You can get a copy of the book *From Daughters to Disciples* by Lynn Japinga from the PC(USA) bookstore and other booksellers. We will be going over the first section which talks about the women in the story of Jesus' birth; Mary the mother of Jesus plus Elizabeth and Anna.

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

The Christian Education Committee has decided to encourage children to stay in worship this summer. Children's Church will be on hiatus starting May 31<sup>st</sup> to give our volunteers some time off. Children's Church will resume August 16<sup>th</sup> as school prepares to start.

## GWHS BACCALAUREATE

First Presby members and friends are invited to attend the George Washington High School Baccalaureate service right here at First Presby on Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. This is an interfaith service lead by graduating seniors. A reception will follow the service in the dining room.

**REMINDER: Please take the time to sign the graduation boards in the hallway with well wishes!**

## 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 Bates Memorial Presbyterian Church in Huntington and Zion Presbyterian Church in Helvetia.

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

### Sunday, May 17

10:30am	Worship	<i>Sanctuary &amp; YouTube</i>
11:00am	Worship Radio Broadcast	<i>WCHS-580AM</i>
11:30am	Child Protection Training	<i>Dining Room</i>
3:00pm	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Group	<i>Youth Room</i>

### Monday, May 18

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
10:30am	Baccalaureate Rehearsal	<i>Sanctuary</i>

### Tuesday, May 19

10:00am	Staff Meeting	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
4:30pm	Finance Meeting	<i>E117</i>

### Wednesday, May 20

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
1:00pm	PW Bible Study	<i>Edgewood Summit</i>
6:30pm	Session Meeting	<i>A201</i>

### Thursday, May 21

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

### Friday, May 22

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
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### Saturday, May 23

### Sunday, May 24

10:30am	Worship	<i>Sanctuary</i>
11:00am	Worship Radio Broadcast	<i>WCHS-580AM</i>
6:30pm	GWHS Baccalaureate	<i>Sanctuary</i>

## DISCOVERY CLASS

**May 17** Last Class for the season! – Pastor Myers

## DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

<b>Sunday, May 17</b>	Luke 10:17-24
<b>Monday, May 18</b>	Matthew 8:5-17
<b>Tuesday, May 19</b>	Matthew 8:18-27
<b>Wednesday, May 20</b>	Matthew 8:28-34
<b>Thursday, May 21</b>	Matthew 9:1-8
<b>Friday, May 22</b>	Matthew 9:9-17
<b>Saturday, May 23</b>	Matthew 9:18-26



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF CHARLESTON**