

*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.*

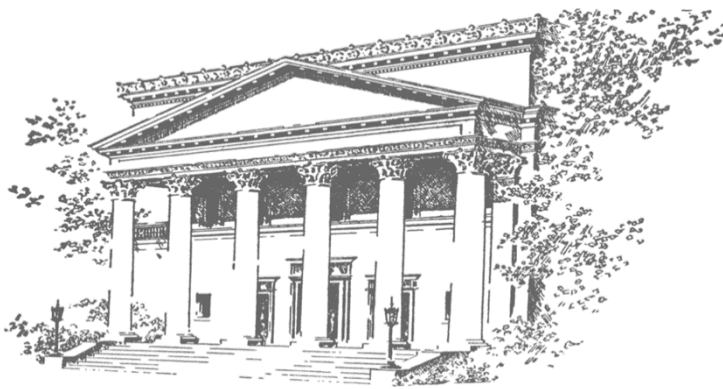
Jeremiah 29:7

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 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 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

"Great things are done by a series of small things brought together."
— Vincent van Gogh

"We are not human beings having a spiritual experience;
we are spiritual beings having a human experience."
— Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

"We are usually most aware of God in hindsight."
— Frederick Buechner
(*theme widely attributed across writings*)

The following lectionary readings are provided for silent meditation during the prelude:

Semicontinuous

Genesis 29:15-28 • Psalm 105:1-11, 45b • Psalm 128

Complementary

1 Kings 3:5-12 • Psalm 119:129-136 • Romans 8:26-39 • Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

*indicates congregation standing, as able

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO...

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

OPENING VOLUNTARY Intonation a Quinto Tono

Andrea Gabrieli

WELCOME

Chris Alfred

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRAISE ALMIGHTY GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Carol Susman

One: Enter God's gates with praise and thanksgiving.

All: We order our footsteps according to God's word.

One: Even when the way feels uncertain,

All: God is guiding our steps.

One: Like a mustard seed planted in the ground,

All: God's kingdom grows among us.

One: Like yeast hidden in the dough,

All: God is at work within and around us.

One: Like treasure hidden in a field,

All: God's grace is nearer than we imagine.

One: So come, with open hearts and attentive spirits,

All: We come to worship the God who is always at work.

Let us worship God!

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Carol Susman

All: O Lord, your loving-kindness is better than life.

**There is nothing that can separate us
from your enduring love.**

**Move us out, draw us close, and keep us steady,
that we might serve you all the days of our lives.**

**All glory, power, dominion, and majesty are yours
from eternity to eternity. Amen.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE #771 What is the World Like

NEW WORLD

CONFESS TO OUR FORGIVING CREATOR

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Chris Alfred

One: We love God, and yet . . . We are Christ's disciples, and yet . . . We are guided by the Spirit, and yet . . . there are many ways we do not live this reality. Let us call upon the Spirit to intercede for us in our time of confession.

Spirit, intercede . . .

**All: when we fall short of your glory,
when we do not deserve your promises,
when we do not act like those who have been called your family.**

One: Spirit, intercede . . .

**All: when our words wound,
when our silence speaks volumes,
when our actions are a far cry from what you would have us do.**

One: Spirit, intercede . . .

**All: break forth into our lives,
forming us into the image of your Son,
that we might never feel separate from you again.**

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

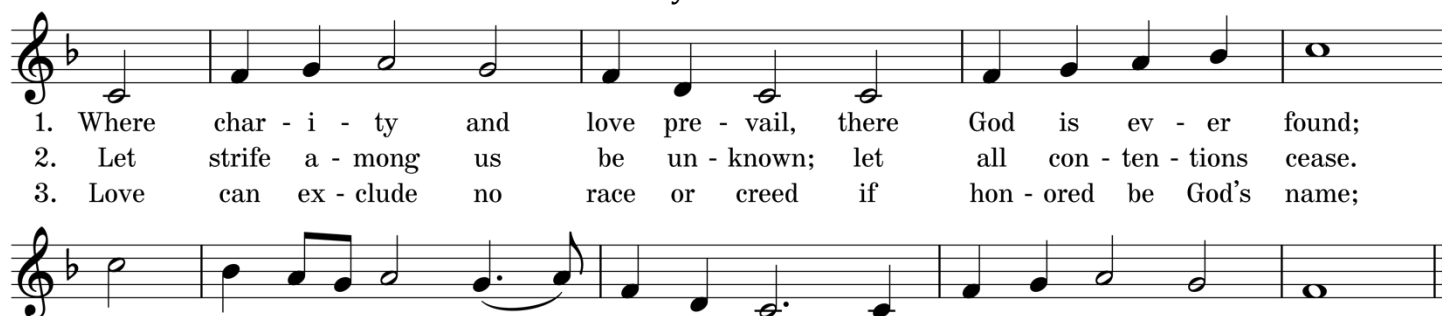
One: Beloved, hear this good news: God is for us.

Not even our sins can separate us from the love of God.

All: Glory be to God for this grace and mercy!

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** Where Charity and Love Prevail

TWENTY-FOURTH



1. Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
2. Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
3. Love can ex - clude no race or creed if hon - ored be God's name;

brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
our com - mon life em - brac - es all whose Mak - er is the same.

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Chris Alfred

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Kings 3:5-12

Carol Susman

page 306, Old Testament

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 8:26-39

Carol Susman

page 158, New Testament

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

When We Must Bear Persistent Pain

PROSPECT

Lindsay Marchio, soprano

When we must bear persistent pain and suffer with no cure in sight,
Come, Holy Presence, breathe your peace with gifts of warmth and healing light.

Support us as we learn new ways to care for bodies newly frail.
Help us endure, and live and love, hear our complaint when patience fails.

We thank you for the better days when we may smile to greet the sun,
To do your work with clearing mind, and bless your name when day is done.

In ease or pain, in life and death, to you our fragile lives belong,
And so we trust you in all things. You are our hope, our health, our song.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Chris Alfred

page 14, New Testament

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"The Quiet Work of God"

Chris Alfred

***HYMN #840**

When Peace like a River

VILLE DU HAVRE

DEDICATE OUR LIVES TO GOD

JOYS & CONCERNS

Chris Alfred

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Chris Alfred

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

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

IN THE LORD I'LL BE EVER THANKFUL



In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful; in the Lord I will re - jice!



Look to God; do not be a - fraid. Lift up your voic - es; the Lord is near.



Lift up your voic - es; the Lord is near.

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**

Verset in C Major

Louis J. A. Lefébure-Wély

***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**

Chris Alfred

GO FORTH TO SERVE***HYMN #39**

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

***BENEDICTION**

Chris Alfred

CLOSING VOLUNTARYSortie in F Major (from *L'Organiste*)

César Franck

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

Chris Alfred
Carol Susman

AUDIO & VIDEO

Byron Goodew
David Cottrell

THE MUSIC TODAY

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

CUSTODIAL SERVICES

David Wolf

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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
Patrick Barron, Custodian

BAREFOOT SUNDAY

Barefoot Sunday is on August 9th and we are doing things a little differently this year. We are partnering with Kids of Kanawha to stock the shoe pantry at Piedmont Elementary School. Instead of picking a specific child, you will find little blue and pink feet on the bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary with just a size and gender on it. If you are unable to shop or would rather donate monetarily, any money donated towards Barefoot Sunday will be used to purchase shoes for local nonprofits such as Davis Stuart, Children's Home Society, Daymark and YWCA Resolve Program. You can make checks payable to First Presby with Barefoot Sunday in the memo or mark your cash envelope with the same.

FAMILY AND FAITH NIGHT W/ THE DIRTY BIRDS

Join us for Faith and Family Night with the Dirty Birds on Saturday, August 8th. Tickets will be provided by the church so please meet at the entrance at 6:10pm to get your tickets, the 1st pitch is at 6:35pm. Please let the office know if you plan on attending and how many will be in your party by Thursday, August 6th. Win or lose there are fireworks after the game!

CHILDRENS GUIDE TO WORSHIP

An updated version of the Children's Guide to Worship has been created to help kids follow along with the service and learn the why behind some of the worship practices. You can find them in the children's worship bags or on the tables in the back of the sanctuary.

FAITH THREADS FOR FAMILIES

In June, the church mailed out to families a new monthly resource called "Faith Threads". If you did not receive this mailing and would like to be included in future mailings, please contact the church office. This monthly resource is from GenOn Ministries and written for parents and other children's caregivers to help them weave faith into their everyday life.

WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY

The Women's Book Study have started a new book on Wednesday, July 15th at 1:00 in the Ruffner room. We are reading *From Widows to Warriors Women's Stories from the Old Testament* by Lynn Japinga. The book is available through the PC(USA) Store and other booksellers and is also available as a Kindle book. Contact Susan Smith for more information. Susan can be reached by email at susan@firstpresby.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 food insecure neighbors in our community.

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 Oak Grove Presbyterian Church in Hillsboro and Tygarts Valley Presbyterian Church in Huttonsville.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Sunday, July 26

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

Monday, July 27

8:00am	PS Summer Camp	<i>Preschool</i>
8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>

Tuesday, July 28

8:00am	PS Summer Camp	<i>Preschool</i>
10:00am	Staff Meeting	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
5:30pm	Hope Center Board Meeting	<i>Room 412</i>

Wednesday, July 29

8:00am	PS Summer Camp	<i>Preschool</i>
8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
1:00pm	Women's Weekly Book Study	<i>Ruffner Room</i>

Thursday, July 30

8:00am	PS Summer Camp	<i>Preschool</i>
8:00am	Shoney's Group	<i>Zoom</i>

Friday, July 31

8:00am	PS Summer Camp	<i>Preschool</i>
8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>

Saturday, August 1

Sunday, August 2

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

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

Sunday, July 26	Mark 2:23-28
Monday, July 27	Matthew 27:24-31
Tuesday, July 28	Matthew 27:32-44
Wednesday, July 29	Matthew 27:45-54
Thursday, July 30	Matthew 27:55-66
Friday, July 31	Matthew 28:1-10
Saturday, August 1	Matthew 28:11-20



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF CHARLESTON**