

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.

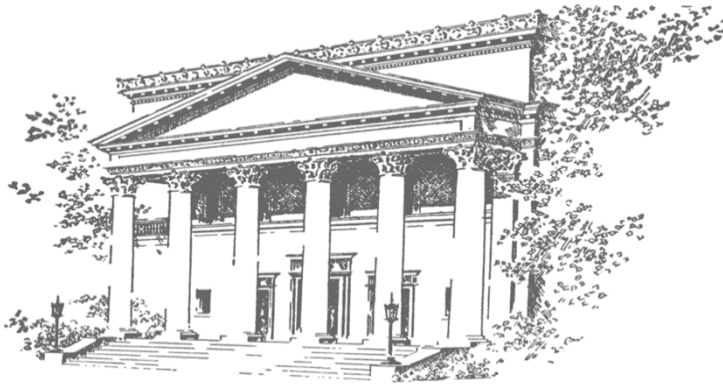
Jeremiah 29:7

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 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 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 kingdom of God grows secretly. We can neither manipulate nor control it.
We can only receive it with gratitude and cultivate it with care."*

— Henri Nouwen

"The life of the church is not measured by its size but by its faithfulness."

— Lesslie Newbigin

"We plant the seeds that one day will grow."

— Bishop Ken Untener, inspired by the witness of Archbishop Oscar Romero

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

Semicontinuous

Genesis 25:19-34 • Psalm 119:105-112

Complementary

Isaiah 55:10-13 • Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-13 • Romans 8:1-11 • Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

*indicates congregation standing, as able

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO...

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

OPENING VOLUNTARY Andante (from *12 Introductory Voluntaries*)

W.G. Alcock

WELCOME

Pastor Myers

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRAISE ALMIGHTY GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Karen Scherr

One: God's word falls like rain upon the earth, bringing life from hidden places.

All: God is at work among us, growing hope beneath the surface.

One: Come, let us worship the God who plants, waters, and renews.

All: We come trusting that God is still bringing forth life.

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Karen Scherr

All: Gracious God, you are the giver of every good gift. You send rain upon the earth, bring life from the soil, and create beauty from where we least expect. You are faithful in every season — planting hope, renewing creation, and making all things new. We come before you with wonder and gratitude, trusting the God who is always at work. Receive our praise, and fill us with your joy. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE #14 For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

CONFESS TO OUR FORGIVING CREATOR

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Myers

One: Even when God is faithfully at work, we often focus on what is missing, what is broken, or what we have lost.

All: Let us come before the God who knows us fully, forgives us completely, and continues to grow new life within us.

God of abundance,

we confess that we often see only what is missing.

We focus on empty spaces, unanswered prayers, and uncertain futures.

Forgive us when we forget that you are at work in ways we cannot see.

Open our eyes to your presence.

Soften our hearts.

Renew our hope.

Teach us to trust your work,

to scatter seeds of love and grace,

and to wait for your harvest.

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: God's grace is not limited by our failures, fears, or circumstances. The God who brings rain to the earth and life from the grave continues to renew and restore. Friends, believe the good news:

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new.

***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**

Pastor Myers

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 55:10-13

Karen Scherr
page 686, Old Testament

SCRIPTURE LESSON Psalm 65:9-13

Karen Scherr
page 528, Old Testament

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM Seed, Scattered and Sown

Dan Feiten
Lindsay Marchio, soprano

Seed, scattered and sown; wheat, gathered and grown;
Bread, broken and shared as one, the living bread of God.
Vine, fruit of the land; wine, work of our hands;
One cup that is shared by all, the living cup, the living bread of God.

The seed which falls on rock will wither and will die.
The seed within good ground will flower and have life.

As wheat upon the hills was gathered and was grown,
So may the church of God be gathered into one.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Pastor Myers
page 13, New Testament

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

Pastor Myers

Birth - K may meet in the Nursery (Room 114) for a lesson and a snack.
Children in grades 1-5 may remain in the sanctuary with their parents.

SERMON "God Is Doing More Than We Can See"

Pastor Myers

***HYMN #79** Light Dawns on a Weary World

TEMPLE OF PEACE

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

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

Chorale Prelude for the 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Johann Christoph Bach

Es ist das Heil uns kommen her

***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 #320

The Church of Christ in Every Age

WAREHAM

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Myers

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Sortie: Marcia

Léon Boëllmann

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
Karen Scherr

AUDIO & VIDEO

Byron Goodew
David Cottrell

THE MUSIC TODAY

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

NURSERY

Melanie Stevens
Kandy Smith

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

HEADPHONES

We now provide two pairs of noise cancelling headphones for children through teens who are sensitive to loud noises during worship. You can find them on the tables in the back of the sanctuary.

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.

POPSICLES IN THE PARK

Join us at the Cato Park playground this Sunday, July 12th from 2:00 - 4:00pm for popsicles and play time. You can bring your dog if you'd like because the dog park is next to the playground. Plenty of popsicles will be available. Rain date will be the following Sunday, July 19th.

YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group will meet today in Cato Park at the playground up near Edgewood Summit to hand out popsicles from 2:00 - 4:00. Come join the fun having popsicles in the park and playing games.

WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY

The Women's Book Study will start a new book on Wednesday, July 15th at 1:00 in the Ruffner room. Due to some delayed HVAC We will be 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. Ten copies have been ordered from the PC(USA) and are available in the office for pick up. 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 Beckley Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church in White Sulphur Springs.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Sunday, July 12

10:30am	Worship	<i>Sanctuary & YouTube</i>
11:00am	Worship Radio Broadcast	<i>WCHS-580AM</i>
2:00pm	Popsicles in the Park	<i>Cato Park Playground</i>

Monday, July 13

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

Tuesday, July 14

8:00am	PS Summer Camp	<i>Preschool</i>
10:00am	Trisco Meeting	<i>E117</i>

Wednesday, July 15

8:00am	PS Summer Camp	<i>Preschool</i>
8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
10:00am	Knitting Group	<i>Room 406</i>
1:00pm	Women's Weekly Book Study	<i>Ruffner Room</i>

Thursday, July 16

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

Friday, July 17

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

Saturday, July 18

Sunday, July 19

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

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

Sunday, July 12	Mark 1:21-27
Monday, July 13	Matthew 25:1-13
Tuesday, July 14	Matthew 25:14-30
Wednesday, July 15	Matthew 25:31-46
Thursday, July 16	Matthew 26:1-16
Friday, July 17	Matthew 26:17-25
Saturday, July 18	Matthew 26:26-35



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF CHARLESTON**