

*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 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 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 gospel is not a doctrine to be accepted, but a person to be loved."
— Pope Francis

"The ministry of reconciliation is the ministry of the whole church."
— John Stott

"Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend."
— Martin Luther King Jr.

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

Semicontinuous

Genesis 45:1-15 • Psalm 133

Complementary

Isaiah 56:1. 6-8 • Psalm 67 • Romans 11:1-2a. 29-32 • Matthew 15:(10-20) 21-28

*indicates congregation standing, as able

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO...

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Andantino

César Franck

WELCOME

Pastor Myers

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRAISE ALMIGHTY GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Landon Moses

One: How very good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity.

All: For there the Lord has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

One: God gathers those who have been scattered, welcomes those who have been forgotten, and calls strangers into the household of faith.

All: God's house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

One: Come, let us worship the God who breaks down walls and makes us one.

All: Let us worship God together.

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Landon Moses

All: Holy God, you are the One who gathers the scattered, welcomes the stranger, and restores what is broken. You are the God who makes a way where there seems to be no way, who turns enemies into family, and strangers into friends. We praise you for your mercy, we trust in your grace, and we worship you with grateful hearts. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE #301 Let Us Build a House

TWO OAKS

CONFESS TO OUR FORGIVING CREATOR

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Myers

One: God's love has welcomed us, forgiven us, and called us into new life. Yet we confess that we often struggle to extend that same grace to others.

All: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sins together.

**Merciful God,
you welcome us with a love beyond our understanding,
yet we confess that we are often slow to welcome others.
We build walls where you call us to build bridges.
We hold onto wounds you long to heal.
We remember the ways others have hurt us
and forget the ways we have caused harm.
Forgive us, O God.
Open our eyes to those we overlook.
Open our hearts to those we fear.
Open our lives to the transforming love of Christ.**

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: In Jesus Christ, God does not leave us separated and alone. God reaches across every boundary. God calls us beloved. God restores what is broken. Friends, believe the good news.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***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 45:1-15

Landon Moses
page 42, Old Testament

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 56:1-8

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Landon Moses
page 686, Old Testament

ANTHEM

Healer of Our Every Ill

Marty Haugen
Devon Stewart, baritone

*Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow,
Give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.*

You who know our fears and sadness, grace us with your peace and gladness.
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts.

In the pain and joy beholding how your grace is still unfolding,
Give us all your vision, God of love.

Give us strength to love each other, every sister, every brother;
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide.

You who know each thought and feeling, teach us all your way of healing:
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 15:21-28

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor Myers
page 17, New Testament

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

“Come Closer”

Pastor Myers

*HYMN #769

For Everyone Born

FOR EVERYONE BORN

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 - joice!



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



Lift up your voice - 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

Lento

Eugène Gigout

***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 #317**

In Christ There Is No East or West

McKEE

***BENEDICTION**

Pastor Myers

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Sortie

Louis J. A. Lefébure-Wély

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
Landon Moses

AUDIO & VIDEO

Byron Goodew
David Cottrell

CUSTODIAL SERVICES

David Wolf

THE MUSIC TODAY

Jayson Keeton, Director of Music & Organist
Devon Stewart, baritone

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
Patrick Barron, Custodian



Who will you invite?

RALLY DAY
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH

WELCOME HOME SUNDAY

Someone you know may be lonely, searching for community, facing a difficult season, or simply waiting to be asked. Your invitation could be the welcome they need.

We don't invite people to fill pews. We invite them because God's welcome too good to keep to ourselves.

Choose someone today. Ask them personally. Offer to bring them with you. One invitation could make all the difference.

We'll share worship, chicken from Bigley Piggly Wiggly, ice cream, children's activities, antique cars, and plenty of time to enjoy one another's company.

But one thing is missing: the person you will invite.



BAREFOOT SUNDAY

Barefoot Sunday was a success thanks to your generous efforts! 67 pairs of shoes and over \$1,200 were donated last Sunday to go towards shoes for kids in need before the school year. Our eager volunteers are calling on Children's Home Society, Daymark-Patchwork, Rae of Hope and others to fill these needs. Thank you First Presby!

SCATTER TO SERVE

Scatter to Serve is scheduled for Saturday, September 12th. We will meet in the dining room at 8:30am where breakfast will be served and we will leave at 9am to start projects. We have four projects to choose from this year including walking dogs and filling the food pantry at Kanawha Charleston Humane Association, packing food boxes at Mountaineer Food Bank, setting up for Rally Day at the church and YWCA of Charleston (project to come). If you want to sign up or have any questions, please reach out to Amy Isaac by email at apisaacdvm@gmail.com or call/text her at (304) 550-0461.

LIBRARY UPDATE

Susan and some helpers have cleaned out the library and there will be some books on the tables in the main church hallway in the coming weeks. If anything looks of interest to you, please take it. Whatever books haven't been picked up will be donated.

PDA: WV FLOODING

The Presbyterian Disaster Association (PDA) has set up an account to receive donations for the recent flooding in West Virginia. Those interested in supporting relief and recovery efforts may do so online or by mailing a check to:

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
P. O. Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

If giving online, please use the code DR000191 - 2026 WV Flood in the "Disaster Supported" box. If mailing a check, please include the code DR000191 - 2026 WV Flood in the memo line.

CHURCH BOWLING TEAM

If you are interested in participating on a First Presby bowling team, please let Pastor Myers know. You can email him at pastormyers@firstpresby.com or call the office. The season will begin at Galaxy Lanes on Monday, August 17th at 6:30pm and will end in April of 2027. We just need 4 participants to have a team but can accept as many as 7 for one team. Cost of bowling per bowler, per week will be \$20.00 to be used as follows:

\$13.50 bowling fee
\$ 1.00 secretary fee
\$ 5.50 Prize fund
\$20.00 Per bowler per week

ALZHEIMERS WALK

Deacons are participating in the 2026 Walk to End Alzheimer's - Charleston, WV on October 24th with the "First Presby" team and we're raising funds to make a difference for an important cause. Together, we can make a lasting impact – please consider joining our team or making a donation to support us by scanning the QR code below. You may also write a check to First Presby with Alzheimer's Walk in the memo. Last year we raised \$2000 and we hope to contribute more this year with your help.



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 First Presbyterian Church in Morgantown and First Presbyterian Church in Parkersburg.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Sunday, August 16

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

Monday, August 17

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
6:30pm	First Presby Bowling	<i>Galaxy Lanes</i>

Tuesday, August 18

10:00am	Staff Meeting	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
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Wednesday, August 19 – First Day of School

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
10:00am	Knitting Club	<i>Room 406</i>
1:00pm	Women's Weekly Book Study	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
6:30pm	Session Meeting	<i>A201</i>

Thursday, August 20

8:00am	Shoney's Group	<i>Zoom</i>
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Friday, August 21

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
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Saturday, August 22

Sunday, August 23

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

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

Sunday, Aug 16	Mark 5:25-34
Monday, Aug 17	John 5:19-29
Tuesday, Aug 18	John 5:30-47
Wednesday, Aug 19	John 6:1-15
Thursday, Aug 20	John 6:16-27
Friday, Aug 21	John 6:27-40
Saturday, Aug 22	John 6:41-51



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF CHARLESTON**