

*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.*

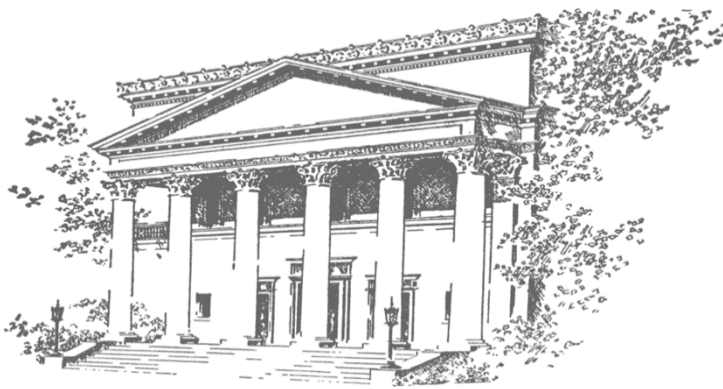
Jeremiah 29:7

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 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 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 first duty of every soul is to find not its freedom but its Master."
— P.T. Forsyth

"The church is always being reformed according to the Word of God."
— Ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda secundum verbum Dei

"When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die."
— Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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

Semicontinuous

Exodus 1:8-2:10 • Psalm 124

Complementary

Isaiah 51:1 - 6 • Psalm 138 • Romans 12:1-8 • Matthew 16:13-20

*indicates congregation standing, as able

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO...

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Andante

Louis J. A. Lefébure-Wély

WELCOME

Pastor Myers

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Youth Council

Isaiah Saul

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRAISE ALMIGHTY GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rick Vorhees

One: Come, not because you have found Christ,

All: but because Christ has called you.

One: Come, not because you are faithful,

All: but because God is faithful.

One: Come to hear again the question that changes every life: "Who do you say that I am?"

All: You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God. We come to worship you and to follow wherever you lead.

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rick Vorhees

All: Living God, you alone are worthy of our worship, for in Jesus Christ you have shown us your love, your truth, and your saving power. Turn our hearts toward him this day, that we may worship with reverence, hear his voice with humility, and follow wherever he leads. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE #1

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

NICAEA

CONFESS TO OUR FORGIVING CREATOR

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Myers

One: "Who do you say that I am?" It is a question that searches our hearts and calls us to honest faith. Trusting not in our own righteousness but in God's abundant mercy.

All: Let us confess our sins before the living Christ.

Merciful Lord,

**We confess that we often prefer a Savior who comforts us
To a Lord who commands us.**

We ask for your guidance, yet resist your voice.

We seek your blessing, yet cling to our own ways.

Forgive us when we remake Christ in our own image

Instead of allowing him to remake us in his.

Open our ears to hear,

Our hearts to trust,

And our lives to follow Jesus Christ.

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: The One who questioned Peter never abandoned Peter. The One who corrected Peter restored Peter. The One who called Peter to follow never withdrew his grace. In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven, our lives are renewed, and our future is held securely in God's hands.

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

Isaiah 51:1-6

Rick Vorhees

page 681, Old Testament

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 12:1-8

Rick Vorhees

page 161, New Testament

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Upon This Rock

Dony McGuire, Gloria Gaither

Lindsay Marchio, soprano

When others see with earthly eyes just what they want to see, you will see the things that never die.
You will know and recognize by simple, childlike faith the priceless truth that others will deny.
When others say I'm just a man who liked to dream his dreams, when others call a miracle a myth,
You'll listen for eternity in moments as they pass, and see with spirit eyes what others miss.

Upon this rock I'll build my kingdom. Upon this rock forever and ever it shall stand.
And all the powers of hell itself shall never more prevail against it, for Satan's thrones are built on sinking sand.
Upon this rock I'll build my kingdom and on this rock forever and ever it shall stand.
Upon this rock of revelation I'll build a strong and mighty nation and it shall stand the storms of time upon this rock.

If in a simple carpenter you see the Son of God, if you will choose to lose when you could win,
If you will give your life away for nothing in return, then you are where my kingdom will begin.

I'll build my church upon this rock.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 16:13-24

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor Myers
page 18, New Testament

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

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.

Pastor Myers

SERMON

“Has Jesus Ever Disagreed with You?”

Pastor Myers

***HYMN #720**

Jesus Calls Us

GALILEE

DEDICATE OUR LIVES TO GOD

JOYS & CONCERNS

Pastor Myers

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

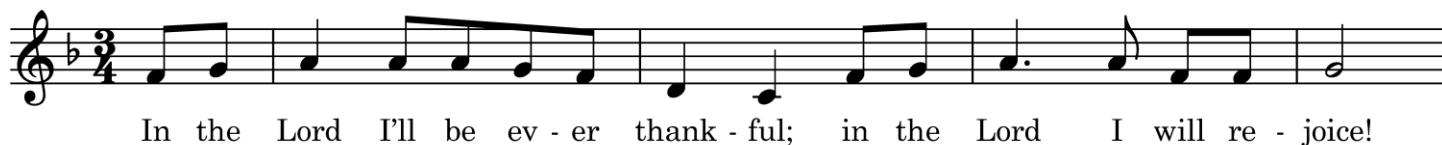
Pastor Myers

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



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: Andante

Louis J. A. Lefébure-Wély

***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 #321**

The Church's One Foundation

AURELIA

***BENEDICTION**

Pastor Myers

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Sortie: Allegro risoluto

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
Rick Vorhees

AUDIO & VIDEO

Byron Goodew
David Cottrell

CUSTODIAL SERVICES

David Wolf

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
Patrick Barron, Custodian



Who will you invite?

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 is 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.



RALLY DAY
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH

RALLY DAY

Save the date, Sunday, September 13th, Rally Day! Bring a friend and come for the food, Bigley Piggly Wiggly chicken and Huskey's Ice Cream, but stay for the activities for all ages. There will be friendship bracelet making, paper airplane flying, an obstacle course, bowling and coloring. Information about Christian Education offerings for the year will also be available.

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.

LIFT

LIFT (Living in Faith Together) resumes Wednesday, September 16th at 5:30pm with a potluck dinner for the whole church. Join us for an evening of food, fellowship and children's activities. Find out how LIFT can nurture your faith. Classes for adults and children will begin Wednesday, September 23rd.

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.

JOIN THE CHOIR!

Regular rehearsals for the Sanctuary Choir will resume on Sunday morning, September 13 at 9:00am in the choir room. The choir will also begin singing weekly in worship on this date. Whether you have sung previously or would like to join for the first time, all are welcome! If you have any questions, contact Jayson Keeton (jayson@firstpresby.com).

CHANDLER FOOD BAGS

We are continuing with our mission of packing weekend food bags for Chandler Academy students every Friday. If you would like to help this mission, you may donate individual items such as pop top pastas, chicken noodle soup, granola bars, mini muffins, snacks, sweets, and 16 oz creamy peanut butter. You may also donate funds designated for Chandler. This mission will start on August 28th and will continue through the school year. Donations can be put on the wooden tables in the main hallway.

CONNECTING CONGREGATIONS

You are invited to come and share stories from your congregation with your Presbyterian neighbors while enjoying delicious food and generous hospitality. Lead Presbyter, Maureen Wright, and Connectional Presbyter, Sarah Sanderson-Doughty, will facilitate multiple Connecting Congregations events starting in September. You have a few event locations to choose from below:

- September 13th at First Presbyterian Church in Huntington | 3-5pm
- September 20th at Fayetteville Presbyterian Church | 3-5pm
- September 27th at Kanawha United Presbyterian Church | 3-5pm

You can register for an event by visiting the Presbytery of West Virginia's homepage at www.wvpresbytery.org.

DISCOVERY CLASS

Discovery Class starts September 13th at 9:15am in the Rec. Room. Breakfast is always served and a good time is always had. The schedule will be coming soon but the first class "The Problem with Creeds" will be lead by Rick Vorhees. Start your Rally Day by joining the Discovery Class!

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.

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 Comfort Presbyterian Church, Spring Creek Presbyterian Church in Renick and Union Presbyterian Church.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Sunday, August 23

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

Monday, August 24

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

Tuesday, August 25

10:00am	Staff Meeting	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
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Wednesday, August 26

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

Thursday, August 27

8:00am	Shoney's Group	<i>Zoom</i>
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Friday, August 28

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
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Saturday, August 29

Sunday, August 30

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

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

Sunday, Aug 23	Mark 6:1-6a
Monday, Aug 24	John 6:52-59
Tuesday, Aug 25	John 6:60-71
Wednesday, Aug 26	John 7:1-13
Thursday, Aug 27	John 7:14-36
Friday, Aug 28	John 7:37-52
Saturday, Aug 29	John 8:12-20



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF CHARLESTON

