

*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 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 30, 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 person who loves their dream of community will destroy community,
but the person who loves those around them will create community."*

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*

"Agape is love seeking to preserve and create community."

—Martin Luther King Jr.

*"Hospitality is not to change people,
but to offer them space where change can take place."*

—Henri J. M. Nouwen

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

Semicontinuous

Exodus 3:1-15 • Psalm 105:1-6

Complementary

Jeremiah 15:15-21 • Psalm 26:1-8 • Romans 12:9-21 • Matthew 16:21-28

*indicates congregation standing, as able

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO...

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Verset: Andante (from *L'Office Catholique*)

Louis J. A. Lefébure-Wély

WELCOME

Pastor Myers

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRAISE ALMIGHTY GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Marchio

One: God calls us by name and gathers us in grace.

All: We come from different places, carrying different stories.

One: In Christ, strangers become neighbors and enemies are offered peace.

All: Here, no one's welcome depends upon another's exclusion.

One: Come, let us worship the God who makes room for us all.

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. Marchio

All: Holy God, you know us by name and welcome us by grace. You gather strangers into one family, make room for those the world overlooks, and teach us to love one another.

Open our hearts to your presence, our lives to your transforming love, and your church to all whom Christ welcomes. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE #401 Here in This Place

GATHER US IN

CONFESS TO OUR FORGIVING CREATOR

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Myers

One: Christ makes room for us at his Table, yet we often refuse to make room for one another.

All: Trusting the mercy of God, let us confess the ways we have divided, dismissed, and excluded.

**Merciful God,
you welcome us with boundless grace,
yet our welcome is often conditional.
We make room for those who agree with us
and push away those we find difficult.
We reduce people to labels,
speak without listening,
and seek victory instead of relationship.**

**Forgive us, O God.
Teach us to honor one another,
welcome the stranger,
and overcome evil with good.
Make us one in Christ—
not by erasing our differences,
but by teaching us to love across them.**

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Hear the good news: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. God does not repay us according to our failures but welcomes us through abundant mercy. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, reconciled, and made members of one body.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

***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

Exodus 3:1-15

Rev. Marchio
page 50, Old Testament

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 12:9-21

Rev. Marchio
page 162, New Testament

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Take Up Your Cross

Austin C. Lovelace, arr. Jayson Keeton

*"Take up your cross," the Savior said, "if you would my disciple be.
Deny yourself, forsake the world, and humbly follow after me."*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 16:21-28

Pastor Myers
page 18, 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

"There Is Room for You — and Them"

Pastor Myers

***HYMN #435**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

IN BABILONE

DEDICATE OUR LIVES TO GOD

JOYS & CONCERNS

Pastor Myers

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

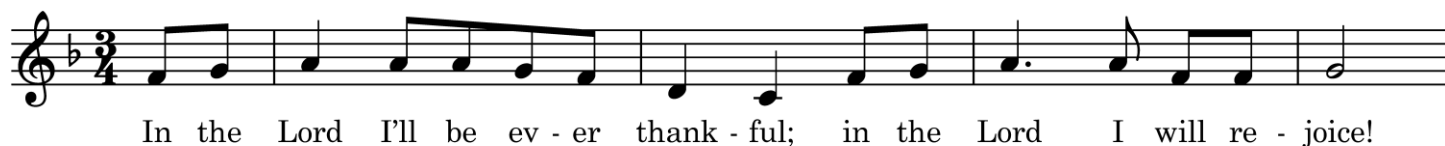
Pastor Myers

**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

***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 #761

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

BEECHER

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Myers

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

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. Joseph Marchio

AUDIO & VIDEO

Byron Goodew
David Cottrell

CUSTODIAL SERVICES

David Wolf

THE MUSIC TODAY

Jayson Keeton, Director of Music & Organist
Joe Marchio, guest organist

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 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

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.

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!

INQUIRERS CLASS

Are you, or someone you know, interested in learning more about First Presby and/or becoming a member? Join us for the Inquirer's Class lead by Pastor Myers on Sunday, September 27th in the dining room after worship. The class will end around 1:00pm and lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Diana at diana@firstpresby.com or call the front office. (304) 343-8961

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 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.

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 Beechwood Presbyterian Church in Parkersburg, Bradley Presbyterian Church and Centerville Presbyterian Church in Greenville.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Sunday, August 30

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

Monday, August 31

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

Tuesday, September 1

10:00am	Staff Meeting	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
6:00pm	Deacons Meeting	<i>A201</i>

Wednesday, September 2

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

Thursday, September 3

8:00am	Shoney's Group	<i>Zoom</i>
6:30pm	Mission Meeting	<i>E117</i>

Friday, September 4

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
--------	----------	------------------------------

Saturday, September 5

Sunday, September 6

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

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

Sunday, Aug 30	Matthew 5:1-12
Monday, Aug 31	John 8: 21-32
Tuesday, Sept 1	John 8:33-47
Wednesday, Sept 2	John 8:47-59
Thursday, Sept 3	John 9:1-17
Friday, Sept 4	John 9:18-41
Saturday, Sept 5	John 10:1-18



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF CHARLESTON

