

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Bringing hope to the heart of Charleston and beyond.



The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2026 | 10:30am

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

16 Leon Sullivan Way • Charleston, WV 25301 • 304-343-8961 • www.firstpresby.com

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. William C. Myers

Ministers: All members of the congregation

A warm welcome as we gather for worship today. Whether you are a longtime member, a first-time guest, or joining us again after some time away, we are grateful you are here.

May our worship honor God, strengthen our faith, and send us into the world with hope and joy.

All children are welcome and encouraged to participate in worship.

A reflection for worship:

"There are years that ask questions and years that answer."

— Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

— Isaiah 43:18-19

"For all that has been, Thanks. To all that shall be, Yes."

— Dag Hammarskjöld, *Markings*

The following scriptures are provided for silent meditation during the prelude:

Semicontinuous

Exodus 17:1-7 • Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

Complementary

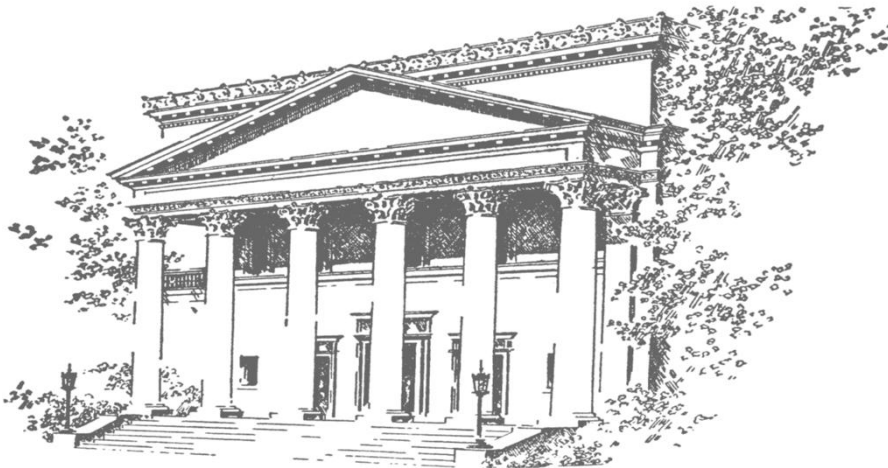
Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 • Psalm 25:1-9 • Philippians 2:1-13 • Matthew 21:23-32

Cover art:

Prophet Ezekiel (1510)

Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475-1564)

Sistine Chapel, Vatican City



*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

Our Offering of Worship

We Come Before God

God calls us together as one people. We come with our joys and burdens, our questions and hopes, trusting that God meets us with grace and welcomes us into worship.

**indicates congregation standing, as able.*

Opening Voluntary

Adagio

J. Christian Heinrich Rinck

Introit

What Is This Place

KOMT NU MET ZANG

What is this place, where we are meeting? Only a house, the earth its floor.
Walls and a roof, sheltering people, windows for light, an open door.
Yet it becomes a body that lives when we are gathered here, and know our God is near.

Welcome

Pastor Myers

Chiming of the Trinity

We Give Thanks and Praise

*In song and prayer, we turn our hearts toward the God who creates, redeems, and sustains us.
Together we offer our praise and remember the faithfulness of God.*

*Call to Worship

Paul Kinneberg

One: God made a way through the sea.

All: God brought water from the rock.

One: God was there in the wilderness.

All: God is here in this place.

One: Yesterday, today, and whatever comes next—

All: God is still leading us toward life.

One: So come, people of God. The future is still open.

All: Let us worship the living God.

*Prayer of Adoration

Paul Kinneberg

All: Faithful God, you have been our help in every generation and you are with us still. Meet us in this moment. Free us from longing for what has been and fearing what may come. Open our hearts to your presence and to the new thing you are doing among us. Receive our worship, our questions, and our hope; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Hymn of Praise #81

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

AUSTRIAN HYMN

We Confess and Receive Grace

*In confession, we acknowledge the ways we have fallen short and open our hearts to God's mercy.
Through Christ, we receive forgiveness, renewal, and the promise of new life.*

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Myers

One: Faith does not mean living without questions or doubts. Again and again, Scripture tells of people who struggled to trust God—and found God faithful.

All: **Trusting in that faithfulness, let us confess our sin.**

Faithful God,
we remember what used to be
and fail to see what you are doing now.
We let old wounds define us,
old failures discourage us,
and fear limit what we believe is possible.

Forgive us.

Give us courage to face where we are,
grace to release what we cannot change,
and faith to follow where you lead.

Create in us new hearts and new spirits,
that we may turn and live.

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

Assurance of Pardon

One: Hear the Good News: God does not leave us captive to the past. In Jesus Christ, a new way is opened before us. Believe the Good News:

All: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and free to live anew.**

*Congregational Response

Grace Greater Than Our Sin (*refrain*)

MOODY

Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that will par - don and cleanse with - in;

Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that is great - er than all our sin.

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

We Listen for God's Word

*God speaks to us through Scripture. The Holy Spirit opens our hearts to receive its wisdom, challenge, and hope.
We listen together for the Word that calls us to faithful living.*

Prayer for Illumination

Paul Kinneberg

All: Living God, you spoke to your people long ago; speak to us now. Open our eyes to your presence, our hearts to your grace, and our lives to your Word; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Readings from the Hebrew Scriptures Exodus 17:1–7

Paul Kinneberg

Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32

*page 64, Hebrew Scriptures
page 784, Hebrew Scriptures*

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

arr. Sally DeFord
The Sanctuary Choir

Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer; here by thy great help I've come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

A Reading from the Gospels Matthew 21:23–32

Pastor Myers

One: This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

page 23, New Testament

All: Praise be to you, O Christ.

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 are dismissed to Children's Church in Room E-117/119
or they may remain in the sanctuary with their parents.

Sermon

"Is God Here or Not?"

Pastor Myers

***Hymn #39**

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

We Respond in Faith

*As we come before God, we bring the joys and burdens of our lives,
the needs of our neighbors, and the hopes of the world.*

Prayer 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

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

CHILDREN PRAYING

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are: "Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren pray - ing. Lord, send your Spir - it in this place. Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren pray - ing. Send us love; send us power; send us grace." The score features various musical notations including eighth notes, quarter notes, and half notes, with some parts marked with repeat signs and fermatas.

We Commit Our Lives to God

*Every good gift comes from God. In gratitude for God's abundant grace,
let us commit our lives and our gifts for the work of Christ in the world.*

Offertory

Molto Adagio

Daniel E. Gawthrop

*Please bring your offering forward during the offertory.
You may also text "firstpresby" to 73256 to give from your mobile device.*

***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 and Dedication

Pastor Myers

We Go Forth in Hope

*Having gathered in God's presence, heard God's Word, and received God's grace,
we are sent into the world as Christ's people—called to love, serve, and share God's hope.*

*Hymn #65	Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah	CWM RHONDDA
*Benediction		Pastor Myers
Closing Voluntary	Toccata & Fugue in C Major	Johann Pachelbel

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
Paul Kinneberg

AUDIO & VIDEO

Byron Goodew
David Cottrell

CUSTODIAL SERVICES

David Wolf

THE MUSIC TODAY

Jayson Keeton, Director of Music & Organist
The Sanctuary Choir

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

First Presby Weekly News September 27, 2026

HOPE VILLAGE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Believe it or not, Hope Village is right around the corner, and we have already received merchandise from a few vendors. The tsunami of fun items will hit in October and Debbe and Dina would appreciate help with inventory and tagging. If you have worked in the past or have never been able to participate but wanted to, please reach out to Debbe at (304) 444-9272 or Dina at (304) 444-2211 and we will be happy to include you in this fun and worthwhile mission. We set up work times as we receive the merchandise, so hours and days vary. Many hands make light work! Thanks so much.

LIFT

LIFT (Living in Faith Together) has started back up! Join us for an evening of food, fellowship and children's activities with dinner starting at 5:30pm. Find out how LIFT can nurture your faith.

LIFT AFTER DARK: QUESTIONS WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO ASK AT CHURCH

Some questions are too important for easy answers. This fall, LIFT After Dark will make room for honest conversation about faith, doubt, Scripture, and the questions many of us carry but rarely have the opportunity to explore together.

Each week stands on its own—no homework, no preparation, and no need to attend every session. Come for the questions that interest you. Bring your doubts, your experiences, and your curiosity.

September 30 — What Happens When We Die?

Heaven, resurrection, eternal life—and what Christians really believe.

October 7 — What Do We Do with the Parts of the Bible We Don't Like?

Difficult texts, troubling passages, and what it means to take Scripture seriously.

October 14 — Can You Be Christian and Doubt Almost Everything?

Is doubt the enemy of faith—or sometimes part of faith itself?

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.



First Presby Weekly News September 27, 2026

TIME FOR REFRESHMENT

Join Pastor Myers on Thursday afternoons at 4:30pm in the Ruffner Room starting September 24th for tea, shortbread/cookies, and conversation. We'll talk about life, faith, church, politics, maybe even church politics! Bring your opinions. Bring your questions. All are welcome. Whatever is on your mind, we'll talk about it! You can come occasionally. You can come every week. Our only purpose is to enjoy the fellowship and get to know each other a little better. Please enter through the side ramp door.

CHANDLER FOOD BAGS

First Presby is sending weekend food bags to 10 Chandler Academy students this year who need a little extra. This is our fifth year with this mission and the feedback from students and staff is encouraging. If you would like to help with this mission, you can donate individual nonperishable food items or financial gifts for us to shop with, earmarked for Chandler. If you would just like to pray for this mission and these students, that would also be wonderful.

OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE

In our Presbyterian tradition, the work of the Church is made manifest through the collaborative effort of Church committees. At First Presbyterian Church, your Congregational Engagement Committee is charged with ".....encouraging participation in the life of the Church through membership on committees.....". Membership on these committees is free and open to all members of the Congregation. Beginning this week, we will give a brief description of each of the various Committees of the Session so you may join any committee you feel called to serve. This week we highlight the Mission Committee.

Mission and Witness Committee

In the Spirit, First Presbyterian Church seeks the discipleship of Mathew 25 and the parable of the use of talents. Through acts of service and commitment of resources we seek to bear witness to Jesus Christ and work to eradicate poverty and combat racism and injustice in our community and the world, as well as to provide leadership for Church members with examples of Christian service.

Opportunities abound to implement these goals. This Committee advises the Session as to specific programs and events to advance the Gospel and the ends of Christ's Church in our community and the world. If you feel called to participate in this mission, please contact the Church office.

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, are facilitating the upcoming Connecting Congregations event.

- 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.

First Presby Weekly News September 27, 2026

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 Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Huntington and Upper Glade Presbyterian Church.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Sunday, September 27

10:30am	Worship	<i>Sanctuary & YouTube</i>
11:00am	Worship Radio Broadcast	<i>WCHS-580AM</i>
11:30am	Inquirer's Class	<i>Dining Room</i>

Monday, September 28

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

Tuesday, September 29

10:00am	Staff Meeting	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
6:00pm	Girl Scouts	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
7:15pm	Boy Scouts	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>

Wednesday, September 30

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
1:00pm	Women's Book Study	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
5:00pm	LIFT	<i>Dining Room</i>
6:15pm	LIFT: After Dark	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
7:00pm	Communion	<i>Chapel</i>

Thursday, October 1

8:30am	Shoney's Meeting	<i>Zoom (Virtual)</i>
4:30pm	Time for Refreshment	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
5:30pm	Handbell Rehearsal	<i>Choir Room</i>
6:30pm	Mission Meeting	<i>E117</i>

Friday, October 2

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
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DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

Sunday, September 27	Matthew 13:44-52
Monday, September 28	Luke 5:1-11
Tuesday, September 29	Luke 5:12-26
Wednesday, September 30	Luke 5:27-39
Thursday, October 1	Luke 6:1-11
Friday, October 2	Luke 6:12-26
Saturday, October 3	Luke 6:27-38

DISCOVERY CLASS

September 27	TBD – Ginna Taylor
October 4	Tips for Reading Scripture Out Loud – Beth Vorhees
October 11	Michelle Foster – CEO of GKVF



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF CHARLESTON**

