

*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 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 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*

"We must all learn to live together as brothers, or we will all perish together as fools."

—Martin Luther King Jr.

"The Table can transform even our enemies into companions."

—Rachel Held Evans

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

Semicontinuous

Exodus 12:1-14 • Psalm 149

Complementary

Ezekiel 33:7-11 • Psalm 119:33-40 • Romans 13:8-14 • Matthew 18:15-20

*indicates congregation standing, as able

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO...

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Andante

W.G. Alcock

WELCOME

Pastor Myers

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRAISE ALMIGHTY GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Bob Welty

One: From many places and many stories, God gathers us.

All: In Christ, there is room for us all.

One: Where two or three gather in his name, Christ is among them.

All: Let us make room for God and for one another.

One: Come, let us worship.

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Bob Welty

**All: God of grace, you seek the wandering, welcome the returning,
and remain when love is difficult. In Christ, you draw strangers near,
heal what is broken, and make room at your table. Open us to your presence,
hold us together in love, and be glorified in our worship. Amen.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE #403 Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

UNSER HERRSCHER

CONFESS TO OUR FORGIVING CREATOR

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Myers

One: God does not ask us to hide what is broken. Trusting the mercy of Christ, who seeks and restores us, let us confess our sin.

All: Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

**Merciful God,
we confess that we have closed our circles
and guarded our places.
We have spoken about others
instead of speaking to them.
We have valued being right
more than being reconciled,
We walked away
when love became difficult.
Forgive us.
Open our hearts,
restore our relationships,
and teach us to make room for one another.**

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Hear the good news: God does not abandon us to what is broken. In Jesus Christ, we are sought, welcomed, and forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God!

***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 Romans 13:8-14

Bob Welty

One: This is the word of the Lord.

page 162, New Testament

All: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

The Night is Far Spent

Myles B. Foster

Lindsay Marchio, soprano

The night is far spent, the day is at hand, let us therefore cast off the works of darkness
and let us put on the whole armour of light. It is high time to awake out of sleep.

For behold the days are coming in the which they shall say to the mountains, "Fall on us!"

Behold the days are coming in the which they shall say to the hills, "Cover us!"

Watch and pray, take ye heed. Ye know not when the time is; lest, coming suddenly he find you sleeping.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 18:15-20

Pastor Myers

One: This is the word of the Lord.

page 20, New Testament

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

SERMON

"Save Me a Place"

Pastor Myers

*HYMN #306

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

DENNIS

DEDICATE OUR LIVES TO GOD

JOYS & CONCERNS

Pastor Myers

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

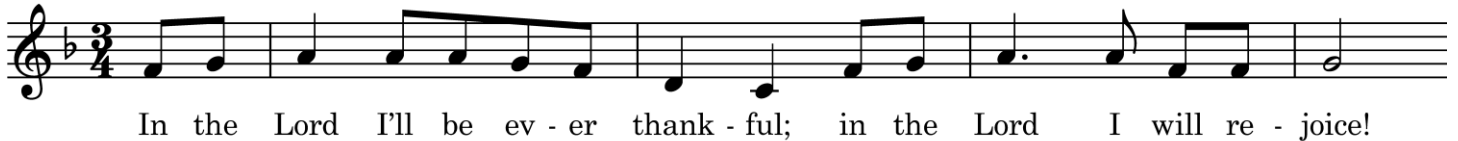
Pastor Myers

**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

Offertoire: Moderato

César Franck

***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

When We All Get to Heaven

HEAVEN



1. Sing the won - drous love_ of_ Je - sus; sing his mer - cy_ and his grace.
2. While we walk the pil - grim path - way, clouds will o - ver - spread the sky;
3. Let us then be true_ and_ faith - ful, trust - ing, serv - ing_ ev - ery day;
4. On - ward to the prize be - fore us! Soon his beau - ty_ we'll be - hold;



In the man - sions bright and bless - ed he'll pre - pare for us a place.
but when trav - 'ling days are o - ver, not a shad - ow, not a sigh.
just one glimpse of him in glo - ry will the toils of life re - pay.
soon the pearl - y gates will o - pen; we shall tread the streets of gold.



When we all get to heav - en, what a day of re - joic - ing that will be!



When we all se Je - sus, we'll sing and shout the vic - to - ry!

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Myers

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Sortie: Marche

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
Bob Welty

AUDIO & VIDEO

Byron Goodew
David Cottrell

THE MUSIC TODAY

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

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

First Presby Weekly News September 6, 2026

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 a painting project for YWCA of Charleston. 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.

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.

TAKING FAITH HOME

Taking Faith Home was offered as a summer resource. If you enjoyed it and would like to see it continued, please let either Diana or Susan know.

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SCAM EMAIL

Be aware of texts or emails pretending to be Pastor Myers requesting gift cards. Pastor Myers or anyone from the church will NOT contact you asking for gift cards or money.

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.

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 23 — Does Prayer Actually Change Anything?

If God already knows what will happen, why pray?

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?

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 Worship and Music Committee.

Worship and Music Committee

In conjunction with the Pastor, this committee oversees worship services generally, including arranging for sanctuary decorations, providing for ushers and greeters, coordinating communion, baptism and wedding ceremonies, and in conjunction with the Director of Music Ministries, promotes the various church music programs, encouraging congregational and community participation.

If you feel called to serve on this Committee, contact the front office.

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A NOTE FROM SUSAN

As I move into Phase 2 of my cancer treatment, I'd like to thank the congregation for their prayers, care, support, and meals. Phase 2 of my treatment will continue through next spring. Your continued prayers and support are welcomed.

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 Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church in Elkins and Highlawn Presbyterian Church in Huntington.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Sunday, September 6

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

Monday, September 7 – Labor Day

OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, September 8

10:00am	Staff Meeting	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
4:00pm	Property Meeting	<i>E117</i>

Wednesday, September 9

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

Thursday, September 10

8:00am	Shoney's Group	<i>Zoom</i>
1:00pm	Shepherd Center Meeting	<i>E117</i>
5:30pm	CE Meeting	<i>E117</i>

Friday, September 11

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
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Saturday, September 12

8:30am	Scatter to Serve	<i>Dining Room</i>
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Sunday, September 13 – Rally Day!

9:15am	Discovery Class	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
10:30am	Worship	<i>Sanctuary & YouTube</i>
11:00am	Worship Radio Broadcast	<i>WCHS-580AM</i>
11:30pm	Rally Day	<i>Dining Room</i>

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

Sunday, Sept 6	Matthew 5:13-20
Monday, Sept 7	John 10:19-30
Tuesday, Sept 8	John 10:31-42
Wednesday, Sept 9	John 11:1-16
Thursday, Sept 10	John 11:17-29
Friday, Sept 11	John 11:30-44
Saturday, Sept 12	John 11:45-54



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.





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
— CHARLESTON, WV —

BOOK CLUB

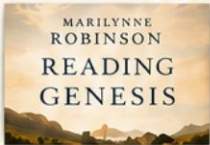
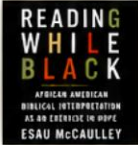
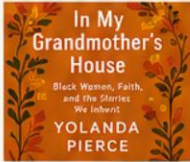
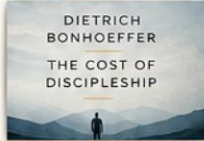
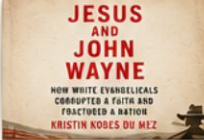
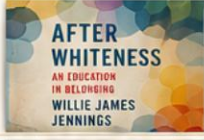
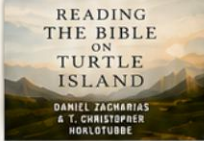
*Faith. Questions. Books.
Conversations that matter.*

Good books.
Honest questions.
Meaningful
conversation.
Stronger
together.



OCTOBER–MAY • SKIPPING DECEMBER

All are welcome. Every voice matters.

OCTOBER <u>9</u>		Reading Genesis Marilynne Robinson		<i>Is the God of Genesis really the God we think we know?</i>
NOVEMBER <u>13</u>		Reading While Black Esau McCaulley		<i>Does everyone read the same Bible?</i>
JANUARY <u>8</u>		In My Grandmother's House Yolanda Pierce		<i>Who taught you your theology before you knew it was theology?</i>
FEBRUARY <u>12</u>		The Cost of Discipleship Dietrich Bonhoeffer		<i>Has Christianity become too cheap?</i>
MARCH <u>12</u>		Jesus and John Wayne Kristin Kobes Du Mez		<i>What does John Wayne have to do with Jesus?</i>
APRIL <u>9</u>		After Whiteness Willie James Jennings		<i>Has the church taught us to belong—or to be in control?</i>
MAY <u>14</u>		Reading the Bible on Turtle Island Daniel Zacharias & T. Christopher Hoklotubbe		<i>Whose land are we reading the Bible on?</i>

WHY JOIN?



- ✓ Read compelling books
- ✓ Hear diverse voices
- ✓ Ask honest questions
- ✓ Grow in faith together
- ✓ Build community

WE MEET



THE SECOND THURSDAY
3:00 – 4:30 PM

— in the Ruffner Room —

Details and location announced monthly.



Bring yourself.
Bring a friend.
Let's talk!



Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

HEBREWS 10:24



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF CHARLESTON**

