

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Bringing hope to the heart of Charleston and beyond.



The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
October 11, 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:

*"The liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed;
at the same time it is the font from which all her power flows."*

— Sacrosanctum Concilium, Pope Paul VI (December 4, 1963)

"Lex orandi, lex credendi"

("The law of what is prayed is the law of what is believed")

— Prosper of Aquitaine

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice!"

— Philippians 4:4

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

Semicontinuous

Exodus 32:1-14 • Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

Complementary

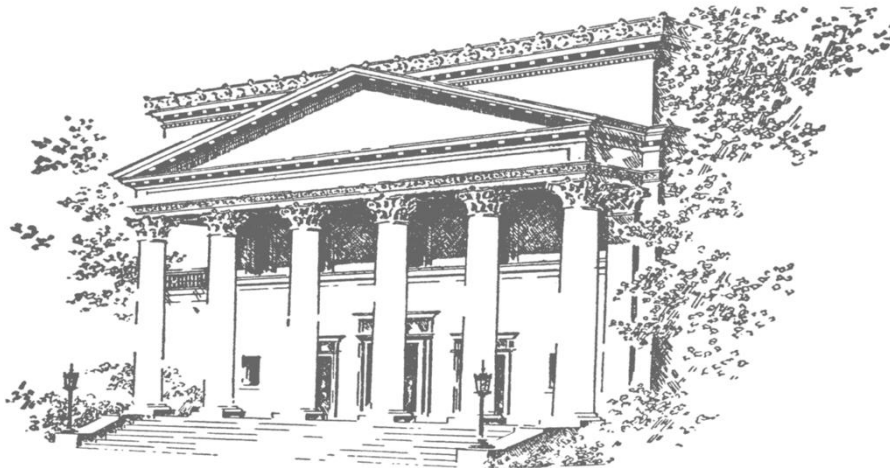
Isaiah 25:1-9 • Psalm 23 • Philippians 4:1-9 • Matthew 22:1-14

Cover art:

Adoration of the Golden Calf (1633-1634)

Nicolas Poussin (1594?-1665)

National Gallery, London, UK



*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 Voluntaries

Chorale: *Vater unser im Himmelreich*
Chorale Prelude

J.S. Bach
J.C. Bach

Introit

There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit

Doris Akers

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face, and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.
Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
Stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.

Welcome

Jayson Keeton

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

Susan Smith

One: Come, and remember the One who has called us.

All: We turn our hearts toward the Lord, our God.

One: Come, let us praise the One whose glory fills heaven and earth.

All: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts!

One: Come, let us worship God with grateful hearts.

All: We come to give thanks, to praise, and to adore our God.

*Prayer of Adoration

Susan Smith

All: Holy God, you are the One who calls us, the One who gathers us, and the One who prepares a feast for your people. We come before you with wonder and gratitude. You are holy, and the whole earth is filled with your glory. You are merciful, and your steadfast love endures forever. You are faithful, and you invite us again and again into the joy of your presence. Turn our hearts away from all that would claim our worship and toward you alone. Receive our praise, deepen our faith, and make us ready to hear your Word and to receive your grace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Hymn of Praise #4

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

GROSSER GOTT, WIR LOBEN DICH

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

Susan Smith

One: Merciful God, we confess that we have turned our hearts toward other things.

All: We have trusted what we can see and control rather than trusting you.

We have sought our own glory instead of giving glory to you.

**Forgive us, O God. Turn our hearts again toward you,
and make us ready to receive your grace.**

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

Assurance of Pardon

Susan Smith

One: Friends, hear the good news: God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger,
and abounding in steadfast love.

**All: In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven, our hearts are restored, and the invitation to God's
banquet remains open. Thanks be to God!**

*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

Susan Smith

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

Susan Smith

**All: Gracious God, as we open your Word, quiet our hearts and open our minds. By your Holy
Spirit, help us to hear your voice, to recognize your invitation, and to receive the wisdom
and grace you offer us. May your Word take root in us and bear fruit in our lives.
Through Christ our Lord, Amen.**

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.

The Ancient Shape of Christian Worship

Today’s service draws upon the ancient pattern of Christian worship that has shaped the Church for centuries. The structure of *Gathering*, *Word*, *Response*, *Table*, and *Sending* connects our worship with Christians across generations and traditions. You will notice elements of the ancient *Ordinary of the Mass*, including the *Kyrie* (“Lord, have mercy”),

Gloria (“Glory to God”), *Credo* (the Creed), *Sanctus* (“Holy, holy, holy”),

Benedictus (“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord”), and *Agnus Dei* (“Lamb of God”).

These are not uniquely Roman Catholic texts, but ancient expressions of the Church’s praise, confession, faith, and thanksgiving. As Presbyterians, we receive these ancient expressions through the Reformed tradition, with its particular emphasis on the proclamation of scripture, preaching, congregational participation, and the Lord’s Supper. In using these historic forms, we join our voices with the Church of every age while worshipping according to our own reformed understanding of God’s grace in Jesus Christ.

**In what follows, the ancient and the Reformed meet, not as competing traditions,
but as parts of the shared heritage of Christian worship.**

The Kyrie

*The current PC(USA) Book of Order describes confession as a movement
from praise into recognition of sin and dependence upon God’s mercy.*

It specifically says that the prayer of confession may include the singing of “Lord, have mercy.”

Anthem

Kyrie (from *Missa puerorum*)

Josef Rheinberger
Lindsay Marchio, soprano

Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures Exodus 32:7–14

Susan Smith
page 78, *Hebrew Scriptures*

Congregational Response

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

MERBECKE KYRIE



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.



The Gloria

Modern Presbyterian worship frequently has a song or hymn of praise, Gloria, doxology, or other congregational acclamation following confession. The Book of Order gives “Glory be to the Father” or “Glory to God” as examples of songs of praise following confession and forgiveness.

Anthem

Gloria (from *Missa puerorum*)

Josef Rheinberger
Lindsay Marchio, soprano

Gloria in excelsis Deo
et in terra pax hominibus bonæ voluntatis.
Laudamus te, benedicimus te,
adoramus te, glorificamus te,
gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam.

*Glory to God in the highest
and on earth peace to men of good will.
We praise you, we bless you,
we worship you, we glorify you.
We give you thanks because of your great glory.*

Domine Deus, agnus Dei, filius patris,
qui sedes ad dexteram patris miserere nobis.
Quoniam tu solus sanctus, tu solus altissimus
Jesu Christe, cum sancto spiritu
in gloria Dei patris, amen.

*Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
who sits at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.
For you alone are holy, you alone are most high
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father, Amen.*

The Psalter

Psalm 106:1–6, 19–23

MIT FREUDEN ZART (fragment)
The Sanctuary Choir

Refrain

Cast ev - 'ry i - dol from its throne; the Lord is God,
the Lord a - lone. To God all praise and glo - ry.

Refrain 1x: Choir | 2x: ALL

- ¹Hallelujah! Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good, for God's mercy endures forever.
²Who can declare the mighty acts of the LORD or proclaim in full God's praise?
³Happy are those who act with justice and always do what is right.

Refrain: ALL

- ⁴Remember me, O LORD, with the favor you have for your people, and visit me with your salvation;
⁵that I may see the prosperity of your elect and be glad with the gladness of your people,
that I may glory with your inheritance.

Refrain: ALL

- ⁶We have sinned as our forbears did; we have done wrong and dealt wickedly.
¹⁹They made a bullcalf at Horeb and worshiped a molten image;
²⁰thus they exchanged their glory for the image of an ox that feeds on grass.
²¹They forgot God their Savior, who had done great things in Egypt,
²²wonderful deeds in the land of Ham, and fearful things at the Red Sea.
²³So you would have destroyed them, had not Moses your chosen stood in the breach,
to turn away your wrath from consuming them.

Refrain: ALL

*Congregational Response #581

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI (Creatorex)

The Credo

The ancient Mass contains the Nicene Creed. The contemporary PC(USA) calls for an Affirmation of Faith within the service and permits the use of the Nicene Creed, Apostles' Creed, and other confessional statements.

Anthem

Credo (from *Missa puerorum*)

Josef Rheinberger
Lindsay Marchio, soprano

Credo in unum Deum, patrem omnipotentem,
factorem cœli et terræ,
visibilia omnium, et invisibilia.
Et in unum Dominum
Jesum Christum, filium Dei unigenitum.
Et ex patre natum ante omnia sæcula.
Deum de Deo, lumen de lumine,
Deum verum de Deo vero.
Qui propter nos homines
et propter nostram salutem descendit de cœlis.
Et incarnatus est de spiritu sancto
ex Maria virgine et homo factus est
Crucifixus etiam pro nobis sub Pontio Pilato, passus
et sepultus est.

Et ascendit tertia die
secundum scripturas,
et ascendit in cœlum,
sedet ad dexteram patris,
et iterum venturus est cum gloria
judicare vivos et mortuos.
Et in Spiritum sanctum Dominum,
qui cum Patre filioque simul adoratur
et conglorificatur.

Et unam sanctam catholicam
et apostolicam ecclesiam.
Confiteor unum baptismum in remissionem peccatorum,
et vitam venturi sæculi. Amen.

*I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord,
Jesus Christ the only-begotten Son of God.
Born of the Father before all ages.
God of God, Light of Light,
true God of True God.
Who for us men
and for our salvation came down from heaven.
And became incarnate by the Holy Spirit
from the Virgin Mary and was made man.
He was also crucified for us, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
and was buried.*

*And on the third day he rose again
according to the scriptures.
He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead.
And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
who together with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified.*

*And one holy, Catholic
and apostolic Church.
I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

***An Affirmation of our Faith** The Apostle's Creed

Susan Smith

One: Let us confess the faith of our Baptism:

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Sanctus & Benedictus

*The PC(USA) Prayer of Great Thanksgiving explicitly includes "Holy, holy, holy Lord..."
The second half of the traditional Sanctus is the Benedictus: "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."
Thus, a congregation singing "Holy, holy, holy... Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord..."
is singing essentially the same text found in the ancient traditional mass.*

Anthem	Sanctus (from <i>Missa puerorum</i>)	Josef Rheinberger Lindsay Marchio, soprano
	Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth pleni sunt cœli, cœli et terra gloria tua, Osanna in excelsis.	<i>Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.</i>

Anthem	Benedictus (from <i>Missa puerorum</i>)	Josef Rheinberger Lindsay Marchio, soprano
	Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini, Osanna in excelsis.	<i>Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest.</i>

A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures	Isaiah 6:1–3	Susan Smith page 78, <i>Hebrew Scriptures</i>
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*Congregational Response #562	Holy, Holy, Holy	SANCTUS (Schubert)
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The Agnus Dei

*While the PC(USA) doesn't require an Agnus Dei ("Lamb of God") in worship, it is fully compatible with
Presbyterian Eucharistic theology and appears frequently in liturgical resources.*

Anthem	Agnus Dei (from <i>Missa puerorum</i>)	Josef Rheinberger Lindsay Marchio, soprano
	Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi miserere nobis. Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi dona nobis pacem.	<i>Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.</i>

A Reading from the Gospels	Matthew 22:1–14	Susan Smith page 24, <i>New Testament</i>
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Hymn #509	All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly	FAITHFULNESS
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A Reading from the Epistles	Philippians 4:1, 4–9	Susan Smith page 198, <i>New Testament</i>
One:	This is the word of the Lord.	
All:	Thanks be to God.	

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

Jayson Keeton

**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 melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the Tenor and Bass parts providing harmonic support. 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.

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

We Give Thee but Thine Own

SCHUMANN

The Sanctuary Choir

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

We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
May we thy bounties thus as stewards true receive, and gladly, as thou blesses us, to thee our first-fruits give.
The captive to release, to God the lost to bring, to teach the way of life and peace: it is a Christ-like thing.
And we believe thy word, though dim our faith may be; whate'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it unto thee.

***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**

Susan Smith

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 #804** Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

MARION

***Benediction**

Susan Smith

Closing Voluntary Marche pour Sortie Louis James Alfred Lefébure-Wely

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

Susan Smith
Jayson Keeton

AUDIO & VIDEO

Byron Goodew
David Cottrell

CUSTODIAL SERVICES

David Wolf

THE MUSIC TODAY

Jayson Keeton, Director of Music & Organist
Lindsay Marchio, soprano
The Sanctuary Choir

Service music reprinted under CCLI License No. 3604127.

Josef Gabriel Rheinberger (1839–1901) was a composer and organist from Liechtenstein, living in Bavaria for most of his life. As the court conductor in Munich, he was responsible for the music in the royal chapel. His *Missa puerorum* is a short mass setting in F minor composed in Munich in 1872.

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

WOMEN'S WEEKLY BOOK STUDY

The Women's Book Study Group will begin a new book on Wednesday, October 28th at 1:00pm in the Ruffner room. The book *Bible Stories for Grown-Ups: Reading Scripture with New Eyes*, Pastor Josh Scott looks at familiar Bible stories and reveals new details and interpretations for an adult audience. This six-week Bible study will consider stories, many read as children including, Noah's Ark, the binding of Isaac, Jonah and the big fish, Jesus and Zacchaeus, Jesus healing a blind man, and the parable of the talents. Scott reimagines these stories and opens new visions for readers to understand well known pieces of Scripture in our current cultural environment. Books will be available in the church office starting Wednesday, October 21st.

YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group meets this Sunday and 4th Sunday of the month from 3:00 – 5:00 in the Activity Building Youth Room for fun, fellowship, food, and faith formation. All youth in grades 6th – 12th are welcomed to join us.

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.

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 Property Committee.

Property Committee

Maintenance and care of Church facilities is a critical part of fulfilling our calling to serve in the community. Property committee members consult with and interact with Church staff and outside maintenance and repair workers to maintain and improve our Church facilities. This committee also reviews insurance coverage and ensures proper functioning of all Church equipment and motor vehicles. This function is especially critical to our call to serve in light of the age of our Church buildings. If you feel called to aid this important function contact the Church office.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee seeks persons called to be Deacons or Elders willing to be nominated for election to the Class of 2029 (three year terms). Anyone interested, contact the Church office.

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 Gassaway and Fleming Memorial Presbyterian Church in Fairmont

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Sunday, October 11

10:30am	Worship	<i>Sanctuary & YouTube</i>
11:00am	Worship Radio Broadcast	<i>WCHS-580AM</i>
3:00pm	Youth Group	<i>Youth Lounge</i>

Monday, October 12

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
9:30am	PEO Meeting	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
6:30pm	FPC Bowling	<i>Galaxy Lanes</i>

Tuesday, October 13

10:00am	Staff Meeting	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
6:00pm	Girl Scouts	<i>Activities Building</i>
7:00pm	Boy Scouts	<i>Activities Building</i>
7:00pm	Civic Chorus Rehearsal	<i>Choir Room</i>

Wednesday, October 14

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>

Thursday, October 15

3:00pm	FPC Book Club	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
4:30pm	Time for Refreshment	<i>Ruffner Room</i>

Friday, October 16

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

Sunday, October 11	Matthew 15:21-28
Monday, October 12	Luke 8:26-39
Tuesday, October 13	Luke 8:40-56
Wednesday, October 14	Luke 9:1-17
Thursday, October 15	Luke 9:18-27
Friday, October 16	Luke 9:28-36
Saturday, October 17	Luke 9:37-50

DISCOVERY CLASS

October 11	Michelle Foster – CEO of GKVF
October 18	Margaret O'Neal – United Way
October 25	"My Cuban Journey" – Pastor Myers

