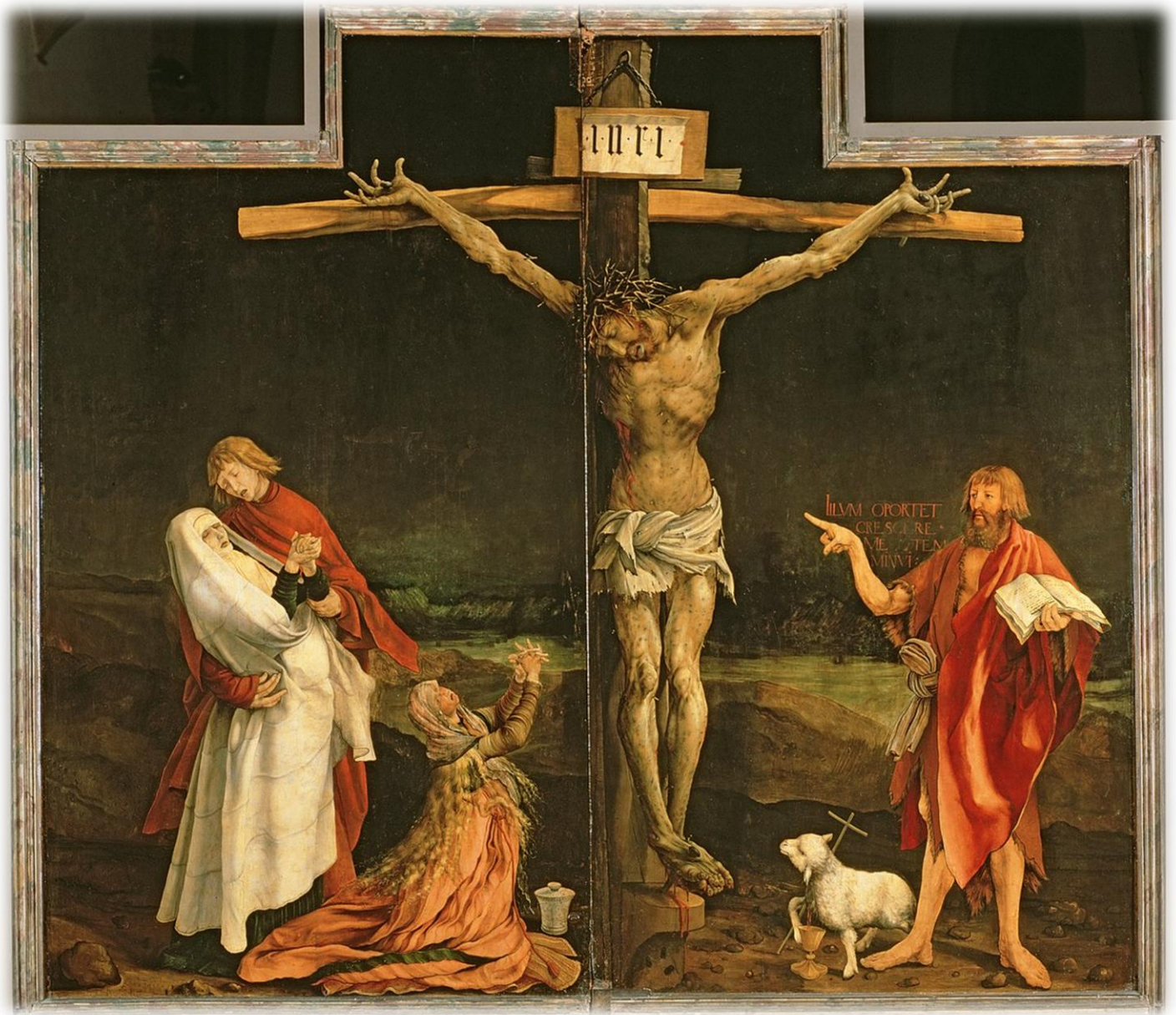


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Bringing hope to the heart of Charleston and beyond.



Reformation Sunday
October 25, 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:

"He must increase, but I must decrease."

— John 3:30

"Ye shall believe God, that plainly speaketh in His Word."

— John Knox

"The church of God can be established only where the Word of God rules."

— John Calvin

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

Reformation Day Lectionary

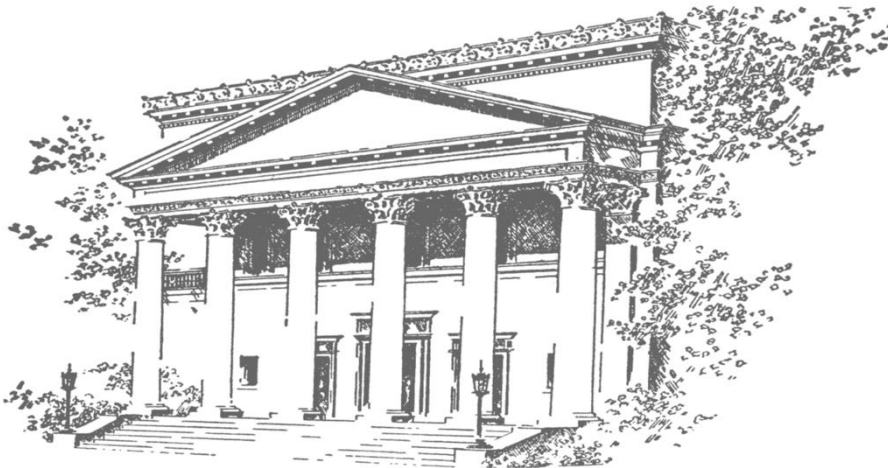
Jeremiah 31:31-34 • Psalm 46 • Romans 3:19-28 • John 8:31-36

Cover art:

The Crucifixion from The Isenheim Altarpiece (1512-1516)

Matthias Grünewald

Unterlinden Museum, Colmar, France



*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	Chorale Prelude: <i>Ein feste Burg</i>	Johann Christoph Bach
Processional	Highland Cathedral	Ulrich Roever, Michael Korb <i>Brent Walker, bagpipes</i>
Introit	Out of the Depths	AUS TIEFER NOT, Martin Luther <i>The Sanctuary Choir</i>
Out of the depths I cry to you; O Lord God, hear me calling. Incline your ear to my distress in spite of my rebelling. Do not regard my sinful deeds. Send me the grace my spirit needs; Without it I am nothing.		
Welcome		Pastor Myers
Minute for Mission	Hope Village	Dina Mohler, Debbe Moredock
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** Debbe Moredock

The opening sentence is from John Calvin's Form of Church Prayers, Geneva, 1542.

One: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

All: who made heaven and earth.

One: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

All: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change.

One: Be still, and know that I am God.

All: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

One: Let us worship God.

***Prayer of Adoration** Debbe Moredock

Adapted from Ulrich Zwingli's Action or Use of the Lord's Supper, Zurich, 1525.

**All: Almighty and eternal God, Creator of heaven and earth, you alone are worthy of our praise.
You have made us your own and called us through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Savior.
Turn our hearts toward you. By your Spirit, open us to your truth, deepen our trust, and
shape our lives by your grace, that all we say and do may point beyond ourselves to Christ.
To you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be glory now and forever. Amen.**

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

Based on the Reformed order used in Strasbourg and later by Calvin and the English congregation at Geneva.

One: Come, let us make our confession to God.

All: Let each of us stand honestly before the Lord, acknowledging our sin and trusting not in our own righteousness, but in the mercy of God through Jesus Christ.

(Adapted from Calvin's Form of Church Prayers, Geneva, 1542.)

**O Lord God, eternal and almighty Father,
we confess before your holy majesty that we are sinners,
prone to wander from your way
and unable by ourselves to make ourselves righteous.
We have not trusted your Word as we should.
We have followed our own wisdom,
defended our own opinions,
and too easily listened to voices
that tell us what we already want to hear.
We have failed to love you with our whole heart
and our neighbors as ourselves.
Most merciful Father, have compassion upon us.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, forgive our sins.
By your Holy Spirit, turn us again toward you,
that Christ may increase and we may decrease. Amen.**

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

Assurance of Pardon

The opening language reflects the absolution used in the Strasbourg Reformed tradition.

One: Hear the good news: This saying is sure and worthy of our trust: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. We do not stand before God by our own merit or righteousness. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God.



Saint-Pierre le Jeune, Strasbourg

***Congregational Response**

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

AMAZING GRACE

The bagpipes will play the tune once through. After a brief organ transition, the congregation sings.

1. A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved. How pre - cious did that
now am found, was blind but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!

***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

Debbe Moredock

Closely adapted from the Strasbourg Reformed liturgy associated with Martin Bucer, c.1540.

All: Almighty and gracious God, since our salvation depends upon your holy Word, free our hearts from everything that keeps us from hearing you. Give us grace to listen with humility, to understand your will with faith, and to live according to your truth. By your Holy Spirit, lead us through the words of Scripture to Jesus Christ, the living Word, in whose name we pray. Amen.

A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures Jeremiah 31:31-34

Debbe Moredock

*page 735, Hebrew Scriptures***A Reading from the Epistles** Romans 3:19-28

Debbe Moredock

page 154, New Testament

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.**Anthem**

If Ye Love Me

Thomas Tallis

The Sanctuary Choir

If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father,
And he shall give you another comforter,
That he may bide with you forever, e'en the spirit of truth.

A Reading from the Gospels John 8:31-36
One: This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
All: Praise be to you, O Christ.

Pastor Myers
page 101, New Testament

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 Even Necessary?"

Pastor Myers

***Hymn #624**

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

TOULON

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

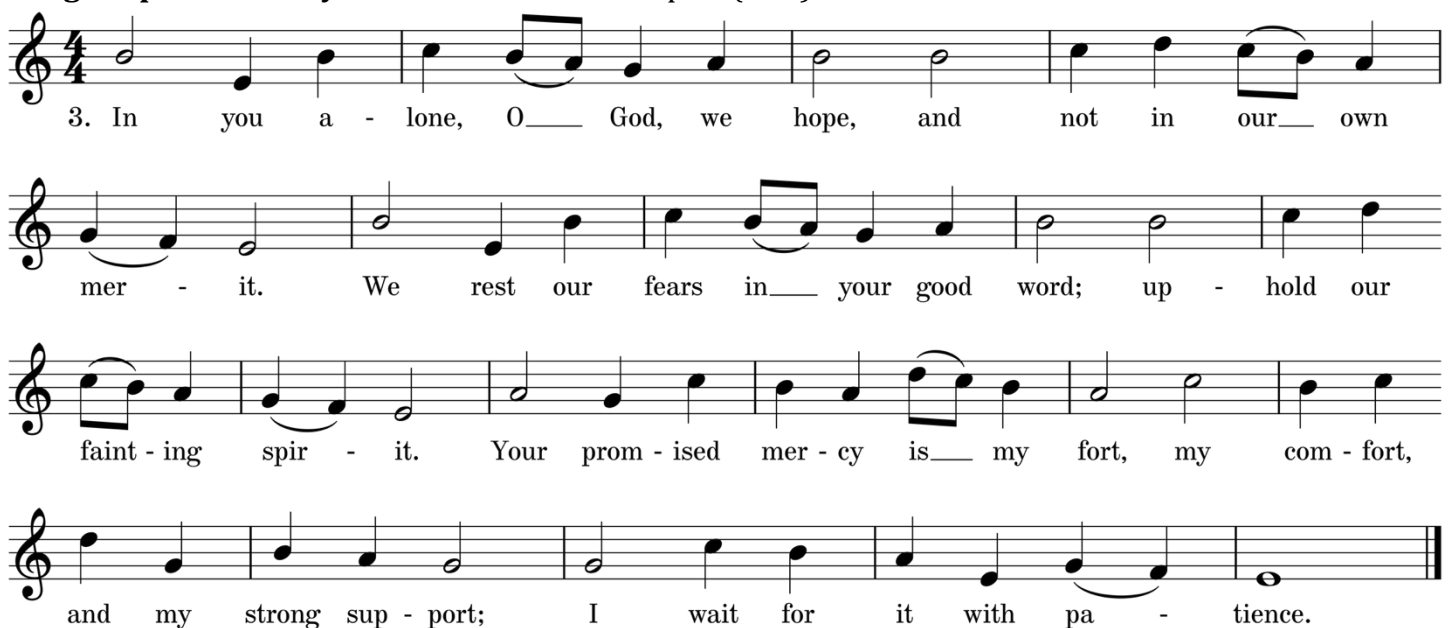
Pastor Myers

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

Out of the Depths (vs. 3)

AUS TIEFER NOT



3. In you a - lone, O God, we hope, and not in our own
mer - it. We rest our fears in your good word; up - hold our
faint - ing spir - it. Your prom - ised mer - cy is my fort, my com - fort,
and my strong sup - port; I wait for it with pa - tience.

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

Andante Maestoso

arr. Kevin McChesney
First Presby Handbells

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 #275

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN' FESTE BURG

*Benediction

Pastor Myers

Closing Voluntary

Postlude on *Ein Feste Burg*

arr. Eleanor Whitsett

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
Debbe Moredock

AUDIO & VIDEO

Byron Goodew
David Cottrell

THE MUSIC TODAY

Jayson Keeton, Director of Music & Organist
The Sanctuary Choir
First Presby Handbells
Kathy Lynch, director

CUSTODIAL SERVICES

David Wolf

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, Facilities/Maintenance Coordinator

SOUP AND SUNDAE SUNDAY

It is the time of year when we turn our hearts and minds to the season of Generosity. What can we and our families do with our time, talents, and financial support to help First Presby make God's love visible to a world who needs that love and hope?

Sunday, November 1st we will celebrate with Soup and Sundae Sunday! Bring your favorite homemade soups and stay after church for a time of fellowship and reflection on all of God's blessings to First Presby. While you are enjoying the delicious soups and ice cream treats, we will have a presentation on the many opportunities and challenges facing our church over the next year. In this season of Generosity, please prayerfully consider how you will support First Presby's ongoing work in Charleston and beyond as we move towards Celebration and Commitment Sunday on November 8th.

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 are available in the church office.

HOPE VILLAGE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Calling on Manly Men! Debbe and Dina need help moving the tables, trees and merchandise into the Bud Francis room for Hope Village on Monday, November 2 beginning at 10:00 a.m. This is a big job, but with enough help, it can be done in a couple hours. If you are able to assist, please let Debbe (304) 444-9272 or Dina (304) 444-2211 know. Thanks so much. There MAY be a donut in it for you.

Do you love decorating trees? Are you good at arranging clothing? Do you love steaming tablecloths? Well, have we got a job that's right up your alley! We will be setting up the displays for Hope Village beginning on November 2 and can use all the help we can get! We will be working November 3, 4, and 5 to unpack and arrange merchandise, beginning at 10 am each day. If you are able to come help at any point during those days, please let Debbe (304) 444-9272 or Dina (304) 444-2211 know. Thank you for your support of Hope Village and its important mission.

YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays (including this Sunday!) 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 welcome!

TROT AND TREAT

The Preschool is hosting Trot and Treat Thursday, October 29th from 6-7:30pm. Wear your costumes, play games and of course take home lots of treats!

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.

KNITTING GROUP

Did you know First Presby has a Knitting Group? They meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month at 10:00am up in Room 406. All supplies are included but of course you're welcome to bring your own project. If you are a beginner or expert level, you are welcome to join! This group teaches kids at the King Center how to knit as well!

GABRIEL PROJECT FUNDRAISER

One of our local mission partners, Gabriel Project, is hosting their annual food product fundraiser. They are offering delicious treats such as jams, preserves, salsas, dressings and more all made in America and make great gifts for the holiday season. You can find the order forms on the Mission bulletin board where the Panera table is located on Sunday mornings. All orders must be submitted by October 26th. You can mail or hand deliver the form to their office at 1207 Jefferson Road in South Charleston, or email it to info@gabrielwv.org. Items will be distributed by early December. Call their office (304)205-5865 for more information.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS

Join your church family for a free meal on Wednesday nights at 5:30 as a part of LIFT (Living in Faith Together). After dinner you can stay in the dining hall to continue fellowshiping or join the adult class or the children's class and nurture your faith. We finish the evening with a brief communion worship service from 7:00 – 7:15.

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 28 — Do We Really Have to Forgive Everybody?

Jesus tells us to forgive seventy-seven times. But what about abuse, betrayal, people who never apologize, or relationships that are no longer safe? Does forgiveness mean forgetting, reconciling, or letting someone off the hook?

November 4 — Is Jesus the Only Way? What do we believe happens to those who worship God but may not accept Jesus Christ as their resurrected Savior? What about faithful Jews, Muslims, people of other religions, or people who have never really encountered Christianity? We'll wrestle with Jesus' claim, *"I am the way,"* alongside the wideness of God's grace—and ask what Presbyterians actually believe about salvation.

November 11 — Is Hell Real?

Fire and brimstone? Eternal punishment? Separation from God? Something else entirely? We'll look at what Scripture actually says about hell, how Christian thinking about it developed, and whether a loving God condemns people forever.

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 First Presbyterian Church in Buckhannon, Rock Lake Presbyterian Church in South Charleston and Sugar Grove Presbyterian Church in Morgantown.

Financial Position as of YTD September 2026 (75% through the Fiscal Year)

	First Presby YTD September Results	First Presby YTD September Budget	(Shortage) or Surplus as compared to YTD September Budget	First Presby Annual Budget	% of Annual Budget Received or Expended through September
Pledge & Unpledged Offerings	565,985	605,065	(39,080)	765,000	74%
Other Offerings & Income	26,454	23,797	2,657	33,196	80%
Trustee Funds Transfer	332,544	332,550	(6)	483,396	69%
Total Revenue	924,983	961,412	(36,429)	1,281,592	72%
Ministry Expenses	875,932	971,632	95,700	1,369,659	64%
Net Surplus or (Net Shortage)	49,051	(10,220)	59,271	(88,067)	

During the third quarter, First Presby was blessed with designated gifts totalling \$150,000. As of September 30, 2026 First Presby holds Restricted & Designated Funds in the amount of \$489,725. A copy of the report is available in the Church Office.

As of September 30, 2026 First Presby holds cash and short term investments totalling approximately \$805,000. Included in that amount is approximately \$244,000 held on behalf of the Preschool

Note: The Preschool Fiscal year is July 2026 to June 2027. The YTD results represent July 2026 thru September 2026 (25% of the Fiscal Year)

	First Presby Preschool YTD Actual Results	First Presby Preschool Annual Budget	% of Annual Budget Received or Expended
Preschool Revenues	234,170	217,810	108%
Preschool Expenses	241,844	217,810	111%
Net Surplus or (Net Shortage)	(7,674)	0	

God continues to bless and strengthen the ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Thank you for your faithful support that allows First Presby to be a beacon of hope to Charleston and beyond.

	Concert Series Gifts	Concert Series Expenses
Concert Series Activity	6,500	27,161

The Concert Series Gifts received to date from our congregation are very much appreciated! The monies received are used to cover production costs for these magnificent performances. Please consider becoming a sponsor. Gifts of any amount are appreciated. Please note "Concert Series" on the memo line of a check.

All love offerings collected during the concerts benefit First Presby's mission partners.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Sunday, October 25

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 26

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

Tuesday, October 27

10:00am	Staff Meeting	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
5:30pm	Hope Center Board Meeting	<i>Room 411</i>
7:00pm	Boy Scouts	<i>Activities Building</i>
7:00pm	Civic Chorus Rehearsal	<i>Choir Room</i>

Wednesday, October 28

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
10:30am	Knitting Club	<i>Room 406</i>
1:00pm	Women's Book Study	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
5:30pm	LIFT	<i>Dining Room</i>

Thursday, October 29

4:30pm	Time for Refreshment	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
6:00pm	Trot and Treat	<i>Preschool</i>

Friday, October 30

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
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Saturday, October 31 – Happy Halloween!

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

Sunday, October 25	Matthew 18:15-20
Monday, October 26	Luke 11:14-26
Tuesday, October 27	Luke 11:27-36
Wednesday, October 28	Luke 11:37-52
Thursday, October 29	Luke 11:53-12:12
Friday, October 30	Luke 12:13-31
Saturday, October 31	Luke 12:32-48

DISCOVERY CLASS

October 25	"My Cuban Journey" – Pastor Myers
November 1	"That Was Easy" – Rob Kuenzel
November 8	"Hope Village" – Dina Mohler and Debbe Moredock



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF CHARLESTON**

