

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Bringing hope to the heart of Charleston and beyond.



**The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
World Communion Sunday
October 4, 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:

"Love and ever more love is the only solution to every problem that comes up."
—Dorothy Day

"We do not need guns and bombs to bring peace. We need love and compassion."
—Mother Teresa

"I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear."
—Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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

Semicontinuous

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 • Psalm 19

Complementary

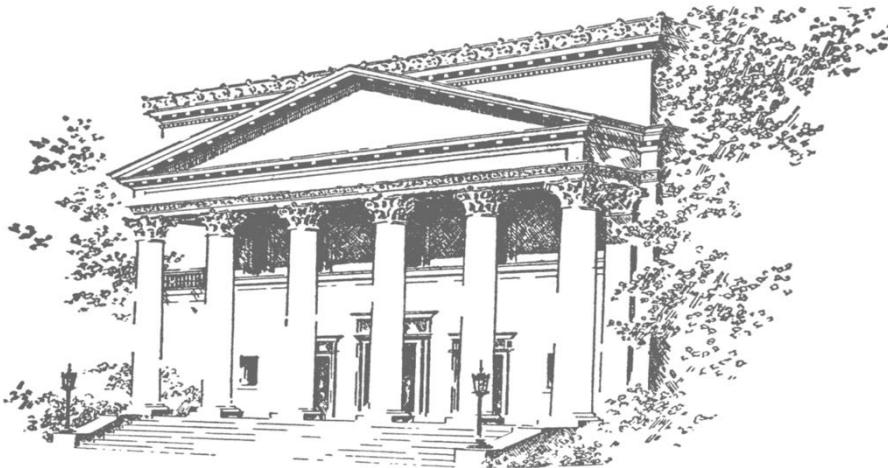
Isaiah 5:1-7 • Psalm 80:7-15 • Philippians 3:4b-14 • Matthew 21:33-46

Cover art:

Heart of the World

Mikhail Reva (21st century)

Odessa Children's Hospital (Ukraine)



*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: *Auf meinen lieben Gott*
Chorale Prelude

J.S. Bach
Johann Christoph Bach

Introit

Come Share the Lord

Bryan Jeffery Leech
The Sanctuary Choir

We gather here in Jesus' name;
His love is burning in our hearts like living flame;
For through the loving Son the Father makes us one:
Come, take the bread; come, drink the wine; come, share the Lord.

Welcome

Maureen Wright

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

Beth Vorhees

One: Today, the words of God come to us, in love,

All: inviting us to not be afraid, but to place our faith in God.

One: Today, the word of God comes to us, in faith,

**All: inviting us to trust in the One who knows us,
to place our hope in the One who saves us.**

One: Today, the Word of God comes to us, in hope,

All: inviting us to be gracious in our love and in our service to others.

*Prayer of Adoration

Beth Vorhees

All: O God, you are infinite, eternal and unchangeable, glorious in holiness, full of love and compassion, abundant in grace and truth. Your works everywhere praise you, and your glory is revealed in Jesus Christ our Savior. Therefore, we praise you, blessed and holy Trinity, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

*Hymn of Praise #366

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

HYFRYDOL

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

Maureen Wright

One: Eternal God, our judge and redeemer,

All: we confess that we have tried to hide from you, for we have done wrong. We have lived for ourselves and refused to bear the burdens of others. We have ignored the pain of the world, and passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed. In your great mercy forgive our sins and free us from selfishness, that we may choose your will and obey your commandments, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

Assurance of Pardon

Maureen Wright

One: Do not fear, says the Lord, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name; you are mine.

All: God is doing a new thing; now it springs forth! By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. 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

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

Beth Vorhees

All: Bless us, O God, with ears to hear your truth, vision to discern your path, and feet ready to move into action, responding to your call. Inspire us as we hear your Word read and proclaimed. Amen.

Anthem

Come, Behold the Feast of Heaven

arr. Jayson Keeton
The Sanctuary Choir

Come, behold! The feast of heaven Alleluia!
Has to mortal flesh been given. Alleluia!
Hear the Word of God declared: Alleluia!
“Come! The banquet is prepared.” Alleluia!

All is ready, come attend Alleluia!
As the Lord’s invited friend; Alleluia!
Come from north, west, south, and east; Alleluia!
Celebrate the joyful feast. Alleluia!

All who trust in God belong Alleluia!
At this banquet with this throng. Alleluia!
Share the mystic holy food; Alleluia!
Taste and see: the Lord is good. Alleluia!

A Reading from the Letters

1 Corinthians 13:1–13 & 14:1a

Maureen Wright
page 175, New Testament

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

A Time for Children

Maureen Wright

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

“Called to Love”

Maureen Wright

***Hymn #316**

Where Charity and Love Prevail

TWENTY-FOURTH

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.*

Prayers of the People

Maureen Wright

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

Herr Christ, der einig Gottes Sohn

Johann Christoph Bach

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

We Gather at Christ's Table

*Christ invites all who trust in him to this feast of grace. Here we remember his saving love,
receive his sustaining presence, and join the communion of saints
as the body of Christ in every time and place.*

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: Holy and gracious God, you spoke creation into being and called it good...

...Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Sung Response

Holy, Holy, Holy (from *Deutsche Messe*)

SANCTUS (Schubert)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,____

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,____

heav - en and earth are full,____ full____ of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes____ in the name of the Lord.____

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

One: Holy God, blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord...

...With joy we remember this good news, and we celebrate the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ through this bread and this cup. Great is the mystery of faith:

Sung Response

Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION (Schubert)



One: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine...

...Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever.

Sung Response

Amen

AMEN (Schubert)

**The Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

Words of Institution**Sharing the Bread and Cup**

(This morning we share the bread and the cup together, gathered and scattered, united in Christ at the Table.)

Communion Anthem

Bread of the World

EUCCHARISTIC HYMN, arr. Daniel Burton

Prayer after Communion

All: Gracious God, we thank you for meeting us at this table, where your love is offered freely and your grace is shared with all. As we have received the bread and cup, remind us that we are part of one body and one people, gathered from every nation, every language, and every place. May the communion we have shared here become a communion we live each day: in love, in service, and in the fellowship of your whole world. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

We Go Forth in Hope

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

***Hymn #300**

We Are One in the Spirit

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

***Benediction**

Maureen Wright

Closing Voluntary

Præludium

Dietrich Buxtehude

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

Maureen Wright
Beth Vorhees

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.

This morning's liturgy is based on the *Book of Common Worship* (2018)
and Worship Liturgy by Teri McDowell Ott from *The Presbyterian Outlook* for October 4, 2026.

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

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.

YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays 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.

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 for and 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 7 - CANCELLED

October 14 — 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 21 — Can You Be Christian and Doubt Almost Everything?
Is doubt the enemy of faith—or sometimes part of faith itself?

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.

FPC BOOK CLUB

There has been a slight change in the start of the FPC Book Club. Due to some scheduling conflicts, the first meeting will now be on Thursday, October 15th in the Ruffner Room from 3 - 4:30pm. The first book is *Reading Genesis* by Marilynne Robinson asking *"Is the God of Genesis really the God we think we know?"*

TIME FOR REFRESHMENT

This weeks gathering, Thursday, October 8th is cancelled. Join Pastor Myers on Thursday afternoons at 4:30pm in the Ruffner Room 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.

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 Finance Committee.

Finance and Generosity

This Committee, in consultation with other Session Committees, plans and monitors the annual budgets. They also prepare and present monthly financial statements to Session.

In order to further God's work on earth, the Committee plans a stewardship education program for the congregation and plans and administers an annual stewardship campaign. This Committee is crucial to the day to day operations of the Church, as well as to answering God's call to service. If you feel called to overseeing the Church's finances, contact the church office.

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.



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 of Huntington and Cabwaylingo Chapel in Dunlow, WV sponsored by FPC Huntington.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Sunday, October 4

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

Monday, October 5 – NO SCHOOL

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
4:00pm	Property Meeting	<i>Room 117</i>

Tuesday, October 6 – NO SCHOOL

8:00am	Pew Installation	<i>Sanctuary</i>
10:00am	Staff Meeting	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
6:00pm	Deacon's Meeting	<i>Dining Room</i>
6:00pm	Girl Scouts	<i>Activities Building</i>
7:00pm	Boy Scouts	<i>Activities Building</i>

Wednesday, October 7

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
5:00pm	LIFT	<i>Dining Room</i>

Thursday, October 8

10:30am	PW Book Study 2	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
1:00pm	Shepherd Center	<i>Room 117</i>
5:30pm	CE Meeting	<i>Room 117</i>

Friday, October 9

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

Saturday, October 10

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

Sunday, October 4	Matthew 14:1-12
Monday, October 5	Luke 6:39-49
Tuesday, October 6	Luke 7:1-17
Wednesday, October 7	Luke 7:18-35
Thursday, October 8	Luke 7: 36-50
Friday, October 9	Luke 8:1-15
Saturday, October 10	Luke 8:16-25

DISCOVERY CLASS

October 4	Tips for Reading Scripture Out Loud – Beth Vorhees
October 11	Michelle Foster – CEO of GKVF



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF CHARLESTON**

