First Presbyterian Church

Bringing hope to the heart of Charleston and beyond.



The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 15, 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 only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."
—Albert Schweitzer, *Speech at Silcoates School, 1935*

"Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve."
— Martin Luther King Jr., *The Drum Major Instinct*

"*We have all known the long loneliness, and we have learned that the only solution is love and that love comes with community."*
—Dorothy Day, *The Long Loneliness*

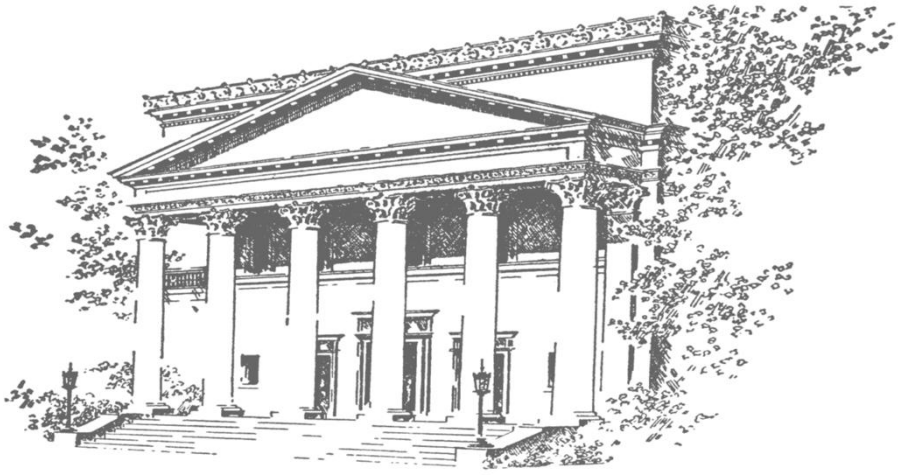
The following scriptures are provided for silent meditation during the prelude:

Semicontinuous
Judges 4:1-7 • Psalm 123

Complementary
Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 • Psalm 90:1-8 (9-11), 12 • 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 • Matthew 25:14-30

Cover art:

Parable of the Talents
Willem de Poorter (1608–c.1648)
National Gallery, Prague, Czech Republic



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 Andante W.G. Alcock

Introit God, Reveal Your Presence ARNSBERG

The Sanctuary Choir

God, reveal your presence: gladly we adore you,
And with awe appear before you.
Holy is your temple: all within keep silence,
Humbly bow with deepest reverence.
You alone now we own as our God and Savior:
Praise your name forever!

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** Terry Potesta

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!
All: We come with grateful hearts and joyful praise.
One: God has blessed us with gifts beyond measure.
All: God calls us to share those gifts in love.
One: Come, let us celebrate the joy of belonging to God!
All: And the joy of participating in God's work!

***Prayer of Adoration** Terry Potesta

All: Generous God, you are the source of every good gift. Your grace sustains us, your love surrounds us, and your Spirit calls us to share in your work. Fill our hearts with gratitude and our lives with joy as we worship you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise #66** Every Time I Feel the Spirit PENTECOST

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: God invites us to lives of generosity and joy, yet fear often holds us back.

All: Trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us confess our sins together.

Generous God, you have blessed us abundantly, yet we focus on what we lack. You call us to joyful service, but fear holds us back. We cling to what we have and overlook the needs of others. Forgive us. Open our hearts, strengthen our faith, and renew our joy in sharing your love.

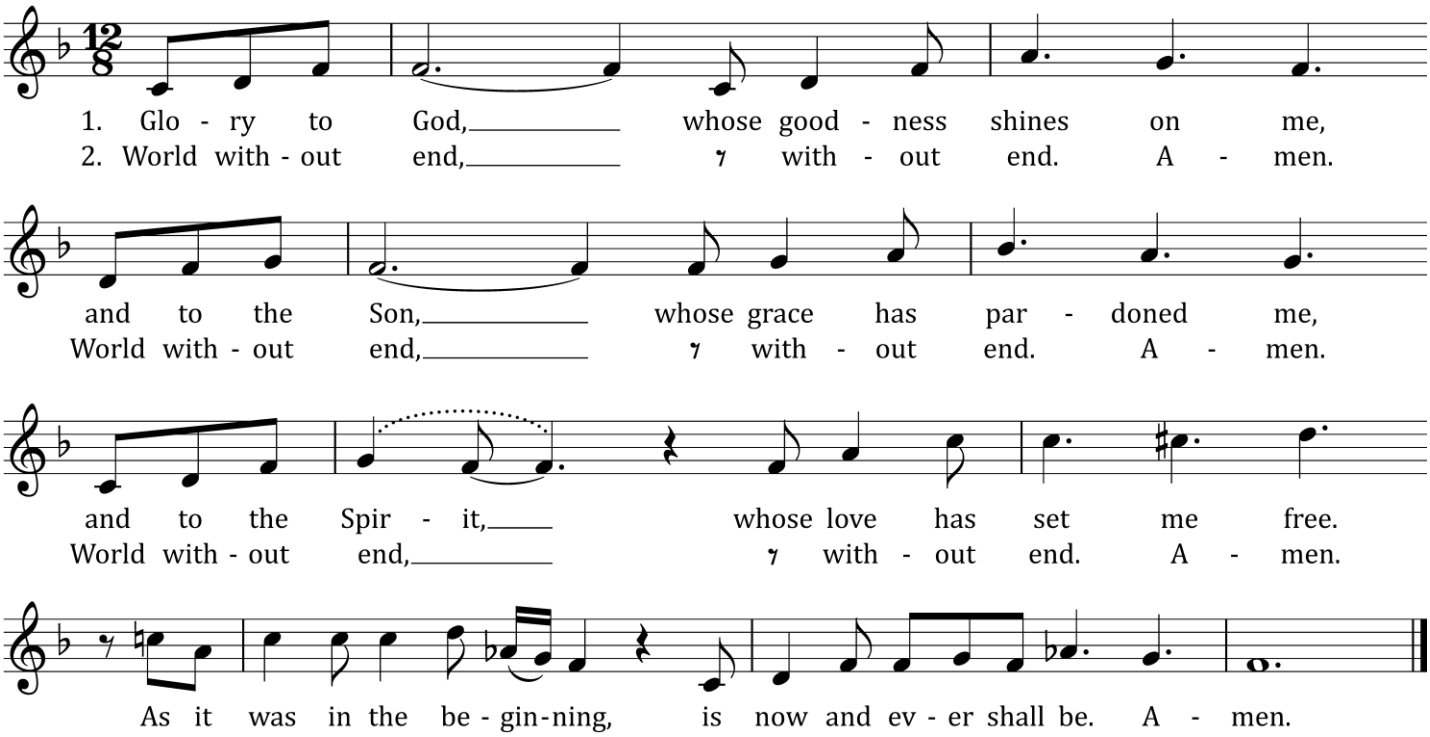
(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

Assurance of Pardon

One: Hear the good news! God's grace is greater than our fears, and God's love is greater than our failures. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and called to new life.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

***Congregational Response** Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me GLORY TO GOD



***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 Terry Potesta

All: **Gracious God, open our hearts to your Word. Help us recognize your gifts, trust your promises, and discover the joy of participating in your work. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures Judges 4:1–7 Terry Potesta

page 220, Hebrew Scriptures

A Reading from the Epistles 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11 Terry Potesta

page 205, New Testament

Anthem Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning arr. Jayson Keeton

The Sanctuary Choir

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, for the time is drawing nigh.

Sisters, don't grow weary; brothers, don't grow weary;
Children, don't grow weary, for the time is drawing nigh.

It's our faith that makes us happy…
We are climbing Jacob's ladder…
Every round goes higher, higher…

A Reading from the Gospels Matthew 25:14–30 Pastor Myers

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

page 28, 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 "Enter Into the Joy" Pastor Myers

***Hymn #384** Soon and Very Soon SOON AND VERY SOON

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 #708 We Give Thee but Thine Own SCHUMANN

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 Präludium Anton Bruckner

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 OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

*__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 #700** I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me! I'M GONNA LIVE

***Benediction** Pastor Myers

Closing Voluntary Toccata in F Major 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
The Rev. Dr. William C. Myers
Terry Potesta

AUDIO & VIDEO
Byron Goodew
David Cottrell

THE MUSIC TODAY
Jayson Keeton, Director of Music & Organist
The Sanctuary Choir

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

First Presby Weekly News November 15, 2026

ADVENT FAIR

Mark your calendars for the Advent Fair on Sunday, December 6th right after church. Lunch will be provided. The activities this year include a handprint wreath, a gum drop Christmas tree, a "stained" glass tea light, cards for at home members, Christmas pillowcase, and more. This year we are including a mission project. More on that below. Come join us for food and fun on Sunday, December 6th!

ADVENT FAIR MISSION PROJECT

This holiday season, in honor of baby Jesus, the mission division is requesting donations of swaddling blankets and diapers for the Gabriel Project. The Gabriel project is a well-established organization in our community that helps support low income families with babies and toddlers under the age of 2. Supplies can be brought to church or to the Advent Fair on Sunday, December 6th. The organization can use diapers of any size, but they are in particular need of larger sizes (size 4.5 and 6).

WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

It's time to deck the sanctuary with wreathes, garland and trees! Following the November 22nd service your help is needed to transform our worship space for the Advent and Christmas Seasons.

CENTS-ABILITY

Bring your change for the little red buckets on Sunday, November 22nd! Children and youth will collect your change to benefit local hunger ministries as well as national and international Presbyterian Hunger Program projects. Bills will also be accepted.

WOMEN'S WEEKLY BOOK STUDY

Join the Women's Book Study Group in the Ruffner Room every Wednesday at 1:00pm. 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 2026

Hope Village is officially open! Come shop for a purpose at your favorite holiday shopping experience. We have three brand new vendors with beautiful handmade clothing, housewares and décor. Cash, checks, and credit cards are accepted. Below are the dates and times to share with family, friends and community:

First Presby in the Activities Building:
Sunday Nov. 15… .12pm - 3pm
Wed - Sat. Nov. 18, 19, 20, 21….10am - 3pm
Sunday Nov. 22… 12pm - 3pm

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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 third year with this mission and the number of students needing help has increased significantly. 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'd like to help fill or deliver bags, feel free to show up at the church on a Friday morning at 10am and we will train you. If you would just like to pray for this mission and these students, that would also be wonderful.

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 fellowshipping 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.

November 18 — What If I'm Wrong About God?
Most of us inherited some picture of God—from parents, Sunday school, church, culture, or experience. But what happens when that picture no longer works? Can changing our minds about God actually be an act of faith?

November 25 — No LIFT After Dark — Thanksgiving Week

TIME FOR REFRESHMENT

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.

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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 Hinton and Clifton Presbyterian Church in Maxwelton.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Sunday, November 15

9:15am	Discovery Class	*Dining Room*
10:30am	Worship	*Sanctuary & YouTube*
11:00am	Worship Radio Broadcast	*WCHS–580AM*
12:00pm	**Hope Village**	***Bud Francis Rec. Room***

Monday, November 16

8:30am	Aerobics	*A201*
6:30pm	FPC Bowling	*Galaxy Lanes*

Tuesday, November 17

10:00am	Staff Meeting	*Ruffner Room*
7:00pm	Boy Scouts	*Activities Building*
7:00pm	Civic Chorus Rehearsal	*Choir Room*

Wednesday, November 18

8:30am	Aerobics	*A201*
10:00am	**Hope Village**	***Bud Francis Rec. Room***
1:00pm	Women's Book Study	*Ruffner Room*

Thursday, November 19

10:00am	**Hope Village**	***Bud Francis Rec. Room***
4:30pm	Time for Refreshment	*Ruffner Room*

Friday, November 20

8:30am	Aerobics	*A201*
10:00am	**Hope Village**	***Bud Francis Rec. Room***

Saturday, November 21

10:00am	**Hope Village**	***Bud Francis Rec. Room***

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

Sunday, November 15	Matthew 20:12-24
Monday, November 16	Luke 14:12-24
Tuesday, November 17	Luke 14:25-35
Wednesday, November 18	Luke 15:1-10
Thursday, November 19	Luke 15:1-2, 11-32
Friday, November 20	Luke 16:1-9
Saturday, November 21	Luke 16:10-17 (18)

DISCOVERY CLASS

November 15	The Presbyterian Hymnal – Jayson Keeton
November 22	Kanawha Valley Collective – Traci Strickland



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF CHARLESTON

