FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Bringing hope to the heart of Charleston and beyond.



Christ the King Sunday
November 22, 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:

"In ordinary life, we hardly realize that we receive a great deal more than we give, and that it is only with gratitude that life becomes rich.
— Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"Everyone capable of thanksgiving is capable of salvation and eternal joy."
— Alexander Schmemann, *For the Life of the World*

"*To be grateful is to recognize the love of God in everything he has given us."*
— Thomas Merton

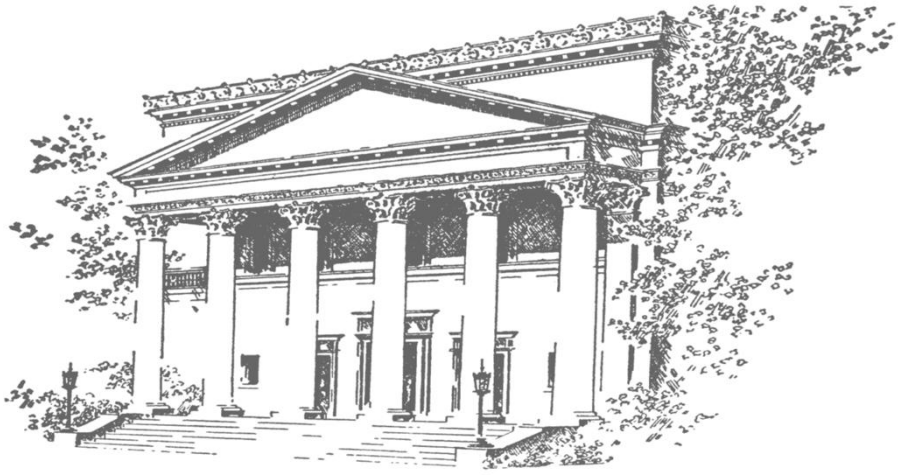
The following scriptures are provided for silent meditation during the prelude:

Semicontinuous
Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24 • Psalm 100

Complementary
Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24 • Psalm 95:1–7a • Ephesians 1:15–23 • Matthew 25:31–46

Cover art:

Wheat (1860)
John Linnell (1792–1882)
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia



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 Trumpet Tune — John Stanley

Introit Peoples, Clap Your Hands — GENEVAN 47
The Sanctuary Choir

Peoples, clap your hands! Shout to God with joy!
King of all the earth is the Lord Most High;
All humanity stands in awe of God.
With a mighty hand God brings nations low,
And beneath our feet casts down every foe;
Our inheritance comes from God the Lord.

Welcome — Susan Smith

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** Psalm 95:1–7a — Barbara Hopta

One: O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
All: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
One: For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.
All: In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.
One: The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.
All: O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
One: For he is our God,
All: and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

***Prayer of Adoration** — Barbara Hopta

All: Almighty and everlasting God, whose glory fills the heavens and whose majesty is beyond our understanding: We adore you as Creator of all things, Sovereign Lord of all nations, and Shepherd of your people. In your presence we bow in reverence and lift our hearts in joyful worship. Receive our adoration and be glorified in all that we say and do; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise #2** Come, Thou Almighty King — ITALIAN HYMN

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 Barbara Hopta

One: Almighty and merciful God, sovereign over all creation and ruler of our lives,

All: we confess that we have not always lived as faithful subjects of your kingdom. We have placed our own desires above your will, taken your blessings for granted, and been slow to offer the gratitude and praise you deserve. We have sought power rather than service, recognition rather than humility, and our own security rather than trust in your providence. Forgive us, O Lord, and turn our hearts once more toward Christ, that our lives may bear witness to his love, his mercy, and his everlasting reign.

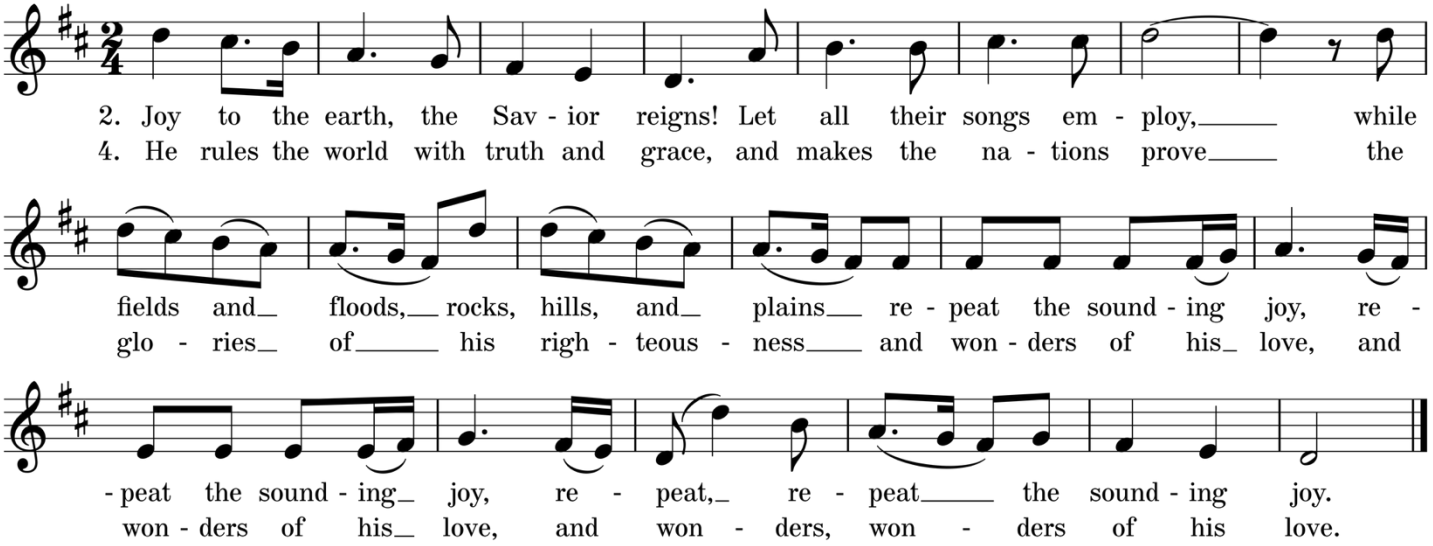
(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

Assurance of Pardon

One: Hear the good news! The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; God's mercies are new every morning. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, redeemed, and welcomed into the kingdom of God's grace. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

***Congregational Response** Joy to the World *(vs. 2 & 4)* ANTIOCH



***Sharing the Peace of Christ** Barbara Hopta

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 Paul Kinneberg

All: Shepherd of Israel and King of all creation, you seek the lost, gather the scattered, and strengthen the weak. As we give thanks for your abundant goodness and celebrate the reign of Christ our King, open our hearts and minds to your Word. By your Holy Spirit, guide us into your truth, that we may hear your voice, recognize your grace, and follow the Good Shepherd in lives of gratitude, mercy, and faithful service. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24 Paul Kinneberg

page 803, Hebrew Scriptures

Anthem He Shall Feed His Flock (from *Messiah*) G.F. Handel

Lindsay Marchio, soprano

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd:
And he shall gather the lambs with his arm
And carry them in his bosom,
And gently lead those that are with young.

A Reading from the Psalter Psalm 100 Barbara Hopta

One: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

All: Serve the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

One: Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

All: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him; bless his name.

One: For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever and his faithfulness to all generations.

Anthem At the Name of Jesus arr. James Kirkby

The Sanctuary Choir

At the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow,
Every tongue confess him King of glory now;
It is his pleasure, we should call him Lord,
Who from the beginning was the mighty Word.

Humbled for a season, to receive a Name
From the lips of sinners, unto whom he came,
Gladly he bore it spotless to the last,
Brought it back victorious, when from death he passed.

Bore it up triumphant, with its human light,
Through the ranks of creatures to the central height,
Before the throne and to the Father's breast;
Filled it with the glory of that perfect rest.

In your hearts enthrone him, there let him subdue,
All that is not holy, all that is not true;
Crown as your Captain in temptation's hour,
Let his will enfold you in its light and power.

A Reading from the Epistles Ephesians 1:15–23 Barbara Hopta
page 192, New Testament

***Hymn #394** Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation WESTMINSTER ABBEY

A Time for Children Cents-ability Susan Smith

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.

A Reading from the Gospels Matthew 25:31–46 Paul Kinneberg
page 29, New Testament

Anthem When the Poor Ones José Antonio Olivar, Miguel Manzano
The Sanctuary Choir

When the poor ones who have nothing share with strangers,
When the thirsty water give unto us all,
When the crippled in their weakness strengthen others,
Then we know God still goes that road with us.

When at last all those who suffer find their comfort,
When they hope though even hope seems hopelessness,
When we love through hate at times seems all around us,
Then we know God still goes that road with us.

When our joy fills up our cup to overflowing,
When our lips can speak no words other than true,
When we know that love for simple things is better,
Then we know God still goes that road with us.

When our homes are filled with goodness in abundance,
When we learn how to make peace instead of war,
When each stranger that we meet is called a neighbor,
Then we know that God still goes that road with us.

A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures Deuteronomy 26:1–11 Paul Kinneberg
page 180, Hebrew Scriptures

***Hymn #643** Now Thank We All Our God NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

A Reading from the Epistles Ephesians 5:15–20 Paul Kinneberg
page 192, New Testament

Hymn #336 We Gather Together KREMSER

A Reading from the Gospels Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43 Paul Kinneberg
page 14, New Testament

***Hymn #367** Come, Ye Thankful People, Come ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

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 Susan Smith

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 #36 For the Fruit of All Creation AR HYD Y NOS

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 Fantasia on FOREST GREEN Lloyd Larson
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 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__ 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 #35** Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty LOBE DEN HERREN

***Benediction** Susan Smith

Closing Voluntary Festive Trumpet Tune David German

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
Barbara Hopta
Paul Kinneberg

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
First Presby Handbells
Kathy Lynch, director

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 fresh flowers in the sanctuary were donated by Ky and Tammy Owen in memory of Ky's mother, Dr. Frieda Owen.

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

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CHRISTMAS EVE TABLEAU

1ST – 5TH GRADE CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP LEADERS NEEDED

The children of the church will lead worship at 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve as they present the Birth of Jesus through scripture and Christmas hymns in a living Tableau. This time-honored tradition is your child's chance to lead the congregation in worship as we center our hearts and minds on Jesus Christ at this blessed time of year.

Hear and see the good news of the coming of the Christ child - the Light of the World!

Roles include: Mary, Joseph, Donkey, Innkeeper, Shepherds and Sheep, Angel Gabriel, Angels (lots of them), Angel with the Light, Angel of the Lord, Angel with the Star, Magi, King Herod, Cow, Dove and the infant Jesus.

Rehearsal will be held Tuesday, December 22 from 2:00pm – 4:30pm in the Sanctuary.

Children should make their top 3 choices and contact Diana Vorhees at the church by email at diana@firstpresby.com or telephone 304-343-8961.

If you have any questions, please contact Sallie Daugherty at 304-419-5557 or salliedaugherty@suddenlink.net

Adult volunteers are also needed – please call or email Sallie if you would like to volunteer.

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).

WOMEN'S WEEKLY BOOK STUDY

The book study will be skipping this week due to the Thanksgiving holiday. 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.

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2027 PLEDGE CARDS

The Finance and Generosity Committee is encouraging the congregation to turn in your 2027 pledge cards as soon as possible so that we can determine the 2027 budget. If you have given to the church in the past, please prayerfully consider increasing your pledge. We hope to continue to support the many organizations that rely on First Presby's ongoing generosity for their annual programming. Also, in order to maintain our beautiful facilities, we must meet the challenges that come with aging facilities and the associated costs. Thank you in advance for your support of the ministries of First Presby.

YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group will be attending Light the Night at the Dirty Birds Ballpark on Monday, November 30th. We will meet at the ballpark at 5:20 and purchase the tickets at 5:30 for those who have arrived. Friends and Family are invited to attend with the Youth. We will finish with hot chocolate at 6:20 and depart from the ballpark at 6:30. Please RSVP to Susan Smith.

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 this 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. Please help fill the little red buckets.

HOPE VILLAGE 2026

Sunday, November 22nd is the last day to shop! 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:
Wed - Sat. Nov. 18, 19, 20, 21….10am - 3pm
Sunday Nov. 22… 12pm - 3pm

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS

No LIFT this Wednesday due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

LIFT AFTER DARK: QUESTIONS WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO ASK AT CHURCH

November 25 — No LIFT After Dark — Thanksgiving Week

TIME FOR REFRESHMENT

There will be no Time for Refreshment this week.

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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 Belle Presbyterian Church, Marlinton Presbyterian Church and Westminster Presbyterian Church in Vienna.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Sunday, November 22

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

Monday, November 23

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

Tuesday, November 24

10:00am	Staff Meeting	*Ruffner Room*
7:00pm	Boy Scouts	*Activities Building*

Wednesday, November 25

8:30am	Aerobics	*A201*

Thursday, November 26 – *Happy Thanksgiving!*

OFFICE CLOSED

Friday, November 27

OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, November 28

10:00am	Bonnie Mattingly Visitation	*Chapel*
11:00am	Bonnie Mattingly Funeral	*Chapel*

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 22	Kanawha Valley Collective – Traci Strickland
November 28	NO CLASS – Thanksgiving weekend
December 6	Salvation Army – Captains Mike and Cathy Michaels



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF CHARLESTON

