First Presbyterian Church

Bringing hope to the heart of Charleston and beyond.



The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 8, 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.

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?"
— Martin Luther King Jr.

"Action indeed is the sole medium of expression for ethics."
— Jane Addams

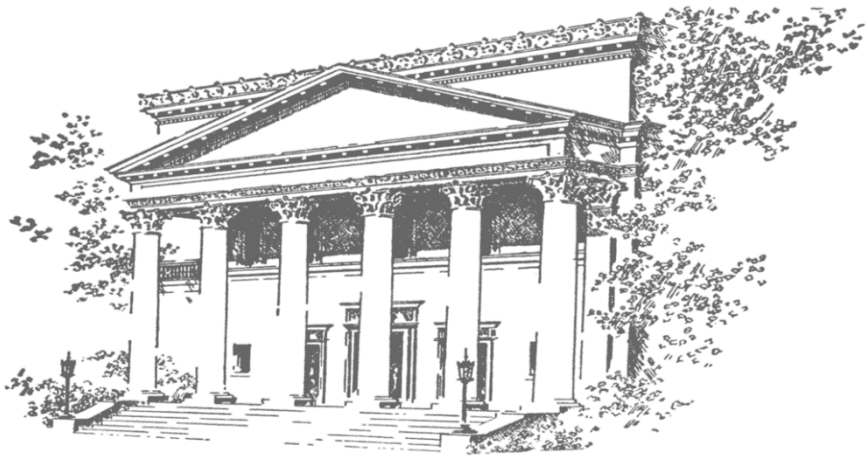
"It is the greatest of all mistakes, to do nothing because you can only do little."
— Sydney Smith
Elementary Sketches of Moral Philosophy (1850)

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

Semicontinuous
Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 • Psalm 78:1-7

Complementary
Amos 5:18-24 • Psalm 70 • 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 • Matthew 25:1-13

Cover art:
Let Justice Roll Down Like Waters (1993)
Yerba Buena Gardens, San Francisco, CA
Fountains in a larger installation titled "Revelation", a memorial to Martin Luther King, Jr.
The project was a collaboration of Houston Conwill, poet Estella Conwill Majoza, and architect Joseph DePace.
Christian Barrette, photographer.



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: *O Ewigkeit, du Donnerwort* — J. S. Bach
Chorale Prelude — Daniel Léo Simpson

Introit We Are Standing on Holy Ground — Geron Davis
The Sanctuary Choir

We are standing on holy ground,
And I know that there are angels all around;
Let us praise Jesus now;
We are standing in his presence on holy ground.

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** — Beth Vorhees

One: God has been faithful through every generation!
All: We will remember God's works and place our hope in the Lord!
One: We have inherited the blessings of those who came before us.
All: May our choices bless those who come after us!
One: The future belongs to God. Whom will we choose to serve?
All: As for us, we will serve the Lord!

***Prayer of Adoration** — Beth Vorhees

All: Faithful God, you have blessed us in ways we could never earn and sustained us through the generosity of those who came before us. Open our hearts to your Word. Give us wisdom to recognize the consequences of our choices, courage to do what is right, and generosity to share in your work. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise #1** Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty! — NICAEA

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: Our choices have consequences, but too often, we ignore the cost to others.

All: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Merciful God, we have chosen comfort over courage, self-interest over generosity, and indifference over compassion. We have enjoyed the sacrifices of others while leaving burdens for those who follow. Forgive the harm we have done and the good we have left undone. Give us courage to choose faithfully, that others may be blessed. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

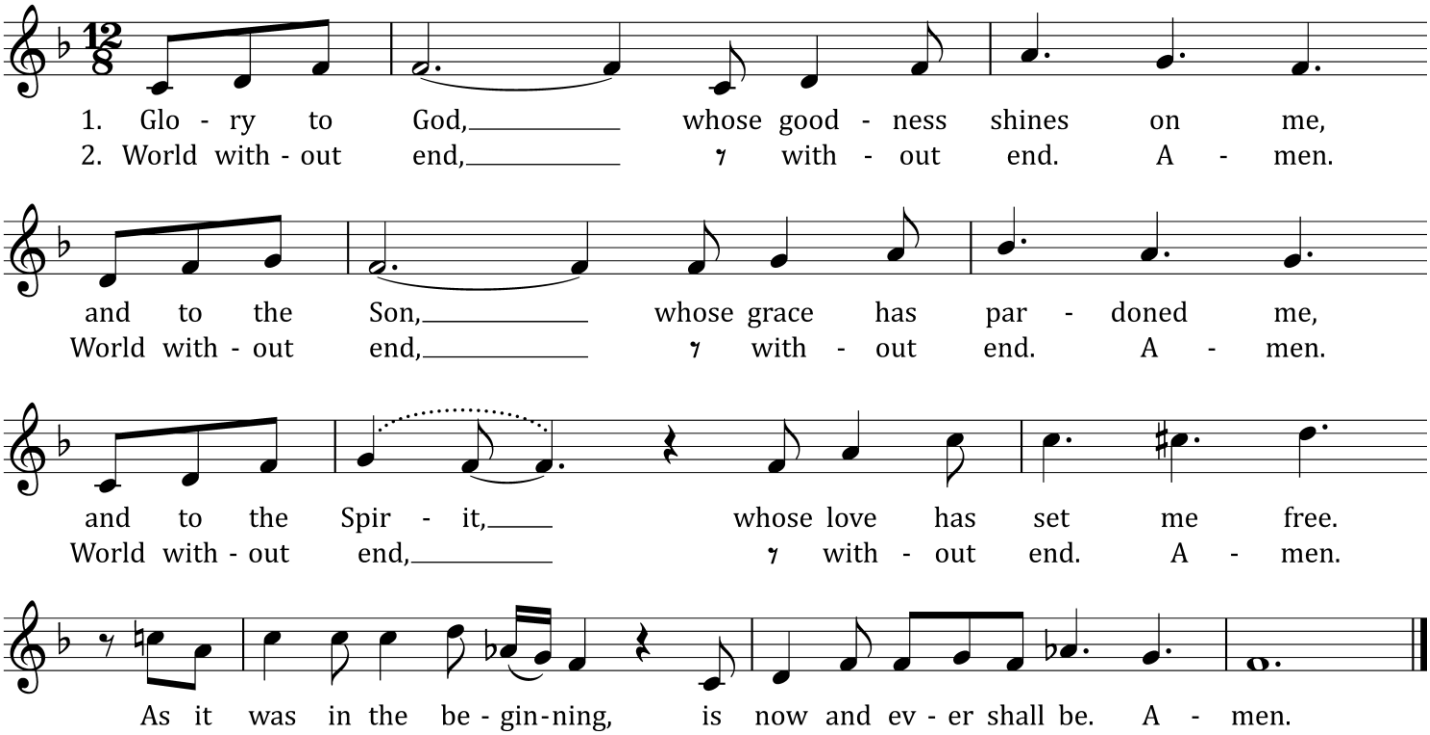
(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

Assurance of Pardon

One: Our failures do not have the final word. In Jesus Christ, God meets us with mercy, frees us from the power of sin, and opens the way to new life. Hear the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God.

***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 Beth Vorhees

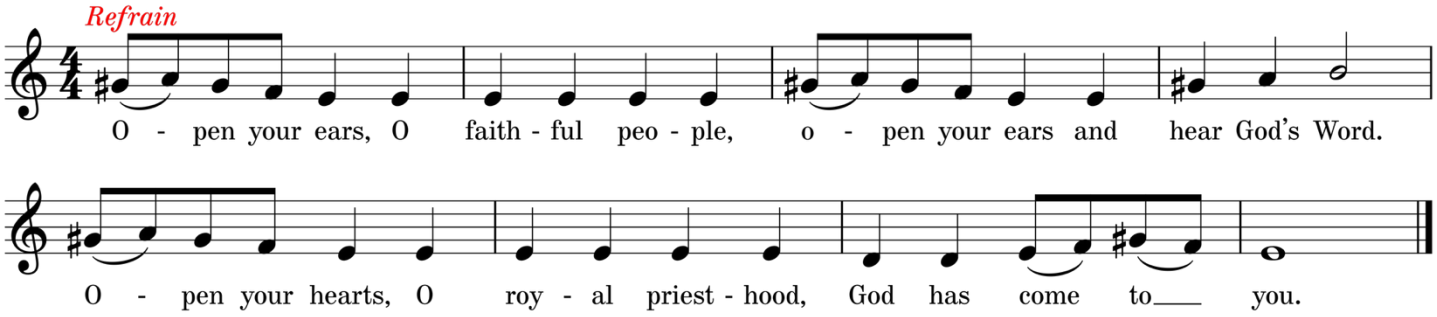
All: **Gracious God, as your Word is read and proclaimed, open our ears to hear your call, our minds to understand your will, and our hearts to respond with courage and faith. Amen.**

A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures Joshua 24:1–3a, 14–25 Beth Vorhees

page 215, Hebrew Scriptures

The Psalter Psalm 78:1–7 Beth Vorhees

YISRAEL V'ORAITA, Hasidic traditional



Refrain 1x: Choir | 2x: ALL

One: Hear my teaching, O my people; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

All: **I will open my mouth in a parable; I will declare the mysteries of ancient times—**

One: that which we have heard and known, and what our forebears have told us;
we will not hide from their children.

All: **We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, and the wonderful works God has done.**

Refrain: ALL

One: The LORD gave a decree in Jacob and established a law in Israel,
commanding our ancestors to teach it to their children;

All: **that the generations to come might know, and the children yet unborn;
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;**

One: so that they might put their trust in God,
and not forget the deeds of God, but keep God's commandments.

Refrain: ALL

Anthem Day By Day Mark Schweitzer

The Sanctuary Choir

O Holy Jesus, merciful Redeemer,
Friend and Brother, gentle, loving Savior,
May we know you more clearly,
Love you more dearly,
Follow you more nearly,
Day by day, by day by day

A Reading from the Gospels Matthew 25:1–13 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 "Who Pays for Our Choices?" Pastor Myers

***Hymn #8** Eternal Father, Strong to Save MELITA

(You may bring your pledge card forward during the singing of this hymn and place it in the basket.)

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.

A Litany for Veterans Pastor Myers

One: God of love, peace and justice, it is your will for the world that we may live together in peace. You have promised through the prophet Isaiah that one day the swords will be beaten into ploughshares. Yet we live in a broken world, and there are times that war seems inevitable. Let us recognize with humility and sadness the tragic loss of life that comes in war. Even so, as we gather here free from persecution, we may give thanks for those that have served with courage and honor.

Please Rise: Those that are in our presence who are either in active duty or reserve duty, and the fathers, mothers, siblings, spouses, and grandparents of those who are currently serving.

All: God, we praise you for those that are willing to serve. Let all Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Airmen and Coast Guardsmen serve with honor, pride, and compassion. Do not let their hearts be hardened by the actions they must take. Strengthen their families. Keep them surrounded in your love and peace.

Please Rise: Those that are in our presence that have served in the military in the past.

All: God, we praise you for those that have served in the military. We thank you for those that put the welfare of others ahead of their own safety. Let us all be inspired by their self-sacrifice in service to those who needed protection.

Please Rise: Those that are in our presence who have lost a loved one in war.

All: God, we praise you for those that have made the ultimate sacrifice. We ask that you comfort those that still feel the pain of their loss. Keep us mindful that you have promised to comfort those that mourn.

Please Rise: Those who have gathered in your name in safety because of the sacrifices of others.

All: God, we praise you for granting us these freedoms. Let us honor those who have served by working for peace. Let us never forget those that have served, and let us never let go of your promise of peace." *(Permission to publish granted by Robb McCoy)*

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 #819** Be Still, My Soul FINLANDIA

***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
Beth Vorhees

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, Facility and Maintenance Coordinator

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CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, November 15, immediately following worship for the stated purpose of electing Church officers and members of the Nominating Committee.

WOMEN'S WEEKLY BOOK STUDY

The Women's Book Study Group is only one week into their new book, so you can still join them every Wednesday 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 2026

Hope Village starts this Sunday, November 8th! 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. 8……12pm - 3pm
Wed - Sat. Nov. 11, 12, 13, 14…..10am - 3pm
Sunday Nov. 15… .12pm - 3pm
Wed - Sat. Nov. 18, 19, 20, 21….10am - 3pm
Sunday Nov. 22… 12pm - 3pm

YOUTH GROUP

There will be no Youth Group meet ups in the month of November. We will see you in December!

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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FPC BOOK CLUB

FPC Book Club is meeting this Thursday, November 12 at 3:00pm in the Ruffner Room. They will be discussing the book *"Reading While Black: African American Biblical Interpretation as an Exercise in Hope"* by Esau McCauley with the question *Does everyone read the same bible?* It is a 200 page read so you still have some time to read before joining the discussion.

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

There will be no LIFT or LIFT After Dark this week due to school being out for Veterans Day.

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 11 – No LIFT this week due to no school for Veterans Day.

November 18 — 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.

November 25 — No LIFT After Dark — Thanksgiving Week

December 2 — 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?

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 Church of the Covenant in Grafton.

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THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Sunday, November 8

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

Monday, November 9

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

Tuesday, November 10

10:00am	Staff Meeting	*Ruffner Room*
4:30pm	Trustee Meeting	*E117*
6:00pm	Girl Scouts	*Activities Building*
7:00pm	Boy Scouts	*Activities Building*
7:00pm	Civic Chorus Rehearsal	*Choir Room*

Wednesday, November 11 – No School

8:30am	Aerobics	*A201*
10:00am	**Hope Village**	***Bud Francis Rec. Room***
10:30am	Knitting Club	*Room 406*
1:00pm	Women's Book Study	*Ruffner Room*

Thursday, November 12

10:00am	**Hope Village**	***Bud Francis Rec. Room***
3:00pm	FPC Book Club	*Ruffner Room*
4:30pm	Time for Refreshment	*Ruffner Room*
5:30pm	CE Meeting	*E117*

Friday, November 13

8:30am	Aerobics	*A201*
10:00am	**Hope Village**	***Bud Francis Rec. Room***
7:00pm	Concert Series	*Sanctuary*

Saturday, November 14

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

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

Sunday, November 8	Matthew 20:12-24
Monday, November 9	Luke 14:12-24
Tuesday, November 10	Luke 14:25-35
Wednesday, November 11	Luke 15:1-10
Thursday, November 12	Luke 15:1-2, 11-32
Friday, November 13	Luke 16:1-9
Saturday, November 14	Luke 16:10-17 (18)

DISCOVERY CLASS

November 8	"Hope Village" – Dina Mohler and Debbe Moredock
November 15	The Presbyterian Hymnal – Jayson Keeton



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF CHARLESTON

