

Children are always welcome here.

We have a wonderful nursery and childcare for infants through preschool each Sunday in the Will Young Building. Worship bags for young children are available in the narthex near the front doors. Please speak with an usher for assistance.

Large Print Hymnals, printed copies of the sermon, and a hearing assistance system are available. We have an AED Machine in the Narthex. Please speak to an usher for assistance with any of these items.

Pew Prep - We invite any kindergarten and first grade children to attend Pew Prep after the Children’s Message. Our volunteers will lead the children to the Children’s Chapel on the second floor of the Education Building where they will engage in fun activities while learning about different aspects of worship. The goal of Pew Prep is to provide education that allows our young worshipers to understand and fully participate when they are in the sanctuary. Volunteers will bring the children back to the sanctuary during the Doxology and they will return to sit with their family.

Offering our Talents, Time, and Treasure: In response to the Good News of God’s saving love in Jesus Christ, we are invited to give of ourselves and our resources. If you are seeking ways to share your time and your talents, please speak to one of the pastors. Financial contributions may be placed in the offering plate or donated by texting 704-288-7459 or by using the “Give” button on the church’s website (firstpresconcord.org).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY’S FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in memory of J. Roy Davis Jr. and Sue Davis.

Confirmation meets today following worship in the Fellowship Hall.

Rise Against Hunger is in Davis Hall today at 3 PM.

Lunch Bunch will meet Wednesday, September 27, at 11:45 AM in Davis Hall for a delicious lunch followed by the Lunch Bunch Antique Road Show. Bring one or two items for expert appraiser, Michael Hansen to appraise at no charge. It will be fun to see the items brought in! Call the reservations line, 704-788-2100 #7, by Monday afternoon, September 25, to reserve a spot!

Market for Mission volunteers are needed to help set-up, work the market and clean-up. Contact Gina Goff, Carrie Myers, Sallie Dotger or Harriett Phillips if you have some time to help! Thank you.

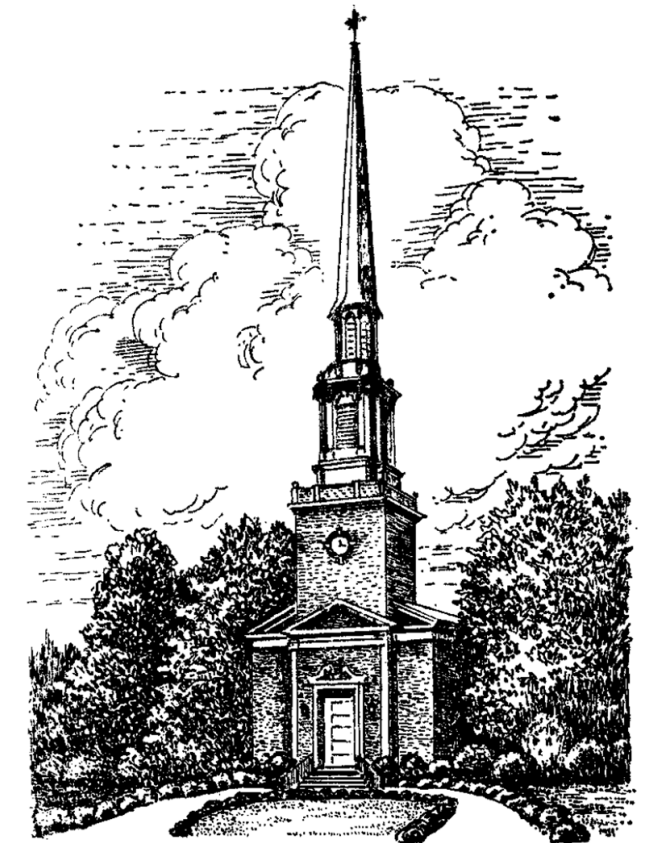
Communion help needed for set-up and clean-up the first Sunday of each month. Contact Pam McDonald for details to help with this important ministry.

Weekly Devotions: Prayers and readings for the coming week are available in the narthex. The texts carry us from this week’s lesson to the next.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Later Today	12:00 PM 3:00 PM	Confirmation (Fellowship House) Rise Against Hunger (Davis Hall)
Monday, September 18	9:00 AM 2:30 PM 7:00 PM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg) Cabarrus County VIP Blood Drive (Davis Hall) Boy Scouts (Will Young rm 304)
Tuesday, September 19	9:00 AM 2:00 PM 7:00 PM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg) Staff Meeting (FH sunroom) AI Anon (Commons)
Wednesday, September 20	9:00 AM 10:30 AM 7:30 PM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg) Bible Study (Fellowship House) Choir Practice (Choir Room)
Thursday, September 21	9:00 AM 4:00 PM 5:30 PM 6:00 PM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg) CCYO (Ed Bldg) Girl Scouts Troop 334 (Ed Bldg) GS Daisy, Brownie & Junior Troops (Ed Bldg)
Friday, September 22	9:00 AM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg)
Sunday, September 24	9:45 AM 10:30 AM 11:00 AM 12:15 PM 12:15 PM	Sunday School Classes (Various Rooms) Sanctuary Choir (Choir Room) Worship (in person and live streamed) Youth Lunch at Moe’s Choir Party (off campus)

Twenty-fourth Sunday In Ordinary Time



**First Presbyterian Church
70 Union Street North
Concord, North Carolina**

Sunday, September 17, 2023



www.firstpresconcord.org

(704) 788-2100

Rev. Ellen Crawford True, Senior Pastor
Rev. Casey Aldridge, Associate Pastor
René Prager, Director of Christian Education
Dr. Jacqueline Yost, Director of Music and Organist
Dr. Jeffrey W. Price, Choirmaster
Amy Woolwine, Clerk of Session
Jenny Chikes, Moderator, Board of Deacons

For a comprehensive list of officers, visit the church website:

www.firstpresconcord.org



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

As the music plays, you are invited to pause, reflect, and pray silently as we prepare for worship.

God of grace,
you have given us minds to know you,
hearts to love you,
and voices to sing your praise.
Fill us with your Spirit,
that we may celebrate your glory
and worship you in spirit and in truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

~ from the PC(USA) *Book of Common Worship*

PRELUDE

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please sign the Friendship Pad found on the center aisle of each pew and pass it to your neighbor.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Carrie Myers

VOLUNTARY

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come and worship
People: the God who gives us laughter,
Leader: the God who surprises us with new life,
People: the God who comes to us in the guise of a stranger,
Leader: the God who comes to make a home among us,
People: the God who makes a home for us in Jesus Christ.
All: Let us worship God!

***HYMN 19** *God of Great and God of Small* GOD OF GREAT AND GOD OF SMALL

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

You have created us in your image, O God, to love and serve you and to love and serve others. Forgive us when we forget whose image we bear. Forgive us when we forget that others bear that image, too. Forgive us and surprise us again with your good news of love and new life for us and for all. Amen. [*Time for silent confession follows.*]

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

***HYMN OF PRAISE 648** *Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise* THANKFUL HEARTS
Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell everyone what God has done.
Let everyone who seeks the Lord rejoice and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your promises and lead your people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

lay reader, Jim Monroe

FIRST LESSON

Hebrews 13:1-2

pew bible, page 227

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7

pew bible, page 14

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Ellen Crawford True

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 51

To Abraham and Sarah

LLANFYLLIN

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *Belonging to God: A First Catechism*

Leader: Who are you?
All: I am a child of God.
Leader: What does it mean to be a child of God?
All: That I belong to God, who loves me.
Leader: What makes you a child of God?
All: Grace -- God's free gift of love that I do not deserve and cannot earn.
Leader: Don't you have to be good for God to love you?
All: No. God loves me in spite of all I do wrong.
Leader: How do you thank God for this gift of love?
All: I promise to love and trust God with all my heart.
Leader: How do you love God?
All: By worshipping God, by loving others, and by respecting what God has created.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND CALL TO OFFERING

TEXT TO GIVE: 704-228-7459

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Lily of the Valley
(Sanctuary Choir)

arr. Lloyd Larson

I have found a friend in Jesus, He's everything to me. He's the Lily of the Valley, in Him alone I see. In sorrow He's my comfort, in trouble He's my stay; He's the fairest of ten thousand, my joy upon my way. He all my grief has taken, He all my sorrows borne. I've all for Him forsaken, from my heart all idols torn. Though all the world forsake me and Satan tempt me sore, He will never, never leave me till my life on earth is o'er. When my life on earth is over, when I have run this race, then, sweeping up to heaven, I'll see His blessed face! The Lily of the Valley, He keeps me by His power! I've found a friend in Jesus, He's the bright and Morning Star!

***DOXOLOGY 609** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessing Flow*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of promise, we bring to you our offering, remembering that we too are a part of your covenant promise. Use the gifts we bring, and use us in the bringing of your sacred laughter, your holy surprises, your wondrous yet-to-be. Amen.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 315

In the Midst of New Dimensions

NEW DIMENSIONS

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Amen
(Sanctuary Choir)

John Stainer

POSTLUDE

**Those who are able, please stand.*
CCLI License #11219393

Worship Notes: Our affirmation of faith comes from *Belonging to God*, a catechism adopted by the PC(USA) General Assembly in 1998 for faith formation and worship. A catechism is a tool for teaching the building blocks of the faith, including the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, and the Lord's Prayer. This morning's prayer of thanksgiving is adapted from *Spill the Beans*, issue 16.

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church! We are so glad you are here. You are invited to join us for study, service, education, and fellowship in addition to worship. If you have questions or would like to learn more about this community, please speak with one of the pastors following worship.

Sanctuary Safety—In our ongoing efforts to care for all who work, play, and worship on our campus, we are being intentional about access to buildings throughout the week and on Sundays. All sanctuary doors are locked after worship begins on Sunday mornings, with the exception of the main doors leading to the narthex. Worshipers are free to exit by any of the doors at any time. To re-enter, please come through the doors to the narthex.