

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 honor of William Norris Curley on his day of Baptism, by his grandparents, Rob and Glenda Steel.

The Sacrament of Baptism will be offered this morning to William Norris Curley son of Elly Steel and Philip Curley. Grandparents are Glenda and Rob Steel. We welcome William Norris into our fellowship and pray for God’s blessings on this family.

Our “Noisy” Offering received during the Message for Children will benefit the Backpack Program at Coltrane-Webb Elementary.

September 27 Lunch Bunch. Remember to call by tomorrow, September 25, to make your reservation for a delicious lunch at 11:45 AM followed by our very own Antique Road Show, next Wednesday, September 27. Bring one or two items to be appraised. Michael Hansen will be here to tell you about your special treasure. The appraisal is free of charge.

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	12:30 PM	Youth Lunch at Moe’s
	12:30 PM	Choir Party (off campus)
Monday, September 25	7:00 PM	Boy Scouts (Will Young rm 304)
Tuesday, September 26	9:00 AM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg)
	2:00 PM	Staff Meeting (FH sunroom)
	3:30 PM	Finance & Stewardship (FH cakeroom)
	6:00 PM	Cub Scouts (Davis Hall)
	7:00 PM	Al Anon (Commons)
	7:00 PM	Books and Brews (off campus)
Wednesday, September 27	8:00 AM	Market Set-up (Davis Hall)
	9:00 AM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg)
	10:30 AM	Bible Study (Fellowship House)
	7:30 PM	Choir Practice (Choir Room)
Thursday, September 28	8:00 AM	Market Set-up (Davis Hall)
	9:00 AM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg)
	4:00 PM	CCYO (Ed Bldg)
	6:30 PM	Boy Scout Advancement Board of Review (Ed Bldg)
Friday, September 29	8:00 AM	Market Set-up (Davis Hall)
	9:00 AM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg)
	10:00 AM	CCM Meeting (Commons)
Saturday, September 30	8:00 AM	Market Set-up (Davis Hall)
Sunday, October 1	9:45 AM	Sunday School Classes (Various Rooms)
	10:30 AM	Sanctuary Choir (Choir Room)
	11:00 AM	Worship (in person and live streamed)
	12:00 PM	Exodus to Davis Hall for Market Sale
	1:00 PM	Concert Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	3:00 PM	Blessing of the Animals (Front Lawn)
	4:00 PM	Youth Scavenger Hunt (Campus)

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,*
Deacons
For a
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visit the
website:



list



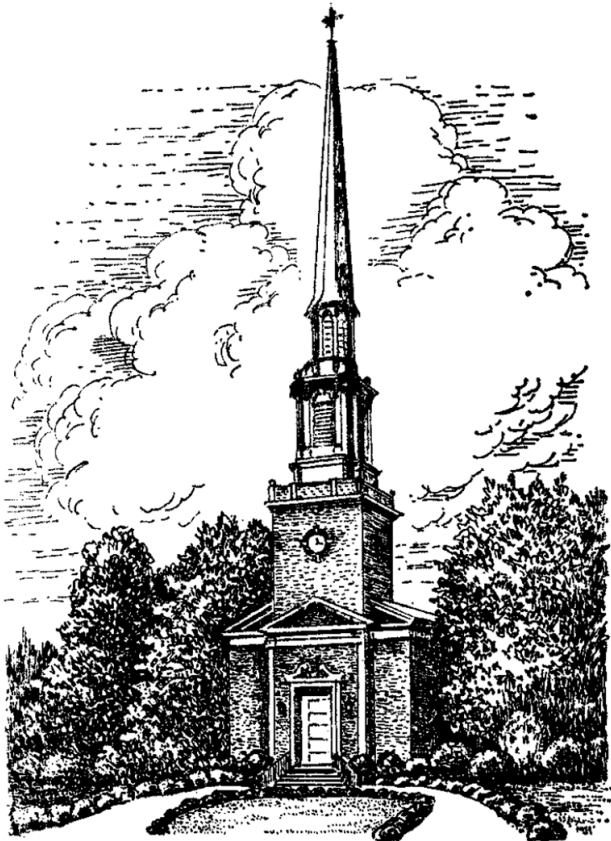
of



Board of
compre-
officers,
church

www.firstpresconcord.org

Twenty-fifth Sunday
In Ordinary Time



First Presbyterian Church
70 Union Street North
Concord, North Carolina

Sunday, September 24, 2023



www.firstpresconcord.org
(704) 788-2100

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.

Truly to see your face is like seeing the face of God,
since you have received me with such favor. (Genesis 33: 10)

PRELUDE

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Minute for MissionCrop Walk, Dennis Testerman

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

Minute for MissionAt The River, a documentary, Kathy Pilkington

Voluntary

*Call to Worship

Leader: We come to worship to be close to the One
People: Whose heart is our home.
Leader: We seek a time and place apart,
People: a pause in our wrestling with everyday business.
People: We seek an encounter with the holy
Leader: through which we discover who we are.
All: Let us worship God!

*Hymn 612We Praise You, O GodKREMSER

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession
Our journeys have changed us. We are not the persons we once hoped to be. We turn back toward you, with anxiety, wondering what the cost of our wandering might be. Although we have heard of your grace, we come as beggars with questioning hearts. Forgive us, Lord. 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 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 Illuminationlay reader, Doug Phillips

First LessonMark 14:32-36pew bible, page 51

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

Children’s MessageNoisy Offering

Sacrament of Baptism
Vows of the Parents and Congregation
Prayer of Thanksgiving and Blessing
Baptism and Welcome
Congregational ResponseST. CLEMENT

Accept, O Lord, our dedication
To fill with love the growing mind,
That in this church and congregation
The young a faith for life may find.

Second LessonGenesis 32:9-12,22-31pew bible, page 29
This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SermonRev. Casey Aldridge

Moment for Silent Reflection

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 816If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee
WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

*Affirmation of FaithAdapted from The Confession of 1967 (9.15;9.17)

Leader: God’s sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness.
People: But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men and women.
Leader: The power of God’s love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God’s love...
People: Life is a gift to be received with gratitude and a task to be pursued with courage.

Leader: People are free to seek life within the purpose of God:
People: To develop and protect the resources of nature for the common welfare,
Leader: To work for justice and peace in society,
People: And in other ways to use their creative powers for the fulfillment of human life.
All: Amen.

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 AnthemBe Not AfraidTaylor Davis
(Sanctuary Choir)

Be not afraid, for I have redeemed you. Be not afraid, I've called you by name. My love for you is everlasting, my love for you shall have no end. When you pass through the waters, I will surround you. When you pass through the floods, they will not sweep o'er. When you walk through the fire, you will not be consumed. You are my child; you are so precious to me

*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
Giving is not merely a financial transaction. Giving is a whole-body act, engaging our mind, our will, our heart and other muscles. Perhaps, if we offer our deepest gift, we go on our way limping, but having been truly blessed. Today’s offering will now be received. Amen.

Bearing and Following the Word
Into the World

*Hymn 463How Firm a FoundationFOUNDATION

*Benediction

*Benediction ResponseAmenJohn Stainer
(Sanctuary Choir)

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

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.