

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 by scanning the QR code on the card in the pew rack, or by texting 704-228-7459.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Grace of Service 1 Peter 4:10: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." In this stewardship season, consider how we as individuals are called to service here. The deacons will host lemonade and cookies following the service in the churchyard. Come join us!

New Members will be welcomed during worship on Sunday, November 17. Contact Pastor Ellen or Pastor Casey with any questions.

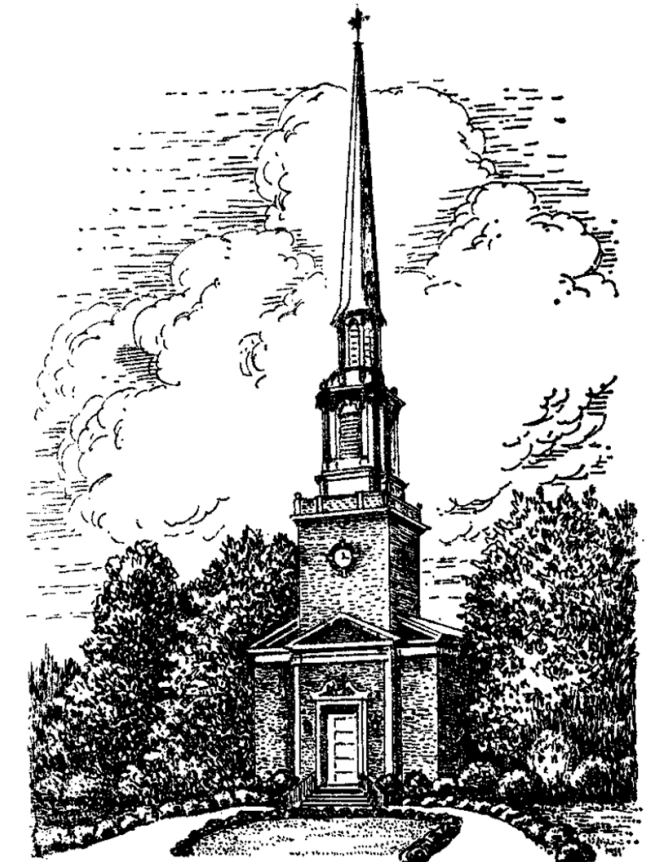
Lunch Bunch Antique Road Show this Tuesday, October 22, at 11:45 AM in Davis Hall. Bring an item or two for a no charge for the appraisal. You will be amazed at Michael's knowledge. He is a real expert and his only request is for us to make a donation to The Old Courthouse Theatre in Concord. The Lunch Bunch Fund covers that expense. It is a most enjoyable program and we hope you will come and bring a friend. Call the church reservation line, 704-788-2100 #7 by noon tomorrow, Monday, October 21, to make your reservation.

Sign up in the Narthex for the November 3 Potluck Lunch that will follow worship.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Later Today 3:00 PM	Blessing of the Animals (Front Lawn)
Monday, October 21 9:00 AM 7:00 PM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg) Racial Equity Reads (Zoom)
Tuesday, October 22 9:00 AM 11:45 AM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg) Lunch Bunch (Davis Hall) Cub Scouts (Davis Hall) AI Anon (Commons) Boy Scouts (Senior High Room)
Wednesday, October 23 9:00 AM 10:30 AM 2:00 PM 7:30 PM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg) Bible Study (Library Conference Room) Staff Meeting (FH Sunroom) Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
Thursday, October 24 9:00 AM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg) Boy Scout Board of Advancement (Ed Bldg) Books & Brews (off campus)
Friday, October 25 9:00 AM	First Kids Preschool (Will Young Bldg)
Saturday, October 26 2:00 PM 5:00 PM	Girl Scout Craft Fair (Davis Hall) PW Fall Spiced Event setup (Davis Hall)
Sunday, October 27 9:45 AM 10:30 AM 11:00 AM 12:00 PM 4:30 PM 5:30 PM 6:00 PM	Sunday School Classes (Various locations) Sanctuary Choir (Choir Room) Worship (in person and live streamed) PW Fall Spiced Lunch (Davis Hall) Middle School Youth (Davis Hall) Youth Dinner (Davis Hall) High School Youth (Davis Hall)

Twenty Ninth Sunday In Ordinary Time



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

Sunday, October 20, 2024



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CONCORD

www.firstpresconcord.org

(704) 788-2100

Rev. Ellen Crawford True, Senior Pastor
Rev. Casey Aldridge, Associate Pastor
René Prager, Director of Christian Education
Rev. Bryan Hovey, Parish Associate
Dr. Jacqueline Yost, Director of Music and Organist
Dr. Jeffrey W. Price, Choirmaster
Amy Woolwine, Clerk of Session

Elizabeth Anne Dover Bishop, Moderator, Board of Deacons
For a comprehensive list of officers, visit the church website:
www.firstpresconcord.org

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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.

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

Stewardship

VOLUNTARY

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(adapted from Rev. Cláudio Carvalhaes)

Leader: Come, you who are oppressed, depressed
Homeless, hungry, and you who feel
No one understands you...

**People: Come to the God who sees you
Come to the God who will go with you
Into that deep dark night.**

Leader: Come, for you are loved.

People: Come, for you are valued.

Leader: Come and be cared for.

All: Come, let us worship.

*HYMN 415

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

RESTORATION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and soul and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. 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

Near to the Heart of God

MC.AFEE

There is a place of full release, near to the heart of God, a place where all is joy and peace, near to the heart of God. O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God, hold us, who wait before thee, near to the heart of God.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

lay reader, Gina Goff

FIRST LESSON

Matthew 8:14-22

pew bible, page 8

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

2 Samuel 7:1-17

pew bible, page 281

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Casey Aldridge

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 796

We Come to You for Healing, Lord

LAND OF REST

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(from the Confession of 1967, 9.54-55)

Leader: Biblical visions and images of the rule of Christ, such as a heavenly city, a father's house, a new heaven and earth, a marriage feast, and an unending day culminate in the image of the kingdom.

People: The kingdom represents the triumph of God over all that resists God's will and disrupts creation.

Leader: Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in people and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption.

People: With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world.

Leader: It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth,

People: nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat.

All: In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Deep River

Victor Johnson

(Sanctuary Choir and Cecilia Moneta Matthews, soloist)

Deep river, my home is over Jordan. Deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into campground. Oh, don't you want to go to that gospel feast, that promised land where all is peace?

***DOXOLOGY 606** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessing Flow* OLD HUNDREDTH
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give thanks, Lord, for your steadfast love as the most dependable foundation of our lives. Take and use these gifts, and our whole lives, to make this community and this world into a safe and peaceful home for all people, especially those with no place to lay their head. Amen.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 728

Somebody's Knocking at Your Door

SOMEBODY'S KNOCKIN'

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Amen in E

Yost

POSTLUDE

**Those who are able, please stand.*

CCLI License #11219393

Worship notes: The Apostles' Creed: "Although not written by the apostles, the Apostles' Creed reflects the theological formulations of the first century church...In a time when most Christians were illiterate, oral repetition of the Apostles' Creed, along with the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments, helped preserve and transmit the faith of the [church]...By the eighth century, the creed had attained its current form." --from the preface to the Apostles' Creed in the PC(USA) *Book of Confessions*.

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.

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.