

SEPTEMBER 4, 2016
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



First Presbyterian Church of West Chester

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church. As a community of faith, we strive to “above all, love.” As we worship God together, we pray that you will experience Christ’s presence in our midst, and that he will sustain you in the week ahead. A special welcome goes out to you if you are visiting. If you are with us for the first time, stop by the Welcome Center in the foyer to find out about the many opportunities available to you in the life of our congregation. We hope you will worship with us again next Sunday.

We invite you to sign the Friendship Register, which you will find at the center aisle of each pew. As you pass it to others in your pew, note who is sitting near you, so you may greet them by name.

- Please note that hearing aids and large print bulletins are available from the ushers.
- Maps showing available parking are in the racks in the Fellowship Hall.

Children are always welcome, and encouraged to participate in worship. Children’s Worship Activity Bags are available from the ushers.

The Mission Statement of First Presbyterian Church

Called to love God and one another, First Presbyterian Church responds to God’s grace by following Christ with ministries of hospitality, worship, faith development, service and generosity.



Leading Us in Worship Today:

Steve Clark, *Associate Pastor*
Caroline Cupp, *Associate Pastor*
Sándor Kádár, *Principal Organist*

9:00 and 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

CHIMES – A call to stillness

Use these moments prior to the Prelude to greet one another briefly. At the ringing of the chimes, please seek the presence of God in stillness and quiet. Please silence cell phones.

PRELUDE

“He Shall Feed His Flock”, from *Messiah*

G.F.Händel

Monica Vera, soprano

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsively)

Creator God, you call us to hospitality;

to give as generously to others as you have given to us.

Loving God, you call us to give you glory

in the compassion we show to one another.

To love without judgment, of ourselves or of others.

We gather as one Body,

seeking to walk in the way you have set for us.

Here in this place we gather as one Body

to worship the one who is Love.

***HYMN #26**

“Earth and All Stars!”

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (unison)

Eternal God, our judge and redeemer, we confess that we have tried to hide from you, for we have done wrong. We have lived for ourselves and apart from you. We have turned from our neighbors and refused to bear the burdens of others. We have ignored the pain of the world and passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed. In your great mercy, forgive our sins and free us from selfishness, that we may choose your will and obey your commandments; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***RESPONSE**

Meineke

“Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be; world without end, Amen, Amen.”

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (unison)

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

WELCOME AND MINISTRY UPDATES

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

As the children return to their families, we will sing Hymn #26, st. 4
"Earth and All Stars!"

"Knowledge and truth! Loud sounding wisdom! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Daughter and son! Loud praying members! Sing to the Lord a new song!
God has done marvelous things. We too sing praises with a new song!"

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.

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

THE OFFERING

Offertory "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" J.S.Bach
Monica Vera, soprano

*Offertory Response, #606, The Doxology 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 Dedication

*HYMN #716 "God Whose Giving Knows No Ending" Beach Spring

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Luke 14:25-33 New Testament, Page 78

SERMON "The Fruits of our Labor" Rev. Caroline Cupp

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*HYMN 683 "Lord of All Hopefulness" Slane

*BENEDICTION "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" Peter C. Lutkin

ORGAN POSTLUDE Improvisation on Slane Sándor Kádár

* Let all who are able, please stand.

*** The Ushers will seat those waiting.

Our Sympathy and prayers are with:
Jennifer Carle and family in the death of her father Ross Carle and
Joe and Cristina Combee in the death of Cristina's mother.

The Chancel Flowers are to the Glory of God and are given by
Eileen and Bob Smith, in honor of their grandson Carter Smith's 1st birthday.

Ushers

9:00 a.m. – Dennis Westhafer Head Usher;

10:30 a.m. – Bill Benson Head Usher; Barbara and Amy Lidle, Kathy Threlkeld,
Darlene Ross

Coffee and Flower Deacons today: Charles Simon and Art Massey

From the Loft: Monica Vera currently attends West Chester University majoring in
music education with voice concentration. Originally from Wilkes-Barre, PA she has been
involved in music since the age of 5. Monica plans on continuing her education and hopes
to become a great music educator for elementary level students.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Note: Dr. Greg Stovell will be away Sunday, September 4th and will return Tuesday,
September 6th. Please contact Rev. Steve Clark or Rev. Caroline Cupp with any pastoral needs.

WORSHIP

• **Special 9/11 Worship** – Next Sunday our two morning worship services will begin outside
(weather permitting) with the tolling of the tower bell at 8:46 am and 10:16 am, the time the
first tower in New York was struck by the first plane and the time the first tower fell. In the
evening at 7:00 pm, we have the opportunity to join together as a community to remember the
events of 9/11, and to pray for peace, healing and hope in this new season of the year. Join the
mayor of West Chester and other community and spiritual leaders, along with special music
by The Brandywine Singers. That service will begin with candle lighting on the sidewalks
outside beginning at 6:45 pm.

CAREGIVING

• **Journey of the Heart Conference** - A gathering for mothers who have lost children, the East
Coast Journey of the Heart conference will take place from September 30-October 2, 2016 in
Ocean City, NJ. Grieving mothers will be invited to participate in workshops, services of
memory and healing, and have opportunities to share their experiences of loss. For more
information contact Jackie Smith of Umbrella Ministries - 484-888-0263 or Rev. Caroline
Cupp at 484-459-8220.

ADMINISTRATION

• **KUDOS, KUDOS, KUDOS!** Have you had a great interaction with a member of our
staff? Your Personnel Committee wants to hear about it! If you have an outstanding
experience – or if you see a member of our staff going above and beyond the call of duty
– please help us recognize them! KUDOS cards are available on the wall by the mailboxes
– fill one out, drop half into the employee's mailbox and half into the collection box – and
we'll be sure they are recognized for a JOB WELL DONE!

SERVICE AND OUTREACH

• **Own a pick-up truck?** A local family recently lost their home in a fire. Our mission
partner, Act in Faith, is looking for a volunteer to help transport furniture to their new
apartment. For more information or to offer your help, please contact Jim Serum at
jwserum@verizon.net.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

• **Volunteer Opportunity:** Founded by a member of First Pres, for ten years The Barn at Spring Brook Farm has provided animal-assisted activities to children with disabilities. With miniature farm animals, the children explore their potential, gain skills and have fun. We are appealing to you to become a one-to-one volunteer to help guide a child one hour a week for twelve weeks beginning in September and March. No prior experience is necessary. For more information, please contact Laura Feininger at laura.feininger@springbrook-farm.org or 610-793-1037 and visit us on the web at www.springbrook-farm.org.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

• **Looking For Ways to Help with Sunday School Ministry?** Whether or not you've ever taught any kind of class at any place or any time, if you've got a heart for nurturing love and faith in children, we can help you with the rest! Contact our Christian Education Committee chairperson, Kelly Fleming, or Pastor Steve Clark, if you'd like to learn more about being a teacher, helper, or substitute for our Sunday School or "JAM" programs.

• **Adult Education Opportunities Begin September 11** During the 9:00 worship hour, we have two offerings: (1) a study of the Old Testament books of I and II Kings, led by Bob Atchinson, will meet in Herron Lounge; (2) the Christian Faith & Issues (CF&I) class will kick off a three-week study, "Responding to Terrorism," led by Pastor Steve Clark, Art Zadrozny, and Bob Fahnstock. The gatherings will be upstairs in Room 209.

• **Help Us Send "Care Packages"** to two PA National Guard units currently deployed overseas – our way of saying "Thanks for your service; you may be far from home but you're not forgotten." Our children and youth will be assembling the packages, along with greeting cards, as part of their "one-room (Sunday) schoolhouse" gathering during both worship hours on September 11. In the spirit of "Above all, Love," bring contributions of candy, toothpaste, nail clippers, baby wipes, current magazines or newspapers – and any other surprise (and non-perishable) goodies you'd like us to include. Collection bin is in Fellowship Hall; you can drop off items this Sunday (9/4), next Sunday (9/11), or during the week. Our special guest in the Sunday School gatherings will be the Rev. Ed Brandt, parish associate pastor at Westminster Presbyterian in West Chester, and Chaplain Colonel in the Army National Guard. With stories and pictures, Ed will help the children understand a bit about what it's like to be deployed overseas.

• **Sunday School Grand (Re)Opening September 18:** Our regular schedule of classes for children and youth resumes Sunday, September 18 at both the 9:00 and 10:30 worship hours. We'll commission Sunday School teachers at both services, dedicate the offerings children have been collecting in their classes since spring, and between services we'll dedicate the "Spiritual Garden" we've created in the backyard of our properties next door. At the 9:00 hour, children 3 years through grade 5 join the congregation in worship, then go to classes following the Children's Message. (Middle School and High School go directly to their classes at 9:00.) At the 10:30 hour, children 3 years through grade 5 join the congregation in worship, then leave following the Children's Message to join our "JAM" (Jesus And Me) gathering in Social Hall. To register your child(ren), go to our web site (www.firstpreswc.com) and click on the "Sign Up" tab to find and complete the form. You can also sign up at the table in Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY – September 4

8:00 Worship Begins September 18
 8:30am Sunday Social ('til 10:30am)
 9:00am Worship;
 Nursery to age 2;
 Radio Broadcast
 on 1520AM; Live web
 stream
 10:30am Worship;
 Nursery to age 2

MONDAY – September 5

Office Closed - Labor Day

TUESDAY – September 6

5:30pm Men's Ministry Studies -
 Mars Group
 6:30pm Bucket School Parent
 Orientation
 7:00pm Nominating Committee mtg;
 Pub Theology at Ryan's
 (off site)
 7:30pm Men's Ministry Studies;

WEDNESDAY – September 7

9:00am Sew Many Blessings;
 Sermon Talk
 10:30am Agape mtg.
 12:00pm Bulletin deadline

Bridge Returns

5:30pm Bridge Dinner (*til 6:15*)
 Cherub Choir (*new time*)
 6:00pm Celebration Singers
 (*new time*)
 6:30pm Bridge Intergenerational
 gathering
 Youth Leadership Meeting
 7:30pm Chancel Ringers

THURSDAY – September 8

9:00am Hope Circle
 6:30pm JuBellation Ringers
 7:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal

FRIDAY – September 9

6:00am Men's Friday Morning Study
 1:00pm Sweet Dreams

SATURDAY – September 10

SUNDAY – September 11

8:00 Worship Begins September 18
 8:30am Sunday Social ('til 10:30am)
 8:46am Steeple bells ring to mark
 1st plane strike
 9:00am Worship; Nursery to age 2;
 Sunday School for all
 ages; Radio Broadcast
 on 1520AM; Live web
 stream
 10:16am Steeple bells ring to mark
 2nd plane strike
 10:30am Worship; Nursery to age 2;
 JAM age 3-Grade 5
 Youth Committee mtg.
 11:30am Youth Fellowship
 4:00pm Youth Fellowship
 7:00pm *Service of Peace,*
Healing and Hope

Office Hours:

Tue - Fri 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

First Pres on Facebook

Keep up with your church family at www.facebook.com/firstpreswc



Good Works is a Christian nonprofit organization which exists to improve the living conditions for low-income families in Chester County, PA. They transform substandard houses into warmer, safer, and drier homes, and despair into hope. Their services are offered to homeowners

at no cost and volunteers do most of the repairs.

Their goal is to see the inhabitants of these homes rise above their level of poverty and experience a richness through being cared for and knowing that their circumstances matter to their community. They believe that everyone benefits when people from different races, cultures, and backgrounds join together in a common purpose.

Painting above is "A Portrait of Good Works" by Bryn Gillette

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please text your support to 610-347-5509 (\$\$\$ FPC)