

## *Ways to Connect*

### **Kids Sunday School**

Children ages 4 years old - 5th grade are welcome to worship with their families or attend our Sunday School program during the 9 am worship service.

### **Youth and Young Adult Fellowships**

All youth (6-12<sup>th</sup> grades) are invited to participate in Fellowship, Bible Studies, and overnight trips.

Youth group meets on Sundays from 4:00-5:30.

Young Adults (typically 18 – 30y/o) meet regularly for social events.

### **Choirs**

Our Chancel Choir rehearses on Thursdays from 7:30-9pm. Anyone who enjoys singing is warmly welcomed to join.

The Children's Choir (4y/o – 5<sup>th</sup> grade) meets on Wednesdays from 5:15-6:15pm.

### **Parents' Groups**

Parents Night Out, a group for mothers and fathers of youth 0-18y/o, meets bimonthly. The Moms group meets on the first Sunday of every month from 4-5:30.

### **Women's and Men's Groups**

First Pres has a number of active women's and men's groups which meet for study, fellowship, and service.

### **Wednesday Lunches**

A warm meal is served in Fellowship Hall each Wednesday from 11:30-12:45. The lunch is free of charge and open to all.

### **Stephen Ministry**

Stephen Ministers are church members trained to provide confidential 1:1 support to anyone going through a challenging season of life. For more information, contact Pastor Caroline.

*To connect with any of the programs above or for general questions about First Pres, reach out to Elizabeth Hess (ehess@firstpreswc.com)*

## **Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of West Chester**

*We hope that in this place, you encounter something of the divine in the faces and voices of those around you.*

*In an era where many hunger for authentic connection, we seek, however imperfectly, to follow Christ through our relationships with one another and our wider West Chester community.*

*In a hurting world, we cling to the hope that God's plan is not destruction, but love, and that love comes not only at the end of time but here and now. Jesus invites us each to take part in this work.*

*We know that being part of Christian community does not answer all our doubts, but offers comfort in sorrow, a challenge to despair, and connects us to a group of people with whom we can live out our questions and who share our desire to make this world more just and peaceful for all.*

*We are so glad you are here.*

First Presbyterian Church of West Chester  
April 21, 2024



## **Order of Worship for the Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Prelude                      Londonderry Air  
   Dona Nobis Pacem

Call to Worship\*  
Day by day, God leads us:  
**to the deep, deep pools of peace,  
to the green, lush lawns of grace.**

Day by day, Jesus calls us:  
**to pour out ourselves in service,  
to anoint the stranger with hope.**

Day by day, the Holy Spirit shows us:  
**the community we could be,  
the family we are called to become.**

Hymn 305\*                  Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

Welcome

*\*Please rise in body or spirit*

Prayer of Confession

**Loving God, we are all your children, but what we will be in the fullness of our time has not been revealed. What we do know is this: we will be like Jesus the Christ and saints of God. Let us consider how Jesus was revealed among us and pray to be more like Christ in every way. Forgive us for not living like Christ, for not loving you with all of our heart, mind, and being, and for failing to see all people as our neighbors and loving them well.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Beloved, through the love shown to us by Jesus, we can be sure that we are God's children, and in Christ we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Response\*

**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!**

Passing of the Peace\*

Sacrament of Baptism

Eleanor Carmella Gillen and Charlotte Elizabeth Gillen  
Children of Vince and Kate Gillen

Childrens Message

*During the singing of the following response, children may join their teachers for Sunday School. Families can pick up their children after the service in their classrooms on the 2nd floor.*

Response Jesus Loves Me! Hymn 188

First Scripture Reading Psalm 23 OT p. 501

Special Music Ave Maria Camille Saint-Saëns

Prayers of the People and 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 the Offering

Offertory Agnus Dei W. A. Mozart  
*from the Coronation Mass*

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication\*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Hymn 244\* This Joyful Eastertide

Second Scripture Reading 1 John 3:16-24 NT p. 240

Sermon *Living in the Playground of Faith*

Hymn 547\* Go, My Children, with My Blessing

Blessing\*

Postlude Postlude in C Hal Hopson

*All are welcome in worship. We are a community of people of all ages who cry, vocalize, stim, fuss, stand, sit, and come and go as needed. The sounds of people are the joyful noise of God's creation.*

*The nursery is available for children ages 0-3 years. There are also screens in Fellowship Hall that stream the service if you need to step out.*

*Audio amplifiers are in a basket at the back of the sanctuary. Please ask a greeter for assistance if needed.*

*Leading in Worship*

Rev. Andrew Esqueda, Senior Pastor  
Art Zadrozny, Liturgist  
Sándor Kádár, Director of Music  
Ann Ellis, Choir Accompanist  
Amanda Erno, Children's Music Director  
Joe Tang, AV & Streaming  
Miranda Nilan, Mezzo-Soprano  
Kiley Aikey, Mezzo-Soprano  
The Miner Street Bell Connections  
The Chancel Choir

*First Presbyterian Church Staff*

**Rev. Andrew Esqueda**, Senior Pastor, aesqueda@firstpreswc.com  
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**Sara Pantazes**, Director of Faith Formation, spantazes@firstpreswc.com  
**Elizabeth Hess**, Director of Engagement, ehess@firstpreswc.com  
**Amanda Erno**, Children's Music Director, aerno@firstpreswc.com  
**Claire Kramer** and **Peter Galloway**, Office Administrators, ckramer@firstpreswc.com, pgalloway@firstpreswc.com  
**Karen Goldstein**, Office Manager, kgoldstein@firstpreswc.com