

## ***Connect and Serve***

*Please see the website (firstpreswc.com) for a complete list of programs and ways to connect.*

**Our sympathy and prayers** are with Faye Whiteman and Bud Stauffer and families in the death of their sister.

**October Bridge Program – Can I Ask That?** - Join us beginning October 2<sup>nd</sup> for our inaugural “Can I Ask That?” series. This is a new series for First Pres., led by Pastor Andrew, which will help us as a community of faith wrestle with challenging issues and topics in a world that is incredibly divided. As people of faith, we cannot retreat from challenging issues, but we can speak about them in love, and even amidst disagreement, learn from one another, appreciate one another, and together live out the unconditional love of Jesus. This first series will focus on division leading into our election season as we seek to love our world and one another amidst a culture of estrangement. Join us on October 2, 9, and 16 at 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall for light snacks, fellowship, and conversation that seeks to model a more Christ-like way of living together amidst difference.

**Community Trick or Treat - Boo!** One of our church’s largest outreach events is our Community Trick or Treat. This year it will be Friday, October 25 from 6 – 7:30, and we hope to welcome hundreds of church and community members. We need dozens and dozens of volunteers to help make it happen! If you have interest in helping us decorate, answer doors, greet, or anything else that evening, please use the sign-up tab on the church website or contact Elizabeth Hess ([ehess@firstpreswc.com](mailto:ehess@firstpreswc.com)). Candy donations are also needed (we hope to collect several hundred bags); a drop-off bin is in Fellowship Hall.

Decorating for Outreach Event: On Sunday, October 20 at 11:30 am, we’ll be decorating the hallways, Herron Lounge and classroom/office doors for that Friday’s Trick or Treat. This is a quick and fun all-ages opportunity to serve. If you and/or your family can decorate, please contact Elizabeth Hess ([ehess@firstpreswc.com](mailto:ehess@firstpreswc.com)) or use the sign up tab on the church website.

**Women's Fall Study** - Next Wednesday, October 2, we'll start an 8-week women's Bible study that will meet in the Chapel on Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11am, studying the life of Joseph using Kelly Minter's *Finding God Faithful* video and workbook study. Whether you've never done a study before or not, there is a place for you in this group! Sign up online at [firstpreswc.com](http://firstpreswc.com) or see Elizabeth Hess.

**Moms' Group Fall Kickoff** - Moms' Group is back starting Sunday, October 6th from 4:00 - 5:30 pm at First Pres. Come meet other moms and see what we are all about. If you need childcare, please contact Mary Hambleton at [emham@verizon.net](mailto:emham@verizon.net) by Wednesday, October 2nd to reserve a spot. We hope to see you there!

**October Meal Signups** – We strengthen our bonds as the body of Christ through fellowship, and we plan to break bread together to do just that! Please sign up to join other First Pres friends for a meal in October. We have both daytime and evening options, hosted at various homes. This is not just a couples’ event, but for everyone! You can sign up at [firstpreswc.com](http://firstpreswc.com). Special thanks to our hosts for opening their homes.

**Homecoming Luncheon** – On Sunday, October 6, we will celebrate our traditional homecoming luncheon for those who have been members for fifty or more years. If you would like to help by greeting or serving that day or to RSVP, please contact Pastor Caroline. Also, if you know someone who should have received an invitation but has not, let us know.

**New Women's Book Study** - Spiritual Connections will begin study of a new book on Monday, October 7 at 6:30 p.m. *Listening for the Heartbeat of God: A Celtic Spirituality* by Philip Newell, “represents a spirituality for today, modeled on the vital characteristics of Celtic spirituality through the centuries...[based] on the essential goodness of creation and of humanity made in the image of God.” All women are encouraged to join the discussion to consider and reflect. Meetings are the first and third Mondays via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. Contact Ellen Endslow at [eeslow@verizon.net](mailto:eeslow@verizon.net) with questions or to obtain the Zoom link.

**October Lectio Divina Session** - Lectio Divina is an ancient, prayerful method of reading Scripture. Our next session will be Sunday, October 6, starting at 8:00 am in Room 214. Come early for this time of prayer then stay for coffee and worship. Whether you have prayed using this method before or it is new to you, our prayer is that opening yourself to the presence of God through Scripture, silence, and community will enrich your walk with the Lord. All are welcome. Talk to Sara Pantazes with any questions.

**Spiritual Legacy Gathering** – What are insights you’ve gained over the years that you’d like to share with generations to come? Who and what has shaped you and your faith? What do you believe about God, the role of the church, and what are your hopes for future generations? Materials to begin crafting your Spiritual Legacy document will be available today in Fellowship Hall. For more information, please contact Pastor Caroline ([ccupp@firstpreswc.com](mailto:ccupp@firstpreswc.com)).

**Puppy Adoption Event** - Do you love dogs and coffee? Come support our youth group's service project at the Gryphon Cafe on Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 3-6pm! The youth have been working diligently with Rags to Riches Pet Rescue and for their final project they are helping to foster and adopt dogs by hosting this event. We would love to see you there!

First Presbyterian Church of West Chester  
September 29, 2024

## **Order of Worship**



Prelude            I Want Jesus to Walk with Me  
arr. Mark Hayes

Call to Worship\*  
God has made us for good.  
**God has made us for each other.**

We gather to give our hearts and lives to God.  
**We gather to give our hearts and lives to each other.**

We seek genuine faith in the midst of false promises  
in our world.  
**May our faith be expressed in word and action.**

We seek to love God and love our neighbor.  
**May our love be expressed in word and action. Amen.**

Hymn 733\*            We All Are One in Mission

Welcome

Prayer of Confession  
**Gracious and forgiving God, we ask that you turn our hearts towards you, that we may love you more faithfully and follow you more actively. (con't)**

*\*Please rise in body or spirit*

**We confess before you now that we do not always love others as you ask us to. We offer words in place of action; we are quick to judge and too slow to love. We are too quick to anger and too slow to repent. Help us to have more than simple knowledge of you, but to truly know your son Jesus that we might more faithfully live like him.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

The work of Christ was for us and our salvation, and his persists now and into eternity.

**Through the generous grace of Christ, we are redeemed. Amen.**

Response\*

**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.**

Passing of the Peace\*

Children's 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 37:1-9 OT p. 510

Anthem Gloria in excelsis Deo  
Franz Schubert

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 Let the River Run  
Craig Hella Johnson

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 463\* How Firm a Foundation

Second Scripture Reading James 2:14-26 NT p. 230

Sermon *Rhythms of Faith: Faith Formation*

Hymn 766\* The Church of Christ

Benediction\*

Postlude Improvisation on How Firm a Foundation

*Music leadership in worship today:  
The Chancel Choir*

*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.*

*Audio amplifiers are in a basket at the back of the sanctuary.  
There are also screens in Fellowship Hall that stream the service if you need to step out.*

*The nursery is available for children ages 0-3 years. Please ask a greeter if you would like additional information about Sunday School or children's programming.*

**Miner Street Stringers** – The group is looking for string players of various levels (intermediate and up) and ages, to join their group! Rehearsal is on Sunday, September 29 from 3 - 4 pm. The ensemble will play at the 9:00 service on October 6. If you are interested in playing now or in the future, please email Adriana Park at [teachvln@aol.com](mailto:teachvln@aol.com).

**Bibles for Third Grade Students** - Every fall, First Pres gifts a Bible to the church's 3rd graders as a way to encourage them to continue growing in their faith. If you would like a 3rd grader in your life to receive a Bible, please contact Sara Pantazes by calling the church office or emailing Sara Pantazes ([spantazes@firstpreswc.com](mailto:spantazes@firstpreswc.com)). The Bibles will be presented in worship on October 20, but children do not need to be present in worship to receive one.

**Church Library** - Thanks to the congregation's thoughtfulness, the First Pres Library receives new additions to its collection on a regular basis. Approximately once a month they are showcased in Fellowship Hall between services for people to review and take home. The library, located next to the restrooms on the main floor, is also open every Sunday morning. Stop by soon to check out some refreshingly worthwhile reading.

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**Greeters – 9:00 am:** Suzy DeGeorge & Barbara Lade

**10:45 am:** John Abernethy

**Coffee Deacons:** Brenda Smith & Linda Haake

**Livestream:** Greg Ondo, Danny Doyle



**GIVE to FPC**

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*First Presbyterian Church Staff*  
**Rev. Andrew Esqueda**, Senior Pastor  
**Rev. Caroline Cupp**, Executive Pastor  
**Sándor Kádár**, Director of Music  
**Emily Tang**, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries  
**Sara Pantazes**, Director of Faith Formation  
**Elizabeth Hess**, Director of Engagement  
**Amanda Erno**, Children's Music Director  
**Ann Ellis**, Choir Accompanist  
**Kiana Rivera**, Lead Singer, Contemporary Band  
**Jennifer Rosenberg**, Preschool Director  
**Greg Ondo**, AV Tech  
**Claire Kramer** and **Peter Galloway**, Office Administrators  
**Karen Goldstein**, Office Manager  
**Willy Oliveras**, Lead Custodian

*Emails at [firstpreswc.com/staff](mailto:firstpreswc.com/staff)*