

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 (6-12th 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 – 5th grade) meets on
Wednesdays from 5:15-6:15pm.

Parents Groups

New groups for mothers and fathers of youth 0-18y/o begin in January. The Moms group meets on Sundays from 4-5:30;
the Fathers' group meets Wednesdays from 5:30-7:30 from January - March.

Womens and Mens 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 January 14, 2024



Order of Worship for the Second Sunday after Epiphany

Prelude My Lord, What a Morning arr. Harry Burleigh

Call to Worship*

We are called to bring God's love to the world.
We are the salt of the earth.

We are called to bring a new hope in God,
that God gives us new life.
We are the light of the world.

We are called to follow
the commandments and the law.
**The Law of God is to love God
and to love one another.**

Come, let us be the salt of the earth,
the light of the world.
**Come, let us love one another
and join together to worship and follow Jesus.**

Hymn 401* Here in This Place

Welcome

**Please rise in body or spirit*

Prayer of Confession

God, you placed us in the world to be its light. Yet we are often afraid to shine it. To know other people's struggles, and to share in struggle with them. To be in the world and live in community, to show love, to share in life, to offer bread to the hungry, and to struggle for justice. Forgive us for our unwillingness to step into the shadows, afraid of stepping into the darkness of the world, and remind us that your light is always shining. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the good news that Jesus is the Light of the world, a light that will never be put out.

Hallelujah for the light shines through the darkness of sin. Because of Christ’s light we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

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

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 God of Great and God of Small Hymn 19

Moment For Mission Ken Winston, Melton Center

First Scripture Reading Micah 6:1-8

Special Music Great Is Thy Faithfulness arr. Dan Forrest

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 Blessed Assurance arr. Mark Hayes

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 459* O Word of God Incarnate

Second Scripture Reading Matthew 5:13-16

Sermon *See the Light, Be the Salt*

Hymn 314* Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness

Blessing*

Postlude Now Thank We All Our God Franz Liszt

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
Rev. Caroline Cupp, Executive Pastor
Art Zadrozny, Liturgist
Sándor Kádár, Director of Music
Lyndsay Spaziani, Soprano Soloist
Joe Tang & Pete Galloway, AV & Streaming

First Presbyterian Church Staff
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