

## *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](mailto: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 28, 2024



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

Prelude                      Méditation                      Jules Massenet

Call to Worship\*

I was glad when they said to me,  
**“Let us go to the house of the Lord!”**

A place where we can worship,  
**A place where we can find peace and love.**

Let us sing songs of joy and thanksgiving to God.  
**Let us worship together.**

Hymn 826\*

Lift High the Cross

Welcome

Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, it is a great joy to know you, to be known by you and to be part of a community that seeks to live in your ways. But sometimes we get lost. We get caught up in drawing lines, in being right, and in going our own way. Forgive us, God. When we lose our way, turn us back to the paths you want us to go. Help us to listen for you and follow you, so that you may be glorified.**

*\*Please rise in body or spirit*

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the Good News - God is patient and God is kind. No matter how many times we turn away, God is always there waiting for us to return. Know that you are forgiven and strengthened to walk in the ways of the Lord.

**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\*

*There is no Sunday School program today. All children are invited to remain in worship with their families and hear God's Word for them through the musical!*

Sacrament of Baptism

Alana Paige Rowan  
Child of Brandon and Priscilla Rowan

First Scripture Reading Colossians 3: 12-17 NT p. 201

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 Precious Lord, Take My Hand  
arr. Jack Schrader

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 482\* Baptized in Water

Second Scripture Reading Jonah 2: 1-10 OT p. 860

Children's Musical Oh, Jonah! Allen Pote & Carole McCann

Hymn 265\* Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

Blessing\*

Postlude Menuet Gotique Léon Boëllmann

*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  
Sándor Kádár, Director of Music  
Amanda Erno, Children's Music Director  
Sara Pantazes, Director of Faith Formation  
Julie Claeys, Children's Choir Accompanist  
Greg Ondo & Joe Tang, AV & Streaming  
Kiley Aikey, Mezzo-Soprano  
Vivian Gross, Maggie McClure,  
Margot Miskiewicz & Lachlan Raws, Liturgists

The Cast:

Mia Arnold Molly Arnold Dylan Battavio  
Gia Battavio Dean Battavio Henry Cupp  
Theo Dakes Scarlett Damadio Desmond Esqueda  
Isaiah Esqueda Autumn Gross Jacob Gross  
Bailey Guerriero Spencer Guerriero Matthew Minicozzi  
Gia Ortiz Jemma Ortiz Claire Singley  
Nate Singley Grace Skomorucha Amanda Stevens  
Emily Stevens

Special thank you to: Kristy Stevens for helping as unofficial Kids Choir Room Mom, Jessica and Scout Stanhagen for creating the set pieces, and Niamh Kelly for creating and leading the choreography. Many thanks for your contributions!

*First Presbyterian Church Staff*

**Rev. Andrew Esqueda**, Senior Pastor, aesqueda@firstpreswc.com  
**Rev. Caroline Cupp**, Executive Pastor, ccupp@firstpreswc.com  
**Sándor Kádár**, Director of Music, skadar@firstpreswc.com  
**Emily Tang**, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries, etang@firstpreswc.com  
**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