

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 28, 2025 10:30 a.m. Worship



A Blue Iris, photo by Peter Griffen

They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing of your righteous deeds. --Psalm 145:7

First Presbyterian Church

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www.fpcsb.net

COMMISSIONED PASTOR: DR. WENDY L. LAMB

MINISTRY OF PASTORAL SUPPORT: REV. DR. STEPHEN W. SMITH

MINISTRY OF VISITATION: LAURIE STAFFORD

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: CURTISS ALLEN, JR., DIRECTOR OF MUSIC;

WILLIAM ZEITLER, ORGANIST;

AMY GANO, BELLS

Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church

This service is being livestreamed and can be viewed on our YouTube channel in real time or as a recording. **Large-print copies of this order of service**, as well as **audio enhancement devices** are available **from the ushers**.

We gather on Sunday for 3 reasons:

- **To seek God**- whom we find in sacred text and sacrament, in music and in song, in prayer, in the beauty of this space, in the stillness where we can hear our hearts. We offer God our thanks and praise, our lament and longing, and our resources. We let go of burdens and receive grace and forgiveness. We see the One our hearts love.
- **To practice Community** – rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. To break bread with those whom we love and those whom we need to love more fully. We practice things our culture does not emphasize: resting, forgiving, sharing. Jesus asked us to love one another as he loved us, and we cannot do so without practice.
- **To listen for our Call**- often an invitation to go out and be or do or remember. God is speaking all the time: through conscience, nature, friends, and certainly scripture. We gather to listen for that Call and to recommit ourselves to discipleship.

Information on our common life can be found on our website www.fpcsb.net, along with sermons and newsletters. You can participate in our work by supporting us financially with a one-time or sustaining donation.

Children are welcome in worship.

OUR NEXT COMMUNION will be Sunday, October 5th.

Morning Worship†

Lector: Cheryl Direen

REFLECTION BEFORE THE SERVICE

Let me keep my distance, always, from those
who think they have the answers.
Let me keep company always with those who say
“Look!” and laugh in astonishment,
and bow their heads.

--Mary Oliver

GATHERING MUSIC

REHEARSAL

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Bagatelle

L. Beethoven (1770-1826)

Allow the music to usher you into sacred space and time.

*INTROIT

This Is the Day¹

James Christensen

This is the day the Lord has made, Rejoice and sing to God's name.

*CALL to WORSHIP²

We come to worship with the saints,

✠ **surrounded by a cloud of witnesses:**

holy ancestors who have paved the way

✠ **holy neighbors who run alongside us**

holy hopes for all that might yet be.

✠ **We come to worship out of joy**

that in God no one is ever lost or forgotten.

✠ **We come to join the communion of the saints!**

*HYMN 411

God Is Here Today

Raul Galeano

We will sing in English and Spanish

† The symbols you will see in this order of worship mean:

*** Stand if you are able**

✠ The congregation will read.

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² *Deep Well Worship*. Carol H. Prickett.

PRAYER of CONFESSION³

- ✘ It doesn't have to be the blue iris, it could be weeds in a vacant lot, or a few small stones; just pay attention, then patch a few words together and don't try to make them elaborate, this isn't a contest but the doorway into thanks, and a silence in which another voice may speak.
(We invite you to a moment for silent reflection and confession)
- ✘ Give us strength to face the fullness of our own hearts, and to love others as we meet them. Amen.

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

- ✠ In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and are being made whole.
Alleluia. Amen.

(We stand and sing Alleluia)

***ALLELUIA**

William Zeitler

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le al - le - lu - ia!

TIME with the CHILDREN

[Children are always welcome in worship. There is KidSpace today in Room 10 following the Time with the Children.]

ANTHEM *Praise, My Soul, The King of Heaven* ⁴ *Lyte/Young*

Praise my soul, the King of heaven, at God's feet thy tribute bring; Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, Evermore God's praises sing; Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Everlasting King. Father like, God tends and spares us; Well our feeble frame is known; God's great hands will gently bear us, Rescue us from all our foes. Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely yet God's mercy flows. Angels in the

³ *Praying* by Mary Oliver

⁴ Text: adapted from Psalm CIII by Henry F. Lyte. Music: Gordon Young. ©1958 Carl Fischer, Inc. Reprinted with permission under ONELICENSE #A706254. All rights reserved.

heights adoring; Ye behold God face to face; Saints below fall down in homage, Gathered in from every place. Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 145⁵

I will exalt you, O God my sovereign,
and bless your name for ever and ever.
Every day will I bless you
and praise your name for ever and ever.
Great are you, O Lord, and greatly to be praised;
there is no end to your greatness.
One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.
I will ponder the glorious splendour of your majesty
and all your marvellous works.
They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will tell of your greatness.
They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.
O Lord, you are gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and of great kindness.
You are loving to everyone
and your compassion is over all your works.
All your works praise you, O Lord,
and your faithful servants bless you.
They make known the glory of your dominion
and speak of your power;
so that the peoples may know of your power
and the glorious splendour of your dominion.
Your sovereignty is an everlasting one;
your dominion endures throughout all ages.
Lord, you are faithful in all your word
and merciful in all your deeds.
You uphold all those who fall
and lift up those who are bowed down.
The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord,
and you give them their food in due season.
You open wide your hand

⁵ A LITURGICAL PSALTER, GENERAL SYNOD 2016 EDITION The Psalter of The Book of Alternative Services Emended for Contemporary Liturgical Use

and satisfy the needs of every living creature.
You are righteous in all your ways
and loving in all your works.
You are near to those who call upon you,
to all who call upon you faithfully.
You fulfil the desire of those who fear you,
you hear their cry and help them.
You preserve all those who love you,
but you destroy all the wicked.
My mouth shall speak your praise, O Lord;
let all flesh bless your holy name for ever and ever.

Luke 5:1-11

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.' When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!' For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.' When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✠ **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*Mary Oliver:
What will you do...?*

Pastor Wendy Lamb

HYMN 730

*I Sing a Song of the Saints of God
All Three Verses*

GRAND ISLE

THE OFFERING of OUR TITHES and GIFTS

(We offer our tithes and gifts to be part of God's purposes in the world, and we invite you to take part. You may place your offering in the plates as they are passed. You may always send gifts by mail or online.)

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

- ✠ Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost, Amen.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE, OUR 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.

*HYMN 726

The Summons

KELVINGROVE

*MOMENT for REFLECTION

*CHARGE and BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE

Sevenfold Amen

John Stainer

POSTLUDE

GREETER: Meryll Davis

USHERS: Margaret Doane, *Lead Usher*

Al Rueda, *Security Usher*

SOUND ENGINEERS: Dan Direen, Brent Nord, Brandon Turner

LIVESTREAM ENGINEER: James Welte

CAMERA OPERATORS: Kevin Lamb, Lynn Usher

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

Doris Schiavone, Nancy Sellas, Judy Steppins

Elders: **Jeanne Clark, Kathy Showman, Norm Wallis**

Deacons: **Brad Smith, Dave Thomas, Chris Wright Thomas**

Pastor Nominating Committee:

Brian Gano, Kendra Lamb, Jim Morris

This Weeks' Celebrations

Sep 30 Carmen Paredes

Oct 2 Julie Aguilera

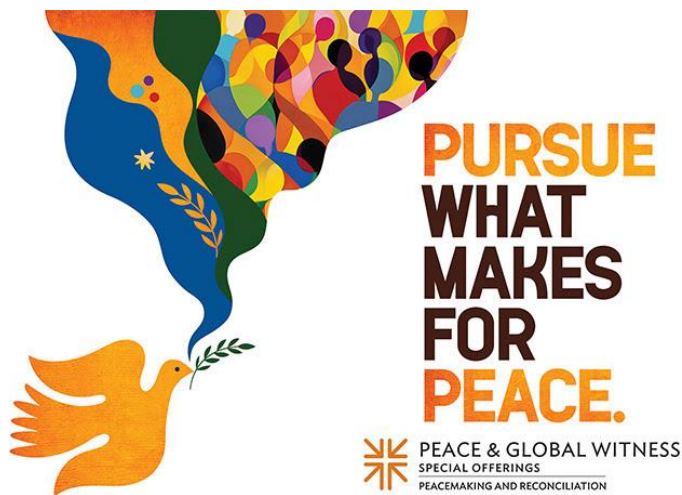
Dave Thomas

Oct 4 Jennifer (Coyne) Scerra

Lisa (Coyne) Star

SAVE YOUR BLOOD. Our second blood drive in association with Lifestream will be on **Sunday, November 30**. If you are a regular donor a reminder you can only give every 60 days. For those of us that are regular donors to Lifestream, please try to be here with an open arm. ***Remember your iodine.***

Thank you for your generous support of our food participants. Thank you for your generous donations of shelf-stable foods. A suggestion list available at reception, and on our website. We encourage bargain shopping since all donations can be put to good use. **Currently we would especially appreciate both regular & pop-top cans of fruit.**



The Peace & Global Witness Offering brings us together to pursue peace in our own communities and around the world. We will receive the offering on **World Communion Sunday, October 5th**.

News and announcements are available in your Friday *Keeping in Touch* emails. If you are not receiving these, and you would like to, contact Mimi in the church office.

Music Box

Kalir was the village scribe,
a quiet man whose days were measured in steady strokes of the pen.
His hands recorded the life of the village:
births and betrothals, treaties and debts.
His writing was the memory of his people.

One spring morning, a stranger came to Kalir's door,
offering a vial of ink black as a moonless sky.
"This ink," the stranger said, his voice low, "binds what it touches.
Words written with it cannot fade —
not until the stars themselves fall."

Kalir tested it.
A single drop gleamed like a living thing upon the parchment.
Moved by awe, he began to use it only for the most sacred records:
oaths, vows, and the names of those whose deeds
deserved to be remembered forever.

At first, the village flourished.
They trusted the scribe,
for his records carried the weight of eternity.
But slowly, Kalir's heart began to change.
With each stroke of his quill,
he realized he alone decided what would endure.
Quiet pride grew like rot.

One day, a powerful noble humiliated Kalir in the village square,
mocking him.
That night, trembling with rage, Kalir opened the sacred ledger.
By the flickering light of a single candle, he wrote a lie —
a single sentence of venom that painted the noble as a traitor.
When the ink dried, it shone like a dark star.

By morning, the lie was believed by all.
The noble was cast down, his household scattered.
Kalir's hands shook as he saw how easily
one false mark had reshaped the lives of many.

In despair, he tried to erase it.
He scraped the parchment until his fingers bled,
soaked it in water,
even burned it to ash —
but each time the words returned,

untouched and gleaming.
When he wrote over them,
the darkness simply swallowed the new words,
leaving the falsehood unmarred.

As the weeks passed, the village descended into bitterness and strife.
Kalir saw now that the ink had never been mere magic.
It revealed the truth of the writer's heart,
giving permanence to whatever lived there —
love or malice, blessing or curse.

He sealed the vial and hid it away.
From that day, he wrote only with common ink, yet with reverence
and trembling.
For he had learned a terrible truth:
all words are eternal.
Whether spoken or written,
they sink into the fabric of the world and cannot be fully undone.

And so Kalir became the silent guardian of the village.
For when he lifted his pen, he knew that every stroke
was a seed cast into the unseen fields of time —
and one day, every seed would bear its fruit.

-- William Zeidler



The seal of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is a symbolic statement of the church's heritage, identity, and mission in contemporary form. Its power depends on both its simplicity and complexity, as well as its traditional and enduring qualities.

The basic symbols in the seal are the cross, Scripture, the dove, and flames.

As a church of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), our congregational life is governed by the Ruling Elders of our current Session:

Lily Bolaños, Margaret Doane, Jon Horstmann, Phyllis Hough,
Sue Alexander, Jeanne Clark, Kathy Showman, Norm Wallis,
Pat Morris, Susan Skoglund, Katie Smith, Neal Williams,
and Clerk of Session Amy Smith

and supported by our Board of Deacons:

Rebecca Allen, Brad Smith, Dave Thomas, Chris Wright-Thomas,
Kristine French, Joyce Lyons, Joanna Nord, Mindy Rueda, Rick
Rodriguez, Jim Siegmund, Kyle Smith, and Christian Usher.

In this time of change for our congregation, a Pastor Nominating Committee has been elected by the congregation:

Susan Addington, Mary Bolaños, John-Paul Fletcher,
Brian Gano, Kendra Lamb, Jim Morris,
Shelby Obershaw, Christa Wallis, Neal Williams