

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2026 10:30 a.m. Worship



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"Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God's will is – what is good and pleasing and mature."

Romans 12:2

First Presbyterian Church

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www.fpcsb.net

MINISTRY OF WORD AND SACRAMENT: REV. DR. BRIAN S. SYMONDS

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 4th.

Morning Worship†

Lector: Breanna Nord

“The world all around the believers in Rome was saturated with images, practices, ideas, and social pressures that inscribed and inculcated a way of life which was incubated in the ways of “the flesh” and antagonistic to the ethos of God’s Spirit. There were schemes of representation and relationality that fed the appetites and imaginations of, what were for Paul, idolatrous and destructive divisions. The specifics can be discerned from the particular exhortations Paul offers in what follows. Paul is concerned about arrogance (12:3, 16; see also 11:18), destructive competition (12:4–5), retaliation (12:17, 19–20), and discriminating judgmentalism (14:1 and following).”

-- David McCabe, *workingpreacher.org*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Adagio

W. Mozart (1756-1791)

INTROIT (306)

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

DENNIS

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love. The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above. From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free; and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me.

✠ Bless God’s holy name.

God forgives. God heals. God transforms with steadfast love.

✠ Bless God’s holy name.

*HYMN 65

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CWM RHONDDA

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Before we can hear God’s truth spoken in love, we must free ourselves from all that obstructs us from honestly acknowledging

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

* Stand if you are able ✠ The congregation will read.

our wrongdoing. Let us examine our hearts and confess our sin to God. We will offer our prayer of reconciliation first in silence and then together.

Moment of silent prayer

✠ Nurturing God, like a hen gathers her brood under her wings, you desire to gather your children. But division and disagreement plague us. We cling to rigid certainties, approach each other in arrogance, and fail to listen. We walk away from conflict, rather than working through it. Forgive us, Holy God. Help us grow in faith, mature in relationship, and be transformed through your steadfast love. Amen.

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Anyone who has sinned against another will be forgiven. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, redeemed and restored to God's path of righteousness.

✠ Amen.

(We stand and sing the Response)

***SUNG RESPONSE 205 *Live in Charity*¹**

UBI CARITAS

(Sing English, then Latin, two times through.)

Live in charity and steadfast love.

Live in charity; God will dwell with you.

**Ubi caritas et amor,
Ubi caritas Deus ibi est.**

TIME with the YOUNG DISCIPLES

*[After Time with the Young Disciples,
There is KidSpace today in Room 10.]*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT for MISSION

Rick Rodriguez

ANTHEM

We've a Story to Tell

H. Ernest Nichol

We've a story to tell to the nations, That shall turn their hearts to the right, A story of truth and mercy, A story of peace and light, A story of peace and light. *For the*

¹ Text: Latin, 8th cent.; English trans. Taizé Community. Music: Jacques Berthier. ©1979 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, agent. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-7062545. All rights reserved.

darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright, And Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth, The kingdom of love and light. We've a song to be sung to the nations, That shall lift their hearts to the Lord, A song that shall conquer evil, And shatter the spear and sword, And shatter the spear and sword. For the darkness shall turn to dawning, ... We've a message to give to the nations, That the Lord who reigneth above Hath sent us His Son to save us, And show us that God is love, And show us that God is love. For the darkness shall turn to dawning, ... We've a savior to show to the nations, Who the path of sorrow hath trod, That all of the world's great peoples May come to the truth of God, May come to the truth of God! For the darkness shall turn to dawning, ...

PRAYER for ILLUMINATION

✠ **Open us, Eternal God, to your Word read and proclaimed. Help us not to turn from your truth or avoid your message. Help us be receptive to the wisdom you offer. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

Romans 12:1-8 (CEB)

So, brothers and sisters, because of God's mercies, I encourage you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice that is holy and pleasing to God. This is your appropriate priestly service. Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God's will is—what is good and pleasing and mature.

Because of the grace that God gave me, I can say to each one of you: don't think of yourself more highly than you ought to think. Instead, be reasonable since God has measured out a portion of faith to each one of you. We have many parts in one body, but the parts don't all have the same function. In the same way, though there are many of us, we are one body in Christ, and individually we belong to each other. We have different gifts that are consistent with God's grace that has been given to us. If your gift is prophecy, you should prophesy in proportion to your faith. If your gift is service, devote yourself to serving. If your gift is teaching, devote yourself to teaching. If your gift is encouragement, devote yourself to encouraging. The one giving should do it with no strings attached. The leader should lead with passion. The one showing mercy should be cheerful.

This is the word of faith that we proclaim,

✠ **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

***God Has a Message for Us:
Attentive Listening***

Rev. Dr. Brian S. Symonds

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 give your offering to the usher. 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.

*PRAYER OF THANKS

Holy God, bless these gifts for your good use. May these tokens of our gratitude be of service in blessing those in need, feeding the hungry, clothing and sheltering those struggling to survive. Use these gifts to further Christ's mission and ministry in a hurting world.

- ✠ Amen.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE and 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 435

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

IN BABILONE

*MOMENT for REFLECTION

Where have you seen or experienced Christ in this service?

*CHARGE and BENEDICTION

RESPONSE

Onward, Christian Soldiers

Arthur Sullivan

Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war, With the cross of Jesus Going on before! Christ, the royal Master, Leads against the foe; Forward into battle, See His banner go! *Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war, With the cross of Jesus Going on before!* Onward, then, ye people, Join our happy throng, Blend with ours your voices In the triumph song; Glory, laud, and

honor, Unto Christ the King: This thro' countless ages Men and angels sing.
Onward, Christian soldiers, ...

POSTLUDE

GREETER: Bobbie Terrell

USHERS: John-Paul Fletcher, *Lead Usher*

Mark Adelson, *Hospitality Usher*

SOUND ENGINEERS: Dan Direen, Brent Nord, Brandon Turner

LIVESTREAM TEAM: James Welte, Kevin Lamb,
Oliver Lamb, Lynn Usher

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK
Marianna Fowles, Debora Holk
Elders: John-Paul Fletcher, Jon Horstmann, Lynda Savage
Deacons: Joanna Nord, Mindy Rueda, Kristine French

This Weeks' Celebrations

Sep 16 Robert Godby
Sep 17 Bonnie Ainsworth
Sep 18 Mindy Rueda
Sep 19 Kimberly Ballard Hansen

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If you are interested in learning how/helping with the audio tech for our services, contact James Welte. We could use a few more people to help.

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Building, Becoming, Widening - The Beloved Community
FPCSB Stewardship 2026

You Are Invited!

October 4, 2026 @ 11:45AM (in the Fellowship Hall)

Following the first worship service of our Stewardship Season, the Stewardship Planning Team would like you to join them for a Luncheon and Workshop. Come for lunch, stay for an informative workshop on the creative act of faithful giving, and then pick up your gift along with your stewardship packet. *Symphonie Jeunesse* will provide delightful musical selections for our luncheon. Pastor Brian, Philip Savage IV, and a representative from Bobbit Memorial Chapel will help us explore what giving to our church today and for tomorrow looks like as we build, become, and widen the beloved community. ***See you there!***

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Bakers needed! We would like to have some loaves of homemade bread, particularly breads from around the world, for our World Communion celebration on October 4th. If you are a baker, contact the church office and let us know if you can help.

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Thank you for your generous support of our food participants.

We are using all of your helpful donations. Right now, we most need **pop-top meals-in-a-can (e.g. spaghetti-os) or pop-top or pouched tuna & chicken for non-cooking bags.**

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Available for Food Work?

If yes, please contact Rick so we can add you to a list we can call when we need more workers for sorting, organizing, shelving, bagging or distributing food, photocopying and folding handouts, assembling kits, or maintaining food storage spaces. Thanks!

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World Communion Offering, October 4



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The Pastor's Book Club will meet **Thursday, October 8 at 5:00 p.m. at DJ's Coffee Shop, 265 E. 40th Street.** The book club will use scripturally provocative and institutionally controversial writings to generate real conversations with each other. The book for discussion is ***Migrant God*** by Isaac Samuel Villegas.

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Music Box

Ansel and Corin had played violin together practically since diapers.

At the Conservatory, they competed for the same position in the Royal Orchestra — a chair in the second violins.

Corin got the position.

Then he learned Corin had visited the maestro before the audition.

==+=+=

"Did you ask him for the position?"

"No."

"And your father was a friend of the maestro."

"Yes."

"And you went to see him before the audition."

"Yes."

"Why?"

"Let me explain."

Ansel picked up his violin.

"You got what you wanted."

He left.

==+=+=

They did not play together again.

Corin played in the orchestra.

Ansel became a teacher.

When a student complained that someone else had been given an opportunity unfairly, Ansel always said the same thing.

"Practice more. Play better."

==+=+=

Thirty years later, the maestro died.

His secretary went through his papers. Among them was an old book of violin duets with Ansel's name written on the cover.

"This looks like it belongs to you," she said.

Ansel took it home.

Inside the book were two folded sheets of paper.

The first was in Corin's hand.

Dear Maestro:

You know my father, and I know you wish to help me.

Don't.

Ansel is auditioning for the position too.

He is the better violinist.

If you wish to help someone, help him.

The second was a reply from the maestro.

Dear Corin:

The players audition behind a screen. The committee will not see them or know their names.

I'm on the committee, with one vote like everyone else. The position will go to the player we judge the best.

Ansel read them again.

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He opened the book of duets.

The notations he and Corin had made so many years ago were still there.

Ansel took out his violin.

He played the first part.

Then he played the second.

Each sounded hollow by itself.

*** Reflection ***

How much of who we think we are is shaped by stories we never thought to question?

-- 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:

Sue Alexander, Jeanne Clark, Kathy Showman, Norm Wallis,
Pat Morris, Susan Skoglund, Katie Smith, Neal Williams,
Robin Edwards, John-Paul Fletcher, Jon Horstmann, Lynda Savage,
and Clerk of Session Amy Smith

and supported by our Board of Deacons:

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