



8:30am and 11am Worship Services
through Sunday, May 10, 2026



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORMAL

September 14, 2025

8:30am Worship Service

**If you're NEW, see the
Welcome Center for
your FREE gift**



SEPTEMBER 14, 2025
8:30AM ORDER OF WORSHIP
(When you see the * you are invited to stand)

PRELUDE Great Is Thy Faithfulness (Fred Swann) Phil Enge, organ

INTROIT Come, Let Us Sing (S. Rickards) Chancel Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP Beth MacDonald

L: God overflows with loving kindness, and draws close to all who call on the name of the Lord!

P: We praise and bless God's holy name forever!

L: The Holy One is is glorious beyond our imagination, and worthy to be honored by every generation!

P: We come with worship and thanksgiving for the Holy One our God!

***HYMN #482** Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

CALL TO CONFESSION Beth MacDonald

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Beth MacDonald

O God of compassion, if you kept a record of our sins, who could stand? We come before you with our brokenness and our wounds for all to see. We bring our anger, our bitterness, our unwholesome talk, and our deceitfulness. We try to do good, but sometimes fail. We choose to do evil, and sometimes succeed. Keep your promise to forgive us when we confess to you completely. For without you, we have no hope.

SILENT CONFESSION

CHORAL RESPONSE Chancel Choir

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS Beth MacDonald

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and will forgive us. With the bread of heaven, God freely provides all the mercy we need for life everlasting. Friends, this good news is for you: complete forgiveness in the name of Christ Jesus. Thanks be to God!

***HYMN #579** Gloria Patri

SCRIPTURE Matthew 14:13-21 Beth MacDonald

TIME WITH CHILDREN Kelli Owens

ANTHEM The Fruit of the Spirit (B. Mayo) Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE Ruth 2:2-20 Pastor Karol Schilling

MESSAGE

Big Little Things: Kind Like Christ

Pastor Karol Schilling

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God’s image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.

Ignoring God’s commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.

We deserve God’s condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth.

Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.

Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

***HYMN** Bringing in the Sheaves (see next page)

COMMUNITY PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER Pastor Matt Wilcox

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING Beth MacDonald

OFFERING Choral Cistercien (Jehan Alain) Phil Enge, organ

***DOXOLOGY**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** Beth MacDonald

ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor Matt Wilcox

***HYMN #276** Lift High the Cross

***BLESSING** Pastor Karol Schilling

POSTLUDE Grand Choeur (T. Salome) Phil Enge, organ

THE FLOWERS WERE DONATED BY:
Carole and Jerry Ringer, in memory of Burnett and Frances Ringer.

Introit

Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord

Steven Rickards

Come, let us sing, let us sing to the Lord, the rock of our salvation.

Come unto the Lord, singing him psalms of praise.

Alleluia, let us raise our voices, Alleluia, to the heavenly King.

Alleluia, now the world rejoices, Alleluia, to the heavenly king.

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Prayer Response

I Depend Upon Your Faithfulness

(Tu fidelidad)

I depend upon your faithfulness.

I can journey on, for you are always there.

None compares with you, O blessed One;

O how great your faithfulness.

Text: Miguel Cassina, 1994; English trans. Andrew Donaldson, 2001

Music: Miguel Cassina, 1994; arr. Andrew, 2008

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35 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

1 Praise ye the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 2 Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous - ly
 3 Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy
 reign - eth, shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so
 dore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with

health and sal - va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his
 gen - tly sus - tain - eth! Hast thou not seen how thy de -
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his

tem - ple draw near; join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sires e'er have been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for aye we a - dore him.

This very strong 17th-century German hymn employs many phrases from the psalms, especially Psalms 150 and 103:1-6. It did not receive an effective English translation until the mid-19th century, but has remained popular ever since, thanks in part to its stirring tune.

Bringing in the Sheaves

Sowing in the morning sowing seeds of kindness
Sowing in the noontide and the dewy eve
Waiting for the harvest and the time of reaping
We shall come rejoicing bringing in the sheaves

Chorus

*Bringing in the sheaves bringing in the sheaves
We shall come rejoicing bringing in the sheaves
Bringing in the sheaves bringing in the sheaves
We shall come rejoicing bringing in the sheaves*

Sowing in the sunshine sowing in the shadows
Fearing neither clouds nor winter's chilling breeze
By and by the harvest and the labor ended
We shall come rejoicing bringing in the sheaves

Going forth with weeping sowing for the Master
Tho' the loss sustained our spirit often grieves
When our weeping's over He will bid us welcome
We shall come rejoicing bringing in the sheaves

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Words by
Thomas Obediah Chisholm

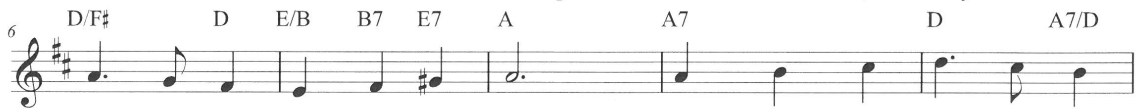
Music by
William Marion Runyan

VERSE

♩ = 75



1. Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther, there is no
2. Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest; Sun, moon and
3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, Thy own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee; Thou chang - est not, Thy com -
stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
pres - ence to cheer and to guide; Strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions they fail not; As Thou hast been, Thou for - ev - er wilt be.
man - i - fold wit - ness to Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy and love.
hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

CHORUS



Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by morn - ing new



mer - cies I see; All I have need - ed Thy hand hath pro - vid - ed - Great is Thy



faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me.

CCLI Song # 18723

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mark you calendars and get plugged in!

TODAY | FLOURISHING: GREEN TEAM-LED DISCUSSION SERIES

Join us on Sundays at 9:45am in the Lounge for a 3-week discussion series on themes from the short book, *The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Please sign up on the website. Contact Sarah Jome for more information.

TODAY | RUMMAGE SALE SIGN-UPS! PLEASE VOLUNTEER - IT'S FUN!

Volunteers are needed the week of Sept. 28 to help prepare for our upcoming Rummage Sale on October 3 and 4. You can sign up to volunteer today and next Sunday. We also need volunteers on the days of the sale and on Saturday afternoon to clean up. Many volunteers are needed! Please stop by the table or contact Carol Morris at bctnk@hotmail.com. The Youth Group can assist those who need help getting their donations to the church. Sign up to receive a Sunday evening pick-up time or contact Kelli at kowens@firstpresnormal.org.



TODAY | BIG GIVE DONATIONS THROUGH SEPTEMBER 28

The Big Give community-wide food drive is an opportunity for us to provide Thanksgiving meal boxes to 2,000+ people in need in Bloomington-Normal. We will be collecting food donations through Sunday, September 28. Please bring your donations and add them to the collection in the Sanctuary. The shopping list is available outside the Sanctuary, under the TV, online, and in this bulletin.

TODAY | STORY STROLL

The Green Team is hosting their fourth Story Stroll using the book, *Mrs. Spitzer's Garden*. The storyboards are up and we invite you to think and talk about the work and joys of growing, tending, and harvesting a garden!

SEPTEMBER 15 | WOMEN'S BLESSINGS BIBLE STUDY

Join us on Mondays, 6-7pm in the Lounge as we study the New Testament book of Hebrews. This book teaches us that Jesus is better, Christianity is all we need, and Christ is sufficient for our salvation. Learn how to apply this powerful message to our lives. Sign up online by Sept. 14. Contact Irene DenBesten for more information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mark your calendars and get plugged in!

SEPTEMBER 16 | HANDBELL RINGERS NEEDED!

Attend "Intro to Bells" on Tues, Sept. 16 at 6:30pm. Please RSVP to Phil Enge if you can make it at penge@firstpresnormal.org. It's fun and instruction is provided!

SEPTEMBER 20 | PARENTS' NIGHT OUT (NUT-FREE FACILITY)

PNO is Saturday, September 20, 5-8pm. This event gives parents an opportunity for an evening to themselves. The cost is \$5 per child with a \$10 family maximum (due at drop off). Please have the children enter through the College Avenue entrance (door C), and they will be buzzed in and led downstairs by our childcare coordinator. We do feed the kids a snack, but feel free to bring dinner for your children.

SEPTEMBER 26 | AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

The American Red Cross will be here at church on Friday, September 26 for a Blood Drive from 1:30-5:30pm in the Great Hall. If you'd like to sign up to donate blood, please call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org. Thank you!

OCTOBER 1 | BIBLE IN A YEAR - READ THE NEW TESTAMENT WITH US!

On October 1, we'll finally reach the New Testament! If you haven't been reading along, this is a great time to jump in! We'll follow a daily reading program (with accompanying videos/podcasts) that completes the New Testament by the end of 2025. We plan to continue Sunday morning and Wednesday afternoon discussions. Contact Sheila at (sheilamelzer49@gmail.com) or Matt at (boilermatt@hotmail.com) to get started.

SABBATICAL NEWSLETTER

A special issue of the church newsletter has been shared with the congregation via email, providing details about Pastor Matt's upcoming sabbatical. Printed copies are available outside the Sanctuary. We hope this information is helpful and invite you to pray for Pastor Matt, our dedicated staff, and our congregation.

SIGN-UP OPPORTUNITIES

We are in need of volunteers to help with: ushering, liturgy, bulletin stuffing, newsletter stuffing, Time With Children, Welcome Center, and more! Please see the "Sign-Up" QR code on the back of this bulletin or the website for more information.



Please join Home Sweet Home Ministries, Midwest Food Bank, and Thrivent Financial as we come together to collect items for Thanksgiving meal boxes. Donations can be brought to the church through Sept. 28th and placed in the Sanctuary on the table.

- ☐ 1 Box of stuffing mix
- ☐ 2 Cans of corn
- ☐ 2 Cans of green beans
- ☐ 2 Cans of cream of mushroom
- ☐ 1 Box of mashed potatoes
- ☐ 1 Envelope of gravy (no jars, please)
- ☐ 1 Regular pouch of french fried onions
- ☐ 1 Can of cranberry sauce
- ☐ 1 Box of pie crust mix
- ☐ 1 Can of pumpkin pie
- ☐ 1 Can of evaporated milk
- ☐ 1 Gift card for a frozen turkey

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sun. Sept. 14	9:30am 9:45am 11am 5:30pm 5:30pm	Coffee Fellowship Sunday School/Discipleship for All Ages Contemporary Worship Service Sanctuary Alpha Small Group Library Youth Group High School Room
Mon. Sept. 15	6pm	Blessings Hebrews Study Lounge
Tue Sept. 16	2:45pm 6:30pm	PASS After School Program Great Hall Intro to Bells Lounge
Wed. Sept. 17	1pm 4:30pm 6:30pm	Bible in a Year Discussion Group Library Worship Band Rehearsal Sanctuary Chancel Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary
Thu. Sept. 18	9am 2:45pm 6pm	Book Group Library PASS After School Program Great Hall New Women Small Group Library
Fri. Sept. 19	11am	Worship Band Rehearsal Sanctuary

CONTACT OUR CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor-Matt Wilcox.....mwilcox@firstpresnormal.org
 Associate Pastor-Karol Schilling.....kschilling@firstpresnormal.org
 Director of Music-Phil Enge.....penge@firstpresnormal.org
 Director of Family Ministry-Kelli Owens.....kowens@firstpresnormal.org
 Director of Playmates Preschool-Robin Schaefer.....rschaefer@firstpresnormal.org
 Childcare Coordinator-Tristan Bishop.....tcb.bishop@gmail.com
 Financial Coordinator-Priscilla Montalvo.....pmontalvo@firstpresnormal.org
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 A/V Technician-Tyler Gatto.....tgatto@firstpresnormal.org
 Property Manager-John Anderson.....janderson@firstpresnormal.org

WEBSITE

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FACEBOOK

 info@firstpresnormal.org

INSTAGRAM

 firstpresnormal.org

SIGN-UPS




Scan the QR code with your phone's camera. When a link pops up, tap it with your finger.

We affirm that all people are children of God and are created in the image of God. Believing this, we welcome all individuals into the life, community, and ministry of First Pres. This includes people of every age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, physical or mental ability, economic status, political belief, background, and past experience. No one is excluded, marginalized, or held outside the warm welcome of this congregation. You can find our full statement of affirmation & inclusion on our website.