

Connect and Serve

Please see the website (firstpreswc.com) for a complete list of programs and ways to connect.

Condolences - Our sympathy and prayers are with Paul Woodruff and family in the death of Rev. Dr. Marcia Woodruff. Marcia served as Interim Assistant Pastor for Pastoral Care & Worship at First Pres from 1997-1998; and with Stu and Suzanne Levy and family in the death of Suzanne's father. Our sympathy and prayers are also with Mandy and Justin McClure in the death of Mandy's mother.

Summer Office Hours – We have transitioned to Summer Office hours. The church office will be open from 9am-4pm on Monday-Thursday and will be **closed** on Fridays.

2nd Strategic Planning Listening Session & Lunch – In our ongoing strategic planning process, the committee members have been speaking with committees of Session to receive feedback and have conversations. Now they want to hear from you! Join us today at 12:00pm in Fellowship Hall for another congregational conversation. This will be an opportunity for the committee to ask questions, hear your feedback, and learn what is most important to you as we lay down the future direction of our church. Your voice is an important part of this process, helping to shape our planning, priorities, and vision for the years ahead. Lunch will be provided. We're excited to see you there!

Moms Group Survey - The First Pres Moms Group has been meeting regularly for the past several years and aims to be a place of friendship and support for moms of kids ages newborns through college. Planning is already underway for the group to resume meeting in the fall, and we are looking for input to direct our plans. Even if you have never attended Moms Group, we'd still love to hear from you! Please go to the sign-up tab of the church website to complete the brief survey. Contact the church office to reach Liz Single or Mary Hambleton with any questions.

Summer Movie Night - Beat the heat with a classic movie this summer! On Monday, August 10 we'll see *Angels in the Outfield* (rated PG) at Uptown Theater (226 N. High St, WC). Filled with humor, heart, and inspiring moments, this family film is about faith, teamwork, and the power of believing in miracles. Invite a friend – the ticket price is covered and includes popcorn! Please sign up online.

First Presbyterian Church of West Chester

July 12, 2026



Order of Worship for the Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

**Please rise in body or spirit*

Prelude Day by Day arr. Mark Hayes

Call to Worship*
The Word of God is planted in our hearts.
May our hearts be receptive to the Word.

The Love of God rains down on us.
May our souls soak in the wonder of God's love.

The breath of God blows softly within us.
May our minds be stirred by the power of God's spirit.

Hymn 65* Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Welcome

Prayer of Confession
**Loving God, we confess
we have strayed away from your word.
We have allowed the worries of this world
to drive us away from your vision for our lives.
We cry out to you, O God, because
there is strife and contention all around us.
Let us speak this truth together:
we are powerless and have taken our focus off of you.
Yet we continue to cry out to you
in times of trouble and need,
knowing that you are the God who guides and saves us.
Grant understanding and wisdom
that we may see your vision and apply it
in our lives. Hear our prayer, O God. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness
The scriptures tell us that God’s love will find us
no matter how far away we stray.
We have the assurance that God will rescue us.
This is the good news of the Gospel!

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 the Peace*

First Scripture Reading Romans 8:1-11 NT p. 157

Special Music Et exultavit spiritus meus J. S. Bach

"And my spirit has rejoiced in God my savior."

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 Ave Maria Pietro Mascagni

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.

*At this time children may join their teachers downstairs for
Summer Sunday School. Children will return to their families
during the final hymn.*

Hymn 525* Let Us Break Bread Together

Second Scripture Reading Psalm 119:105-112 OT p. 569

Sermon Lighting the Path Rev. Andrew Esqueda

Hymn 459* O Word of God Incarnate

Benediction*

Postlude Minuet G. F. Handel

Assisting in worship today:
Miranda Nilan, Mezzo-Soprano

*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.

Audio amplifiers are in a basket at the back of the sanctuary.
*There are also screens in Fellowship Hall that stream the service if
you need to step out.*

*The nursery is available for children ages 0-3 years. Please ask a
greeter if you would like additional information
about Sunday School or children’s programming.*

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Rev. Andrew Esqueda, Senior Pastor
Rev. Caroline Cupp, Senior Associate Pastor
Sándor Kádár, Director of Music
Sara Pantazes, Director of Faith Formation
Nathan Preuhs, Director of Youth Ministry
Elizabeth Hess, Director of Engagement
Karin Khan, Ministry Administrator
Claire Kramer, Finance Manager
Peter Galloway, Director of Operations
Sara Ford, Facilities Manager
Laura Moreschi, Children’s Music Director
Ann Ellis, Choir Accompanist
Kiana Rivera, Worship Band Leader
Jennifer Rosenberg, Preschool Director
Greg Ondo, AV Tech
Haley Phares, Music & AV Associate

Emails at firstpreswc.com/staff