

Connect and Serve

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

Return To Regular Church Office Hours - The church office has returned to regular office hours and will be open 9am-4pm on Monday-Thursday, and 9am-12pm on Fridays.

Church Picnic – Join us for our annual picnic in the “backyard” along the alley at noon today. We’ll have fried chicken, a bounce house, golf putting and face painting! If you need help getting outside, please see a staff member. Set-up volunteers would be welcome at 10:30!

Youth Group Kick-Off Party - This afternoon from 4-6pm, First Pres will celebrate a new year of Youth Group with a Kick-Off Party! We will have snacks, play video games, board games, live-action Among Us, and discuss our mission and core values for the year. Youth Group will be every Sunday from 4-5:30pm.

Youth Bible Study - After our Youth Group Kick-Off Party, the following Wednesday we will have our All-Grades Bible Study, from 7-8:30pm. We will be working our way through the Gospel of John.

Youth Beach Retreat - From September 18-20, First Pres Youth will be going to Bethany Beach Retreat Center for a weekend retreat! We will use the calming beach atmosphere to have fun and learn devotional practices, which are spiritual disciplines that will last a lifetime. Registration and info online.

Children’s Choir Registration - Come sing, learn and have fun this Fall! Our Children’s Choir welcomes young singers to grow in confidence, make new friends, and discover the joy of making music while praising God. We start on Wednesday September 16 at 5:15pm. Please register online on the church website. We can’t wait to see you!

New Fall Study on King David - Over 9 weeks this fall, the Midweek Journeys study group will do a deep dive into the life of King David, exploring the accounts of David’s life and considering what his story teaches about the responsibilities and expectations for living as God’s people. Midweek Journeys meets on Wednesday nights from 6:30 - 7:30pm on

Zoom, beginning Wednesday, September 16. Contact Sara Pantazes at spantazes@firstpreswc.com to be added to the email list.

Women’s Fall Bible Study - From the opening chapters of Genesis through the final verses of Revelation, God is known by many names; names that reveal who He is, what He does, and how He relates to His children. All women are invited to an 8-week video and workbook study called *The Names of God*, led by six different Bible study authors. This study will meet on Wednesdays from 9:30-11am, and will run for 8 weeks, from Sept. 23-Nov. 11. Sign up online.

Thursday Evening Men's Study - All men of the church are invited to participate in a new 7-part study of the Lord's Prayer entitled *The Sacred Thread* beginning Thursday, September 24 on Zoom from 7 - 9pm. The study's host states: "Through cinematic storytelling and accessible scholarship, *The Sacred Thread* invites viewers into the world of the Biblical text. The series cuts to the heart of Scripture, exploring the historical, cultural, geographical, and literary contexts behind the Bible’s most iconic stories." The study materials will be available online at no cost. Contact Phil Heaver with any questions via email at Fivormor59@aol.com or via cell at 610-310-088.

Connection Groups – We're excited to announce that Connection Groups are launching this fall at First Pres! These groups will meet monthly from October through May, with the option to continue on afterward. Finding community is an important part of our faith journey, and these groups are a great way to build genuine relationships within our church family. There’s a variety to choose from, so visit the sign-up link on our website to learn more about each one and discover the group that’s right for you. If you have questions or you’re not sure what would be a good fit, reach out to Elizabeth Hess or Sara Pantazes.

First Pres Travelers - Join the Travelers to see Joshua at the Sight & Sound Theater, Nov. 12 at 11am. Show ticket price is \$71.70 (fees included). Optional Smorgasbord Lunch at the adjacent Hershey Farm Restaurant. Cost for the lunch is \$30.95 (food, fees, and tip). For additional information or to register, please contact Thom & Irene at psuthom@verizon.net.

First Presbyterian Church of West Chester September 13, 2026



Order of Worship for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**Please rise in body or spirit*

Prelude Bolero arr. David Marlatt

Call to Worship*
Then I will pour out my spirit on all flesh,
thus says the Lord.
Send down the fire of your justice!

Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy.
Send down the rain of your love!

Your old shall dream dreams,
and your young shall see visions.
Send down your Spirit, breathe life in your people!

In those days, I will pour out my Spirit.
And we shall be people of God.

Hymn 35* Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty
arr. Mark Hayes

Please watch the Director of Music for singing cues

Welcome

Prayer of Confession
**Almighty God, you poured your Spirit upon gathered
disciples creating bold tongues, open ears,
and a new community of faith. We confess that we
hold back the force of your Spirit among us. (cont'd)**

