

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 John and Sandy Abernethy in the death of Sandy's brother; and with Amy Green and family in the death of her mother.

Summer Office Hours - Just a friendly reminder that 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.

Office Closure - The church office will be **closed** tomorrow, July 6, in observance of the Independence Day holiday.

VBS Decoration Party - Help us transform First Pres into a winter wonderland in preparation for Vacation Bible School! All hands are invited to gather in the Chapel from 9 - 11am on Wednesday, July 8. We will create and distribute decorations throughout the stairwells, hallways, and classrooms of the church. The more hands the merrier! Let Sara Pantazes know if you have any questions.

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 on Sunday, July 12, 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. Please sign up online or contact Elizabeth Hess so we can plan accordingly.

Summer Spanish - Are you interested in learning some conversational Spanish this summer? From now through August 27, First Pres will host classes on Mondays and Thursdays from 12-1pm. Bring your lunch and learn practical skills from an experienced teacher. Come as often as you can; we ask \$5/class for participants. To sign up, please use the link on the website or contact Pastor Caroline.

Greeting Volunteers Needed this Summer - We are in need of greeters on Sunday mornings to hand out bulletins and collect the offering. If you would like to help out or find out more, please reach out to Elizabeth Hess or sign up online.

VBS Decorations Needed - Plans are well underway for this summer's week of VBS and Music Adventure Camp! Please continue to bring in your cleaned, empty 1 gallon water or milk jugs. In addition, we are looking for some items to borrow as decorations, including skis, sleds and white sheets or towels. Check out the Sign-Up Genius on the church website for more information about these items we hope to borrow.

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.

First Presbyterian Church of West Chester

July 5, 2026



Order of Worship for the Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

**Please rise in body or spirit*

Prelude For the Beauty of the Earth
arr. Marty Parks

Call to Worship*
I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples;
I will sing praises to you among the nations.

For your steadfast love is great above the heavens;
your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!
Let your glory be over all the earth!

Let us worship God.

Hymn 331* God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

Welcome

Prayer of Confession
Gracious One, where do we begin? You call us to do justice, and we explain that justice is complicated. You ask us to love mercy and we counter that a show of strength is necessary. You invite us to walk humbly with you and we struggle to recognize you in our neighbors, in the dispossessed, in the poor and hungry places of our own hearts. We confess we have failed to summon the courage and compassion required by your call. (cont'd)

**We have treated hospitality as an option, kinship
as a choice, instead of as the center of our life together.
We have claimed your name, yet rejected your way.
Forgive us, we pray.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, hear this good news: God's gift is love that liberates, hope that inspires, grace that transforms. Each of us alone and all of us together are forgiven and set free.

Alleluia! Amen

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*

Philadelphia Project Commissioning

First Scripture Reading 1 Kings 3: 3-15 OT p. 305

Special Music Peace Hymn Audrey Assad

Please join the soloist in singing the refrain

**Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah! Your peace will make us one!**

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 America, the Beautiful
arr. Samuel Ward

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.**

Hymn 336* We Gather Together

Second Scripture Reading Philippians 2: 1 – 11 NT p. 197

Sermon *A Humble Quest*

Sara Pantazes

Hymn 767* Together We Serve

Benediction*

Postlude Improvisation on
O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

Assisting in worship today:

Adriana Park, Violin

*All are welcome in worship. We are a community of people of
all ages who cry, vocalize, stomp, fess, 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