

Summer at First Pres 2026



WOW!

What a year it has been here at First Pres! As we look towards the summer, I can't help but look back on all the wonderful things that happened in our community of faith this past year. From wonderful weekly worship to Christmas Eve, Holy Week, and Easter, concerts, worship nights, youth group and youth retreats, trick-or-treating, and our Easter egg hunt, mid-week studies, and we certainly can't forget the incredible generosity of all of you who helped us raise \$115,590 for Matthew 25, which will be used to help change the lives of those in our community who are in need.

We've had new members join First Pres, we've seen babies and adults baptized, and incredible growth in our relationships with one another and with God. Sometimes, as a pastor, you get caught up looking at all of the really big things, and those big things are incredible, but there have also been so many small things happening that often go under the radar. And in those small moments, we see incredible growth in faith and the living of our faith.

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These are the places where we see communal care take place, where grief is shared, where meaningful conversations happen, and where we see God's Spirit at work in and through us. Both as a reminder to myself and to all of us, take note of the small things and remember that God is active and present in the expected and unexpected places of our lives.

I'm looking forward to summer, as I'm sure you are too, where we experience a bit of a slower pace, enjoying the warm weather, vacations, cookouts, and much more. We will continue with regular worship throughout the summer, our strategic planning committee will be working diligently to establish our plan, and there will be all sorts of church activities sprinkled throughout the summer, so make sure you take a look at all that's going on.

I'm looking forward to summer here at First Pres and all that God will do in preparation for the fall. Giving thanks for our church, for all of you, and most of all the grace of Christ, which is ever present in all of our lives.

With Hope,



Rev. Andrew Esqueda
Senior Pastor

Summer Mission Opportunities

Fame Fire Company – June 5th and 6th at 9am – Weed pulling and mulching

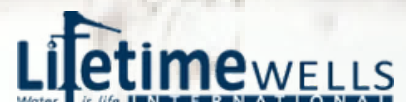
Bucket School – Time TBD – Help construct a spaceship for the play area (contact joeschorn84@gmail.com for more information).

Refugee Family Support – A refugee family is moving onto Miner Street and Providence Church is putting together a team of people to be supportive neighbors. If you're interested in learning more, contact Pastor Caroline.

Summer Food Cupboard – Spend a few minutes a week tidying our First Pres food pantry, taking inventory, and helping people with bags (contact Pastor Caroline)

Summer Mission Trip

In June four members of the Mission committee will travel with Lifetime Wells to rural Ghana. We'll visit villages served by their clean water drilling programs, assist with installations and repairs, and meet people impacted by their ministry. This trip will hopefully be the first of many for First Pres as we continue to deepen ties with this mission partner.



Matthew 25: Thank You!

Thank you to our congregation for contributing so generously to this year's Matthew 25 campaign. Together you raised \$115,590 to support families with urgent housing and transportation needs. With a typical contribution of \$400 per household, that represents almost 300 families who will be impacted by your gifts.

Here are a few of the people you have helped so far this year:

- \$400 in rent for a school custodian who is disabled and having difficulty getting a better-paying job.
- \$500 in rent for a woman who runs her own house-cleaning business; she lost a few weeks of work due to a bad fall.
- \$400 for a senior who is behind on housing costs due to high insurance co-pays for spinal surgery.

70% of the funds you give go toward rent or security deposits, 16% for utilities, 9% for transportation-related costs, and the remainder for miscellaneous expenses like background checks for a new job or clothing. Thank you for answering the call to be Christ's hands and feet in this world.

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

(Matthew 25:40)

2026 Mission Giving

Each year First Pres's Session designates a portion of our overall budget to support partner organizations locally and around the world. The Mission committee determines where these funds will be given, typically as unrestricted gifts unless the organization has shared a specific request. In determining funding, we prioritize organizations where our contributions make a meaningful impact, those with whom we have deep and ongoing ties, and financial accountability. In 2026, the following organizations are supported by your pledges and offerings:

Internal Church Programs

Getsemani Church Partnership: \$5,000

Migrant Ministry Outreach projects (Christmas, Easter): \$3,500

Wednesday Lunches: \$0 (Paid for with corporate matching gift proceeds)

Giving Tree: Donor-funded

Mission Endowment Fund (Investment account with proceeds supporting non-budgeted mission programs): \$10,000

Local Mission

ActNow (Act in Faith): \$6,000
Chester County Migrant Ministry: \$6,500
Safe Harbor of West Chester: \$6,000
West Chester Food Cupboard: \$6,000
Kennett Area Community Services: \$6,000
West Chester Community Center (Melton Center): \$6,000
Friends Association: \$6,000
Community Volunteers in Medicine: \$3,500
West Chester Senior Center: \$2,500
Domestic Violence Center: \$2,500
Lincoln's Pantry (Coatesville VA): \$3,000
The Barn at Spring Brook Farm: \$1,500
La Comunidad Hispana: \$2,000
Undesignated (mission needs arising during the year; if not spent, will be assigned to a mission partner in December): \$2,000

International Mission

Lifetime Wells: \$5,000
Presbyterian Education Board (Pakistan): \$4,870
Undesignated Global Mission (mission needs arising during the year; if not spent, will be assigned to a mission partner in December) - \$4,000

Total Mission Giving = \$91,870

Internal programs = \$18,500
Local = \$59,500
International = \$13,870

Music Ministry

Spreading the Joy of Music to Our Community



The Celebration Singers performed at Barclay Friends retirement home on April 22nd, bringing the joy of music to elderly residents who cannot attend church services regularly. The performance was brilliantly led by the incredible Laura Moreschi and perfectly complemented by Julie Claeys on the piano.

The energetic guitar riffs from Haley Phares and Will Moreschi added an infectious vibrancy, while Sandor Kadar masterfully led the hymn sing-along. The lively Easter cantata, inspiring violin and piano duets, and the hymns created an atmosphere of celebration that resonated throughout the home. The residents were excited to experience the joy of Easter through such a versatile musical performance.



Congregational Life Ministry

Easter Egg Hunt

A huge thank you to all those who donated candy and volunteered at the Egg Hunt in Everhart Park. We collected 12,700 filled Easter eggs that were picked up in a matter of minutes by over 400 attendees! We were blessed with a sunny, warm spring morning as we enjoyed this annual community event. Fun fact – First Pres first began hosting an Egg Hunt in Everhart in 2006!



**"Two are better than one,
because they have a
good return for their
work. ... A cord of three
strands is not quickly
broken."**

Ecclesiastes 4:9,12

Presbyterian Paddles

Do you play pickleball? First Pres players will be meeting up this summer for this popular activity! We'll meet on Wednesday mornings for four weeks (July 1-22) from 7:30-9am at Lambert Park (1145 Pottstown Pike, WC – next to Wawa). This group activity is best suited for intermediate/advanced players who have playing experience. Sign up [here](#) and join the fun!

Connection Groups Coming this Fall

Following Jesus was never meant to be a solo project. From the very beginning, Christians have understood the life of faith to be a shared life, lived in friendship, in conversation, and through prayer with and for other people.

This fall we'll be launching new Connection Groups.

These smaller circles of community will provide new opportunities to know others and be known by them as we pursue lives of faith. Keep an eye out for more info later this summer, and sign ups in early September!

Summer Movie Night

Beat the heat with a classic movie night 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!

Sign up [here](#).

Children's Ministry

First Pres Kids

First Pres kids have had a great spring! We played a game keeping balloons in the air, like the Holy Spirit floated above the disciple's heads at the first Pentecost. We played chimes to create a sound and feeling of peace to end a lesson about peacemaking. We decorated a huge banner to celebrate our huge Matthew 25 achievement. Every Sunday morning, First Pres kids are encountering the Lord and growing as beloved members of our church community.

We look forward to wrapping up this school year on Sunday, June 14 with a group service project and end of year party!



Summer Activities

Summer Sunday School - June 21–July 26

During the 9am service, we'll have some summer fun while learning about the "I Am" statements of Jesus.

I AM
STATEMENTS OF
JESUS

Vacation Bible School & Music Adventure Camp - July 20-24

9am–3:30pm - All Pre-K – rising 6th graders are welcome.



*Still need to register?
Scan here*



Reminder: Keep bringing in your milk and water jugs – our igloo is underway!

Youth Ministry

Youth Summer 2026

As the school year begins to wind down, First Pres is gearing up for our Youth Summer 2026!

Our winter was packed with fun, retreats, community building, studying God's Word, and a whole lot of Hit and Sit; so, we want to bring this momentum into the summer. Our final Wednesday Night Bible Study will be on May 27, and our final Youth Group will be on May 31, where we will end on a high note by throwing an end of the year Youth Group Party! There will be food, games, and Hawk!



We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the youth and parents who made our church such a welcoming and lively place. This summer we will work endlessly and plan diligently to ensure Youth Group next year is transformative and engaging.

Summer Schedule - Stay Connected

- Youth Summer 2026 Kickoff Pool Party at the Damadio's house on June 7th at 3pm.
- Regularly scheduled Guys and Girls Group lunches, every other week, at local restaurants following the 10:45am Sunday Service.
- A mission and service week in Philadelphia at the Philly Project on July 5–11.
- A field trip to Hershey Park on July 31st.
- A beach trip to Rehoboth Beach in August (date tbd).

We can't wait to see how Youth Summer 2026 transforms our community and lives as we seek to share God's love with each other and the world!

Please keep an eye on the First Pres newsletter and GroupMe for info, dates, and sign-ups. If you are not connected, reach out the Director of Youth Ministry, Nathan Preuhs, at npreuhs@firstpreswc.com, or go to our Youth Ministry page on the church website to sign up!

On The Horizon



be a
HERO

Mark your calendars!

First Pres will be hosting a Red Cross blood drive on Tuesday, August 25. More details to follow as the date gets closer, but please mark your calendar for this important event. Blood donations are always needed but are even more critical in the summer months when lots of folks aren't available to donate due to being on vacation or out of school.

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**Fall Kick-off
Save the Date!**

Sept. 13, 2028 12:00 - 1:30 pm
First Presbyterian Church

www.firstpreswc.com

*Have an amazing
Summer!*



The

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