

### **Connect and Serve**

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

**Our sympathy and prayers** are with Vicki Gansner and her family in the death of her daughter-in-law, Rachel.

**Matthew 25** - Each year during Lent, we work to raise \$25,000 to assist Chester County residents with emergency housing, utility, and transportation needs. We are thrilled to report that this year, we raised \$41,941. With an average disbursement of about \$350, that means about 120 Chester County families will receive assistance. On behalf of the pastors, staff, and mission committee, thank you for your generosity.

A family in the church has committed to match any additional gifts that we make, up to \$25,000. This offer applies to any donations that are made between Easter and the end of April, so if you haven't had a chance to participate or want to make an even bigger impact in the lives of your neighbors, this is the perfect opportunity to do so. You can give online (select Matt 25 Lent from the drop-down menu) or by making a check to First Presbyterian Church (put Matt 25 in the memo line). Thank you so much for your generosity.

**April Mom's Group This Afternoon** - All First Pres moms are invited to gather for Mom's Group today from 4 - 5:30pm at church. Dr. Tracy Burke will be joining us for her annual Questions from a Hat! Tracy is a psychologist who brings professional and personal insight into all of your questions about your kiddos. We ask anonymously so bring your worries! Contact Mary Hambleton (emham@verizon.net) or Liz Single (lizsingle@gmail.com) with any questions.

**Single Worship Service Sunday, April 19** - There will be a single worship service at **10:00am** next **Sunday, April 19**. The nursery will be open, but except for the Children's Musical, there will not be any other children's programs that morning.

**Spring Midweek Journeys Study** - Later this month, we will begin a new book study of *Reading the Bible from Turtle Island: An Invitation to North American Indigenous Interpretation* by T. Christopher Hoklotubbe and H. Daniel Zacharias. This book will explore what it means to read the Bible from the lens of Indigenous peoples in North America, inviting us to learn from the faith of others and view Scripture from a new perspective. This study will meet on Zoom at 6:30pm each Wednesday night starting on **April 22**. Participants are asked to purchase the book on their own and let Sara Pantazes know if you plan to participate

**Church Grounds Clean Up Day** - Now that spring is here, the grounds around the church and our rental properties need some attention. We are looking for volunteers to help out on **Saturday, April 25** (rain date Saturday, May 2), starting at 8:30am, to do weeding, mulching, trimming bushes, etc. If you would like to participate, please contact Carmelo Ortiz (2021cortiz@gmail.com) to sign up or for additional information.

**VBS Registration is Open** - Registration is now open for this summer's Vacation Bible School! Open to kids ages 4 - 5<sup>th</sup> grade, this fantastic week will be filled with fun games and science experiments, playing with Bible stories, great music and friends! VBS will take place **Monday, July 20 - Friday, July 24 from 9am - noon everyday**. Sign up on [www.firstpreswc.com/events](http://www.firstpreswc.com/events) and talk to Director of Faith Formation Sara Pantazes with any questions.

**VBS Volunteers** - Planning is underway for this summer's Vacation Bible School and we are looking for teen and adult volunteers willing to help! We are looking for station leaders (art and science) as well as group leaders to accompany each group of kids. VBS will take place Monday, July 20 - Friday, July 24 from 9am - noon. If you are only available a couple days that week, we would still welcome your help! Talk to Sara Pantazes to sign up and get more information.

First Presbyterian Church of West Chester

April 12, 2026



### **Order of Worship for the Second Sunday of Easter**

*\*Please rise in body or spirit*

Prelude                      The Day of Resurrection  
arr. Brenda Austin

Call to Worship\*  
All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
**Who in his great mercy has brought us to life again.**

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is reason to rejoice.  
**Let us come into his presence with joyful hearts and songs of thanksgiving!**

Hymn 246\*                      Christ Is Alive!

Welcome

Prayer of Confession  
**Risen Christ, you give us new life through your resurrection and conquering death.  
With this good news, we rejoice.  
Forgive us, Holy God,  
for how quickly we forget this good news.  
We seek power and human authority rather than your power and your authority.  
We fail to seek justice for fear of what others might think;  
we fail to embody mercy  
though you give us endless mercy;  
we fail to walk with you (cont'd)**

**for fear that we might stumble.  
Yet, amid our fear, our callousness,  
and our stumbling, you offer us grace.  
Forgive us and send your Spirit  
to transform our hearts and lives to be more like you.  
Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Christ has been raised, death has been conquered,  
new life is here.

**Hallelujah, thanks be to God! Amen.**

Response\*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures high and low.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise God, in Jesus fully known;  
Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia!**

Passing the Peace\*

Children's Message

*During the singing of the following response, children may join  
their teachers for Sunday School. Families can pick up their  
children after the service in their classrooms on the 2nd floor.*

Response      God of Great and God of Small      Hymn 19

First Scripture Reading      Psalm 16      OT p. 494

Anthem      I Know That My Redeemer Lives  
Dan Forrest

Ordination and Installation of Elders and Deacons

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      Easter Joy      John Behnke

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 244\*      This Joyful Eastertide

Second Scripture Reading      1 Peter 1:3-9      NT p. 232

Sermon      *Living a New Hope*  
Andrew Esqueda

Hymn 233\*      The Day of Resurrection!

Blessing\*

Postlude      Toccata      Theodore Dubois

*Assisting in worship today:*

Linda Lorgus, Guest pianist  
The Chancel Ringers  
The Chancel Choir

*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.*

**Worship Night Tonight** - The Contemporary Worship Band is excited to host a Spring Worship Night here at First Pres. We hope that you will join us tonight for refreshments and fellowship at 5:30pm and worship at 6:00pm. This will not be a service, but an opportunity to worship and enjoy some new company while singing and playing to the honor and Glory of God. We are thrilled to open our doors not only to our church, but to the community surrounding it. Please invite friends and family to tag along with you and keep the band in prayer as we set up for what will hopefully be a very powerful night.



*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, Office Administrator  
Peter Galloway, Director of Operations  
Sara Ford, Facilities Manager  
Laura Moreschi, Children's Music Director  
Ann Ellis, Choir Accompanist  
Kiana Rivera, Lead Singer, Contemporary Band  
Jennifer Rosenberg, Preschool Director  
Greg Ondo, AV Tech

All emails can be found at [www.firstpreswc.com/our-team](http://www.firstpreswc.com/our-team)