

Connect and Serve

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

Birthday Blessings - We are happy to share in celebration with one of our First Pres members, Pat Foxx, who will be turning 101 this Thursday, August 20. Pat attends the 9am service each week; she and her late husband, Bill, joined First Pres in 1963!

Single Worship Service - Sunday, September 6 - There will be a single worship service at 10:00am on Sunday, September 6. There will not be any children's programs, but the Nursery will be open. In addition, the church office will be **closed** on Monday, September 7 in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

Summer Office Hours & Return to Regular Hours - The church office is currently following our summer office hours and is open 9am-4pm on Monday-Thursday and **closed** on Fridays. We will return to regular office hours after the Labor Day weekend.

Join the Sunday School Teaching Team - Would you like to know more First Pres families? Do you enjoy being with kids? Do you want to learn or relearn some Bible stories? Are you looking for a small but important way to be part of the church? Then teaching Sunday School might be for you! We are looking for new Sunday School teachers this year who are willing to help lead elementary aged kids once or twice a month during the 9:00 worship service. Most of the preparation work is done for teachers in advance, allowing them to focus their time on being with the kids and learning about God together. If you are interested or want more information, contact our Director of Faith Formation, Sara Pantazes, by calling the church office or at spantazes@firstpreswc.com.

Coffee Ministry - Volunteers Needed!

We are looking for additional help with serving coffee on Sunday mornings. You would be paired up with someone who has done it before and we will provide the training! We are especially in need of servers on August 23. Please sign up online or see Elizabeth Hess or Caroline Cupp.

Clothing Closet Donations Needed - We would be so grateful if, when you are purging your children's closets before the school year begins, you would donate unwanted clothing items to our mission. We would appreciate sizes 4 through 16, boys and girls; cooler weather clothing is needed (no shoes or boots). A bin is provided in Fellowship Hall. Many thanks from the Clothing Closet Committee.

Church Grounds Clean Up Day - With the start of fall activities and programs right around the corner, we want the grounds of the church and our rental properties looking their best. We are asking for volunteers to help out on Saturday, August 22 (rain date Saturday, August 29), starting at 8:30am, to do weeding, clearing out beds, trimming bushes, etc. If you would like to participate, please contact Carmelo Ortiz (2021cortiz@gmail.com) to sign up or to get additional information.

Blood Donations Needed - For only the second time in history, the American Red Cross has declared a blood supply crisis. First Pres will be hosting a Blood Drive on Tuesday, August 25 from Noon to 5:00pm in Fellowship Hall. Please prayerfully consider whether you can help out in this emergency. As an incentive, everyone who donates will receive a \$20 Amazon gift card from the Red Cross via e-mail. See this week's E-News for more information and a link to register.

Backpack Tags & Root Beer Floats - Join us Sunday, August 30 for a special morning! During both worship services we will share a back-to-school blessing with all our students, teachers, and school employees. Make sure to stay after 9 or come early to 10:45 because during coffee hour, we'll be serving root beer floats alongside our usual coffee and juice! A fun, old-fashioned treat to send off summer and start off the new school year with joy.

Church Picnic - Fall Kickoff is just around the corner on September 13. Come at noon for our annual picnic (in the "backyard" along the alley). We'll have fried chicken, a bounce house, golf putting and face painting! Sign up to bring a side dish on the website. Bring a friend!

First Pres Travelers - First Pres Travelers are planning a guided tour of the Chester County History Center on October 28 at 5:30pm as well as a trip to see "Joshua" at Sight & Sound Theater in Ronks, PA (Lancaster County) on Thursday, November 12 at 11am. If interested in any of these events, please see this week's e-news for more information.

First Presbyterian Church of West Chester

August 16, 2026



Order of Worship for the Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

**Please rise in body or spirit*

Prelude Canto Popolare Edward Elgar

Call to Worship*

Praise the Lord, O my soul:

And all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits:

Who forgives all your iniquities,
Who heals all your diseases,

Who redeems your life from destruction,
Who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies. To the Lord, let us offer our praises.

Hymn 320* The Church of Christ In Every Age

Welcome

Prayer of Confession

Lord of steadfast love and mercy, through your word, you have set promises before your people. Promises for good and not for evil, promises for care and not for harm, promises fulfilled through life and death, promises realized through sorrow and joy. You have washed us clean and guided us in Righteousness. (cont'd)

Eternal is your word and life-altering your love.
Still, we have strayed all too often and trusted too little. Our words have been cold, and our hearts closed off. Yet you still redeem us and offer us your steadfast love. Guide us in your desire for justice and forgiveness, and teach us to give of ourselves as you have given to us. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness
Our God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, full of unfailing love. Today, receive God’s forgiveness.
Thanks be to God!

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*

Sacrament of Baptism
Aran Dunn
Child of Christopher & Garima Dunn
Born: Aug 4, 2015

First Scripture Reading Psalm 103:1-8 OT p. 554

Special Music Fantasy for Clarinet and Piano
Robert Schumann

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 For the Beauty of the Earth
Arr. Mark Weston

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 310* I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

Second Scripture Reading Genesis 45:1-15 OT p. 42

Sermon A Deep Forgiveness
Rev. Andrew Esqueda

Hymn 445* God, How Can We Forgive

Benediction*

Postlude Presto from Fughetta John Stainer

Assisting in worship today:
Pete Prochnau, Clarinet
Jennifer Carle, Cantor

*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 is also a screen in the lounge that streams 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