

# First Presbyterian Church

November 17, 2024

11:00 am



## *Missional Priorities*

Spirit-Centered Discipleship  
Hands-on Local Mission

Friendships Across Differences  
Embracing the Unchurched

## Worship of the Living God

### Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Teresa de Freitas

*The Church's One Foundation*  
arr. Chris Rice

Welcome

Dr. Randy Kirby

\* Call to Worship

Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

*Philippians 4:4-6*

Rejoice in the Lord always.

**Again I will say, rejoice!**

Let everyone come to know your gentleness.

**The Lord is at hand.**

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything,

by prayer and supplication with gratitude,  
make your requests known to God.

**And the peace of God,**

**which surpasses all understanding,**

**will protect your hearts and minds**

**through Christ Jesus.**

Let us worship God.

\* Hymn 643

*Now Thank We All Our God*

\* Confession of Sin

**Eternal God, too often we settle for the way things are.**

**We become complacent when life is good for us.**

**We embrace what is comfortable and disengage from the work of necessary change.**

**We do not look for you at work in our lives or the lives of others. We fail to hope for a new day and a new world.**

**Forgive us. Have mercy upon us. Fill us with the passion to live and work towards a world made just and new for all.**

\* Assurance of Forgiveness

\* Response 581

*Glory be to the Father*

***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.***

### **Proclamation of the Word**

Children's Message

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 2:24-26

Scripture: Colossians 3:12-17

Sermon

Dr. Randy Kirby

Moment for Reflection

*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*  
arr. Carol Tornquist

### **Responding to the Word**

\* Affirmation of Faith

Rev. Josh Musser Gritter  
*The United Church of Canada*

**We are not alone, we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God: who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,**

**to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:**

**to celebrate God's presence,**

**to live with respect in Creation,**

**to love and serve others, to seek justice**

**and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus,**

**crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.  
We are not alone. Thanks be to God..**

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Announcements & Celebrations

Offering

Offertory

Bell Tower Ringers

*Meditations on Of the Father's Love Begotten*  
arr. Brenda E. Austin

\* Doxology 606

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.***

\* Prayer of Dedication

**Sending to share the Word**

\* Hymn 367

*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

\* Benediction

\* Benediction Response

Postlude

*Gelobt sei Gott*  
Charles Callahan

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\*Those who are able are invited to stand.  
**Bold** indicates words spoken in unison.

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**The flowers today are given to the glory of God  
and in memory of their dear mothers,  
Jennie Norman and Ruth Thabet,  
by Jim and Barbara Norman.**

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

Bob Bruce, CC Crofton, Ray Bowden (Eva Nelson's step-father), Jeff Matthews (Karl & Lynn Hales' friend), Wib Manuel, Ed Lewis and family

## CONTINUING CONCERNS

Fred Aggers, Bill Baker, Daniel and Amy De Graaf (Dan and Karen De Graaf's son and daughter-in-law), Alice Edwards (Tracy Smith's mother), Richard Franklin, Atticus Hampton (Kathy Sanborn's friend), Scott Hay, Richard Hudson, Tricia Johnson, Vonnie Jordan (Mike Jordan's mother), John Laughlin, John McLaughlin, Andy Rowland (Jared Rowland's father), John Smith, Ryan Snyder, Ebbie Whisenant, Jay & Sharon Whittington, Jean Wurster

## CELEBRATIONS

**Birthdays:** Stewbo Adams, Mike Morris, Liza Fisher, Fred Aggers, Marjie Aggers, Randy Chandler, Merritt Menees, Maggie Behrooz, Dennis McCoy, Ozzie Reynolds, Ashley Honbarrier, Linda Thurston, Meredith Poor, Blaine Shellhorn

**Anniversaries:** John and Melissa Harrington, Harold and Susan Mesimer, Mark and Teresa Ruffy, David and Carole Simmons

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## Church Life

### MINISTRY FOCUS – DEEPLY ROOTED

**Welcome!** We welcome all new and returning visitors to First Pres. We are glad you're here and hope you feel God's presence as you worship and fellowship among this community of believers. Children are always welcome in worship. However, if your little one needs some time to wiggle or play, a nursery is available for infants-4 Pre-K. Please see an usher for more information.

**Grow in Friendship: JOY Thanksgiving with Day School.** Join us on Thursday, November 21, at 10:00 in Lewis Hall for a Thanksgiving celebration with snacks and crafts with the Day School children. RSVP to the church office by Nov. 18.

**Care: Blessing Bunch Annual Christmas Gathering** will be held on Friday, November 22, at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall. We will be writing Christmas cards for our military and others.

**Hanging of the Greens:** Please join us on Saturday, November 30, 9:00-11:00. Meet in the Lewis Hall narthex for itinerary. Help bring the beauty of Christmas to the campus! Adults, middle and high schoolers are welcomed!

**Gather: Advent Gatherings** are held each Sunday of Advent, 9:15-10:00 in Fellowship Hall join us for food and fellowship!

**Grow in Faith: Countdown to Christmas** will be held on Sunday, December 1, 9:45 in Fellowship Hall with Advent Wreaths, applesauce ornaments, cinnamon crosses, and children's crafts. If you have your previous wreath forms, please bring them.

**Grow in Friendship: JOY Christmas Party** will be at the Gable's clubhouse (210 Riverbirch Dr) on Sunday, December 8 at 4:00. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Limited to 50, so please RSVP to the church office by Dec. 1.

**Grow in Faith: First Kids Christmas Pageant!** The congregation is invited to see The Christmas Story Pageant on Wednesday, December 18 at 6:30 in Lewis Hall.

**Worship: The Longest Night Worship Service** will be held on Saturday, December 21, at 5:00 pm, in Lewis Hall. A service of reflection, healing, and hope.

### **CORE**

**Staff: Don't assume we know!** Your pastors and congregation want to care for you through prayer, visitation, letters, and more, but we can't do that unless you tell us something is going on. Let us love you.

**Giving:** As of November 13, we have received 159 pledges for a total of \$819,870.00.

### **BRANCHING OUT**

**Embracing the Unchurched: MomCo is now at First Pres!** Formerly MOPS, First Pres is now offering a time for moms to meet together for brunch, fellowship, speakers, activities, or crafts while their children are enjoying playtime with sitters just down the hallway. MomCo meets twice a month on Mondays, 9:30-11:30, and is open to all moms. For more information, contact Alex Paul at [abhudson91@yahoo.com](mailto:abhudson91@yahoo.com).

**Reach & Grow in Faith: Day School & First Kids** want to Make a Difference for Hunger by collecting food. Now through November 25, please bring in canned goods to help. Our goal is 1,000 cans!

**TWAM: Soup Supper & Worship** will be held on Sunday, November 24, at 5:00 in Lewis Hall. Join us for a homemade soup supper and stay for an informal worship of Thanksgiving. All donations for the evening go to support the TWAM Mexico Mission Trip 2025.

**Share:** We need church members to join us at 1:00 pm for a fun time in the Salisbury Christmas parade on Wednesday, November 27. Blaine Smith will lead the carols. We will need some young people (6 to 8) to walk beside the F&M Trolley to hand out goodies and two people to carry our banner. Please contact David Carmichael (704-640-4417).

## THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Nov 17	8:30	Contemporary Worship: Lewis Hall
	9:45	Sunday School for all ages, Youth Breakfast & Bible
	11:00	Traditional Worship: Sanctuary
	5:00	Youth
Nov 18		Newsletter deadline
	9:30	MomCo
	5:00	Fund Team
	7:00	Session
Nov 19	10:00	Staff
	7:00	EHD Group
Nov 20	9:00	Yoga
	5:00	Handbells
	5:30	First Kids
	7:00	Choir Rehearsal
Nov 21	10:00	JOY & Day School
	6:30	Life Center Worship Rehearsal, Church serving @ RHM
Nov 24	8:30	Contemporary Worship: Lewis Hall
	9:45	Sunday School for all ages
	11:00	Traditional Worship: Sanctuary
	5:00	Soup Supper & Worship: Lewis Hall

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