

Worship of the Living God

Gathering around the Word

Prelude  
*Land of Rest*  
Wilbur Held  
Teresa de Freitas

Welcome  
Dr. Randy Kirby

\* Call to Worship  
God calls us to service,  
**rather than honor.**  
God calls us to love the unknown,  
**rather than the familiar.**  
We come to this time of worship,  
**trusting in the grace of Jesus Christ,**  
who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.  
**Let us worship God together!**

\* Hymn 645  
*Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

\* Confession of Sin  
**Lord, all that we have is a gift from you,**  
**yet we do not live lives of gratitude.**  
**We ignore strangers**  
**and turn away from those in need.**  
**We seek honor for ourselves**  
**and allow pride to take root in us.**  
**Forgive our foolish ways, O God,**  
**and restore us to you,**  
**that we may walk in the way of love. Amen.**

\* 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  
Megan Shaw

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: Jeremiah 2:4-13

Scripture: Luke 14 :1, 7-14

Sermon  
Tony De La Rosa

Moment for Reflection  
*Take My Life and Let it Be*  
Arr. Carol Tornquist

Responding to the Word

\* Affirmation of Faith  
**I believe in God the Father Almighty,**  
**maker of heaven and earth,**  
**and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;**  
**who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,**  
**born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius**  
**Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended**  
**into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;**  
**he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right**  
**hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he**  
**shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**  
**I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church;**  
**the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;**  
**the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.**  
**Amen.**

Prayers of the People & the Lord’s Prayer

Announcements & Celebrations

Offering

Offertory  
*The Majesty and Glory of Your Name*  
Tom Fetke

\* 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 282  
*Come Down, O Love Divine*

\* Benediction

\* Benediction Response  
*Go with Us, Lord*  
***Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and***  
***every coming day, that in Your Spirit strong and true,***  
***our lives may be our gift to You.***

Postlude  
*Toccata in E Minor*  
Johann Pachelbel

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

**The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God,**  
**and in loving memory of Trevor Williams**  
**by Gail Hounshell.**

**We welcome Tony De La Rosa this morning.** Tony is a Ruling Elder and a seasoned church executive in the Presbyterian Church (USA), and presently serves as the Executive Presbyter for Salem Presbytery in northwestern North Carolina.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Megan Shaw, Elayne McCoy, Rosalie Laughlin, Suzanne Krumroy (Judy Mabe’s friend), Corky Waugh, George Fisher

Josh Page on the death of his father, John Page.

CONTINUING CONCERNS

Fred Aggers, Preston Askew, Bill Baker, Barbara Corriher (Jan Corriher Smith’s mother), Linda Davis, Alice Edwards (Tracy Smith’s mother), Scott Hay, Vonnie Jordan (Mike Jordan’s mother), Wib Manuel, Ellen Muire, Tom Overcash, Reba Parsons, John Smith, Virginia Walser, Pat Weber

CELEBRATIONS

**Birthdays:** Margaret Harris, James Mead, Cory Menees, Libby Gish, George Fisher, Maggie Alexander, Birdie Summitt, Kathy Lawrence, McKenzie Stevens, Allison Swaim, Anne Saunders, Bill Shaw, Jody Blackwell, Delaine Fowler, Adair Doran, Lizzie Fisher

**Anniversaries:** Bill and Sybil Baker, Will and Alex Paul

CHURCH LIFE

**Pastors Josh and Lara** are on Sabbatical through September 8. To see updates during their time away, check Pastor Lara’s Facebook page.

DEEPLY ROOTED

**Grow in Faith: First Kids** is right around the corner and is looking for help with cooking and serving the meals. Groceries will be provided. They are also looking for shepherds. Contact Megan Shaw, our Children’s Ministry Director, if you are willing to help.

**Grow in Faith: It’s time to register for First Kids!** 3-year-olds through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome (3 and & 4-year-olds must be potty trained). We will begin on Wednesday, September 10, 5:30-7:00 pm, and meet weekly. Dinner provided. Cost and more information are available on the registration form.



**Grow in Friendship: Presbyterian Women’s Bible Study** will kick off on Monday, September 8 at 11:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Our Prayer Shawl group will meet on Tuesday, September 9 at 10:30.

**Welcome Back Sunday!** We will welcome back Revs. Josh and Lara Musser Gritter on Sunday, September 14. We will celebrate everyone’s return. Sunday School leaders and members, worship leaders, choirs, musicians, and you to the pews! Also, stop by Fellowship Hall, 9:30-10:30, for light continental refreshments before heading to class.

CORE

**Staff: Don’t assume we know!** Your staff wants to care for you. Births, weddings, deaths, illnesses, hospitalizations, etc.

BRANCHING OUT

**Showing Up: Rowan Helping Ministries Food Pantry Sunday** is next Sunday, September 7. Please bring in donations of peanut butter, cereals, and canned goods to help restock their shelves.

**MomCo: Join us on Saturday, September 13, 10:00-12:00 in the courtyard** for the MomCo kick-off event. Bring the whole family and enjoy a bounce house, crafts, activities, refreshments, and more! Email [firstpresmomco@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresmomco@gmail.com) for more information.

**Race & Justice:** The book discussion groups of our R&J Team resume this fall with selections that broaden our scope. The Sunday evening group will read *Overlooked: A Celebration of Remarkable, Underappreciated People Who Broke the Rules and Changed the World*. Discussions will be on Zoom at 7:00 pm beginning September 7. Participants purchase their own books. Please contact Beffie Cook at [egravescook@yahoo.com](mailto:egravescook@yahoo.com) or Esther Atkins Smith at [estheratkins@gmail.com](mailto:estheratkins@gmail.com) if you plan to attend. The Wednesday group will begin on September 10 at 7:00 pm, discussing the book *Everyone Who Is Gone Is Here: The United States, Central America, and the Making of a Crisis*. Again, discussions will be on Zoom, and participants will purchase their own books. Please notify Barrie Kirby at [barrie.m.kirby@gmail.com](mailto:barrie.m.kirby@gmail.com) or Monica Green at [monica.green1948@gmail.com](mailto:monica.green1948@gmail.com) if you wish to participate.

THIS WEEK

Aug 31	8:30	Worship – Lewis Hall
	9:45	Sunday School
	11:00	Worship – Sanctuary
Sept 1	10:00	Church Office Closed
Sept 2	10:00	Staff
	5:30	Showing Up Team
Sept 3	9:00	Yoga
	5:15	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00	Choir Rehearsal
Sept 4	6:30	LCW Rehearsal
Sept 7	8:30	Worship – Lewis Hall
	9:45	Sunday School, Child Protection Training
	11:00	Worship – Sanctuary

First Presbyterian Church

August 31, 2025  
11:00 am



Mission Priorities

Spirit-Centered Discipleship  
Hands-on Local Mission  
Friendships Across Differences  
Embracing the Unchurched



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