

Worship of the Living God

Gathering around the Word

Prelude Teresa de Freitas  
Wedlock  
Wilbur Held

Welcome & Greeting Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

\* Call to Worship Rev. Josh Musser Gritter  
Come from north and south,  
The Lord is our shepherd.  
Come from the mountains and the seas,  
The Lord is our shepherd.  
Gather in you who are lost and lonely,  
The Lord is our shepherd.  
Gather in you who are last and least.  
The Lord is our shepherd.  
Even though I walk through  
the darkest valley, I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me.  
Let us worship the Good Shepherd today!

\* Hymn 620 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

\* Confession of Sin  
Good Shepherd, we wander off like lost sheep and  
stray from the path of righteousness. We neglect  
your call and seek wisdom everywhere but from you.  
We are consumed by our wanting and anxious about  
all that lies in shadow. We trust neither your  
goodness nor your mercy.  
We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent.  
Call us by your goodness and mercy once more.  
Help us to follow you all the days of our lives.

\* 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 Stephen Bullock

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: Psalm 22 p. 473

Responsive Reading Hymn 473 - Shepherd Me, O God

Sermon Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

Moment for Reflection  
Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us  
arr. Carol Tornquist

Responding to the Word

\* Affirmation of Faith Psalm 23  
The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
he leads me beside quiet waters,  
he refreshes my soul. He guides me  
along the right paths for his name’s sake.  
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me in the presence  
of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
Surely your goodness and love will follow me  
all the days of my life, and I will dwell  
in the house of the Lord forever.

Prayers of the People & the Lord’s Prayer

Announcements & Celebrations

Minute for Ministries Lucy Heilig

Offering

Offertory Jessica Holman Settineri and Tyler Brown  
He Restores My Soul (Psalm 23)  
Kris Crunk

\* 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 840 It Is Well with My Soul

\* Benediction

Postlude  
Foundation  
Wilbur Held

\*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 honor of Pastor Lara’s birthday on October 13,  
by the Julie Steele fund.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Gabe Steinman, Barbara Corriher (Jan Corriher Smith’s mother),  
George Fisher, Jessica Holman Settineri, Mike Boyer (Carol Worthy’s  
cousin), Mary and Jerry Harviel’s daughter (friends of Martha Bostian)

Mackenzie Stevens and Alexander Hagar, who were married here on  
October 4. Mackenzie is the daughter of Jay and Kimberly Stevens.

Jeff and Lyn Beaver on the birth of their grandson, Charles Lewis  
Mosack, on September 27. Charlie’s parents are Mackenzie and  
Braxton Mosack, and his great-grandfather is David Jordan.

Mary Ellen Kennedy and family on the death of her father, Tom  
Overcash.

CONTINUING CONCERNS

Deborah Alexander, Preston Askew, Bill Baker, Alice Edwards (Tracy  
Smith’s mother), Suzanne Glasgow (Doug Glasgow’s sister-in-law),  
Scott Hay, Suzanne Krumroy (Judy Mabe’s friend), Vonnice Jordan  
(Mike Jordan’s mother), Sam Kleto (Doug Glasgow’s friend), Rosalie  
Laughlin, Wib Manuel, Elayne McCoy, Susan Mesimer, Ellen Muire,  
Reba Parsons, Frank Saunders, John Smith, Virginia Walser

CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays: Lara Musser Gritter, Emerson Lee, Larry Gish, Elle  
Blankenship, Antonio Cervantes Anguiano, Jake Alexander, Mia  
Brown, Carter Jenkins, Megan Adams

Anniversaries: Richard and Barbara Franklin, David and Karen  
Carmichael, John and Susan Muth

## CHURCH LIFE

### DEEPLY ROOTED

**Grow in Faith: It's not too late to join First Kids!** 3-year-olds through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome (3 and 4-year-olds must be potty trained). We meet on Wednesdays, from 5:30-7:00 pm. Dinner provided. Cost and more information are available on the registration form.



**Grow in Friendship & RJM:** JOY and the Race and Justice Ministry Team are headed to Davidson College on Monday, October 20, from 11-12, for a historic tour of the campus with students of the Davidson Forum. Rev. Daniel Heath, one of our LCW musicians, is the Director of Davidson Forum. We hope to leave with the van at 9:30 and eat lunch together after the tour. Please RSVP to the church office. Cost: Lunch.

**Music: First Pres Concert Series** continues. Join us on Sunday, October 19, at 3:00 in Lewis Hall for an Appalachian Adventure in music featuring Matthew Weaver, Clay Lunsford, and Tennille Kilby. Childcare is available, and refreshments will be served following the concert. Bring the entire family!

**Worship: 2 Cents a Meal Offering** will be collected next Sunday, October 19. Please remember to bring in your donations to support this vital ministry.

### CORE

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

**Nominations: It is time to nominate members** for the Session and the Nominating Team. If you want to nominate anyone, contact Lynn Miller or Christine in the church office.

**Staff: Please be aware that your pastors and staff** will never text or email you to solicit money or gift cards. Please, do not respond to these phishing emails and texts.

**Staff:** Our buildings are getting busy. Before scheduling meetings and events, please check with Christine in the church office to book your dates and rooms. We want to avoid unexpected double-bookings.

**Maxwell Chambers Trust:** The MCT will meet on Monday, October 20, at 6:00, in EMBC. We need all past and current Elders to attend.

## BRANCHING OUT

**Race & Justice:** The 1<sup>st</sup> Men's EYES Table Series will be held each Monday in October (6, 13, 20 & 27), 6:30-8:00pm, in Fellowship Hall, led by Frank Strong. The goal is to navigate conversations on race. Use the QR Code to register.



**Youth:** 6th-12th-grade students are invited to join us from 5:00-6:30pm here at First Pres on Sundays. Bring your friends! Parents, please complete the Youth Information Form.



**Youth:** Youth @ the Porch continues on Wednesdays, through November 5, 7:30-8:30pm, on the Musser Gritter's front porch. Open to grades 6-12. Enjoy pizza, Bible study, and fellowship. Bring your friends! Parents, please complete the Youth Information Form.

**Youth: Our MS Lock-in** is scheduled for Friday, October 24, 5:00-11:00pm. Food, fun, and fellowship. Cost: \$35. Invite your friends! Deadline: Oct. 15!



**Showing Up: 4th Quarter Blood Drive** – Get your appointment now for our blood drive on Tuesday, October 14, 2:00-6:30pm, in Fellowship Hall. Donors will be rewarded with a \$10 Amazon Gift card via email.

**Showing Up: Reading Tutors Are Needed** for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>-graders at Overton Elementary. There are both half-hour and one-hour time slots available. Please contact Jasmine Brooks at 704-639-3000 ext. 315035 or brooksjn@rss.k12.nc.us to sign up.



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# First Presbyterian Church

October 12, 2025  
11:00 am



Dachau Concentration Camp

## Psalm 23

**Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil, for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff – they comfort me.**