



**Psalm 23 - 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.**

**Gathering around the Word**

Prelude	
Welcome & Greeting	Rev. Lara Musser Gritter
* Call to Worship	Rev. Josh Musser Gritter
* Song Open	<i>How Sweet The Sound</i> Ben Calhoun   Josh Calhoun
* Confession of Sin	
Assurance of Forgiveness	
* Response	<i>Glory Be</i> Chris Tomlin   Ed Cash

**Proclamation of the Word**

Children’s Message	Stephen Bullock
Prayer of Illumination	
Scripture: Psalm 22	
Responsive Reading	
Sermon	Rev. Lara Musser Gritter
Moment for Reflection	

**Responding to the Word**

* Affirmation of Faith	
Prayers of the People & the Lord’s Prayer	
Announcements & Celebrations	
Minute for Ministries	Lucy Heilig
Offering	
Offertory	Jessica Holman Settineri, Rylan Lowe <i>Nothing To Fear</i> Audrey Assad   Isaac Wardell
Doxology	<i>Doxology (Amen)</i> Louis Bourgeois   Phil Wickham
Prayer of Dedication	

**Sending to share the Word**

* Song	<i>Great is Thy Faithfulness (Beginning to End)</i> Jason Ingram   Michael Weaver
* Benediction	
Postlude	
*Those who are able are invited to stand.	

**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), Vonnie 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

**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.**

**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 children 4 and younger. Please see an usher for more information.

**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.



## MINISTRY FOCUS

### 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 note...your staff will NOT text or email you to ask for money or gift cards. IF these items are needed, you would receive an email from Christine that is easily verified by a call to the church office. Never 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.

Cover photo: Dachau Concentration Camp



MS Lock-in



Youth Information Form



Men's EYES Table Registration



First Kids Registration

### LICENSES

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# First Presbyterian Church

Where God's Love is Alive for Mission

October 12, 2025

8:30 am

Welcome! Thank you for joining us today.



**MISSION PRIORITIES**  
Spirit-Centered Discipleship   Hands-On Local Mission  
Friendships Across Differences   Embracing the Unchurched

