



WWJD

Sermon on the Mount Series

Worship of the Living God

Gathering around the Word

|                          |                                                                  |                           |                                                                                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Prelude                  |                                                                  | Offering                  |                                                                                        |
| Welcome & Greeting       | Rev. Josh Musser Gritter                                         | Offertory                 | Emma Blackwell & Caroline Forrester<br><i>Common Ground</i><br>Matt Maher   Dee Wilson |
| Call to Worship          | Rev. Lara Musser Gritter                                         |                           |                                                                                        |
| Song                     | <i>No One Like Our God</i><br>Corbin Phillips   Lincoln Brewster | †Doxology                 | <i>Doxology (God Be Praised)</i><br>Louis Bourgeois   Thomas Ken                       |
| Confession of Sin        |                                                                  | †Prayer of Dedication     |                                                                                        |
| Assurance of Forgiveness |                                                                  | Sending to share the Word |                                                                                        |
| Response                 | <i>Glory Be to the Father</i><br>John Stafford                   | †Song                     | <i>Make Us One</i><br>Aaron Keyes   Bryan Brown                                        |

Proclamation of the Word

|                               |  |                          |  |                                                                                                                                                                                |  |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Children's Message            |  | Gwynne Shoaf             |  | Benediction                                                                                                                                                                    |  |
| Prayer of Illumination        |  |                          |  | Postlude                                                                                                                                                                       |  |
| Scripture: Matthew 5:17-20    |  | Judy Mabe                |  | †Those who are able are invited to stand.                                                                                                                                      |  |
| Scripture: Matthew 5:21-26    |  |                          |  |                                                                                           |  |
| Sermon                        |  | Rev. Josh Musser Gritter |  |                                                                                                                                                                                |  |
| Moment for Reflection         |  |                          |  | <b>The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God, by Sara Cook, in memory of Bob and Allen Cook, and in honor of her children, grandchildren, and their families.</b> |  |
| <b>Responding to the Word</b> |  |                          |  |                                                                                                                                                                                |  |
| Affirmation of Faith          |  | Rev. Hannah Ostlund      |  |                                                                                                                                                                                |  |

JOYS AND CONCERNS

John Smith, Acey Worthy, Betty Carli

Chanaka and Gayle Yatawara on the marriage of their daughter, Grace, to Chris Losack, on August 22.

CONTINUING CONCERNS

Preston and Glenda Askew, Bill Baker, Mary Cameron, Ron Church, Alice Edwards (Tracy Smith's mother), Richard Franklin, Scott Hay, Rosalie Laughlin, Wib Manuel, Martha Michael, Betty Mohs, Frank Saunders, Jesse Tart, Jeanette Whitley

BIRTHDAYS

CC Crofton, Stuart Menees, Russ Adams, Margaret Harris, Libby Gish, James Mead, Cory Menees, George Fisher, Maggie Alexander, Birdie Summitt, Kathy Lawrence, Allison Swaim, Bill Shaw, Anne Saunders, Jody Blackwell

ANNIVERSARY

Chris and Stacie LaRoche, Bill and Sybil Baker, Will and Alex Paul

Ministry Focus

WE ARE SO GLAD YOU ARE HERE!

**FRIENDSHIP PADS** in your rows are for recording attendance and for visitors to share their information so that we can share about God's work here. **CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES** are in the back of the room on the Welcome Table. **CHILDCARE** (ages 4 and under) is available in the Nursery in our Family Life Center (see an usher for directions). **ASSISTED HEARING DEVICES** are available from an usher.

CHURCH LIFE

**WE ARE DEEPLY ROOTED**  
**WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY:** Adultery, Divorce, and Sexuality - Next week in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus will teach on the above topics. To faithfully explore this teaching, we will be excusing children under 10 and any others, as parents wish, from worship to join Megan Shaw for a short Children's Church during the sermon. Children will rejoin their parents in worship during the Apostles' Creed.

**GROW:** Time to Pray for our Kiddos and Youth! We would love for every family to take a backpack or handprint magnet or two and pray for the child on it! We want our students to feel the thought and love of the congregation through prayer. They are located in the hallway beside Lewis Hall, across from the Welcome Center and just before the Kirby Library.

**GROW:** First Kids has begun, but it's not too late to join us! Ages: potty-trained 3-4-year-olds through 5th-grade kids. Bible lessons, crafts, science, music, and more. Join us!



## Ministry Focus

**GROW:** First Parents is NEW! On the 1st Wednesday of each month, beginning in September, parents can join Pastor Lara at Crafty Buffalo for fellowship and food. Drop off your First Kids, then enjoy some time spent with other parents, 5:45-6:45. See you on September 2!

**GROW:** Emotionally Healthy Spirituality Course - Wednesdays 5:30-7:00 PM, September 9 - Oct 28. What does it actually look like to live a Christian life in our world? Is discipleship more than just being nice and volunteering some hours at church? As we'll explore in our WWJD sermon series this fall, the answer is an unequivocal YES! Jesus calls us to follow him in every aspect of our lives: work, home, finances, friendships, commitments, and more. The Emotionally Healthy Spirituality course taught by respected pastor Pete Scazzero and facilitated here by Kia Creamer will help you do just that: Give God your whole heart and life. Registration is required, and space is limited. If you're interested, email Pastor Lara at [pastorlara@firstpressalisbury.org](mailto:pastorlara@firstpressalisbury.org) by September 1.

**GROW:** First Kids needs shepherds. It takes a village of volunteers to put on programming. Please consider helping by being a shepherd. Sign up now!



**GROW:** If you are a mom, please join us for Mom's Village. This will be a time of dinner, fellowship, sharing, and caring. New date & time! Beginning in September, Mom's Village will meet during First Kids on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month, 5:30-7:00.

**GROW:** Mom's Village kick-off event! Join us TODAY, 2:00-4:00 PM, in the courtyard for some family fun and a chance to learn about the new direction of Mom's Village. The Mom's Village Fun Fest will be filled with games, crafts, food, and light refreshments for the whole family! We hope to see you there!

**YOUNG ADULTS:** Are you 18-40ish? Join Pastor Hannah for lunch at 12:15 on September 6, in the parking lot after late worship, or meet us at Monterrey.

**GROW:** Our Men's Bible Study with Pastor Josh continues each Tuesday at 6:30 AM in Room 201.

**YOUNG ADULTS:** Join us on September 10 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM in the Youth Room for Silent Book/Craft Club! Bring that book you never have time for or the craft that never seems to end. We'll carve out time for it all as we hang out together!

**GROW:** JOY (Just Older Youth 55+) is headed to dinner and a concert. Friday, September 11, 5:15 for dinner at Romano's, then on to St. Luke's Episcopal Church for the 7:00 PM performance of Moonglows. RSVP to the church office by September 4.

**GROW:** New Member Class - Have you been visiting with us for a while? Are you interested in learning more about Presbyterians and First Pres? Are you ready to join this family of faith? Then join us for lunch on Sunday, September 13, at 12:30 in Fellowship Hall.

**5-WEEK BOOK STUDY:** Are we more than machines? Is free will an illusion? Join Trevor Eppehimer on Wednesdays at 11:00, October 7 through November 4, for a book study on Am I just my brain? by Sharon Dirckx. Sign up by emailing: [teppehimer@hoodseminary.edu](mailto:teppehimer@hoodseminary.edu). Sponsored by the Messinger-Williams Community Education Initiative. Space is limited. Books are available on Amazon.

### WE HAVE A HEALTHY CORE

#### GIVING UPDATE:

2026 Budgeted Pledges through 08-31-26: \$768,311  
2026 Year-to-Date Received: \$675,325

**OFFERING COUNTER:** We need a volunteer to help count the Sunday offering on the second Monday of the month. Please contact Christina Lewis if you are interested.

### WE ARE BRANCHING OUT

**SERVE:** Each 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month, we collect pantry items to help restock the shelves at Rowan Helping Ministries. Your donations of peanut butter, canned goods, and cereals are always in need and greatly appreciated. Next donation day: Sunday, September 6.

**YOUTH:** Youth meet several times a week. Join us! Sunday School: Sundays @ 9:45, Group: Sundays @ 5:00 PM, and Bible Study on the Porch: Wednesdays @ 7:30 PM.

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# First Presbyterian Church

Where God's Love is Alive for Mission

August 30, 2026  
8:30 am



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

