



WWJD
Sermon on the Mount Series

Worship of the Living God

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Welcome & Greeting Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

†Call to Worship Rev. Hannah Ostlund

†Song *Open The Eyes Of My Heart*
Paul Baloché

Confession of Sin

Assurance of Forgiveness

†Response *Glory to God, whose Goodness Shines on Me*
Paul M. Vasile

Proclamation of the Word

Children’s Message Ronnie Church

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: Acts 2:29-39

Scripture: Matthew 5:33-37

Sermon Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

Moment for Reflection

Responding to the Word

†Affirmation of Faith Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer

Announcements

Offering

Offertory

Promises
Dante Bowe | Aaron Moses

†Doxology *Doxology (Amen)*
Louis Bourgeois | Phil Wickham

†Prayer of Dedication

Sending to share the Word

†Song *The Stand*
Joel Houston

†Benediction

Postlude

†Those who are able are invited to stand.



The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God by the Julie Steele Flower Fund and in heartfelt thanks to Megan Shaw for her love and dedication to children’s ministry.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Harold Mesimer, John Smith, Betty Carli

CONTINUING CONCERNS

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

BIRTHDAYS

Spencer Byrd, Kathy Sang, Patti Glassgow, Jim Carli, Mady Morris, Ellen Whittington, Melanie Sink Bailey, Jennifer Hudson, Acey Worthy, Karen De Graaf, Stephen Bullock, Knox Menees, Blaine Smith, Anne Maxey, Barbara Hudson

ANNIVERSARY

Jeff and Donna McEnteer, Stewart and Noel Adams, Brantley and Madison Horton, Doug and Kathy Lawrence, David and Kathy Pulliam, Alex and Katelyn Lee

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 ACTIVITY CLIPBOARDS** 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

This morning, we welcome Kimberly Broadhurst to our First Pres family. Welcome, Kimberly!

MUSIC: COME SING WITH US! Do you love to sing? We’re looking for people who would like to share their voices as part of the music ministry at LCW on Sundays! No special experience is required—just a heart for worship and a willingness to sing, worship, and help lead our congregation in praise. You don’t have to commit to singing every Sunday! You can sing once a month or simply join us for special occasions. We’d love to have you whenever you’re available and willing to share your voice. Interested? Talk to us after the service or reach out to Judy Mabe at 704-213-6263! Come sing with us and be part of the worship experience at LCW!

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



Ministry Focus

GROW: Devotional Drop-In for Young Parents! Are you a parent looking for community at First Pres? Have you ever dropped your child off at Sunday School and been unsure of where to go yourself? Come to the new “Devotional Drop-In” during the Sunday School hour, 9:45-10:45, in the Kirby Library! We will have refreshments, time to connect with other parents, and a chance to reflect on our faith together.

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. Next date: October 7!

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: Mom’s Village – A time of dinner, fellowship, sharing, and caring. Mom’s Village will meet during First Kids on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month, 5:30-7:00, in the Youth Classroom 223.

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

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. Sponsored by the Messinger-Williams Community Education Initiative. Space is limited. Books are available on Amazon.

WE HAVE A HEALTHY CORE

STAFF: Please be aware that your pastors and staff will never text or email you to solicit money, gift cards, or run errands. Other things to watch out for: emails not ending with @firstpressalisbury.org or emails/texts about ‘a private matter.’ Please do not respond to these phishing emails and texts.

GIVING UPDATE:
2026 Budgeted Pledges through 08-31-26: \$768,311
2026 YEAR-TO-DATE RECEIVED: \$700,481

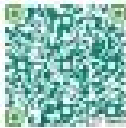
WE ARE BRANCHING OUT

RACE AND JUSTICE: 2 Opportunities this fall! Just Pursuit: A Black Prosecutor’s Fight for Fairness is written by Laura Coates, who is a CNN legal analyst and former federal prosecutor. She shares stories from her legal career, during which she learned that even with the best intentions, “the pursuit of justice creates injustice.” Leaders: Monica Green and Steve Coggin. Dates: Wednesdays, Sept. 16-Oct. 14. Sign up with Monica Green at monica.green1948@gmail.com or Steve Coggin at scoggin@catawba.edu
Worse Than a Lie is civil rights attorney Ben Crump’s first novel. It revolves around the shooting of a Black ex-police officer by four White men on the very night that Barack Obama wins the presidency. The man survives only to find himself being prosecuted, with the public swayed by the police narrative. Enter attorney Beau Lee Cooper, who some say bears a great resemblance to Crump himself. Leaders: Esther Atkins-Smith and Beffie Cook. Dates: Sunday, Sept. 13-Oct. 11. Sign-up contact: estheratkins@gmail.com or egravescook@yahoo.com. Our discussions will take place at 7 pm each night on Zoom. Sign up, and we’ll send you the reading schedule and Zoom link. Hope you can join us!

SERVE: Yoga! Certified Yoga Instructor Felicia Stewart Hoyle leads yoga each Wednesday morning, 9:00-10:15, in Lewis Hall for beginners through advanced levels and for all ages. Suggested donation: \$10.

SERVE: Monthly on the 1st Sunday, 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 Sunday: October 4.

SERVE: Our next quarterly Red Cross Blood Drive is set for Tuesday, October 13, 2:00-6:30, in Fellowship Hall. Sign up now for your appointment.



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First Presbyterian Church
Where God’s Love is Alive for Mission

September 13, 2026
8:30 am



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

