



WWJD

Sermon on the Mount Series

Worship of the Living God

Gathering around the Word

Prelude		Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer	
Welcome & Greeting		Announcements	
†Call to Worship	Rev. Lara Musser Gritter	Minute for Ministries	Del Denny, Serve
	Rev. Hannah Ostlund	Offering	
†Song		Offertory	Howard Torrence
	<i>Forever</i> Chris Tomlin		<i>Brother</i> David Gungor Ian Cron
Confession of Sin		†Doxology	<i>Doxology (Amen)</i> Louis Bourgeois Phil Wickham
Assurance of Forgiveness		†Prayer of Dedication	
†Response		Sending to share the Word	
<i>Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me</i> Paul M. Vasile		†Song	<i>By Our Love</i> Peter Scholtes For King and Country

Proclamation of the Word

Children’s Message	Maggie Behrooz	†Benediction	
Prayer of Illumination		Postlude	
Scripture: Romans 12:17-21	Mike Farris	†Those who are able are invited to stand.	

Scripture: Matthew 5:38-48

Sermon Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

Moment for Reflection

Responding to the Word

†Affirmation of Faith Rev. Josh Musser Gritter



JOYS AND CONCERNS

Harold Mesimer, John Smith, Elizabeth Calvert

Anne Marie Martin on the death of her father, William Martin.

CONTINUING CONCERNS

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

BIRTHDAYS

Doug Lassiter, Jim Norman, Mylo Brown, Eleanor Fernandez, Charlotte Hall, Brooks Busby, Jeff Shoaf, Keith Garner, Laura Bullock, Tim Steinman, Allison Dunkin, Nadine Potts, Luke Fisher, Owen Morris, Kaius Muñoz, Meredith Honeycutt

ANNIVERSARY

Scott and Carol Hay, Vijay and Martha Michael, Joe and Susan Sember, Bob and Caren Steele, Ryan and Bekah Summitt

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
CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2027: Will Almeida, Brady Fowler, Brantley Gurley, Olivia Hammill, Stuart Menees, Owen Morris, Dempsey Rowland, Teague Rowland, Emma Snyder

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 (704-213-6263)! Come sing with us and be part of the worship experience at LCW!

Ministry Focus

Prayer serves as the channel to God; faith is the sustaining trust that carries us forward; hope is the confident expectation rooted in God’s promises; love is the driving force behind all we do; and service is the visible expression of that love in action. Together, these elements form a continuous cycle: prayer strengthens faith, faith nurtures hope, hope deepens love, love inspires service, and service ultimately leads us back into prayer. Prayer is our spiritual foundation. With this in mind, we invite you to join a Prayer Walk as we intentionally pray circles around First Pres while walking together around the church. Beginning Monday, September 28, and continuing through October 19, at 10:00 AM, you are welcome to join Kyna Grubb for these Monday morning Prayer Walks on and around the church grounds.

GROW: Devotional Drop-In for Young Parents! Come to the “Devotional Drop-In,” 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: Mom’s Village – A time of dinner, fellowship, sharing, and caring. Mom’s Village meets during First Kids on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month, 5:30-7:00, in the Youth Classroom 223. Childcare is available.

GROW: Children’s Ministry Needs: Our children need you! Are you able to lend your time on a Sunday morning or for a few hours on Wednesday evening? Have you taken Child Protection Training, or are you willing to do so? We need your help in shepherding the next generation!

Children’s Sunday School



First Kids



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

GROW: Young Adults: Join Pastor Hannah on Saturday, October 10 at 10:00 AM. Koco Java on W Innes St. Coffee, goodies, and fellowship. Bring your friends!

LICENSES

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GROW: Young Adults: The next Theology on Tap is set for Wednesday, October 21, at 6:30 PM, at New Sarum Brewery. Join Pastor Hannah for a little study and a lot of fellowship. Bring your friends!

GROW: JOY (Just Older Youth) is going to dinner and a play on Friday, October 16. Dinner at 5:00 at Santos, then to the Piedmont Players’ Fiddler on the Roof. Get your own play tickets and let them know you want to sit with JOY. Call the church office to sign up for dinner.

WE HAVE A HEALTHY CORE

GIVING UPDATE:

2026 Budgeted Pledges through 08-31-26: \$768,311
2026 Year-to-Date Received: \$717,967

WE ARE BRANCHING OUT

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.

SERVE: We are heading out again on a Helene Relief Trip, October 4-9. There is still so much to do to help families in need. All skill levels are welcome, from painting to framing. Contact Bob Harris at 704-202-5877 to volunteer. Lodging and meals are free!

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.

RACE AND JUSTICE: 2 Opportunities this fall! Just Pursuit: A Black Prosecutor’s Fight for Fairness is written by Laura Coates. 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. Leaders: Esther Atkins-Smith and Beffie Cook. Dates: Sunday, Sept. 13-Oct. 11. Sign-up contact: estheratkins@gmail.com or egravescook@yahoo.com. Discussions are on Zoom at 7 pm each night, and we’ll send you the reading schedule and Zoom link. Hope you can join us!

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

September 20, 2026
8:30 am



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

