

Worship of the Living God

† Those who are able are invited to stand

Bold indicates words spoken in unison

Thank you for silencing your electronic devices.

Gathering Around the Word

An order of worship offers a meaningful and reliable structure for the church’s encounter with the living God. Over time, an order of worship helps to shape our faith and faithfulness as the people of God, becoming a pattern for how we live as Christians in the world.

PRELUDE

Blessed Are the Peacemakers

Roberta Rowland-Raybold

Teresa de Freitas

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed are those who fear the Lord.
They are gracious, merciful, and righteous.
For the righteous will never be moved
They will be remembered forever.
Their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord.
Their hearts are steady; they will not be afraid.

Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

† HYMN #35

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

CONFESSION OF SIN

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

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

Susan Muth

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE: Romans 5:8, 17-19, p. 145

Steve Coggin

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:1-4, p. 5

SERMON

Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Etude Opus 10 no 3 (Excerpt)

F. Chopin

Responding to the Word

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic* church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*This means universal church, not the Roman Catholic church.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

In All Things Love

Dan Forrest

† 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 #804

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

† BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Festive Tuba March

Paul Fey



The flowers this morning are given by Ozzie, Chance, Prem, and families to the glory of God, and in memory of John O. and Patsy Reynolds.

Welcome to First Pres

We are so glad you are here!

FRIENDSHIP PADS in your pews 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 narthex.
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.

JOYS AND CONCERNS: Linda Thurston, Alice Edwards (Tracy Smith’s mother), Harold Mesimer, John Smith, Elizabeth Calvert

Renee Bradshaw and family on of the death of her sister, Marcia Harris Echerd.

John and Lesleigh Drye on the marriage of their son, Adam, to Caroline Moberly on September 19.

CONTINUING CONCERNS: Preston and Glenda Askew, Bill Baker, Mary Cameron, Betty Carli, Richard Franklin, Scott Hay, Rosalie Laughlin, Wib Manuel, Martha Michael, Frank Saunders, Jesse Tart, Jeanette Whitley, Acey Worthy

BIRTHDAYS: Spencer Carmichael, Denny Shantz, Sara Cook, Libby Moore, Megan Dailey, Andrea Smith, Gail Langdon, Brian Lee, Mackenzie Mead, Madison Mead, Wayne Sasser, Emmanuel Amphnsah, Luke Bryan, Susan Church, Anne Ervin, Angela Galloway, Kathy Pulliam

ANNIVERSARIES: Michael and Lily Roberts, Danny and Nan Fisher, Victor and Vickie Wallace

We are deeply rooted

PRAYER WALK: 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.

RED ROSE BUD: The rose this morning is in honor of the God-given life of Martha Eden Musser, born September 22, to Jack and Margaret Musser. Her grandmother is Cristi Musser.

CHILDREN:

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sundays, 9:45-10:45 in Classroom 206. 3s through 5th grade.

FIRST KIDS: Wednesdays, 5:30-7:00 in Fellowship Hall. Potty-trained 3s through 5th grade. Dinner, Bible lessons, music, crafts, science, and more!



YOUTH:
LIVING THROUGH DISCIPLESHIP: Sundays at 9:45 AM, in Classroom 223. Snacks, Bible study, & fellowship.

GROUP: Sundays at 5:00 PM. Classroom 223. Snack, study, & fellowship.

BIBLE STUDY: Wednesdays at 7:30 PM, on the Musser Gritter front porch. Bible, pizza, and fellowship. (117 Maupin Ave)

YOUNG ADULTS:
COFFEE TIME: Saturday, October 10 at 10:00. Coffee at Koco Java (W Innes St) with Pastor Hannah. Coffee, goodies, and fellowship.

THEOLOGY ON TAP: Wednesday, October 21, 6:30-7:30, at New Sarum. Join Pastor Hannah for a little theology, food and drinks, and lots of fellowship.

ADULTS:
MEN: Bible Study. Tuesdays at 6:30 AM in Classroom 201 with Pastor Josh.

MOMS: Mom’s Village. 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 5:30-7:00, in Classroom 223. A time of dinner, fellowship, sharing, and caring. Childcare is available.

YOUNG PARENTS: Devotional Drop-In. Sunday School, Sundays at 9:45, in the Kirby Library. Refreshments, time to connect with other parents, and a chance to reflect on our faith together.

PARENTS: First Parents, 1st Wednesdays, 5:45-6:45, with Pastor Lara. Drop your kids off at First Kids, then enjoy food and fellowship with other parents at Crafty Buffalo.

BOOK STUDY: A Trevor Eppehimer Book Study. Wednesdays at 11:00. October 7 - November 4. *Am I just my brain?* by Sharon Dirckx. Sign up by emailing teppehimer@hoodseminary.edu. Sponsored by the Messenger-Williams Community Education Initiative. Space is limited. Books are available on Amazon.

CONCERT: Teresa de Freitas in Concert @ Trinity Oaks! Friday, October 9 at 2:00.

JOY: Just Older Youth is planning dinner and a play. 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.

YOGA: Wednesdays, 9:15-10:15. Certified instructor. All levels. \$10 suggested donation.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sundays, 9:45-10:45. Various classes. Ask a pastor for class suggestions to find your right fit.

UNIFIED SUNDAY SCHOOL: Each Sunday in October, we remember all that we have and all that we are is a gift from God. We are entrusted to steward these gifts through the church, in the community, and through our very being. This giving season, we are inviting the congregation to join us for three unified Sunday School opportunities on the topic of stewardship and its role in your life and in the work of First Pres. Join us!

- Sunday, October 4 - with Pastors Lara and Hannah in Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, October 11 - Congregational State of the Church in Lewis Hall (come for food and fellowship)
- Sunday, October 18 - with Pastor Josh and the Give Team in Fellowship Hall

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:
CLERK OF SESSION: Our current clerk is retiring. We need a volunteer to fill this important role. Call the church office or contact Pastor Lara.

FOOD PANTRY: Rowan Helping Ministries food donation days. 1st Sundays. Peanut butter, cereals, and canned goods. If you cannot make it on the 1st Sunday, drop off your donations anytime at the church office. Next donation day: Sunday, October 4.

BLOOD DRIVE: Red Cross Blood Drive, Tuesday, October 13, 2:00-6:30, in Fellowship Hall. Sign up now for your appointment.



ADULTS: 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



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: 3 Ways to Share God’s Love!
1. Take a shoebox home, fill it up, and return it to the church by November 9.
2. Go online and build a shoebox.
3. Give to First Pres OCC, and the Team will buy the supplies to fill the shoeboxes.

Operation Christmas Child



First Pres Giving



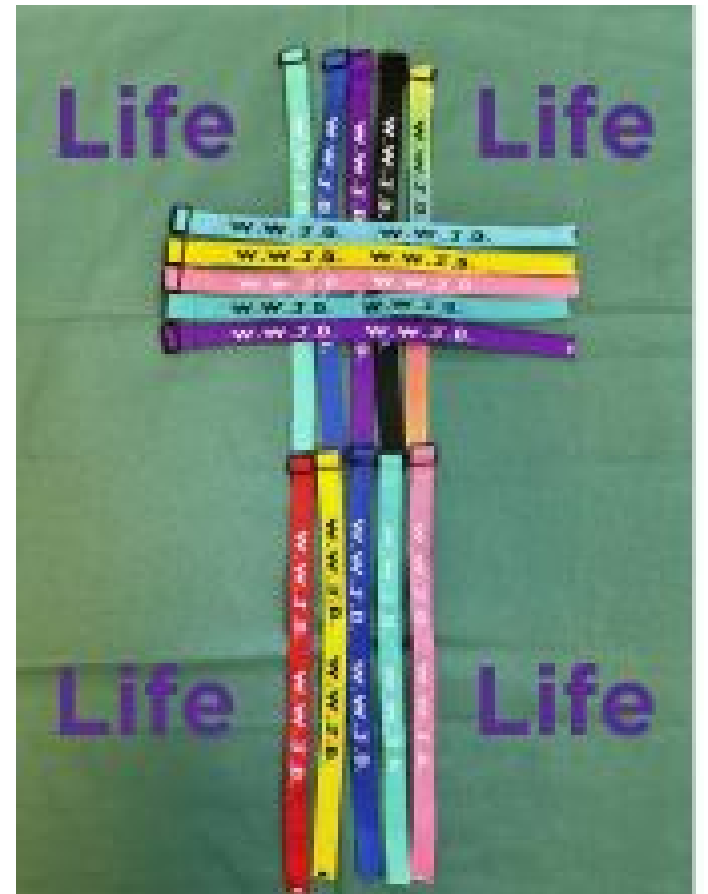
SERVICE: Helene Relief Trip, October 4-9. All skill levels are welcome, from painting to framing. Contact Bob Harris at 704-202-5877 to volunteer. Lodging and meals are free!

For more information on classes and events, visit our website at www.firstpressalisbury.org or call the church office at 704-636-1321.

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Service of the Lord’s Day

WWJD Sermon on the Mount Series



18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 27, 2026
11:00 AM | Sanctuary

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
308 W Fisher St | Salisbury, NC 28144
www.firstpressalisbury.org | 704-636-1321
Where God’s Love is Alive for Mission