

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

Teresa de Freitas

Blessed Are They That Hunger and Thirst

Roberta Rowland-Raybold

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Hannah Ostlund

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God’s holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all God’s benefits—
God forgives all our iniquities and heals all our diseases,
God redeems our lives from the Pit,
God crowns us with steadfast love and mercy.

† HYMN #12

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

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

Megan Shaw

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 (NIV)

Scripture: Matthew 5:27-32 (NIV)

SERMON

Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Break Thou the Bread of Life

arr. Carol Tornquist

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

Offering

OFFERTORY

I Will Be a Child of Peace and Purity

Elaine Hagenberg

† 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.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you. And also with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The living Christ encounters us in the ordinary elements of Communion. The invitation to the Lord’s Supper is extended by Christ and is open to all – believers and doubters, young children and adults, members and non-members. To highlight this gracious welcome of all, only non-alcoholic juice is served, and gluten-free bread is available. If you would like to refrain from the feast, you may cross your arms and a blessing will be offered to you. If you cannot come forward, a minister will serve you in your seat. If you feel so moved to respond, people often reply with “Amen” or “Thanks be to God.”

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

arr. Chris Rice

Prayer After Communion

Sending to Share the Word

† HYMN #366

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

† Benediction

POSTLUDE

Fanfare on “The Old Hundredth”

Paul Fey



The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God,
by Caren and Bob Steele in memory of
her parents, Betty and Don Bills.

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 or the back of Lewis Hall.
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: Caren Steele, John Smith, Betty Carli

Tricia Johnson and family on the death of her mother, Eutha Sharp Hobson.

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, Acey Worthy

BIRTHDAYS: Gregory Wurster, Lizzie Fisher, Delaine Fowler, Adair Doran, Maggie Poor, Greg Scarborough, Kent Roberts, Elizabeth Bergsma, Noah Loeblein, James Behrooz

ANNIVERSARIES: Ames and Jennifer Flynn, Paul and Maria Bassett, Nick and Gail Langdon, Mike and Robin Jordan

We are deeply rooted

Communion Elder: Donna Beaver

TODAY: 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: 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 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!



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 – To better meet the needs of moms, our MomCo program is now Mom's Village and has been updated with new curriculum, new ideas, and a variety of topics to discuss. 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, in the Youth Classroom 223.

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

YOUNG ADULTS: Join us on September 10 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM in the Youth Classroom 223 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: Our Men’s Bible Study with Pastor Josh continues each Tuesday at 6:30 AM in Room 201.

WORSHIP: Worship Scripture Readers wanted. Help share God's word by reading the first scripture lesson at 8:30 or 11:00. Readings will be distributed the week prior. Sign up using the QR code or on the bulletin board by Lewis Hall.



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 Eppheimer 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 teppheimer@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 @firstpresssalisbury.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: \$684,033

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!

YOUTH: NO YOUTH TODAY

Sunday School: 9:45 AM
Youth Group: Sundays at 5:00 PM
Youth @ the Porch Bible Study: Wednesdays at 7:30 PM (117 Maupin Ave)

YOUTH: Attention, parents of youth! Help us keep in touch with you and your youth for all of our youth events. Please complete this year’s Information Form asap.



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.

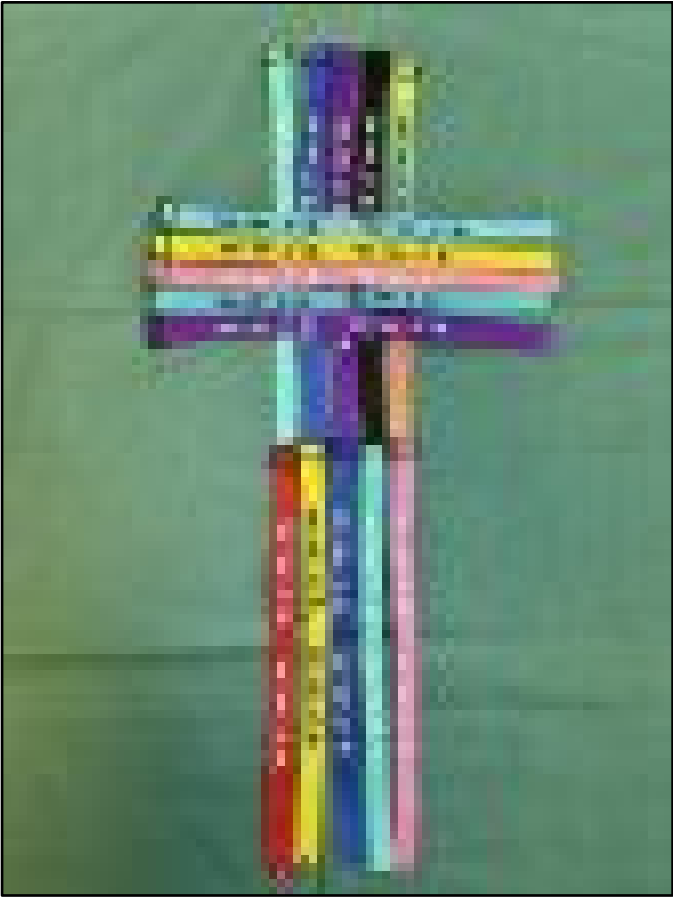
SERVE: Monthly on the 1st Sunday, we collect pantry items to help restock the shelves at Rowan Helping Ministries. Your donations of peanut butter, canned goods, and cereals are always in need and greatly appreciated. If you forgot your donations today, drop them by the church office anytime.

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Service of the Lord’s Day

WWJD
Sermon on the Mount Series



15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 6, 2026
11:00 am | Sanctuary

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Where God’s Love is Alive for Mission