



SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:00 & 10:30 am

October 22, 2017

-
Open hands prayer

Take from me whatever stands in the way of knowing you.

Give me what I need to follow you.

I offer to you all that I am.

I pray with open hands - in surrender to you.

Our Mission Statement

Called to love God and one another, First Presbyterian Church responds to God's grace by following Christ with ministries of hospitality, worship, faith development, service and generosity.

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

We're glad you're here with us today. We fondly refer to this community of Christ-followers as "First Pres," and you being here is one of God's blessings for our fellowship. If you wonder what we're up to at First Pres, it's actually pretty simple. In fact, we use a short phrase to remind ourselves of our shared purpose: "Above all, love." Drawn from a New Testament text (1 Peter 4:8-11), those brief words challenge us to focus everything we do on loving God and loving every single person we encounter. So every day we're learning how to do just that, as God's Spirit keeps working in our lives.

By the way, we can't take credit for this idea. It goes as far back as Jesus. He was once asked to sum up what it looks like to really be alive; what we should aim for in our lives if we want to live as fully as we can. His answer? Love God with every fiber of your being, and love the people around you. So whether we meet you in worship, or in the hallway, or in one of our many activities—or just run into you around town—we hope that you will feel the deep love of God welcoming and embracing you. We really are glad that you're here.

Use these moments prior to the Prelude to greet one another briefly. At the ringing of the chimes, please seek the presence of God in stillness and quiet. Please silence cell phones. The asterisk (*) invites you to stand as you are able.

Chimes and Organ Prelude

Second Movement from *Sonata Pathétique*
Ludwig van Beethoven (Germany, 1770-1827)

*Call to Worship (based on Psalm 107)

O let us give thanks to the Lord,
for the love of God will never end.

Let us who love God be unashamed to declare it,
because God has answered our cries for help.

The Lord our God has met our every need,
we will therefore proclaim the love of the Lord!
Let us worship God.

*Hymn #712

As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought
Forest Green

*Prayer of the Day

**Loving God,
we come to you in thanksgiving,
knowing that all we are and all we have
is a gift from you.
In faith and love, help us to do your will.
We are listening, Lord God.
Speak your words into the depths of our souls,
that we may hear you clearly.**

**We offer to you this day all the facets of our lives,
whether it be at home, at work, or at school –
to be patient, to be merciful, to be generous, to be holy. Amen.**

*Passing of the Peace

Anthem

We Are the Body of Christ
Emily Lund

The Celebration Singers and the Cherub Choir

Children's Message and Presentation of Bibles (9:00)

Response (#188, verse 2)

Jesus Loves Me This I Know

**Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee, saying, "Let them come to me."
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

Welcome and Ministry Updates

Scripture Reading Psalm 136 (*responsively*)
"...for his steadfast love endures forever."

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Offertory

Teach Me, O Lord
arr. Philip Stopford

The Chancel Choir

*Response

Old 100th

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise him all creatures here below.
Praise him above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Hymn #698 (*sung twice*)

Take, O Take Me as I Am

Scripture Reading Luke 21:1-6 (New Testament, p. 85)

Sermon

"Open Hands: Making the Offering Bigger"

Dr. Greg Stovell

Service of Commitment

Litany of Commitment

Look at your hands, see the touch and the tenderness.
They belong to God. They are God's own for the world.

Look at your feet, see the path and the direction.
They belong to God. They are God's own for the world

Look at your heart, see the fire and the love.
It belongs to God. It is God's own for the world.

Look at the cross, see God's Son and our Savior.
He is God's sacrifice for this world.

We belong to God. This is God's world,
and we will serve God in it.

*Hymn #749

Come! Live in the Light
We Are Called

*Blessing

Choral Response

Benediction
Matthew Text: Dr. Harold Warheim; Music: David H. Voorhees

Organ Postlude

Postlude in C
Hal H. Hopson (USA, b. 1933)

Leading us in worship

Greg Stovell, Pastor
Steve Clark, Associate Pastor
Caroline Cupp, Associate Pastor
Marcia Sommers, Director of Music and Fine Arts
Sándor Kádár, Organist
The Chancel Choir
The Celebration Singers, Julie Claeys, Accompanist
The Cherub Choir

WORSHIP NOTES

Notes from the Loft:

Emily Lund is a member of Escondido United Reformed Church in California, where she serves as a pianist and organist. We Are the Body of Christ is a 2017 composition based on text from I Corinthians 12. We are excited to share it with the congregation today!

We are the body of Christ, one body flowing with life.

Sharing in one Spirit, baptized in one Name, living for the Savior, together we proclaim

WE ARE ONE!

If the foot should say, 'I am not a hand, I do not belong.'

If the ear should say, 'I am not an eye, I do not belong!'

If the head should say to the feet, 'You are not like me.', where would the body be?

We are the body of Christ, one body flowing with life;

Sharing in one Spirit, baptized in one name, living for the Savior, together we proclaim,

WE ARE ONE!

Come, join the body of Christ, come to the newness of life!

Sharing in one Spirit, baptized in one name, living for the Savior, together we proclaim,

WE ARE ONE!

Philip Stopford is an English composer and choir director, well-known for his contemporary settings of English sacred texts and canticles. Teach Me, O Lord was released in 2013, and is drawn from Psalm 119:33-39a - the longest Psalm in the collection of 150 in the Bible. Earlier this year, Philip took the position of Organist/Choir Master at Christ Church in Bronxville, NY.

Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes, and I shall keep it unto the end.

Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall keep it with my whole heart.

Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein is my desire.

Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness.

O turn away mine eyes lest, they behold vanity; and quicken me in thy way.

O 'stablish thy word in thy servant, that I may fear thee. Amen.

The Chancel Choir's Benediction Response today was written by David Voorhees, a member of First Presbyterian Church. Thank you, David!

Marcia Sommers

FIRST PRES MATTERS

Serving today as ushers are Bill Benson, Alan and Susan Elko and Jack and Ann Lear at 9:00 a.m. Our coffee and flower deacons are Justin and Nicki Bruton. The greeters are Greg and Dory Speer. The Welcome Center is hosted by Becky Gamble. Our Nursery workers are Sarah Burke, Mary Hambleton, Paige Conley and Maurisa Warren. Brian Reigner is running sound and video production.

The Chancel Flowers are given by Sandi Preston, in loving memory of her sister, Shirley Preston Barth.

In Memoriam: Charlotte M. Bowser, member First Presbyterian Church from September 3, 1964 to October 12, 2017. Our sympathy and prayers are with Cynthia Ray and family in the death of her father.

Some of Our Children are receiving a Bible from our Children's Ministry this month, as we continue to nurture their life as young disciples of Jesus. Those receiving Bibles: Isabella Roosevelt, Connor Beckman, Olivia Rode, Samuel Rode, Grant Fleming, Daniel Reis, Carina Demchyk, Eden Trombetta, Lillian Petersen, Kiki Simunov, Jude Roosevelt, Sophia Demchyk, Joseph Reis, Jacob Corcoran, Alexander Khan, Jillian Bruton, and Celio Ortiz. (Some will receive them at 9:00 worship this morning).

Presbyterian Women Bake Sale - today between services in Fellowship Hall. Please stop by the table for delicious baked treats and some fruit salad. All proceeds benefit PW missions.

Volunteers needed for Community Trick or Treat - Help decorate for this event today following the 10:30 a.m. service. If you and/or your family can decorate, please plan on staying and joining the fun. Refreshments will be provided. We also need candy donations.

Adult Education - Sundays this Fall - Two options for faith enrichment during the 9:00 hour – (1) Bob Atchinson's Bible Study class (Herron Lounge) explores the Old Testament book of 2 Kings. (2) The Christian Faith & Issues class (Room 209), focuses their October gatherings on "How Do Christians Deal with Economic and Quality of Life Issues we face today?" Drawing on resources from The Thoughtful Christian website, they continue their conversations this morning by discussing "Making End-of-Life Decisions." For info on future topics, check out the Connect Adult Groups page on the First Pres website.

No Bridge dinner this week due to the West Chester Halloween Parade. Join us Wednesday, November 1 for meatball sandwiches. Salad Bar and dessert included. Make your reservations by Noon Monday, October 30. Contact Beth Hull at bhull@firstpreswc.com.

A Welcoming Place for Individuals with Memory Impairment. The United Methodist Church of West Chester is hosting free social activities on Mondays from 10:00-12:00 p.m. for individuals who have concerns about their memory and those who love them. For more information, call 610-349-3401 or visit www.sunshinememorycafe.com.

Many Christians have found that Evening Prayer worship provides for them a centering experience of quiet and reverence at the close of day. This service, which is part of a history of worship dating back to 1662 in England, includes the Lord's Prayer and other Psalms and songs of the church. Here at FPC, a small group from our Chancel Choir sings the services for the congregation, allowing for meditation and reflection on the texts they share. Collaborating with the choir on October 29 will be Dr. William Hess, and on November 19, Rev. Diane Burkland. The Singers will sing a setting of Psalm 90, John Rutter's *Be Thou My Vision*, Walter Pelz's *Peace I Leave with You*, and other quiet music. About 30 minutes in length, join us for this beautiful service of worship; free.

First Pres Blood Drive - Tuesday, October 31, from 1 - 6:00 p.m. To donate, please sign up at www.redcrossblood.org/make-donation and search by sponsor code firstpreswc to schedule an appointment.

Help Us Welcome our Guatemala Visitors - Join us for "Lunch & Learn" in Fellowship Hall next Sunday, October 29, and November 5 (11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.), and learn some simple Spanish phrases you can use to communicate with our partners from Iglesia Presbiteriana Getsemani (Gethsemane Presbyterian Church) when they visit us next month. Hint: Learning a neighbor's language, however much we stumble over the words, is a powerful way to show hospitality. No cost for lunch; contributions to cover costs are welcome.

Singing and ringing choirs for Youth in grades 6-12 will begin their fall rehearsals on Wednesday, November 1, during The Bridge. Youth Singers will meet in the Choir Room at 6:30 p.m. to prepare Joseph's Lullaby, Chris Tomlin's Noel, and Dan Kantor's Night of Silence/Silent Night. Youth Ringers will meet each Wednesday of Bridge from 7:00-7:30 p.m. in Room 208, and will be preparing music for Ring and Sing and worship on December 17. All youth in grades 6-12 are welcome to be a part! Questions? Contact Marcia at 610-696-0554, or msommers@firstpreswc.com.

Hey Kids it is not too late to jump in and be a part of our Children's Choirs. We meet just before Bridge every Wednesday at 5:15 p.m., and we are learning songs for worship in October, November and December! After Christmas, we'll be learning a new musical, too. And don't forget, on November 1, we will be starting a new Chime Choir for ringers in grades 4 and 5, 4:45-5:15 p.m. (through December 6). For questions or more information, contact Marcia Sommers at the church, msommers@firstpreswc.com, or 610-696-0554. See you at rehearsal this week!

"Connections" Class this Fall - If you're interested in becoming a member of First Pres, or just learning more about what we're up to here at the corner of Miner and Darlington, join us 11:30-2:15 p.m. on Sunday, November 5 (lunch included) – then again 11:30-1 p.m. on Sunday, November 12 (lunch included again!). Contact Pastor Steve Clark (sclark@firstpreswc.com) if interested in joining the gathering, or if you have questions.

Kudos to Rev. Caroline Cupp, Martha Sherman, Connie Kohler, Dave Hewitt, Louise Classen and Diane Marino for worshipping with our friends at Pembroke, Barclay and Brandywine Hall nursing homes on Sunday, Oct. 15. We served 43 residents, family members and staff..

ACT in Faith Open House - ACT in Faith invites the First Pres community to a special Open House on November 12 from Noon - 2 p.m. Visit and take a tour of the ACT in Faith office and food & supplies cupboard. The ACT in Faith office is in the basement of The Church of the Holy Trinity at 212 S High St. West Chester, PA. Parking is available in the lot directly across from the church circle drive beginning at 11:30 a.m. Please contact Diane Damadio at 484-362-8033 or diane.damadio@gmail.com with any questions.

Child Abuse Prevention Training – Tuesday, November 14, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., in Fellowship Hall. Using the program Darkness to Light, Stewards of Children, our authorized facilitator, Steve Douglas, offers practical prevention training with a conversational, real-world approach. This class is required for anyone who works directly with children, anyone employed by First Pres regardless of their contact with children, and anyone with access to a church key and access card to the church. Register with Dory Speer, in the church office, dspeer@firstpreswc.com or 610-696-0554.

Bereavement Group - First Pres will be working with Neighborhood Hospice to host a grief support group this winter. Sessions are open to anyone who has lost a loved one to death in the past year or two. The group will meet at church on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. beginning November 29 and run through the end of January. Non-members are welcome. Space will be limited, so please contact Rev. Caroline Cupp at ccupp@firstpreswc.com or 484-459-8220 for information or to register. This program is sponsored by our Stephen Ministers.

First Pres Travelers Trip - Thursday, November 30 to Bethlehem's Christmas City. Christkindlmarkt Bethlehem has delighted more than one million guests with its mix of unique gift ideas, old-world charm and holiday cheer. Cost is \$43 which includes coach bus, driver gratuity, and admission to Christkindlmarkt and a 30-min. movie. Payment deadline is October 29. For more info, check the sign up page on the church website (www.firstpreswc.com) or http://www.bethlehempa.org/visit_christmas.html or artsquest.org/christkindlmarkt or Thom & Irene Clapper, psuthom@verizon.net at 610-436-5667.

Family Worship Bags - We love that you're using the Family Worship Bags! Some tips for getting the most out of them, and your children getting the most out of worship. Remember: they are for family interaction. Parents, you are worship coaches! Your children depend on you to walk with them and teach them about worship. That may mean whispering to each other to talk about what's happening, and about the tools we've provided. It may mean movement and wiggles. And that's ok—learning requires interaction. Check out the bag's instruction tags to see how to use what's inside. (Hint: some items change each week!)

Pocopson Home Needs - We are collecting an assortment of items to make small gift bags for the residents of the Pocopson Home. Some of the items needed are toothpaste, Dove unscented soap, deodorant, hand cream, etc. Other items needed are large print puzzle books, playing cards, jewelry, etc. See complete list on the PW bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Donated items may be placed in the container under the bulletin board marked Pocopson Home. We will be accepting items until Sunday, November 5. Thank you for your support.

Upgrading your Laptop? Mission workers Bev and Michael Harrar are looking for a few laptops and tablets to distribute to students they serve in Nigeria. Most families in the country do not have a personal computer, so students spend hours waiting in line for public computers on which to do their homework or apply for university. A simple computer can make college accessible to a young person. To make a donation, call Caroline Cupp at 484-459-8220.

Adult Enrichment at The Bridge next month – Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. (1) November 1 – December 13: “Nailed It!” Bob Atchinson and Pastor Steve Clark will help us understand what was going on in Europe 500 years ago that led to the church renewal movement we call the Protestant Reformation—and examine how the issues raised at the time still affect our beliefs and practices in the church today (Room 209); (2) November 1: “Caregiving for the End of Life.” See more info below; (3) November 8: “A Case for Kindness,” written by local author Lisa Barrickman, explores how simple acts of kindness can have a ripple effect on our world. Lisa will join us to share her story of discovering this transforming truth, and invite us to consider how to put it to work in our own lives. Lisa will have copies of her book for purchase (Herron Lounge); (4) November 15 – December 13: “Because of Bethlehem” is an Advent study using Max Lucado’s book by that title. Join us to explore the powerful world- and life-changing implications and effects of Jesus’ birth (Herron Lounge).

Caregiving for the End of Life - Wednesday, November 1, 6:30-8:00 p.m. (Herron Lounge). Presented by Stephen Ministry and open to the community and congregation, this special Bridge event includes a panel presentation and Q&A time to consider the challenges and opportunities that come with the complicated and sacred task of caring for a loved one at the end of life. Presenters include Lisa Couser, Bereavement Coordinator, and Dawn Clancy, Social Worker, from Neighborhood Hospice; First Pres member and hospice volunteer Gerri Zumbano; and the Rev. Jennifer Clark from Westminster Presbyterian Church (and former Hospice Chaplain). For more information contact Becky Gamble (610-952-0520 or sandbgamble@comcast.net.)

Open Hands Stewardship Invitation - Estimate of Giving cards were mailed at the end of September; they are also available in the pews and in Fellowship Hall today. Thank you to all who have already submitted their cards. As of October 18, we have received 185 Estimates of Giving cards totaling \$615,842. Your gifts are very much appreciated. www.firstpreswc.com/pledge details ways to deliver your card. If you haven’t yet done so, please return your cards by October 29.

THIS WEEK @ FIRST PRES

SUNDAY 10/22 - Stewardship Sunday

Blood Pressure Screening

Newsletter Deadline

8:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary
8:30 am	Sunday Social (til 10:30 am)	Fellowship Hall
8:30 am	PW Bake Sale	Fellowship Hall
8:30 am	Rise Against Hunger until 7:30 pm	Westminster Pres Church
9:00 am	Worship and Nursery to age 2	
9:00 am	Adult Bible Study and Church School age 3 - Grade 5	
9:00 am	Confirmation Meeting	Room 217
9:00 am	Christian Faith and Issues	Room 209
9:00 am	Radio Broadcast on 1520AM; Live Web stream	
10:30 am	Worship and Nursery to age 2	
10:30 am	JAM age 3 - Grade 5	Social Hall
11:30 am	Decorating for Community Trick or Treat	
11:45 am	Nominating Committee	Room 209

MONDAY 10/23

7:00 pm	Session	Herron Lounge
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TUESDAY 10/24

9:30 am	Women's Bible Study	Room 209
5:30 pm	Men's Ministry Study	Room 217

WEDNESDAY 10/25 - No Bridge due to West Chester Halloween Parade

9:00 am	Sew Many Blessings	Quilting Room
12:00 pm	Bulletin Deadline	

THURSDAY 10/26

6:30 pm	JuBellation Ringers	Room 208
7:00 pm	Men's Study Group	Room 209
7:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
7:30 pm	Youth Bible Study	Off-site

FRIDAY 10/27

6:30 am	Men's Study Group	Room 210
1:00 pm	Sweet Dreams	Quilting Room
6:00 pm	Community Trick or Treat	

SUNDAY 10/29 - First Crew leaves for Mission trip to Louisiana

8:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary
8:30 am	Sunday Social (til 10:30 am)	Fellowship Hall
9:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary
9:00 am	Nursery to age 2	Nursery
9:00 am	Adult Bible Study and Church School age 3 - Grade 5	
9:00 am	Christian Faith and Issues	Room 209
9:00 am	Radio Broadcast on 1520AM; Live Web stream	
10:30 am	Worship	Sanctuary
10:30 am	Nursery to age 2	Nursery
10:30 am	JAM age 3 - Grade 5	Social Hall
11:45 am	Lunch and Learn Spanish Class	Fellowship Hall
4:00 pm	Youth Fellowship	Youth Room 216
6:00 pm	Evening Prayer Worship	Sanctuary

SOCK IT TO US COLLECTION

OCTOBER 1
TO
OCTOBER 31



YOU CAN HELP WARM THE TOES - AND HEARTS - OF SOME VERY
IMPORTANT PEOPLE RIGHT HERE IN OUR COMMUNITY

NEW SOCKS FOR MEN, WOMEN & CHILDREN WILL BE COLLECTED
EACH PAIR DONATED WILL BE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED
BY THOSE WHO ARE LESS FORTUNATE