



ALL SAINTS DAY

9:00 am
November 1, 2020

*“Not everybody can be famous but everybody can be great,
because greatness is determined by service.”*

–Martin Luther King Jr.

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.

Welcome

Prelude

Gaudio Exsultans
Valerie W. Stephenson

Call to Worship

Psalm 107:1-3

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

**Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.**

Hymn #457

How Happy Are the Saints of God
Wareham

Prayer of Confession

Yet we do not always remember your blessings, ever-attentive God.

It's not that we are ungrateful, O God.

**It's just that because some of the blessings we enjoy have been with us for so long,
that we forget that they were originally gifts from you.**

**Over time, we can convince ourselves and others
that we have earned these blessings,
that we deserve them for being such good people,
that we continue to have them because we are "more special" to you
than other people. We know it's absurd to think that way—
even as we vainly attempt to justify our positions—
and that you love each and every one of your children
with the same unconditional love. So, forgive us, O Lord,
for pretending to be better and more blessed than others,
and help us truly to be better and more blessed in our gratitude
to you and our sharing with others. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

God always hears the honest prayers of grateful people.

So, let's proclaim today to be a day of blessing and gratitude!

God enjoys giving us good gifts—and hearing our appreciation.

So, let's shout for joy: in Jesus Christ, we all are forgiven! Alleluia! Amen!

Response

Meineke

**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.**

Children's Message

Baptism

Aleksander John Wszalek, born December 23, 2019,
son of Erik and Hannah Wszalek.

Ministry Updates

Welcoming of New Members

Special Music

Intermezzo Op.118 No. 2
Johannes Brahms

Invitation to the Offering

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
arr. John A. Behnke

Hymn #378

We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom
Merle's Tune

Scripture Reading

Matthew 23:1-12

Sermon

“When Having it All isn't Enough”

Rev. Bob Sheldon

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

All Saints Day Remembrance

The 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.**

Hymn #326

For All the Saints
Sine Nomine

Blessing

Response

O Christ, Surround Me

Postlude

Toccata
Theodore Dubois

FIRST PRES MATTERS

Leading us in worship today are Rev. Bob Sheldon, Interim Pastor; Rev. Caroline Cupp, Executive Pastor; Sándor Kádár, Director of Music; The Chancel Ringers: Kira Boros, Tracy Burke, Julie Claeys, Pete Galloway, Victoria Gansner, Alicia Liermann, Mike Spaziani, Kristy Stevens, Janet Thompson, Dan Williams, Linda Weamer, Lyndsay Varsaci.

Our sympathy and prayers are with Domenic and Jill D’Ginto and family in the death of Jill’s father.

The Sacrament of Baptism was administered on October 30, 2020 to Aleksander John Wszalek, born December 23, 2019, son of Erik and Hannah Wszalek, grandson of Dan and Kristen Rudloff and great-grandson of Carolyn Hitchcock.

Young Justice Builders Club - Elementary aged children and their grown-ups are invited to gather on Zoom at noon next Sunday, November 8. We’ll work together to look back at the year, talk about what injustices we have witnessed (and maybe experienced) and spend some time bringing all of that to God through a lament exercise. Our children have been holding a lot this year, and this time is designed to show them how we can incorporate God into our mental processing during stressful times. Please contact Sara Pantazes at spantazes@firstpreswc.com with any questions.

November’s Anti-Racism Conversation - will feature a presentation by Dr. Lisa Croft, a family physician and co-founder of the West Chester community’s Courageous Conversations About Race. We will be gathering on Zoom at 12:30 pm on Sunday, November 15. Dr. Croft’s presentation and the conversation after will focus on the themes of healing and restoration. Anyone from the First Pres community is encouraged to join us to listen, learn and consider together how our faith prompts us to be a part of this important work.

The Nominating Committee - is beginning their work to discern candidates for church officer positions for 2021. We count on the congregation to provide suggestions for people you see as being good leaders for our church. Please submit suggestions for Elders, Deacons and Trustee via the website or to Elizabeth Guman (ecguman@gmail.com) by today. Self-nominations are welcome. The current officers are on the website at firstpreswc.com/leadership.



The above shows the giving amount as of 10/28/2020 compared to the 2020 full year goal as well as the 2021 pledges so far. These charts will be presented each week to keep the congregation well-informed of our progress. Further details can be found on the Financial Reporting page on our website.