



September 9

Kickoff Sunday
Three Services
8, 9, & 10:42

October 7

World Communion
Sunday - celebrated
at all services

October 14

Rise Against Hunger
Food Packing Event
12-2 p.m.

FIRST PRESS

First Presbyterian Church, West Chester, PA

September/October 2018

I love Kick-off Sunday! It marks the beginning of a new ministry season and is always full of promise. As is the case every year, I don't know what God has in store for us, but I am both grateful and expectant of God's work coming in 2018-2019.

The German hymn writer Matthias Claudius wrote in 1782, "All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above." I believe this ministry season is no exception.

In this issue of First Press you will find only a taste of the many different opportunities to grow your faith this Fall.

We begin September 9th with three distinct worship services. The 8:00 am service in the chapel has become one of our favorite services. It has the feel of a small family church while keeping our commitment to excellence in worship. The 9:00 am service is our primary worship experience. It is traditional in nature, building on the heritage of the church, with music led by our chancel and bell choirs. The 10:42 service brings a new contemporary worship experience in the sanctuary. It provides a new and exciting voice to our Reformed expression of faith. Whatever your preference of worship, I believe you will find a meaningful way to connect with God on Sunday mornings at First Pres.

Also beginning September 9th is a new sermon series entitled "The word about the Word." The Psalmist says that God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our paths (Psalm 119:105), but as vital as it is, we rarely make the room necessary for Scripture, nor embrace it as a blueprint for our lives. This series explores what the Bible says about itself

and calls us to a renewed commitment to live as people of the Word.

On Wednesday nights we also have a new space to focus on God's word. The Pastors' Study is a year-long series taught by several pastors on staff and those worshipping with us on Sunday mornings. I will begin with a 3 part series on Nehemiah, followed by Bill Hess teaching a 4 part series on Romans. Caroline Cupp will lead a 3 part study on the Psalms followed by Anne Dickey teaching a 2 part study on the birth of Jesus. Steve Clark will teach a study in Colossians in 2019 leading up to Lent.

This Fall season will welcome a church-wide ministry fair in September, the third Bill Hess golf outing, a food-packing event for all ages organized by Rise Against Hunger in October, and a women's retreat in November among many other ministries.

It is a busy season, full of promise and opportunities to grow closer to God. My prayer is that you are able to grow in faith as you engage in worship, learning, service and fellowship. I believe God has something special in store for you at First Pres.

See you in church!

Dr. Greg Stovell

**FALL
KICKOFF**
First Presbyterian Church

www.firstpreswc.com

Children and Family Ministry

Updated Fall Opportunities

The start of a new school year is here, which means new opportunities to grow in faith are here at First Pres too!

Sunday mornings

Sunday School: Sunday School will be offered for children during the 9 am hour. Children can either attend the start of the 9 am service with their families, leaving after the children's message, or meet their teachers directly at approximately 9:10 in Fellowship Hall. Children can be picked up after service in the classrooms as listed below:

Godly Play preschool class (age 3 - pre-K): Room 6

Kindergarten - 1st grade class: Room 10

2nd - 3rd grade class: Room 14

4th - 5th grade class: Room 214b (third floor)

Between services

For families seeking to connect with one another and share a time of fellowship, we invite you to grab some juice and/or coffee and wander through the doors behind the coffee bar into Herron Lounge (*formerly New Lounge*) We will have activities for the kids and friendly conversation for all ages.

*Note that parents/guardians are responsible for their children during this time.

10:42 service

The start of a contemporary worship service at First Pres provides a new and exciting opportunity to engage children in worship! During the 10:42 service, children will be invited to stay with their families through most of the service, stepping out only during the sermon. During that "Kid Connect" time, children will gather in the Chapel to hear the day's message in a kid friendly manner. They'll rejoin their families after the sermon to be present for the end of the worship service.

Wednesday evening - Dinner, BridgeKidz

If it fits in your schedule, we would love to see your children on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30pm. A mix of play and faith development activities, BridgeKidz is an opportunity for kids to take a break from their busy weeks and reconnect with God. We recognize that keeping young children in a worship service or getting to church on a Wednesday evening can be challenging, so consider this article the start of an ongoing conversation. As we move into this fall, please call or email me to talk about how any of these faith development opportunities are working (or not working) for your family. What else can we the church be doing to support your family in raising your children to know the Lord? I would love to talk with you anytime and look forward to moving into this new season with you!

** Do you have an hour to give to Children's Ministry at First Pres once in awhile? We are looking for volunteers to help in the nursery on Sunday mornings and at BridgeKidz on Wednesday nights. Both opportunities require no preparation - just your loving presence with the church's kids. Contact me for more information.**

*Sara Pantazes
Director of Christian Education*

Here to Serve: A Ministry Fair

“Many hands make light work”

We’ve probably heard these phrases many times over the years. But how about this: It takes a congregation to make a church. What does that mean? It means that First Pres exists and thrives as a church when we all share our gifts to keep the great variety of ministries and events existing and growing. Just a single Sunday morning or Wednesday evening at the corner of Miner and Darlington requires a LOT of people to make ministry happen. Some of the work is visible, like ushers or choir or street greeters or teachers. Some of it is more hidden, like setting up and preparing, or caring for little ones in the nursery, or making meals. But it’s all important. And it all requires all of us to do our part.

During coffee hour (10:00-10:42 am) on Sunday, September 16, “Here to Serve: A Ministry Fair” will be an opportunity for all of us to step up and say, “Count me in; how can I help?” In the weeks leading up to the event, there will be information in the bulletin and on the website about different areas of ministry and support, to help you think about where you might best use your gifts to serve the people of First Pres and the community.

If you’re already involved in one or more ministries, the Fair is a time for you to say, “Yep, I’m still here and I’m still committed to helping out in this way.”

If you’re already involved, but thinking about

different ways to share your gifts, then the Fair is when you can say, “I’m still here and still committed to helping, but what are some other ministries I might connect with?”

Maybe you haven’t yet found a way to connect and serve. The Fair is a place where you can tell us, “I’m here, and I want to be part of making ministry happen at First Pres; how can I help?”

At the Fair you won’t be asked to sign up for a specific task—unless you absolutely want to. Instead, you’ll be invited to let us know areas of ministry you would like to connect with or learn more about. Within a few days of the Fair, we’ll reach out to you to talk more about your interests and answer your questions, and connect you to a place where you can deploy your gifts. We’re not assuming you’ll make a lifelong commitment to a particular ministry, just that you’ll “try it on” and see how it fits. If it feels right, you can stay connected there as long you like. If it doesn’t feel like a good match, you’ve learned something important, and then you can explore another ministry to connect with.

Plan to worship with us on September 16, then join the journey of exploration in Fellowship Hall.

“A demonstration of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good.” (1 Corinthians 12:7)



Rev. Steve Clark

Bridge Dinners Resume

The Bridge Program resumes this fall beginning on Wednesday, September 12. Join us every Wednesday evening for dinner and/or bible study classes to keep you rooted in fellowship and God's love as you move through your weeks.

Dinner will be offered from 5:30-6:30 each Wednesday evening in Social Hall. Look for the coming week's menu in the bulletin each Sunday; RSVPs will be appreciated. If you are willing to occasionally serve on the team that prepares and serves these dinners, contact Jen Rosenberg at jrosenberg@firstpreswc.com. If you have any questions about the Bridge program, please contact Sara Pantazes, Director of Christian Education, or Pastor Greg Stovell.

Bridge Schedule

September 12, 19, 26

October 3, 10, 17, 24

November 7, 14, 28

December 5, 12

Bridge Resumes January 9

Educational opportunities run from 6:30 - 7:30 pm.

- BridgeKidz: Designed for preschool aged children through 5th grade, this mid-week program helps kids relax, release some energy and connect with one another and God in the midst of their busy weeks.
- Middle School Bible Study: Evan and Mary Hambleton have been hosting MSBS at their house for a few years, but we're bringing it to Wednesday nights! All Middle School students (6-8th grades) are welcome from 6:30-7:30 in the youth room!

If you have any questions about the Bridge program, please contact Sara Pantazes, Director of Christian Education, or Dr. Stovell.

The Pastor's Corner

Adults are invited this fall to join various pastors in our congregation for journeys into several books of the Bible after Bridge Dinner.

- o September 12, 19, 26: Nehemiah led by Dr. Greg Stovell
- o October 3, 10, 17, 24: Romans led by Dr. Bill Hess
- o November 7, 14, 28: Psalms led by Rev. Caroline Cupp
- o December 5, 12: Birth Narratives in Luke & Matthew led by Rev. Ann Dickey

Music Ministry Fall Vision

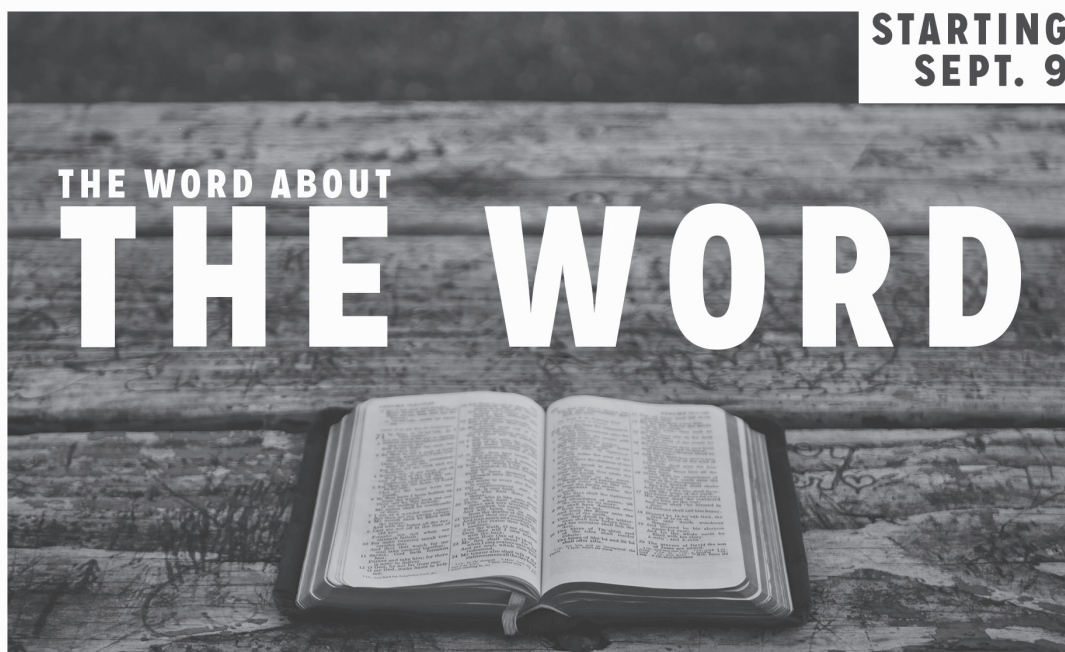
Our church's music ministry has exciting and engaging programs for the upcoming year. In addition to weekly Sunday worship, there will be classical concerts as part of the Column Classics series and prayer events with the church band. In November, we will sponsor a Broadway-style concert featuring students from West Chester University. These are the same students who performed the concert on Chapel Dedication Sunday this past April and received excellent feedback from many congregation members. A catered dinner will be provided during this concert.

The Arts' Weekend will continue to promote local visual artists and highlight talented local musicians. The Chamber Choir of First Pres will sing on a more regular basis. The 12-voice Chamber Choir comprises the Choral Scholars and members of the Chancel Choir. Our music groups will be participating in local events, such as the West Chester Christmas Parade. Our Choral Scholar Program is thriving. We are proud to offer scholarships to five WCU students this upcoming season. For many of them, this is their first professional experience outside the university life. This scholarship helps ease young musicians into the world of professionals. The program serves a dual purpose, as we at First Pres appreciate their musical talent in worship each week.

We have another gifted musician whom you will see regularly. I speak of my wife, Kira Boros. She holds a piano degree from Baldwin Wallace University in Cleveland, Ohio, and currently teaches piano at Greensleeves Music in the West Chester area. Kira was selected to be the first Conducting Scholar of the Reading Choral Society, an 80-voice community choir with over 130 years of history. At First Pres, she will sing with and accompany the Chancel Choir, as well as assist in the direction of the Children's Choir.

I hope that you will feel God's presence and love through our music-making here at First Pres.

Sándor Kádár



**4-Week
Sermon
Series By
Dr. Stovell**



Thank You

Christmas
IN JULY

A great big thank you to all of the First Presbyterian members who made our first Christmas in July a ringing success. Through your generosity, we were able to collect \$1,910 in gift cards for West Chester Food Cupboard and North Star of Chester County (formerly Interfaith Housing Assistance), and an extraordinary amount of bedding, toiletries, personal care items, and cleaning supplies for the West Chester University Resource Pantry. These gifts will ensure that students who are homeless, in the foster care system, or living in poverty will be able to start the school year off with dignity. More broadly, this program allowed our congregation to assist mission partners at a time of the year when they struggle with donations, helping to bridge those tough months before holiday giving begins again. Thank you for being the hands, feet, and heart of God in West Chester this summer and all year long. Stay tuned for mission opportunities in November and December!

An Exciting Summer with Youth

We have had a fantastic summer in the youth ministry! This year we had one of the largest groups of students who have attended summer trips since I started working here!

In early June we served with the Philadelphia Project for a week. While we were there we served in homeless shelters, played with the children living there, packed meals for those with special diets due to illness, and provided lunches for the homeless in center-city. This trip provided many of our students with the opportunity to see their world and faith grow. The impact on our kids was amazing to watch.

July marks the time for the Great Escape, a middle school conference in Johnstown, PA! Many new faces joined us this year and gave us the opportunity to grow closer as a group that wasn't always the most familiar with each other. Between the worship experiences, speakers, and family time, it is safe to say this was the deepest Great Escape I have attended from a faith perspective. The students still had a ton of fun with recreation time and late night games as well. You will have to ask Pablo Ortiz how the slime he fell in during a tug-of-war game smelled!

We love the summer with Youth, but kickoff is coming! We start back up Sept 9th with a parent/student night! Three main areas of focus this year for the youth committee are: rethinking what service looks like in our ministry; connecting and engaging youth in each of our three services on Sunday mornings; and leading overall cultural growth within our ministry. The students of this church are great! Be sure to catch them in Fellowship Hall sometime and ask them more about how youth group is going, and the experiences they love the most!

Cole Seaman

Notes of Thanks...

I'd like to thank the many members of our congregation who were so supportive of Dave and me with their prayers, cards and meals during his recent illness and after his death. He and I felt comforted and upheld by your many expressions of loving care and concern for us. It's such a consolation to belong to a church which truly lives by its motto.

"Above all, Love",
Cathie Voorhees

Thank you from Karen and Dave Goldstein

I would never have imagined that my physically fit husband would have had such a massive stroke. Running 2 miles five days a week as well as working out - he was in great shape even though he has had a pacemaker for about 13 years!

But the outpouring of love, prayers, gift cards and meals have been so helpful and I am truly humbled and thankful for my First Pres family. I miss my conversations with you all as well as working with our great and caring staff.

Don't count me out yet. I am hoping to work out some kind of schedule while Dave is in rehab. As I go through this trying and difficult time, I realize how short life is. We shouldn't worry about things that we think are a big concern when in reality they are very trivial.

I know God has a plan for Dave and me, and I ask Him to keep me strong so that I am able to help Dave when he gets home.

So again, thank you all for your kindness, love and support.
Karen and Dave Goldstein

S a v e t h e D a t e



October 14th
12-2 pm in Social Hall

Pocopson Home Project (Sponsored by Presbyterian Women)

by Ellen Tyson

Each year, Presbyterian Women sponsors a project for the residents of Pocopson Home. This project is two-fold.

- We collect extra unopened toiletry items from vacation and spa spots with which we make mini-spa bags. These small (5 x 7 in) net bags are very popular with the residents.

This is an ongoing project.

- In September and October we collect an assortment of items to make Gift Bags. This bag is about 8 x 10 inches. There is a printed list of suggested items -- soap, lotion, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc., on the rolling collection cart in Fellowship Hall. Please feel free to take one or more for yourself or to give to others. Other items placed in the bags are fun items like large print puzzle books (word search, etc.), small stuffed animals, calendars, greeting cards, jewelry, etc. Depending on the items received we try to make bags for both men and women.

Thank you for your support and the many items you donate. We wish you could see the appreciation on the faces of the staff and hear the enthusiastic thanks they express to us.

We will be collecting items for the Gift Bags **until Sunday, November 4th**. The bags will then be assembled and delivered to Pocopson Home before Thanksgiving.

First Pres Travelers Trip to Hudson Valley, NY

On Oct. 8th & 9th, First Pres Travelers has planned an exciting, and information-filled trip to Hudson Valley, NY. So much has been included in this two-day, one-night adventure that it is sure to please the most discriminating traveler. We will have:

- Guided tour of Kykuit, home of philanthropist John D. Rockefeller (the richest man in America at the time and for three generations to follow).
- Guided tour of the Vanderbilt mansion, the 54-room vacation home owned by Frederick William Vanderbilt, Financier and Philanthropist who managed the family shipping and railroad empire.
- Guided tour of FDR's home, Springwood, and a visit to the Library & Museum.

- Guided tour of Val-Kill, personal residence of Eleanor Roosevelt.
- Lunch at the famous Culinary Institute of America's Caterina de' Medici.
- Guided tour of the Culinary Institute of America Campus.
- Dinner at Cosimo's—Family Style Italian Restaurant.
- Tuesday Breakfast at the hotel.

We will be staying at The Holiday Inn Express in Poughkeepsie, NY. Cost includes tours, lodging, one breakfast, one lunch, and one dinner, all taxes, and tour and restaurant gratuities. Driver's gratuity is not included. A morning rest/meal stop enroute to NY is "on your own", and a dinner stop on the way home is "on your own".

The all-inclusive cost with 37 travelers is:

\$369pp Double Occupancy

\$359pp Triple Occupancy

\$349pp Quad Occupancy

\$439pp Single Occupancy

We currently have 32 travelers and can take a maximum of 40.

Payment is due ASAP; we are past the vendors' deadline.

For more info on this trip, please check the church website and/or contact Thom and Irene Clapper, psuthom@verizon.net, 610-436-5667.

Additional Faith Development Opportunities

Pub Theology Returns: Plan to join us 7 - 9 pm Tuesday, September 4 at Ryan's Pub in West Chester (124 W Gay St), where we gather for fellowship over food and drink, and stimulating conversation. Be part of our first gathering since June as we share ideas and questions about living, loving, God, meaning, and . . . ? Bring your appetite, your ideas, your thoughts, and your wondering, ready to make new friends and learn from each other in a spirit of caring and openness. Questions? Contact Rev. Steve Clark at sclark@firstpreswc.com / 610-696-0554.

New Members Class This Fall: If you're interested in becoming a member of First Pres, or just learning more about what God is up to here at the corner of Miner and Darlington, join us 5:45 - 7:30 Wednesday evenings October 3, 10 and 17 for our "Connection" gatherings. Dinner is included, and childcare can be provided if needed. Contact Rev. Steve Clark (sclark@firstpreswc.com) if interested in attending, or if you have questions.

The Thursday Night Men's Study Group: will begin its Fall study on September 13 at 7:00 pm in Room 209. The book is "Outlive Your Life" by Max Lucado. Tony Campolo, Professor Emeritus, Eastern University says, "To all of us who are called by God to make a difference for good, this book is an inspiring instruction manual." Sample chapter headings include: "See the Need, Touch the Hurt", "Do Good, Quietly" and "Don't Forget the Bread". Sign up for the fall study through the church office or Phil Heaver at 610-310-0388 or fivormor59@aol.com.

Plans for Women's Bible Studies this fall, daytime and evening, are still in the works! For those interested, check the bulletin in coming weeks for more information about these opportunities to grow in faith with your sisters in Christ at First Pres.

Presbyterian Women's Circles

Faith - 2nd Tuesday of Month, 7 pm - Members' Homes

Grace - 2nd Monday of Month, 1 pm - Members' Homes

Hope - 2nd Thursday of Month, 9 am - FPC

Peace - 2nd Tuesday of Month, 7 pm - Members' Homes

Praise - 2nd Wednesday of Month, 9:30 am - Members' Homes

SAVE THE DATE

SEPT. 9

C O N T E M P O R A R Y W O R S H I P

10:42AM

november 16-17

WOMEN'S

Retreat

Using the classic devotional resource “The Cup of Our Life”, the 2018 Women’s Retreat will be a time for women of all ages to grow spiritually and emotionally in a warm, inviting setting.

There will be opportunities for study, worship, discussion, and fellowship, along with rest for those who simply need some time to get away from the busy pace of life. You do not need to be a member of First Presbyterian to attend.

Women of all ages are invited to join us at the IHM Spirituality Center, located at Immaculata University in Malvern, PA. The retreat will begin on Friday, November 16 at 6:30 pm and conclude on Saturday, November 17 at 5:00 pm. Participants are encouraged to stay over in one of the center’s private rooms, though you are welcome to simply come for the day on Saturday.

The cost of the retreat includes a private room (in the case of overnight guests), meals, snacks, and supplies for activities. Please let us know if you have any special dietary restrictions or specific requests regarding the event. If you are planning to come to both Friday and Saturday but not stay overnight, please indicate that in the comments (there is no additional charge for Friday night). You can register by filling out the form below, or online at www.firstpreswc.com/women.

Registration Form (please fill out and return to church)

Name:

Phone:

Email:

Dietary Restrictions:

☐ Friday and Saturday

☐ Saturday Only

Stay tuned for additional details in the weeks to come.

For more information, contact Sara Pantazes (spantazes@firstpreswc.com) or Pastor Caroline Cupp (ccupp@firstpreswc.com).

Coming up @ First Pres

- Sept 2: One service - 9 am
- Sept 3: Labor Day - Office Closed
- Sept 4: Pub Theology (Ryan's Pub) 7:00 pm
- Sept 9: KICKOFF SUNDAY! Name tags/ Church Breakfast/ 8,9,10:42 services
- Sept 12: Bridge Resumes
- Sept 16: Ministry Fair in Fellowship Hall/ Muffin Mania Fundraiser
- Oct 2: Pub Theology (Ryan's Pub) 7:00 pm
- Oct 7: World Communion Sunday, communion at all services
- Oct 12-20: FPC trip to Rome
- Oct 14: Rise Against Hunger Packaging Event (12-2 pm)
- Oct 26: Community Trick or Treat Event
- Oct 28: Homecoming Sunday
- Oct 30: Red Cross Blood Drive (1-6 pm)
- Oct 31: No Bridge (Halloween)

**For a full calendar of events visit
www.firstpreswc.com or contact the church office.**

In Memoriam

- Robert A. Lorgus, member from February 28, 1994 to July 4, 2018
- Caroline E. Williams, member from May 21, 2006 to July 3, 2018
- David H. Voorhees, member from October 25, 1999 to July 23, 2018
- Dallas E. Matthews, member from February 21, 1971 to July 26, 2018
- Anne Brown Little, member from December 3, 1952 to August 13, 2018

The sympathy and prayers of the congregation are extended to:

- Joan Lorgus and family in the death of her father;
- Kurt, Betsy and Victoria Williams and Sally Birmingham and family in the death of their daughter, sister and granddaughter;
- Bob Graham and Sandy Kwisz and family in the death of their son;
- Steve and Jenny Clark and family in the death of Steve's father;
- Rob, Rachel, Jenica and Lucia Briggs and family in the death of Rob's father;
- Cathie Voorhees and family in the death of her husband;
- Marion Matthews and family in the death of her husband;
- Joanne and Christopher Stephano and family in the death of Joanne's mother;
- Jacquelynn and Andrew Rode and family in the death of Jacquelynn's father;
- Julie and Rick Mars and family in the death of Julie's father.

Baptisms

- Jacob Paul Gross, born March 3, 2018, son of Jeffrey and Taryn Gross

Births

- Georgia Dale Congdon-Marth, born June 14, 2018, daughter of Sally Congdon-Martin and Jesse Marth, granddaughter of Beth and Doug Congdon-Martin.
- Luca Samuel D'Amico, born June 11, 2018, son of Jeremiah D'Amico and Brittany Emmett, granddaughter of Jack and Patty Roberts.
- Gabriel Alexander Blanas, born July 7, 2018, son of Alex and Jane Blanas, and grandson of Bob Graham and Sandra Kwisz.
- Kade Jonathan Gallagher, born July 11, 2018, son of Sean and Kimberly Gallagher, brother of Max Gallagher, grandson of Bob and Sue Adams, and great grandson of Jack Herman.
- Charles Robert Catullo, born June 5, 2018, son of Brooke and Michael Catullo, and grandson of Kay and Bob Young.
- Nathan James Singley, born August 1, 2018, son of Dave and Jennifer Singley, and brother of Claire.

FIRST PRES CONTACT

Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell
gstovell@firstpreswc.com

Associate Pastors

Rev. Steve Clark
sclark@firstpreswc.com

Rev. Caroline Cupp
ccupp@firstpreswc.com

Program

Music: Sándor Kádár
skadar@firstpreswc.com

Contemp. Worship Leader: Eric Hankins
ehankins@firstpreswc.com

Youth Ministry: Cole Seaman
cseaman@firstpreswc.com

Director of CE: Sara Pantazes
spantazes@firstpreswc.com

Music Associate: Brian Claeys
bclaeys@firstpreswc.com

Nursery/Young Families: Mary Hambleton
mhambleton@firstpreswc.com

Bucket School Director: Jen Drap
jdrap@firstpreswc.com

Church Office

Director of Operations: Dory Speer
dspeer@firstpreswc.com

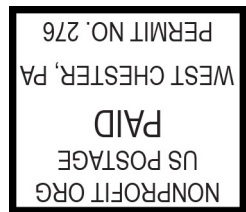
Office Manager: Karen Goldstein
kgoldstein@firstpreswc.com

Administrative Assistant: Beth Hull
bhull@firstpreswc.com



130 West Miner Street
West Chester, PA 19382

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



A SERVICE FOR YOU

THREE DISTINCT WORSHIP SERVICES

> CHAPEL

SUN. at 8:00am

Small, intimate service with piano

> TRADITIONAL

SUN. at 9:00am

Traditional worship with organ and choir

> CONTEMPORARY

SUN. at 10:42am

Modern music in a casual atmosphere

BEGINNING
SEPT. 9th



First Presbyterian Church
130 W. Miner St. West Chester, Pa 19382
firstpreswc.com