



SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:00 & 10:30 am

September 24, 2017

What is Thy only comfort in life and death?

That I with body and soul, both in life and death, am not my own, but belong unto my faithful Savior Jesus Christ; who, with his precious blood, hath fully satisfied for all my sins, and delivered me from all the power of the devil; and so preserves me that without the will of my heavenly Father, not a hair can fall from my head; yea, that all things must be subservient to my salvation, and therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life, and makes me sincerely willing and ready, henceforth, to live unto him.

Heidelberg Catechism Q. 1, (1563)

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 Prelude

Ashokan Farewell
arr. Douglas E. Wagner

*Call to Worship (Psalm 100)

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness!

Come into God's presence with singing!

Know this! The Lord is God.

Know this! We belong to the Lord who made us.

Know this! We are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture.

Let us worship God!

*Hymn #363

Rejoice, the Lord is King!
Darwall's 148th

*Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

We confess that we have strayed away from your Word.

We cry out to you, O God.

**We confess that we have allowed the worries of this world
to drive us away from your vision for our lives.**

**We confess that there is strife and contention all around us
and too often we contribute to it.**

We confess together

that we are powerless

and have taken our focus off your Word;

**that we have not allowed your Word to work in our lives,
yet we continue to cry out to you in times of trouble and need.**

Grant understanding and wisdom

that we may see your vision and apply it in our lives.

Hear our prayer, O God,

and call us back to you. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

*Response Hymn #54 (st. 1)

Make a Joyful Noise to God!
Dix

Make a joyful noise to God! All creation sings your praise!

Great your wonders here displayed, unexcelled throughout our days.

Glorious is your sacred name, ages old, yet still the same.

*Passing of the Peace

Children's Message

Response (#487, v1)

Puer Nobis Nascitur

**These treasured children present now
Are bound to us by sacred vow;
With love, we make a heartfelt claim
To welcome them in Jesus' name.**

Welcome and Ministry Updates

Recognition of Pastor Emeritus (9:00)

We, members and friends, of First Presbyterian Church rejoice in your acceptance of the title "Pastor Emeritus". We hold in high regard this special honor you have received. We pledge our constant care and sustaining prayers through all the days before us.

Prayer of Recognition

Almighty God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth by your wisdom, and has brought us to this holy moment of commitment and praise, we give you heartfelt thanks for the long and fruitful ministry of your servant Dr. Hess. For the lessons we have learned from his obedience to your will and way, for the caring and sharing, the living and loving by which he has enriched so many lives over the years. Continue to bless him and his family as he serves you in his retirement. To God be all honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Psalm 150 (Old Testament, p. 583)

Anthem

Bright Morning Stars
Kentucky Folk Hymn, arr. Jay Althouse

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

Walk Together, Children (*arr. Moses Hogan*)
African-American Spiritual

*Response #36 (st. 1)

Ar Hyd Y Nos

**For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For the gifts to ev'ry nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God.**

*Hymn #351

All Who Love and Serve Your City
Charlestown

Scripture Reading

Romans 14:1-12 (New Testament, p. 163)

Sermon

“We Are the Lord’s”

Dr. William Hess

*Hymn #310

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord
St. Thomas

*Blessing

Choral Response

Peace I Leave with You
Matthew Glandord

Organ Postlude

Psalm XIX
Benedetto Marcello (Italy, 1686-1739)

Leading us in worship

Greg Stovell, Pastor

Caroline Cupp, Associate Pastor

Steve Clark, Associate Pastor

Bill Hess, Pastor Emeritus

Marcia Sommers, Director of Music and Fine Arts

Sándor Kádár, Organist

Doug Congdon-Martin, Liturgist

The Chancel Choir

The Chancel Ringers

Sunday School Information - Children age 3 through grade 5 are invited to leave with our teachers after the Children's Message to attend classes. **At 9:00 service**, children through grade 3 meet downstairs; grades 4-5 meet on the top floor. ALL children should be picked up after worship downstairs in Social Hall. **At 10:30 service**, all children meet downstairs in Social Hall. (On Communion Sundays, children remain in worship with their families.) If you are a guest or visitor, please complete a Kid's Ministry card located in the Friendship Pads and have your child bring it with them to class so that we have immediate contact and emergency info. Thank you!

WORSHIP NOTES

Notes from the Loft:

Bright Morning Stars

Kentucky Folk Hymn

arr. Jay Althouse

"Bright morning stars are shining; day is breaking in my soul.

O, where are our dear fathers? They are in the valley praying;

day is breaking in my soul.

O, where are our dear mothers? They are gone to heaven a-shouting!

Day is breaking in my soul.

Bright morning stars are shining; day is breaking in my soul."

Walk Together, Children

African-American Spiritual

arr. Moses Hogan

"There's a great camp meetin' in the promised land!

Walk together, children, don't you get weary.

Gonna walk and never tire, gonna sing and never tire, gonna shout and never tire;

There's a great camp meetin' in the promised land!"

All spirituals exist on two levels, the first being the simple Christian interpretation, the second being words of encouragement, sung during long hours of toil and labor, and as encouragement for slaves escaping toward freedom in the north – the "promised land" for a slave.

Marcia Sommers

FIRST PRES MATTERS

Serving today as ushers are Steve, Sue and Nolan Soulas, Kip Volkman and Scott Drap at 9:00 a.m. and Bob Bird, Phil and Gwyn Heaver, and Thom and Irene Clapper at 10:30 a.m. Our coffee deacons are Sandy Lebold and Cynthia Menan. Our flower deacon is Martha Sherman. The greeters are Dory Speer and the Beckman family. Our Nursery workers are Mary Hambleton, Sarah Burke, Olivia Fiatoa and Paige Conley. Rick Burke is running sound and video production.

The Chancel Flowers are given by the Myhre family in honor of their granddaughter, Charlotte Myhre's 4th birthday; and Steve and Sue Soulas, in honor of their 28th wedding anniversary.

Our sympathy and prayers are with Doc and Emily McClure and family in the death of Doc's mother.

Bridge dinner! Join us next week for an exceptionally expanded Salad and Bread Bar! Tons of delicious items to top your salad with. Dessert and drinks as well. Make your reservations early. Noon on Monday is the deadline. Contact Beth Hull at bhull@firstpreswc.com.

BridgeKidz is the mid-week program First Pres offers for children. Our goal for this time is to give children a break from their week, provide opportunities for them to grow in friendship with one another, and offer activities that will nourish their relationships with God. We hope your children will join us on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 - 7:30 in Room 214b. If you are willing to occasionally volunteer with this program or have any other questions, please contact Sara Pantazes at spantazes@firstpreswc.com.

LOTS of Opportunities for Learning, Service & Fellowship this Fall: see the "Gathering, Growing, Going" brochure on our website or pick up a copy at the table in Fellowship Hall to learn about all the gatherings happening in the coming months. (If you have an interest or idea not listed in the brochure, contact Pastor Steve Clark and he'd be happy to discuss how to help make it happen.)

Adult Enrichment at The Bridge this week: Join Pastor Steve Clark Wednesday evenings to explore "How to Spell 'Presbyterian' ". It's not the only way to be the church. It may not even be the best way to be the church. But it's our way of being church. But what does that mean? What are the important beliefs, values, and practices that guide our walk with the Lord in this hard-to-spell branch of the Christian family tree? No registration or preparation required. Just bring your Bible, your ideas, your memories, and your questions, and join the conversation 6:30 -7:30 p.m. in Herron Lounge (runs through October 18).

Hurricane Harvey Relief #1 (Deuteronomy 15:11): If you would like to contribute, send a check payable to First Presbyterian Church and in the memo section, write “Harvey/Irma” or go to www.firstpreswc.com, online giving, use a credit/debit card and select the fund “Disaster Relief – Harvey/Irma” from the fund drop-down menu. “Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, ‘Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land.’” Deuteronomy 15:11 Thank you!

Hurricane Harvey Relief #2: In addition to making financial contributions, our Sew Many Blessings team invites you to contribute towels (new, large/bath) that will go to those affected by the hurricane. Towels may be brought to First Pres by next Sunday, October 1, and deposited in the collection bin in Fellowship Hall. The towels will be packed and shipped to officials in one of the counties in and around Houston (the Chester County Sheriff’s Department has provided guidance for this effort, and made the connection with recipients in Texas, who will take care of distribution). THANKS in advance for being part of our First Pres family’s commitment to service in the name of Christ!

Local Mission Conference with Tony Campolo, Andy Crouch - First Pres is one of a number of local congregations sponsoring a conference on the future of mission on Saturday, September 30 from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Church of the Good Samaritan (Paoli). Hear Andy Crouch, long-time editor of Christianity Today, and Tony Campolo, a well-known author and speaker on Christian social justice, and participate in sessions on the refugee crisis, local poverty initiatives, and performing Christian mission in a secular world. A Friday evening workshop at Paoli Presbyterian Church is open to all those interested in the nuts-and-bolts of mission. For more information and to RSVP, visit <http://www.good-samaritan.org/co-mission> or call Rev. Caroline Cupp at 484-459-8220 or at email ccupp@firstpreswc.com.

Evening Prayer Services – Evening Prayer services will be returning to the church schedule beginning tonight. One Sunday evening a month, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary (no Evening Prayer in December). The services, which are sung by members of the Choir, allow the congregation to enter into a time of quiet, contemplative prayer, and the services are about 35 minutes in length. Free, all are welcome. Also October 29 and November 19. For more information, call Marcia Sommers at the church (610-696-0554).

Muffin Mania is happening today in Fellowship Hall. Stop by the tables by the stage, try some muffins and help reach the goal of \$2,000 for Rise Against Hunger (formerly Stop Hunger Now!)

Mark Your Calendars: Our Annual Hayride is taking place Sunday, October 15th 2 – 4:00 p.m. at Hurricane Hill Farm. For more information or to sign-up, visit www.firstpreswc.com/hayride or visit the table in Fellowship Hall.

Family Worship Bags. We love that our Family Worship Bags are being used regularly! We'd like to share a few things to help you get the most out of them and for your children to get the most out of worship. Remember - they are for family interaction. Parents, you are like worship coaches! Your children depend on you to walk along side them and teach them about worship. That will probably mean some whispering to each other to talk about and understand what's happening and some of the tools we've provided with you. It might mean some movement and wiggles, too. And guess what? That's ok! We are glad for that interaction. Check out the instruction tags on the bag to see how you might use what's inside. And remember... some things change in the bag each week!

Spiritual Connections invites women to the next book discussion series, starting October 2, *Carry On, Warrior: The Power of Embracing your Messy, Beautiful Life* by Glennon Doyle Melton. The author shares her personal story in moving, refreshing, laugh-out-loud funny new essays. Her writing invites us to believe in ourselves, to be brave and kind, and to let go of the idea of perfection. Participants may obtain their own books. The group meets 1st and 3rd Mondays, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at First Pres. For information, contact Ellen Endslow at eendslow@verizon.net.

College Care Packages - Freshman year of college can be a stressful, lonely time. The deacon mentoring committee is collecting items for care packages to let our freshman know that they are loved and missed by their home church. Please place items such as microwave popcorn, snack packs of cookies and crackers, protein bars, cocoa and tea packs, gum, candy etc., in the marked basket in Fellowship Hall by Oct. 15. Thank you!

Church Property available for rent! This 3500 square foot, three story building located next door to the church - just under 2 blocks from the Justice Center - has been law offices for the past 50 years. This historic structure has 11 offices, 3 restrooms, and a kitchenette. The first floor can be leased separately from the upper floors. Rental rate is \$4530/month plus utilities for the entire space. Interested parties should call 610-633-5039.

Start your Engines: ZOOM is a new volunteer transportation program developed by two of our mission partners, Family Service and Community Volunteers in Medicine. They train and insure volunteer drivers who take individuals to local medical appointments - an elderly man with diabetes for a check-up, or a mother and baby to an infant wellness visit. ZOOM drivers use a web-based system to choose the rides they can provide to people for whom a timely ride from a caring person means a lot.



FIRST PRES GOES TO ITALY

Fall 2018

**INFORMATION
MEETING:**

**OCTOBER 1st
Herron Lounge
11:40 am**

THIS WEEK @ FIRST PRES

SUNDAY 9/24 - Muffin Mania (Supporting Rise Against Hunger)

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
4:00 pm	Youth Fellowship	Youth Room 216
6:00 pm	Evening Prayer	Sanctuary

MONDAY 9/25

7:00 pm	Session	Library
---------	---------	---------

TUESDAY 9/26

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

WEDNESDAY 9/27

9:00 am	Sew Many Blessings	Quilting Room
12:00 pm	Bulletin Deadline	
5:15 pm	Celebration Singers	Choir Room
5:15 pm	Cherub Choir	Room 214
5:30 pm	Bridge Dinner (til 6:15)	Social Hall
6:15 pm	Women's Bible Study	Room 209
6:30 pm	BridgeKidz	Room 214
6:30 pm	Bridge Adult Ed	Herron Lounge
7:30 pm	Chancel Ringers	Room 208

THURSDAY 9/28

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 9/29

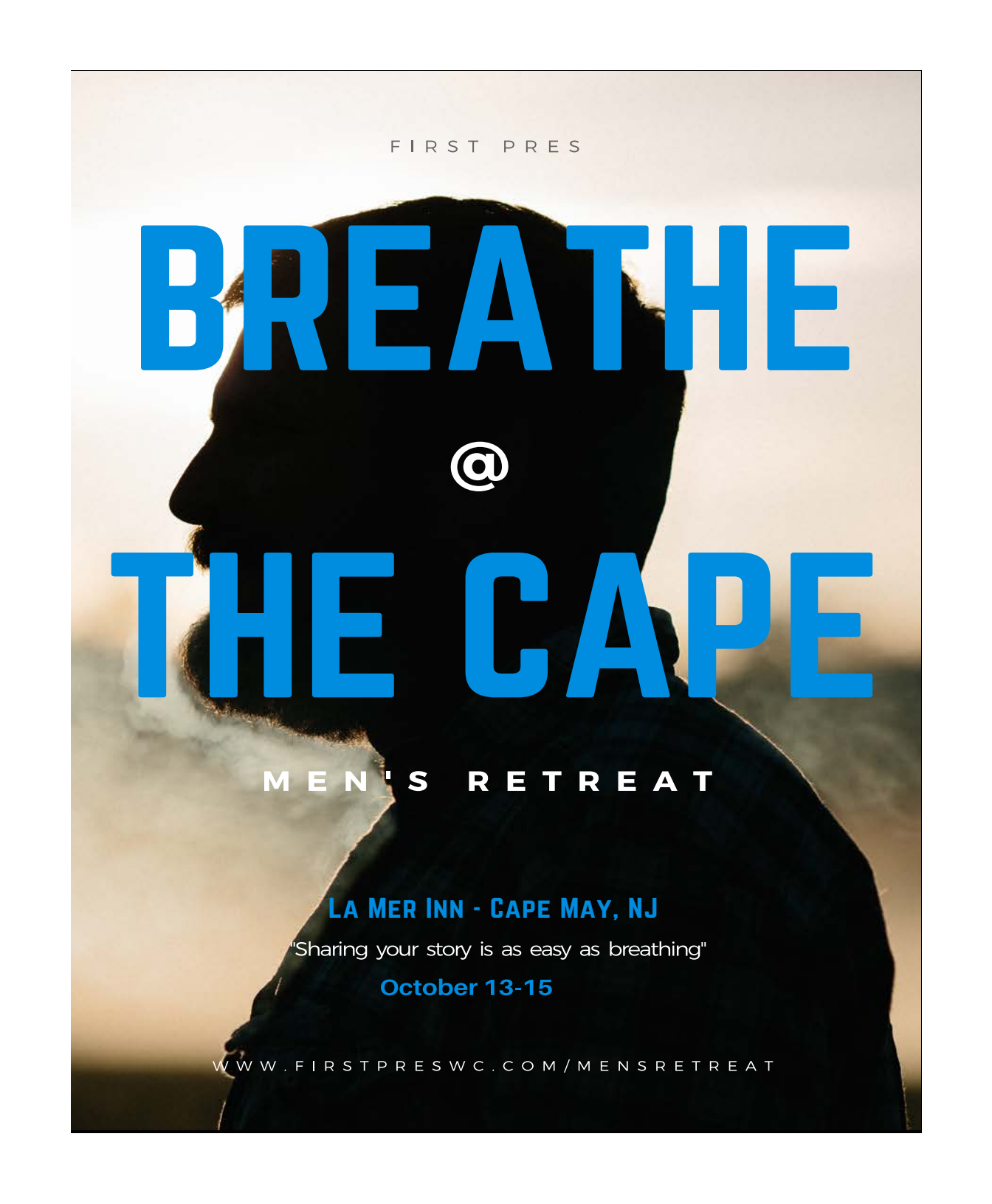
6:30 am	Men's Study Group	Room 210
1:00 pm	Sweet Dreams	Quilting Room
6:00 pm	Mission Conference	Paoli Presbyterian Church

SATURDAY 9/30

8:00 am	Mission Conference	Church of the Good Samaritan, Paoli
---------	--------------------	-------------------------------------

SUNDAY 10/1 - World Communion Sunday, Stewardship Sunday

8:00 am	Worship, Communion	Sanctuary
8:30 am	Sunday Social (til 10:30 am)	Fellowship Hall
9:00 am	Worship, Communion	Sanctuary
9:00 am	Nursery to age 2	Nursery
9:00 am	Adult Bible Study	
9:00 am	Christian Faith and Issues	Room 209
9:00 am	Radio Broadcast on 1520AM; Live Web stream	
10:30 am	Worship, Communion	Sanctuary
10:30 am	Nursery to age 2	Nursery
11:40 am	Italy Trip Information Session	Herron Lounge
4:00 pm	Youth Fellowship	Youth Room 216



FIRST PRES

BREATHE @ THE CAPE

MEN'S RETREAT

LA MER INN - CAPE MAY, NJ

"Sharing your story is as easy as breathing"

October 13-15

WWW.FIRSTPRESWC.COM/MENSRETREAT