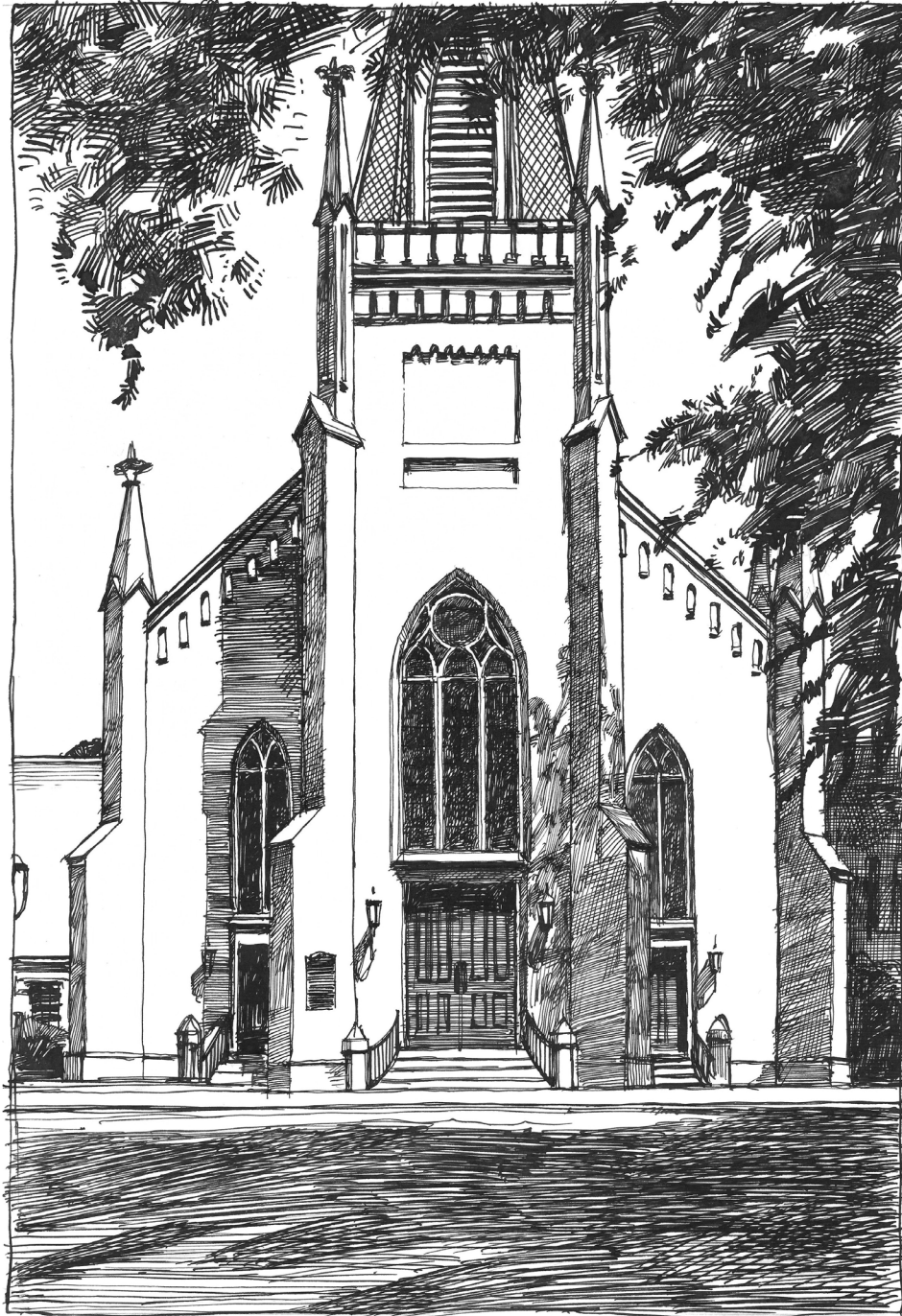


# First Presbyterian Church

11 AM WORSHIP | SEPTEMBER 28, 2025 | SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



*We invite you, whoever you are and whoever God is helping you to become, to join First Presbyterian Church of Charlotte in our journey of faith. God is love, and that love is for you. You belong as a child of God, and we welcome you. Come experience how that belonging might change you and our world as we seek to be for Christ in the heart of Charlotte.*



First Presbyterian  
Church of Charlotte

VIRTUAL  
CONNECT  
CARD

Are you  
interested  
in joining  
our church?  
Contact  
Jane Ives,  
Membership  
Coordinator,  
jives@firstpres-  
charlotte.org.

**PREPARATION****Prelude** | Prelude on *Darwall's 148th* | Brenda Portman**Words of Welcome** | Lucy Baum**Chiming of the Trinity****ADORATION****Choral Call to Worship** | Jane Lindner | Carol Choir

*Rejoice in the Lord, again I will say: rejoice! Be gentle to all, the Lord is near. Be thankful and pray, and God will give you peace.*

+**Hymn No. 363** | "Rejoice, the Lord Is King!" | DARWALL'S 148TH**CONFESSION****Call to Confession** | Chuck Williamson**Prayer of Confession**

Gracious God, we confess that we have become disconnected from you, like branches that wither when cut off from the vine. We have believed the myth of our own independence and strength, when in truth we are utterly dependent upon you. We have resisted your pruning because we are afraid of what it will cost, rather than trusting that you desire our growth and flourishing. We have not borne the fruit of love for our neighbors, but instead have hoarded resources for ourselves. Forgive us, merciful God, and graft us back into the true vine. Root us deeply in your love, so that we may abide in you and you in us, in the name of Christ our Lord we pray.

**Assurance of Pardon**

Friends, believe the good news.  
**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

+**Response to Pardon** | Hymn No. 581 | GLORIA PATRI

**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.**

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Baptism of Nell Frances Strubinger (Nellie)

+**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.**

*Children ages three through first grade may leave for First Church. They will return to the sanctuary during the last hymn. Older children are encouraged to stay and worship with their families.*

The Elder  
assisting with  
the baptism  
today is Carson  
Peacock.

FIRST  
CHURCH  
MOBILE  
CHECK IN

+ Please stand if you are able

**PROCLAMATION** 

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**Anthem** | “Walk in the Light” | arr. André Thomas | Kirk Choir

*We'll walk in the light, beautiful light, come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright. Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the Light of the world. Thou, O Christ art all I want. Jesus, the Light of the world; more than all in thee I find; Jesus, the Light of the world. Raise the fallen, cheer the faint; Jesus, the Light of the world; Heals the sick and leads the blind, Jesus the Light of the world.*

**Prayer for Illumination****Scripture** | John 15: 1 - 12 | pew Bible p. 109

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.****Sermon** | “Abiding in Love” | Lucy Baum**Anthem** | “If Ye Love Me” | arr. Philip Wilby

*If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the father, and he shall give you another comforter that he may abide with you forever, even the Spirit of Truth. And ye know him, for he dwelleth with you, and he shall be in you. “I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you.”*

**RESPONSE** 

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**Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer** | Anna Dickson

**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.

**Stewardship of Life** | Presentation of Tithes and Offering**Offertory Anthem** | “O Love” | Elaine Hagenberg

*O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that in thy ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be. O joy that seeks me through the pain, I cannot close my heart to thee; I trace the rainbow in the rain, and feel the promise is not vain that morn shall tearless be. O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, and in thy ocean depths its flow shall richer, fuller be. That morn shall tearless be.*

**+Doxology** | OLD HUNDREDTH

**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.

**+Prayer of Dedication****SENDING FORTH** 

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**+Hymn No. 366** | “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” | HYFRYDOL**Congregational Meeting****+Benediction****+Benediction Response** | “Amen” | DANISH**Postlude** | Toccata on *Hyfrydol* | R. H. Pritchard**PRAYER  
REQUESTS****GIVE  
ONLINE****TEXT  
TO GIVE**

## ABOUT THIS SERVICE

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Nell Frances Strubinger (Nellie) is the daughter of Cameron and Curtis Strubinger.

There is a congregational meeting today immediately following worship for the purpose of adjusting the salaries of two installed ministers.

Part of our offering today goes to the Ten-Cents-a-Meal program which is used to purchase fresh foods for our on-site Nourish Up food pantry.

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in honor of Lucy Baum by the Board of Trustees of Columbia Theological Seminary.

*If you wish to sponsor sanctuary flowers for a baptism, marriage, memorial/honorarium, or special occasion, please notify Diane Maye at [dianenmaye@hotmail.com](mailto:dianenmaye@hotmail.com).*

Today's Worship Leaders:

**The Reverend Anna R. Dickson**, *Executive Pastor and Associate for Congregational Care*

**Lucy Baum**, *Director of Formation*

**The Reverend Dr. Charles Williamson**, *Parish Associate*

**William P. Young, III**, *Director of Music Ministries*

**Kaitlyn Davros**, *Assistant Director of Music Ministries*



# Welcome!

We're so glad you decided to join us for worship today! Whether you are a member, a frequent visitor, or it's your first time here, keep reading for details about today's worship.

**Are you new here?** Please fill out a Connect Card, which can be found in the seatback of the pew in front of you, or scan the "Virtual Connect Card" QR code in the front of your bulletin.



## **Do you have children with you today?**

Children of all ages are welcome to worship with their families! A nursery is available for children ages birth through two years old in room P311. Children will be invited to participate in the Time for Children during worship, after which ages three through first grade may leave for First Church. They will return to the sanctuary during the last hymn.



Our church is a member of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, which seeks equity still not fully realized for LGBTQIA+ people in church.



**Do you need support?** We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation. Stephen Ministers are trained to engage in confidential, structured, and caring relationships with people who are going through a difficult period. If you are in a tough season and need extra support, email Mary Bowman ([mbowman@firstpres-charlotte.org](mailto:mbowman@firstpres-charlotte.org)).

If you have a pastoral emergency outside of regular church hours, dial 704.927.0256 for the on-call voicemail. Your call will be returned promptly.

## CONNECT WITH US!



@firstprescharlotte

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# Announcements

## Youth Group: Family Connection

*Today, 6 p.m., Fellowship Hall*

Dr. Andrew Zirschky joins us for a Youth Lab: Practicing Presence in a Culture of Distraction. Pasta's for dinner!

## 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Lab: Showing Up for Each Other

*Today, 6 p.m., Welcome Center*

Kids are invited to their own pizza-filled lab with games, stories, and creative activities.

## Presbytery Q&A

*October 1, 6 p.m., Chapel*

Jan Edmiston, Executive Presbyter, will provide an overview of the Presbytery's judicial process related to Pen's departure. Questions can be submitted in advance by scanning the QR code.

## Apple Tree

*through October 2*

Help provide Lakeshore gift cards to all teachers at our partner school, Westerly Hills Academy, so that they can buy supplies for their classrooms. Scan the QR code to purchase.

## Operation Sandwich - New Date!

*October 5, 9:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall*

Help us make sandwiches for Roof Above.

## Regional and Global Mission Sunday

*October 5*

Jason McDougal from Camp Grier will speak during the Sunday school hour, and Keith Grogg from Montreat Presbyterian Church will be our guest preacher. Scan the QR code to make a donation to benefit Western NC flood relief.

## World Communion Sunday Food Drive

*October 5, during worship, Sanctuary*

On World Communion Sunday, we celebrate with Christians worldwide. Bring food gifts to worship for our local Nourish Up food pantry.

## Boo Bash Volunteers Needed

*October 23, various times, Front Lawn*

Interested in passing out candy, dressing up, and/or decorating for Boo Bash? Scan the QR code to sign up.

## Bread for the Journey

*Wednesdays, 12 p.m., Frances Browne Dining Room*

Join Rev. Rob Spach to engage in questions and responses that flow from reading a weekly Gospel passage together. Bring your lunch if you'd like.

## Wednesday Night Dinner

Dinner is served from 5:00-5:45. The cost is \$10 for ages 12 and up, \$7 for ages 4-11, and children 3 and under are free. Scan the QR code to register and pay.



SCAN HERE TO ACCESS ALL LINKS  
FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS  
[FPC.TINY.US/LINKS](https://fpc.tiny.us/links)

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