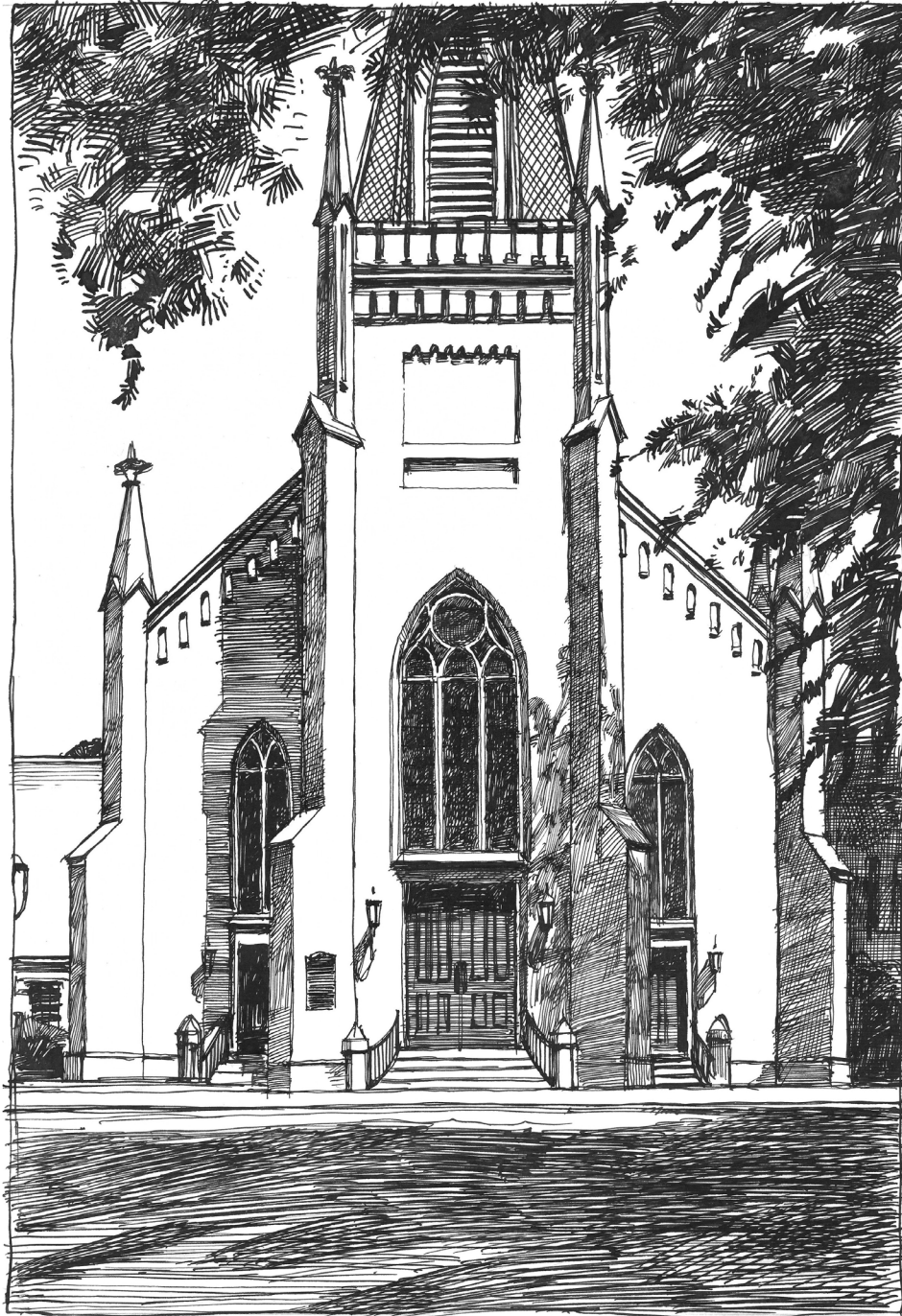


# First Presbyterian Church

11 AM WORSHIP | MAY 18, 2025 | FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



*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** | Fanfare Celebration | Michael Mazzatenta | Adult Handbells**Words of Welcome** | Lucy Crain**Chiming of the Trinity****ADORATION****Choral Call to Worship** | Hal Hopson*O be ye joyful in the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness. Come before his presence with a song.***+Hymn No. 610** | "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" | AZMON**CONFESSION****Call to Confession** | Pen Peery**Prayer of Confession**

Loving God, you call us into your merciful, gracious love, freely bestowed without expectations or conditions. While we are eager to experience your mercy and grace in our own lives, we are quick to make our extension of your mercy and grace conditional for others. We at times show mercy only to those we judge worthy, forgetting the new commandment to love as you have loved us. We at times extend grace only to those who will show us grace in return, missing the trustworthy and true nature of your boundless forgiveness. Forgive us, redeeming God. Transform our hearts with your amazing grace and unconditional love so that our relationships and your world are also transformed.

**Assurance of Pardon**

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

**+Response** | Hymn No. 441, stanza 1 | NETTLETON

Hear the good news of salvation: Jesus died to show God's love. Such great kindness! Such great mercy! Come to us from heaven above. Jesus Christ how much I love you! Jesus Christ, you save from sin! How I love you! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.

**Time with Children**

*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.*

**PROCLAMATION****Prayer for Illumination****Anthem** | "Pilgrims' Hymn" | Stephen Paulus

*Even before we call on your name to ask you, O God, when we seek for the words to glorify you, you hear our prayer. Unceasing love, O unceasing love surpassing all we know. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Even with darkness sealing us in, we breathe your name. And through all the days that follow so fast, we trust in you. Endless your grace, O endless your grace, beyond all mortal dream, both now and forever, and unto ages and ages. Amen.*

+ Please stand if you are able

FIRST  
CHURCH  
MOBILE  
CHECK IN

**Scripture** | John 21:1-14 | pew Bible p. 85

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** | “Come, Come to Breakfast” | Lucy Crain

+**Hymn No. 624** | “I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art” | TOULON

**RESPONSE** 

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+**Affirmation of Faith** | from the Confession of 1967 | Anna Dickson

God’s sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals God’s love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful people. The power of God’s love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the redeemer is the Lord and creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God’s love.

**Prayers of the People and 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.

**Stewardship of Life** | Presentation of New Members**Presentation of Tithes and Offering**

**Offertory** | “Let Praise Ring Through All the World” | K. McChesney | Adult Handbells

+**Doxology** | LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

+**Prayer of Dedication**

**SENDING FORTH** 

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+**Hymn No. 361** | “O Christ, the Great Foundation” | AURELIA

+**Benediction**

+**Benediction Response** | GOD BE WITH YOU

*God be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you, with a shepherd’s care enfold you.  
God be with you till we meet again.*

**Postlude** | Toccata in Seven | John Rutter

PRAYER  
REQUESTS



GIVE  
ONLINE



TEXT  
TO GIVE



## IN LOVING MEMORY

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*Birshal Williams Poole, August 7, 1927 - May 9, 2025*

*Joyce T. Blue, July 5, 1925 - May 13, 2025*

## ABOUT THIS SERVICE

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We welcome Rachel Chandler, Laura Holliday, Jeannie Hyde, Ed & Ruth Jenison (in absentia), Jan Keil, Holly Lee & Spencer Matthews, Payton McCall, Krista & Gordon McClellan, Cathy & Jim Parrish, and Emily & John Zullo into the full life of First Presbyterian Church.

The rosebuds in the Sanctuary celebrate the births of Chase Noel Cunningham, son of Xue and Charles Cunningham, on April 6, 2025; and William Merrill Cowart, son of Charlotte and Ben Cowart, on May 15, 2025.

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given by Presbyterian Women to the glory of God and in loving memory of FPC women who died in the last year.

*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 Pendleton B. Peery**, Senior Pastor

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

**The Reverend Lucy M. Crain**, Associate Pastor for Outreach and Mission

**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.



## **Have children with you today?**

### **9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Services:**

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. **11 a.m. Service Only:**

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.

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## CONNECT WITH US!



@firstprescharlotte

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# Announcements

## Last day of Contemplative Service

Today was the last day for the 9 a.m. contemplative service. This service will resume after Labor Day.

## Church Officer Nominations

*Today is the last day to make a nomination*

Help us identify faithful leaders to serve as Elders and Deacons at First Presbyterian Church. All confirmed members—including high school youth—are eligible. Scan the QR code to access the online form and make a recommendation.

## Flower Ministry

After the service today, our Flower Ministry Team will offer small bouquets made from the sanctuary flower arrangements. Look for our table in the driveway. It is our hope that you will take a bouquet to a church member, friend, or neighbor in need of a visit and encouragement.

## Anna's Sabbatical

Rev. Anna Dickson will be on sabbatical this summer from June 1 until September 2. To honor the purpose of the sabbatical, she will be unplugged from church communication throughout the summer and will not be responding to emails or phone calls. While Anna is away, the other pastors and parish associates will continue to provide pastoral care. If you have any pastoral needs or concerns during the summer, please reach out to share them by calling the church office at 704.332.5123 or by emailing Pen (pendleton.peery@firstpres-charlotte.org).

## Music Sunday

*June 1, 11 a.m., Sanctuary*

This annual music-led service will feature the Sanctuary Choir and guest instrumentalists in worship on the theme "Let Praises Fill the Sky: A Sacred Journey from Ascension to Trinity." Soaring music will lift our spirits and fill our hearts as we worship together.

## Spring Luncheon

*June 1, 12 p.m., Wood Fellowship Hall*

Join us after worship in the spirit of fellowship for our Spring Congregational Luncheon! The church will provide fried chicken, rolls, and drinks. Each family is kindly requested to bring a potluck dish based on last name: A-I: dessert; J-R: side dish; S-Z: salad. Please register by scanning the QR code so we can plan accordingly.



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

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