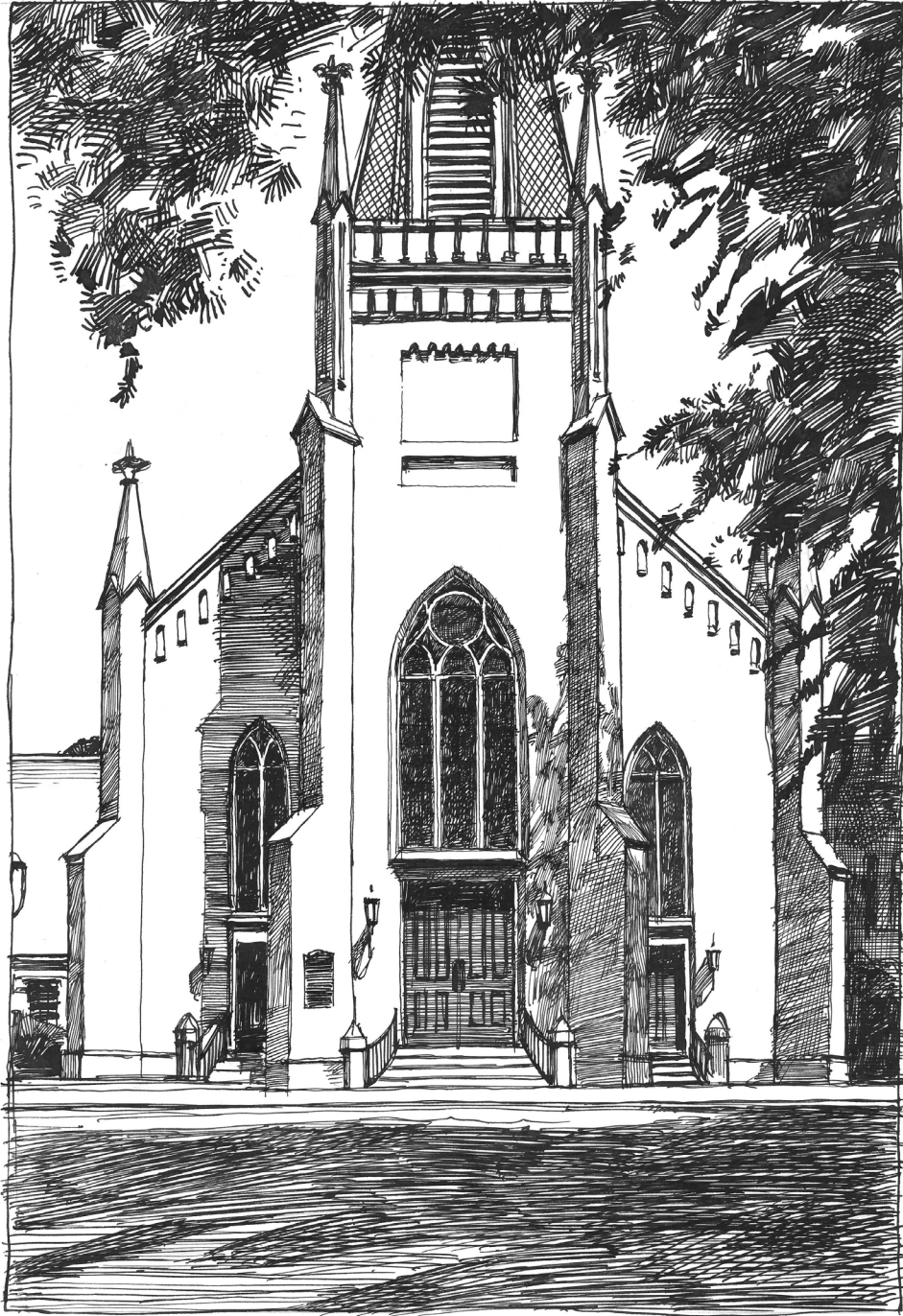


First Presbyterian Church

11 AM WORSHIP | SEPTEMBER 21, 2025 | FIFTEENTH 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.

FIRST
CHURCH
MOBILE
CHECK IN**PREPARATION****Prelude** | Variations on *Hyfrydol* | Charles Callahan**Words of Welcome** | Chuck Williamson**Chiming of the Trinity****ADORATION****Choral Call to Worship** | LIVING GOD*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.***+Hymn No. 260** | “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus” | HYFRYDOL**CONFESSION****Call to Confession** | Lucy Baum**Prayer of Confession**

Eternal God, our judge and redeemer, we acknowledge that we have failed you and ourselves. Regardless of how good we have been, we often fall short of being the kind of persons you want us to be. Forgive us for anything we have done to increase the pain of the world. Pardon the unkind word, the thoughtless gesture, the selfish deed. Lord, guide us in the way you want us to go. Make us merciful, even as you are merciful. We pray in Jesus’s name.

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.

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****Scripture** | Luke 15:1-2 | pew Bible p. 78

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem | “The Call” | Z. Randall Stroope

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life; such a Way, as gives us breath, such a Truth, as ends all strife, such a Life, as killeth death. Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength; such a Light, as shows a feast, such a Feast, as mends in length, such a Strength as makes his guest. Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart; such a Joy, as none can move, such a Love, as none can part, such a Heart, as joys in love. Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart; Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life.

+ Please stand if you are able

Sermon | “This Fellow Welcomes Sinners” | Chuck Williamson

+**Hymn No. 767** | “Together We Serve” | SAN ANSELMO

RESPONSE

+**Affirmation of Faith** | based on *1 Corinthians 15* | Lucy Crain

We believe that this is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses.

We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Loving God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen.

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 Tithes and Offering

Offertory Anthem | “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” | arr. Mack Wilberg

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down. Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art. Visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart. Breathe, O breathe thy loving spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit; let us find thy promised rest. Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be. End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty. Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive. Suddenly return and never, nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above; pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love. Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be. Let us see thy great salvation, perfectly restored in thee, changed from glory into glory till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise. Amen!

+**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

+**Hymn No. 774** | “There Is Now a New Creation” | STUTTGART

+**Benediction**

+**Benediction Response** | “Amen” | DANISH

Postlude | Toccata - Sortie | Auguste Larriu

PRAYER
REQUESTS



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ONLINE



TEXT
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ABOUT THIS SERVICE

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

Today's Worship Leaders:

Lucy Baum, *Director of Formation*

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

The Reverend Dr. Charles Williamson, *Parish Associate*

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

Kaitlyn Davros, *Assistant Director of Music Ministries*