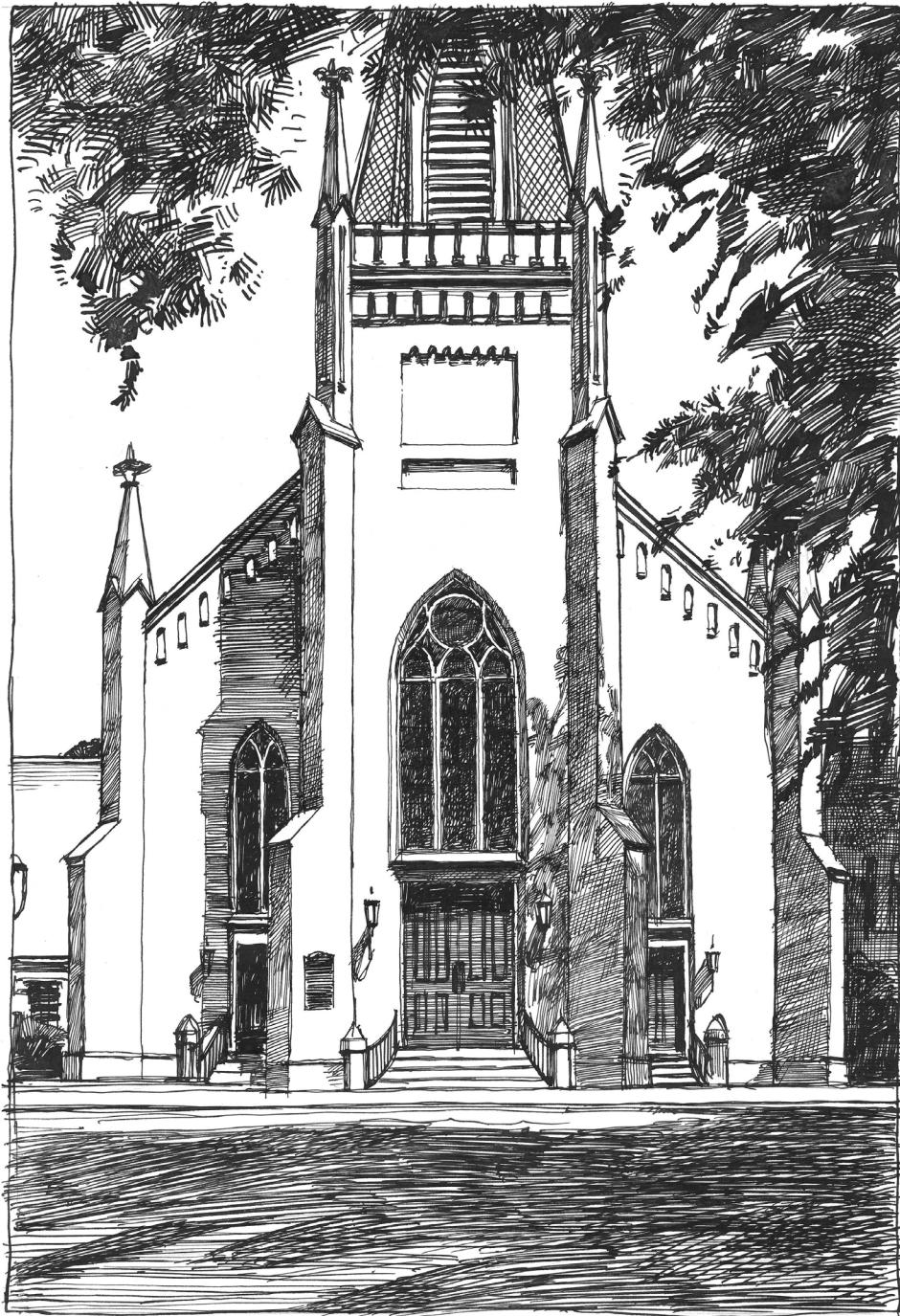


First Presbyterian Church

11 AM WORSHIP | SEPTEMBER 7, 2025 | THIRTEENTH 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



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

PREPARATION

Prelude | “Come, Christians, Join to Sing” | arr. David Lowe

Words of Welcome | Anna Dickson

Chiming of the Trinity

ADORATION

Choral Call to Worship | arr. Mark Thallander

Come, Christians, join to sing; loud praise to Christ our King. Let all with heart and voice before him now rejoice! Come lift your hearts on high; let praises fill the sky. “Alleluia! Amen!”

+Hymn No. 1 | “Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!” | NICAEA

CONFESSION

Call to Confession | Lucy Crain

Prayer of Confession

**Loving God, to turn from you is to fall,
to turn toward you is to rise,
and to stand before you is to abide forever.
Forgive our sin, Merciful God.
Grant us, Gracious God,
in all our duties your help,
in all our uncertainties your guidance,
in all our dangers your protection,
in all our failings your correction,
and in all our sorrows your peace.**

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 | Westerly Hills Academy

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 | Micah 6:6-8 | pew Bible p. 866

Anthem | “Total Praise” | Richard Smallwood

Lord, I will lift mine eyes to the hills, knowing my help is coming from you. Your peace you give me in time of storm. You are the source of my strength. You are the strength of my life; I lift my hands in total praise to you. Amen.

Scripture | Mark 12:28-31 | pew Bible p. 49

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon | “When Trouble Comes” | Lewis Galloway+**Hymn No. 450** | “Be Thou My Vision” | SLANE**RESPONSE**

+**Affirmation of Faith** | from *A Brief Statement of Faith* | Anna Dickson

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

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 | Lucy Baum**Offertory Anthem** | “O God Beyond All Praising” | arr. Mack Wilberg

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay; for we can only wonder at every gift you send, at blessings without number and mercies without end. We lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word; we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord. The flower of earthly splendor in time must surely die; its fragile bloom surrender to you, the Lord most high; but hidden from all nature, the eternal seed is sown, though small in mortal stature, to heaven's garden grown. For Christ, your gift from heaven from death has set us free, and we through him are given the final victory! Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring, that we who know your favor may serve you as our king; and whether tomorrows be filled with good or ill, we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still: to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways, and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

PRAYER
REQUESTS

+**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!

GIVE
ONLINE

**+Prayer of Dedication**

TEXT
TO GIVE



SENDING FORTH

+Hymn No. 463 | “How Firm a Foundation” | FOUNDATION

+Benediction

+Benediction Response | “Amen” | Peter Lutkin

Postlude | “Praise the Lord with Drums and Cymbals” | Sigfrid Karg-Elert, arr. Hopson

ABOUT THIS SERVICE

The rosebud in the Sanctuary celebrates the birth of Eleanor Anne Hunter Thompson, daughter of Maddy and Meredith Thompson, on August 19, 2025.

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:

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

Lucy Baum, Director of Formation

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

The Reverend Dr. Lewis Galloway, Guest Preacher

William P. Young, III, Director of Music Ministries

Kaitlyn Davros, Assistant Director of Music Ministries