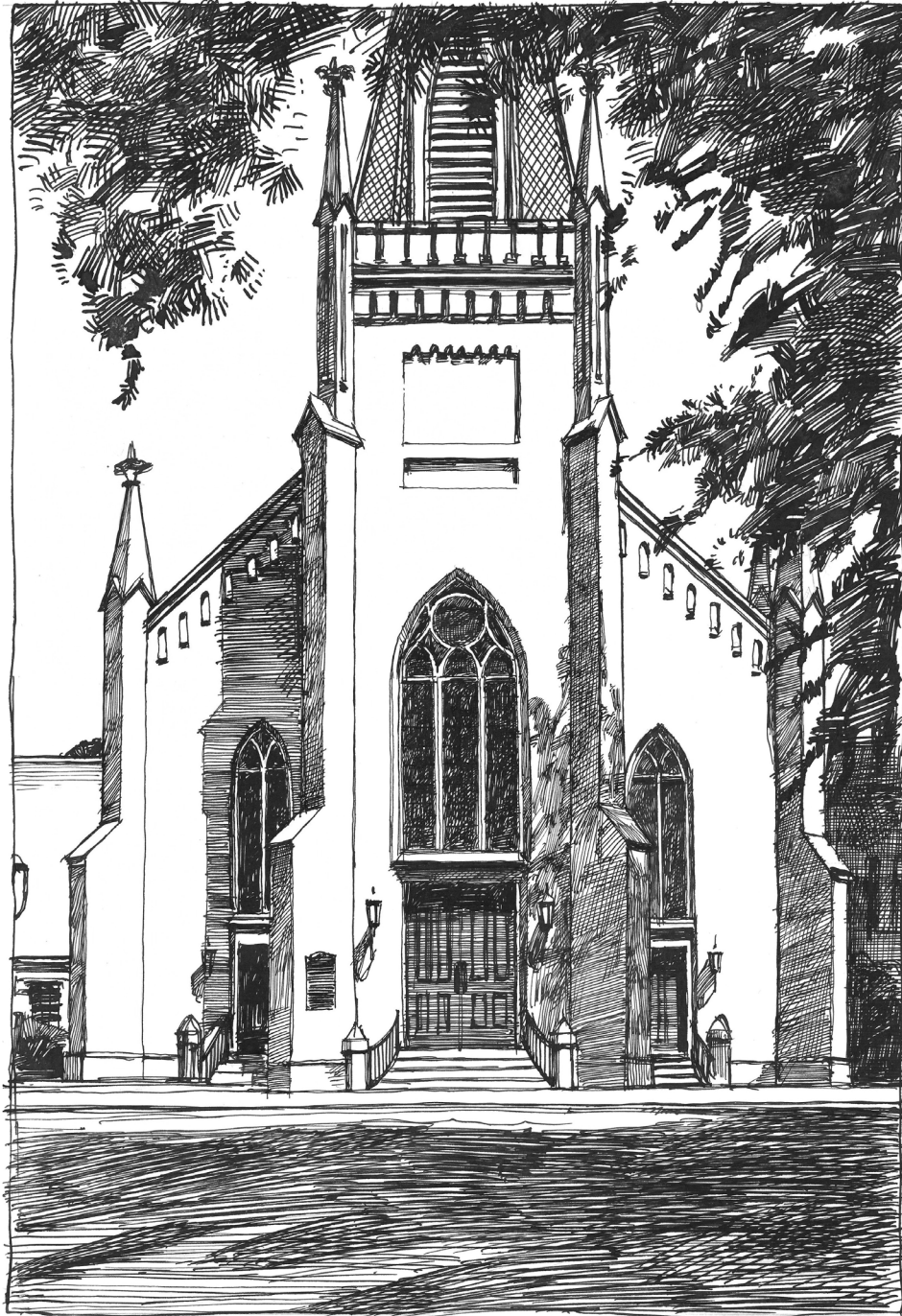


First Presbyterian Church

11 AM WORSHIP | OCTOBER 12, 2025 | EIGHTEENTH 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.

The Elder
assisting with
the baptism
today is
Caroline Ford.

FIRST
CHURCH
MOBILE
CHECK IN**PREPARATION**

Prelude | Allegro con moto | Jason W. Krug | Adult Handbells

Words of Welcome | Anna Dickson

Chiming of the Trinity

ADORATION

Choral Call to Worship | Eric Thiman

O praise God in his holiness; praise him in the firmament of his power!

+Hymn No. 612 | “We Praise You, O God” | KREMSER

CONFESSION

Call to Confession | Chuck Williamson

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses who have shown us what it means to live by faith. We confess that we have not always followed their example. Too often, when you have called us to trust, we have doubted. When you have called us to follow, we have hung back. When you have invited us to boldness, we have played small. When you have invited us to share, we have hoarded our gifts. Forgive us, Lord, and increase our faith, so that in our living, you might reveal your generous love for all the world.

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 Eloise Fountain Kemp (Lula)

+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.

PROCLAMATION

Prayer for Illumination**Scripture** | Hebrews 11 - 12:3 (selected verses) | pew Bible p. 225

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**Anthem** | "Witness" | arr. Jack Halloran

Who'll be a witness for my Lord? Oh I'll be a witness for my Lord. There was a man of the Pharisees: his name was Nicodemus, and he didn't believe. The same came to Christ by night, wanted to be taught out of human sight. Nicodemus was a man who desired to know how a man can be born when he is old. Christ told Nicodemus as a friend: "Man you must be born again." He said, "Marvel not, man, if you want to be wise, repent, believe and be baptized." Then you'll be a witness for my Lord, soul is a witness for my Lord. You read about Samson, from his birth he was the strongest man that ever lived on earth. Way back yonder in ancient times he killed ten thousand of the Philistines. Then old Samson went a wanderin about. Samson's strength was never found out. 'Till his wife sat upon his knee. She said, "Tell me where your strength lies, if you please." Samson's wife, she talked so fair, Samson said, "Cut off my hair! Shave my head just as clean as your hand, and my strength will come like a natural man." Samson was a witness for my Lord, soul is a witness for my Lord. There's another witness for my Lord! My soul is a witness for my Lord.

Sermon | "Yesterday" | Anna Dickson**+Hymn No. 377** | "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" | HOUSTON**RESPONSE**

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer | Lucy Crain

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 | Stewardship | Reid Campbell**Presentation of Tithes and Offering****Offertory Anthem** | "Be Thou My Vision" | arr. Vicente Chavarria

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art. Thou my best thought by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light. Be thou my wisdom and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord. Thou my great father, I thy true son; thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one. Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise; thou mine inheritance, now and always. Thou, and thou only first in my heart, high king of heaven, my treasure thou art. High king of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O ruler of all.

+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**PRAYER
REQUESTS****GIVE
ONLINE****TEXT
TO GIVE**

SENDING FORTH

+**Hymn No. 761** | “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service” | BEECHER

+**Benediction**

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

Postlude | Trumpet Tune | Michael McCabe

IN LOVING MEMORY

The sympathy of the congregation is expressed to Leslie Sebo upon the death of her mother, Lois Murray, on September 26.

ABOUT THIS SERVICE

Lula Kemp is the daughter of Erin and Stephen Kemp.

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*

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*

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.



Children's Offerings:

9 a.m. Service: A nursery is available for children ages birth through first grade in room P311.

11 a.m. Service: A nursery is available for children ages birth through 2 in room P311. During the service, children will be invited to participate in the Time for Children, after which ages 3 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).

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

Make your Pledge for 2026

It's stewardship season! Packets have been mailed to all member households. Keep an eye on your mailbox for yours. Scan the QR code below to pledge online.

Confirmation Registration Now Open

All youth in eighth grade and above are invited to participate. Scan the QR code to register.

Wednesday Night Dinner

October 15

Dinner is served from 5-5:45 p.m. 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.

Lunch with Actionnel Fleurisma

October 16, 1 p.m., Frances Browne Dining Room

Join us to hear about our Global Mission Partner in Bayonnais, Haiti, and the progress of the community and school despite difficult times. There will be a time for questions. Please scan the QR code to RSVP by October 15.

Moms Moving Forward Mock Interviews

October 16, 5:30 p.m.

Moms Moving Forward Cohort 12 will be doing their mock interviews. Volunteers are needed to conduct mock interviews. Scan the QR code to volunteer.

Stewardship Breakfast

October 19, 9:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall Overflow

Come share an uplifting hour of fellowship and encouragement as we explore the ways each of us can contribute in the year ahead. Scan the QR code to RSVP by October 13.

The Great Big Boo Bash

October 23, 4:30 p.m.

Bring your little pumpkins for an evening full of bounce houses, games and candy prizes, free pizza, and festive fun. Costumes encouraged for children and adults! We also need volunteers to help set up, serve pizza, pass out candy, paint faces, clean up, and more. Shifts are available before, during, and after the event. Scan the QR code to register for the event or sign up to volunteer.

Westerly Hills Academy Fall Block Party

October 25, 12 p.m., Westerly Hills Academy

Come join the fun of the WHA Fall Block Party. We need help with food prep, stations, and Trunk or Treat (candy provided!) Scan the QR code to sign up.



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

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