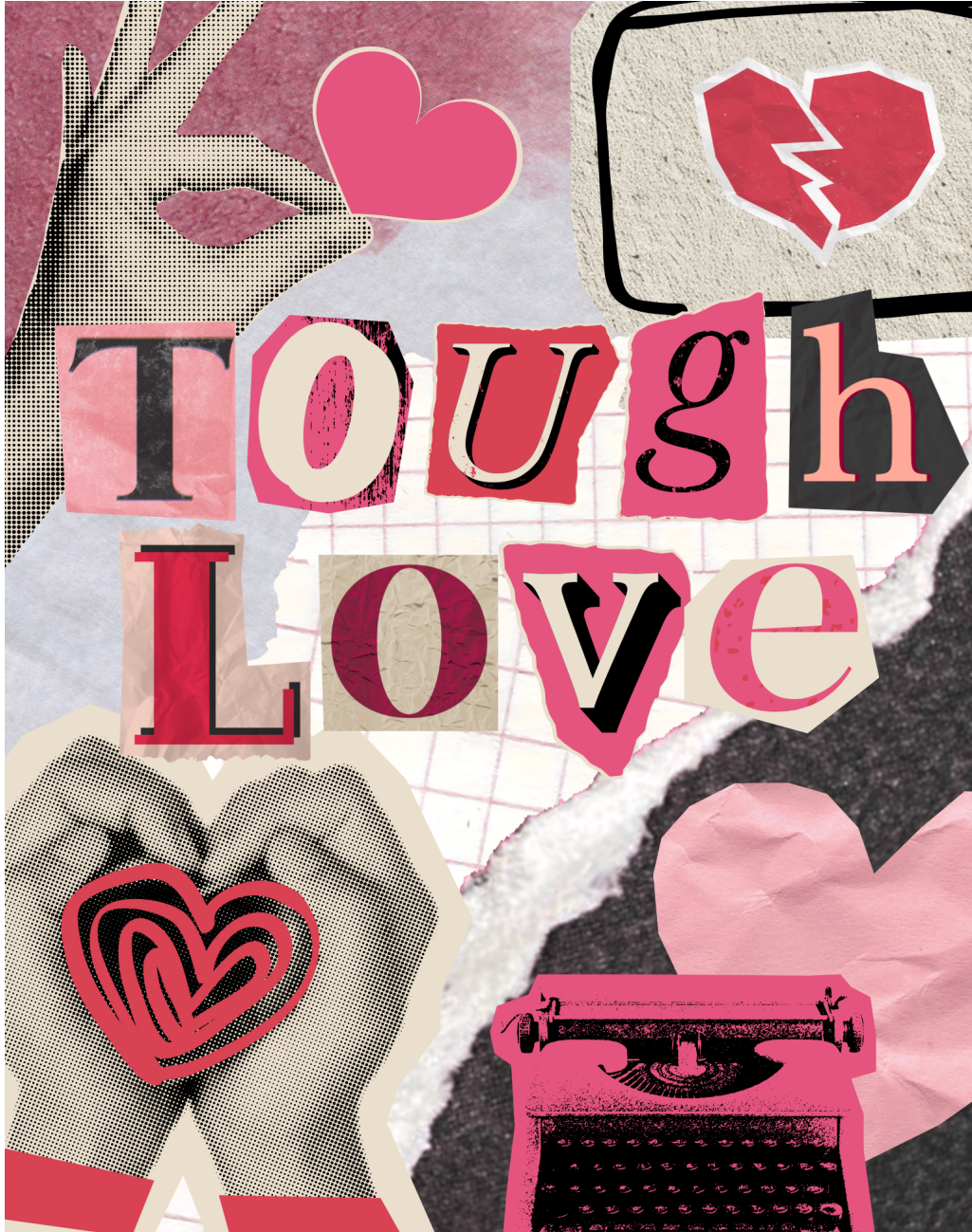


First Presbyterian Church

11 AM WORSHIP | APRIL 26, 2026 | FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER | YOUTH SUNDAY



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 | With a Joyful Heart | Susan Geschke | Ivey Ringers

Words of Welcome | Ellie Flohr

Chiming of the Trinity

ADORATION

+**Call to Worship** | Audrey Jackson

When the world insists that we despair,

God calls us to love.

When the world tempts us to hate,

God calls us to love.

When the world calls us to judge,

God calls us to love.

God calls us to love

In every time and place.

Let us worship our loving God.

+**Hymn No. 301** | “Let Us Build a House” | TWO OAKS

CONFESSION

Call to Confession | Phelps Young

Prayer of Confession

Dear God, we confess we do not always show love to our neighbors. We admit that we let our differences overshadow what makes us human. We forget that we were all created in your holy image. Forgive us, Lord. Open our eyes to see your holy image in everyone we meet. Open our eyes to find common ground with one another. Open our eyes to search for ways to share your love. In your forgiveness and mercy we pray.

Assurance of Pardon | Adelaide Staub

Friends, believe the good news.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

+**Response to Pardon** | 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 | Eva Cate King & Easton Phillips

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 | Elias Humphrey

Scripture | Romans 12:9-21 | pew Bible p. 162

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

FIRST
CHURCH
MOBILE
CHECK IN

Anthem | “Teach Me Your Way, O Lord” | Mark Sedio | Youth Choir

Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your paths. Knit my heart to you that I may fear your name, I will thank you, O God. Fill me, O Lord, with your wisdom, show me the light of your truth. Day by day my faith grows stronger in your word; guide me in everything I do.

Scripture | Matthew 5:43-48 | pew Bible p. 5 | Keller Smith

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon | “Tough Love” | Harper Flohr & Avayanna Simpson-Cook**+Hymn No. 767** | “Together We Serve” | SAN ANSELMO**RESPONSE****+Affirmation of Faith** | from *A Brief Statement of Faith* | Madeleine King

In life and in death we belong to God. We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God’s image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator, ignoring God’s commandments. We violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted in our care. We deserve God’s condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer | Mason Porter & Austin Redmond

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 the 2026 Confirmation Class | Audrey Kahrs & Lucy Baum**Presentation of Tithes and Offering****Offertory Anthem** | “I Choose Love” | Mark Miller | Youth Choir

In the midst of pain, I choose love. In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain, I await the sun again, I choose love. In the midst of war, I choose peace. In the midst of war, hate and anger keeping score, I will seek the good once more, I choose peace. When my world falls down, I will rise. When my world falls down, explanations can’t be found, I will climb to holy ground, I will rise.

+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 | Amelia King

PRAYER
REQUESTS



GIVE
ONLINE



TEXT
TO GIVE



VENMO



SENDING FORTH

+**Hymn No. 300** | “We Are One in the Spirit” | THEY’LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

+**Benediction**

Postlude

IN LOVING MEMORY

Jack Charles Borns, April 13, 2026 - April 17, 2026

ABOUT THIS SERVICE

The Confirmands being recognized today are: William Cook, Easton Phillips, and Josie Redmond.

We give special thanks to all the middle and high school youth and adult leaders for planning and leading this worship service.

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.

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

Today’s Worship Leaders:

The Youth of First Presbyterian Church

Lucy Baum, *Director of Formation*

Audrey Kahrs, *Director of Youth Formation*

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