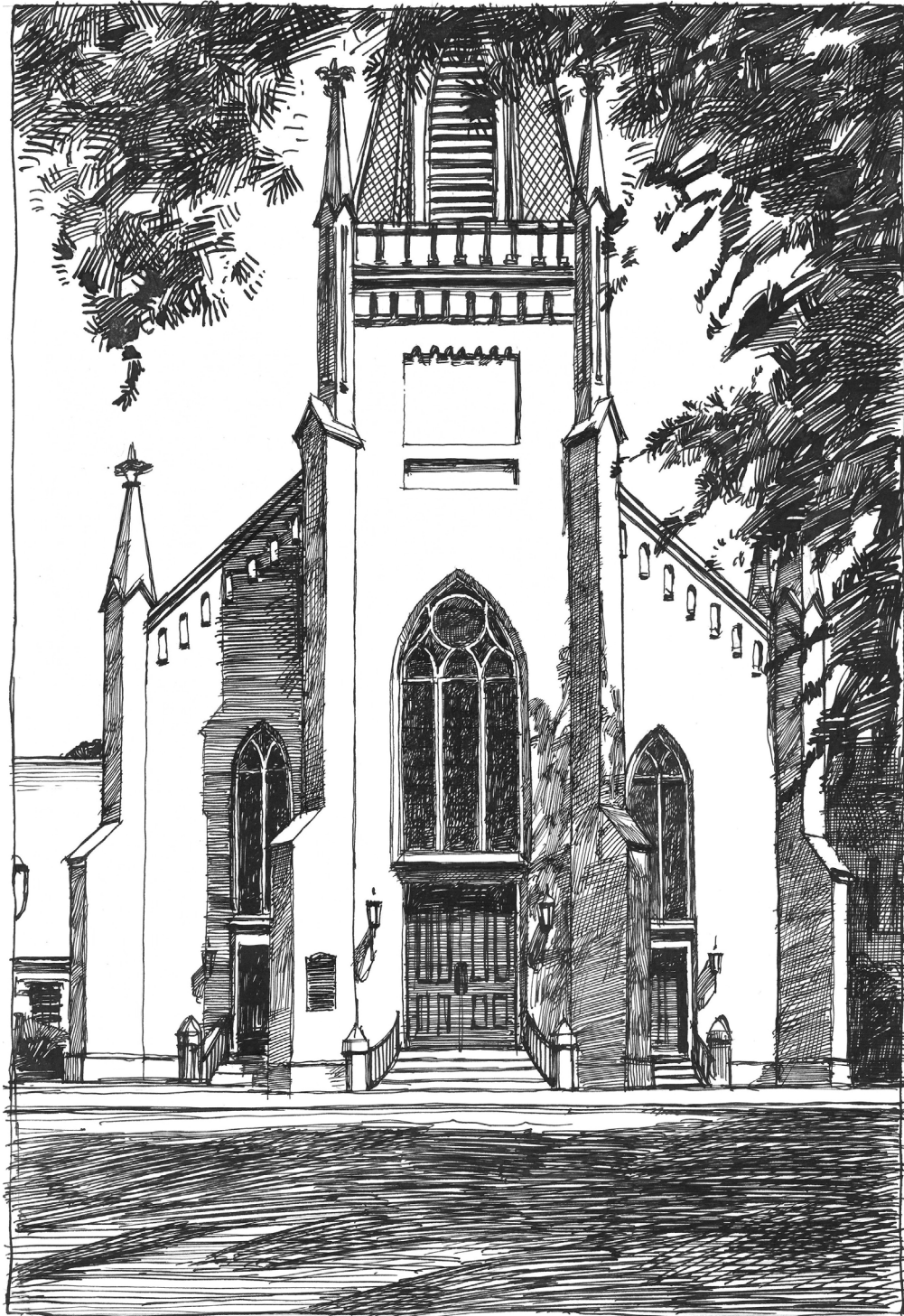


First Presbyterian CHURCH OF CHARLOTTE



AUGUST 23, 2026
11 AM WORSHIP



THIRTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Welcome!



Scan to fill out our Virtual Connect Card to help us get to know you.

Prayer Request



Scan to submit a confidential prayer request.

Preparation

Prelude | Prelude on Rhosymedre | Ralph Vaughan Williams

Words of Welcome | Lewis Galloway

Chiming of the Trinity

Adoration

Choral Call to Worship | Williams | ed. Young

This is the day that the Lord hath made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Let us rejoice. Amen!

+Hymn No. 619 | "Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven" | LAUDA ANIMA

Confession

Call to Confession | Lucy Baum

Prayer of Confession

You, O Lord, are a gracious God, merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Forgive us for accepting your mercy and refusing to be merciful to others. Forgive us for accepting your peace and harboring anger against those whose actions upset us. Forgive us for accepting your love and refusing to love our neighbors whose ways are different from our own. Teach us, O God, that your love is greater than we can imagine and embraces all people. Fill our minds with understanding and our hearts with compassion so that we may live as faithful servants of Jesus Christ.

Assurance of Pardon

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

Children ages 3 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 | Mark 1:29-39 | pew Bible p. 35

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem | "God Be in My Head" | John Rutter

God be in my head, and in my understanding. God be in mine eyes and in my looking. God be in my mouth and in my speaking. God be in mine heart and in my thinking. God be at my end and in my departing.

+ Please stand if you are able



Scripture | Jonah 4:1-11 | pew Bible p. 861

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon | "Running from the Truth" | Lewis Galloway

+Hymn No. 29 | "O God, You Search Me" | O GOD, YOU SEARCH ME

Response

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

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 to our care. We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

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 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.

Ways to Give

In Person

Place your gift in the offering plate during **Presentation of Tithes and Offering**

Give Online

fpc.tiny.us/give



Text to Give

Text "givetofpc" to 73256

Venmo



@FirstPresofCharlotte



+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. 366 | "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" | HYFRYDOL

+Benediction

+Benediction Response | "Amen" | DANISH

Postlude | Toccata on Hyfrydol | R.H. Prichard

About Today's Service

Presentation of New Members

During today's service, we welcomed Sofia Di Dio; Evan Armstrong and Julia Jameson; Richmond Blake and Long Lam; Cathy and Bill Dawson; Stephanie and Tom Parker; Jake Parker; Lucy Parker; and Thomas Parker into the full life of First Presbyterian Church.

Today's Special Offering

Part of our offering today goes to the Ten-Cents-a-Meal program, which is used to purchase fresh foods for our onsite Nourish Up food pantry. Thank you for supporting our mission to provide food for those experiencing food insecurity.

Today's Worship Leaders

The Reverend Dr. Lewis Galloway
Transitional Pastor

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

The Reverend Lucy Baum
Associate Pastor for Formation and Fellowship

Kaitlyn Davros
Associate Director of Music Ministries

Sanctuary Flowers

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

In Loving Memory

We join our prayers with Virginia Horn and her family upon the death of her sister, Ann Timberlake, on August 12, 2026; and to Doug Neely and his family upon the death of his wife, Lisa Neely, on August 19, 2026.

Welcome!

We're so glad you're here! Whether you are a member, a frequent visitor, or it's your first time, keep reading for details about today's worship service.

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 on page 2 of your bulletin.



Children's Offerings:

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 with Children. Afterward, children ages 3 through first grade may leave for First Church and 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.

CONNECT WITH US!



@firstprescharlotte

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Announcements



Interested in something you see below?
Visit **FPC.TINY.US/LINKS** or scan the QR
code to learn more, register, or take the
next step.

Pick Up Your First Church Bible

Today, after worship, Welcome Center

Children ages 3 through first grade are invited to stop by the First Church table to receive a Bible! Parents can also learn how First Church works, including weekly sign-up and ways to volunteer.

Opportunities at Westerly Hills Academy

We need volunteers to tutor scholars at Westerly Hills and to help sort and package uniforms.

Children's & Youth Choirs & Handbells

Registration is open for ages 4½ through grade 12. Children's choirs and handbells begin rehearsals September 2; Youth Choir and handbells begin September 6. No experience is needed!

Westerly Hills Apple Tree

Presbyterian Women is once again sponsoring the Apple Tree to help teachers at Westerly Hills Academy get their classrooms ready for the new school year. Please help us provide Amazon gift cards so teachers can purchase supplies.

Serve Lunch at Roof Above

September 8, 10:30 a.m., Roof Above

As we continue supporting Roof Above's needs following their facility's storm damage, FPC will be sponsoring another hot lunch for them, and we need your help to serve it up!

Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering

September 20, 12 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Enjoy lunch, fellowship, and a look at what's ahead at PW's annual kickoff event. Whether you've been involved with PW for years or have never participated before—you're invited! Lunch is free, but registration is required.

Stream Clean with Advocacy

October 4, 3 p.m., Little Sugar Creek

Come wade in the water with us and help clean up trash at Little Sugar Creek! We'll have a "most unusual trash" showdown and ice cream afterward at The Local Scoop. Registration is open now.

Cuba Mission Trip

January 12-17, 2027, Matanzas + Havana, Cuba

We will travel to Cuba to build and strengthen relationships with the seminary, its students, and the Cuban churches. Along the way, you'll soak up Cuba's historic sites, local art and music, great food, warm fellowship, and beautiful coastline. Scan the QR code to view the itinerary or register.

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