

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Contact Natalie Raygor (natalie@firstonthird.org) for more information.

Nursery (infant through three-years-old) Loving care is provided during the Sunday School hour and Worship Service.

Worship & Wonder is offered for children ages 4 years old - second grade during both 10:00am worship service in the Sanctuary and 10:00am worship service in Gilmour Hall. Children sit with their families at the start of the service and then have a lesson and prayer with our pastor during Time with Younger Church. Following, they will exit the worship service with their leaders for their own worship service, *Worship & Wonder*.

Growing in Grace Children's Sunday School Class – *Will resume on September 20th.*
(four-years-old through 5th grade) Meets at 9am in the Grace Space, at the foot of the stairway to Gilmour Hall.

Top Dogs (3rd-5th grade) – First meeting is Sunday, September 27th @ 4pm for an off-site adventure. More details to come.

Youth Group (6th-12th grade) - Current 6th Grade Parent/Youth meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 13th @ 5:30pm at Hi-Wire Brewery. Youth/Parent Kickoff is scheduled for Sunday, September 27th @ 5:30pm at Wrightsville Beach

Donuts with Davis (6th-12th grade) - will resume October 11th @ 9am. Meetings are the 2nd & 4th Sundays in Room 305.

Youth Volunteer Opportunity for Upper Elementary & Middle School Students: Please contact Natalie Raygor for more information.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES — 9AM SUNDAY

“Bible 101” meets in Room 101. Bible 101 studies and discusses the scripture that will be preached that morning. All are welcome. Good discussion group that will continue to meet throughout the summer.

Journey Class meets in Room 303 starting on September 20th. The first study is “Feasts of the Bible” DVD by Dr. Sam Nadler which will focus on God’s redemptive plan through the feasts of Israel. Great discussions and relevant for all adult ages.

The Village Class meets in the Session Room starting on September 20th. The class will be focusing on *Faithful Families: Creating Sacred Moments at Home* by Tracie Smith. Wonderful interactive class viewed through a multi-generational lens for parents, grandparents & guardians.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Circle One (service): 6:00pm on 9/14 at 3209 Amber Drive Wilmington, NC 28409

Circle Two (Bible study): 11:30am on 9/14 in the Gathering Place

Circle Three (book study): 10:30am on 9/14 in the Bride’s Room

Circle Four (study of self-care): 7:00pm on 9/14 at 389 Whisper Park Dr Wilmington, NC 28411

Circle Five (book study): 10:00am on 9/14 in the Library. Book is *Heartwood* by Amity Gaige.

Circle Ten: **September 21st** 6:00pm at 1103 Windsor Dr Wilmington, NC 28403

WOMEN’S MINISTRIES/FELLOWSHIP

Knitting Ministry: Meetings are resuming on Wednesday, September 9th @ 1:30pm in the Ladies’ Parlor and will meet the second Wednesday of each month (9/9, 10/14,11/11, and 12/9).

Women on Wednesdays: Starting Wednesday, September 16th, Women on Wednesdays will meet twice a month from 10:30am-11:30am in the Session Room.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

First Presbyterian is a Stephen Ministry congregation. If you would like to receive support from a **Stephen Minister**, please call one of our pastors at 910-762-6688.

ONLINE GIVING

Use this QR code to give securely to the general fund. Looking for other ways to give? Visit the website, firstonthird.org/give, for more information.

FPC CONNECT

An email has been sent from FPC with a Google form requesting help in updating your information. Please respond so we can update our records with correct data. If you have not received the email or need assistance, please reach out to Laura Tingelstad (laura@firstonthird.org) or call the office at 910-762-6688. We are happy to help!



THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, 9/13:

9:00am	Rally Day Choir Practice	Gathering Place Choir Room
10:00am	Combined Service	Sanctuary
11:00am	Congregational Meeting	Sanctuary
5:30pm	Rising 6th Grade Youth/ Parent Meeting	Hi-Wire Brewery

Monday, 9/14:

<i>(Teeing Off for the Harrelson Center Golf Tournament)</i>		
10:00am	Circle 5	Library
11:30am	Circle 2	Gathering Place
6:00pm	Circle 1	3209 Amber Dr.
7:00pm	Circle 4	389 Whispering Creek Dr.

Tuesday, 9/15:

No events scheduled.

Wednesday, 9/16:

10:15am	Preschool Chapel	Sanctuary
7:00pm	Narrative Lectionary Bible Study	Zoom (contact the FPC office for the link)

Thursday, 9/17:

7:45am	Men's Breakfast	Cape Fear Club
5:30pm	Grandparent's Support Network	Cameron Center

Friday, 9/18:

Office closes at 3pm
No events scheduled.

Saturday, 9/19:

Church Closed

Sunday, 9/20:

9:00am	Sunday School Classes FPC 101	Various Rooms Library
10:00am	Traditional Service Blended Service	Sanctuary Gilmour Hall
4:00pm	Rev. Elizabeth McGuire's Installation Service Reception to follow	Sanctuary Gilmour Hall

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Sunday, September 20th:

Adult and Children's Sunday School classes return @ 9am in various locations.
Combined Service @ 10am returns with Traditional in the Sanctuary and Blended in Gilmour Hall.
FPC 101 begins @ 9am in the Library. This is a wonderful introduction to learn more about FPC, membership, and how to become more involved with the church community. Please email Laura Tingelstad at laura@firstonthird.org or call the office (910-762-6688) to receive more information and/or register! We are excited to have you join us.
Elizabeth McGuire Installation @ 4:00pm in the Sanctuary. Reception to follow in Gilmour Hall.

Sunday, September 21st: Circle Ten's first meeting, 7:00pm, 1103 Windsor Drive



First Presbyterian Church

Growing in Faith and Love

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2026

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

The music of the Opening Voluntary draws us from the outside world into the presence of God. In preparation for worship, you are invited to use this time for prayerful reflection.

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Lasst uns erfreune

John Tabler

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Please pass the friendship register down the row for each person to sign. Visitors, we are grateful you are here this morning to worship with us. We encourage you to stop by the Gathering Place to receive a blue visitor bag and mingle with our pastors and congregants. Thank you for visiting FPC!]

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 46)

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
and the mountains shake, and the waters roar and foam.**

The nations are in uproar! The kingdoms totter!

God lifts his voice; the earth melts.

Be still, and know that I am God.

I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth.

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

+ HYMN 15

All Creatures of Our God and King

LASST UNS EFREUEN

CALL TO CONFESSION (adapted from 1 John 1)

If we say that we have no sin,
we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**But if we confess our sins,
God who is faithful and just
will forgive us our sins
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

In humility and faith,
let us confess our sins to God...

[+ You are invited to stand. For each hymn, please stand as the last line of the introduction is played.]

[You are invited to recite the bold words printed in the bulletin.]

125 S. 3rd Street

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www.firstonthird.org

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we sin against you and our neighbor in countless ways. We set a table for ourselves and yet exclude those in need. We have our fill and forget that so many go without. Have mercy, we pray, and help us make room for others at the table – for every brother and sister in every corner of your world. And hear us now, Gracious God, as we cast our cares upon you, trusting always in your power to heal... (our silent prayers of confession) We pray in the strong and merciful name of Jesus Christ, and all the people say, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (see Rom. 8:34; 2 Cor. 5:17)

Hear this good news:
Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ.
And Christ died for us, Christ rose for us,
Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.
Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.
The old life is gone and a new life has begun.
Let us all believe this good news!
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

+GLORIA PATRI GREATOREX

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.

+PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all!
And also with you!

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

Children are invited to come forward, place their offerings in the plate, have a short message and prayer with the minister, then go to Room 208 for their worship service called Worship and Wonder. Children ages four-years-old through 2nd grade are encouraged to participate in Worship and Wonder.

WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to the Lord.

SERMON

“The Story of God”

+ HYMN 490

Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters BEACH SPRING

+ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The 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.

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP AND GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Peace Like a River arr. Mack Wilberg

I’ve got peace like a river
I’ve got faith like a river
I’ve got hope like a river
I’ve got love like a river
I’ve got love like an ocean
I’ve got peace in my soul.

+ DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise Him, all creatures here below;
praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

WE GO IN GOD’S NAME

THE SACREMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Today we celebrate the Lord’s Supper by the seated method, passing trays of bread and juice down the pew, saying to one another as we pass the bread, “The body of Christ, broken for you,” and as we pass the juice, “The blood of Christ shed for you.” There are many appropriate responses, including “Thanks be to God,” “Amen,” or just prayerful silence. There is a single serve gluten free option with each tray. Through the grace of Baptism, Christ welcomes all to the table. The “Table Prayer” contains the “Lord’s Prayer”, which can be found on page 35 of your red hymnal.

COMMUNION HYMN 370

This is My Father’s World TERRA BEATA

+ HYMN 39

Great Is Thy Faithfulness FAITHFULNESS

+ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. Page Clark Keel, Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Guy Garrett, Jr. from the wedding of Hannah Grace Keel and Robert Carson Wiley who were married in the Sanctuary on September 12, 2026.

Leading in Worship	
Dan Lewis, Senior Pastor	Natalie Raygor, Associate Pastor
Elizabeth McGuire, Associate Pastor	Jim Morgan, Parish Associate
John Tabler, Director of Music and Organist	Benjamin Horrell, Associate Director of Music and Choir Director
FPC Choir	Blended Service Band

THANK YOU to all of you who have joined us for worship this Sunday, here and at home. We hope that you find your experience of worship to be uplifting and meaningful. Any usher (designated with a name tag) will be glad to assist you and answer your questions. If you need a large print copy of today’s bulletin and hymns, please notify an usher. A special welcome to any visitors worshipping with us this morning. If you would, please let us know you were here with us by signing the Friendship Register in the pews or by emailing our church office at hello@firstonthird.org.