

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 – (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) – Top Dogs (3rd - 5th graders) will meet on September 27th from 4PM- 5:30PM for a Geocaching adventure at Long Leaf Park! Drop off will be at Shelter #3 (shelter closest to Pine Grove entrance). Please bring water bottles and wear long pants or long socks. We will be walking on the trails around the park and hunting for "treasure" at the edge of the wooded areas. It will be a blast! Contact Katherine Matthews at 336-671-1789 to RSVP and for more details.

Youth Group (6th-12th grade) - 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. 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. 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): Women of the Church Oyster Roast 5:30pm on 10/26 for ALL FPC women

Circle Two (Bible study): 11:30am on 10/12 in the Gathering Place

Circle Three (book study): 10:30am on 10/12in the Bride’s Room

Circle Four (study of self-care): 5:30pm on 10/12 at 521 Bayshore Drive

Circle Five (book study): 10:00am on 10/12 in the Library. Book is *Heartwood* by Amity Gaige.

Circle Ten: (new group): TBD

WOMEN’S MINISTRIES/FELLOWSHIP

Knitting Ministry: Meetings are the second Wednesday of each month (10/14,11/11, and 12/9) @ 1:30pm in the Ladies’ Parlor. All levels welcomed and encouraged to attend.

Women on Wednesdays: Women on Wednesdays will meet twice a month from 10:30am-11:30am in the Session Room. Next meeting is 9/30.

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.



THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, 9/27: 9:00am	Sunday School Classes FPC 101	Various Rooms Library
10:00am	Traditional Service Blended Service	Sanctuary Gilmour Hall
1:00pm	Kevin Brown Funeral Service	Chapel
4:00pm	Top Dogs Geocaching	Long Leaf Park
5:30pm	Youth/Parent Kickoff	Wrightsville Beach
Monday, 9/28: 11:00am	Handbell Practice	Choir Room
Tuesday, 9/29: No events scheduled.		
Wednesday, 9/30: 10:15am 4:00pm 7:00pm	Preschool Chapel StepUp/CareerUp Narrative Lectionary Bible Study	Sanctuary Boney Hall Zoom (contact our FPC office for the link)
Thursday, 10/1: 7:45am 5:30pm	Men's Breakfast Grandparent’s Support Network Blended Band Practice	Cape Fear Club Cameron Center Gilmour Hall
7:15pm	Choir Practice	Choir Room
Friday, 10/2: Office closes at 3pm		
Saturday, 10/3: <i>Church Closed</i>		
Sunday, 10/4: 9:00am	World Communion Sunday Sunday School Classes FPC 101	Various Rooms Library
10:00am	Traditional Service Blended Service	Sanctuary Gilmour Hall
5:00pm	Music@First with Domonique Launey, piano	Sanctuary
5:30pm	Youth Group	FPC

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Sunday, October 11th:	11:00am Totluck Potluck on Preschool Playground
Sunday, October 18th:	4:00pm First on the Farm @ Williams Family Farm 1839 Farley Drive. Please RSVP on FPC Connect (formerly known as Realm)
Thursday, October 22nd:	5:30pm Women of the Church Oyster Roast @ 425 Semmes Drive. \$20/per person at the door. Please RSVP on FPC Connect.
Sunday, October 25th:	10:00am Kirkin’ o’ the Tartan in the Sanctuary 11:00am Welcome New Member Coffee in the Gathering Place



First Presbyterian Church
Growing in Faith and Love

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 27, 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
Eleven Chorale Preludes Op. 122, No. 4 Johannes Brahms
Herzlich tut mich erfreuene

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
Where can we go from the presence of God?
Wherever we go, the Lord is with us.
When our way is clear and life is good,
The Lord is with us.
When we walk through uncertainty, disappointment, and trouble,
The Lord is with us.
When the darkness surrounds us, even the darkness is not dark to God.
God is our refuge, our strength, and our hope.
Come, let us worship the God who never abandons us.
We will worship the Lord, who is with us always.

+ HYMN 687
Our God, Our Help in Ages Past (Psalm 90) ST. ANNE

CALL TO CONFESSION
Jesus once said, “I am the Good Shepherd; I know my own, and my own know me.” In confession, we trust God to know us fully: the good and the bad, the faithful and the sinful. But we also know God’s faithfulness, God’s mercy, and God’s power to redeem us and lead us into new life. Trusting in this promise, let us confess our sins together. Let us pray:

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

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that it is easy to trust you when life is going well, and difficult to trust you when the way becomes hard. When trouble comes, we wonder if you have forgotten us. When we are tempted, we sometimes choose what is easy rather than what is right. When we are treated unfairly, anger and bitterness can take hold of us. And when life is good, we sometimes forget that every blessing comes from you. Forgive us, Lord. Give us the courage to choose what is right, the strength to remain faithful when faithfulness is costly, and the grace to trust that you are with us even in the darkest places...(our silent prayers of confession). Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news:
Neither death nor life,
nor things present nor things to come,
nor anything else in all creation
can separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

+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 Genesis 39: 1-23
Pew Bible, OT p. 36

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

SERMON

Jim Morgan

“God Isn’t Finished Yet”

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

+ HYMN 819
Be Still, My Soul FINLANDIA

+ 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP AND GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY ANTHEM
Be Thou My Vision Dan Forest
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 and Thou only first in my heart, great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art. High King of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's bright Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

+ 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

+ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING 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.

+ HYMN 683
Lord of All Hopefulness COURTNEY

+ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY
In dir ist Freude, BWV 615 Johann Sebastian Bach

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Kevin Leiss Brown, by his wife Carol and family. Kevin passed away on September 10, 2026 and his funeral service will be held this afternoon at 1:00 in the Kenan Chapel.

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

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.