

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 November 15th from 4pm - 5:30pm at the Matthew's residence for Pizza, S'mores, & Care Packages. Please contact Katherine Matthews at 336-671-1789 for more details and to RSVP.

Youth Group (6th-12th grade) - Next Youth Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 1st, 2026 @ 5:30pm

Donuts with Davis (6th-12th grade) - Meetings are the 2nd & 4th Sundays @ 9am 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. This class hosts a vibrant discussion on the sermon scripture that will be read during the 10am worship service. This class is open to all ages and stages of one's faith journey with the intent that you will deepen your Biblical understanding of scripture. We hope you will join us.

The 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, and guardians.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Circle One (service): Women of the Church Oyster Roast 5:30pm on 10/22 for ALL FPC women

Circle Two (Bible study): 11:30am on 11/2 in the Gathering Place (note date change)

Circle Three (book study): 10:30am on 11/9 in the Bride's Room

Circle Four (study of self-care): 5:00pm on 11/21 at Weezie's Colorful Kitchen (note date change)

Circle Five (book study): 10:00am on 11/9 in the Library.

Circle Ten: (new group): 6:00pm on 11/9

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES/FELLOWSHIP

Knitting Ministry: Meets the second Wednesday of each month @ 1:30pm in the Ladies' Parlor. (10/14, 11/11, and 12/9).

Women on Wednesdays: 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 (FORMERLY REALM)

We are using this app (Realm Connect - for our church) to streamline our church communications. Please reach out to the FPC office at 910-762-6688 for assistance or to learn more about FPC Connect.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, 10/18:

9:00am	Sunday School Classes	Various Rooms
	Prep for Worship	Chapel
10:00am	Traditional Service	Sanctuary
	Blended Service	Gilmour Hall
11:30am	Officer Training	Gilmour Hall
4:00pm	First at the Farm	Williams Family
	1839 Farley Drive	

Monday, 10/19:

11:00am	Handbell Practice	Choir Room
5:30pm	Officer Training	Gilmour Hall

Tuesday, 10/20:

No events scheduled

Wednesday, 10/21:

10:00am	Preschool Chapel	Sanctuary
10:30pm	Women On Wednesday	Session
4:00pm	Step Up/Career Up	Boney Hall
7:00pm	Zoom Bible Study	Please contact office for link.

Thursday, 10/22:

7:45am	Men's Breakfast	Cape Fear Club
5:30pm	Grandparents' Support Network	Cameron Center
	Blended Band Practice	Gilmour Hall
	Women of the Church Oyster Roast	425 Semmes
7:15pm	Choir Practice	Choir Room

Friday, 10/23:

No events scheduled
Office closes at 3pm.

Saturday, 10/24:

Church Closed

Sunday, 10/25:

9:00am	Kirkin' o' the Tartan Sunday School Classes	Various Rooms
	Joining Day	FPC Library
	Prep for Worship	Chapel
10:00am	Traditional Service	Sanctuary
	Blended Service	Gilmour Hall
11:00am	New Member Welcome Coffee	Gathering Place
1:00pm	Carol Vercaemert Funeral & Reception	Chapel & Gathering Place
4:00pm	Officer Training	Gilmour Hall

SAVE THE DATE:

Sunday, November 1st: All Saint's Day - Sanctuary Service

Friday, November 6th@6:00pm: Children's Movie Night in Boney Hall for Pre-K - 2nd Grade. RSVP event or contact Natalie Raygor for details.

Sunday, November 8th: Preschool Sunday - Sanctuary Service

Wednesday, November 11th @ 5:30pm: Service of Gratitude with guest Lee Hunter in the Sanctuary. Dinner to follow in Gilmour Hall. This RSVP event is open to all members of the congregation and their guests. Nursery/childcare will be provided.



First Presbyterian Church

Growing in Faith and Love

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 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

"Joy and Elation"

-Cynthia Dobresnski

"Abbot's Leigh"

-Cyril V. Taylor

Sanctuary Ringers

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 78)

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable;

I will utter dark sayings from of old,

things that we have heard and known,
that our ancestors have told us.

We will not hide them from their children;

we will tell to the coming generation

the glorious deeds of the Lord and his might

and the wonders that God has done.

+ HYMN 409

"God Is Here!"

ABBOT'S LEIGH

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.]

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(910) 762-6688

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we see by your grace that we have offended against your holy laws. Embracing idols, we have lived as those who know no restraint, no justice, no shame. Cleanse us, O God, and seal upon our hearts the freedom of your forgiveness, and the responsibility of our calling. And hear us now, as we offer our personal prayers of confession (our silent prayers of confession)...We pray in the strong and merciful name of Jesus Christ, and let all God's people say, **Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear this good news!
The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
As far as east is from west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.
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.

+ **The 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, 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 Joshua 24: 14-15
Pew Bible, OT p. 216

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

SERMON

Dan Lewis

"Choose This Day"

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

+**HYMN 724** ANGEL'S STORY
"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

+**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

OFFERATORY ANTHEM -Paul Tschesnokoff
"Let Thy Holy Spirit"

Let thy Holy spirit come upon us on earth. Let thy Holy spirit come upon us. Alleluia.

+ **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 his 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 366** HYDROFOL
"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

+**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY -Daniel Gawthrop
"Partita on Hyfrydol Opus 3, No. 4
Finale"

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in memory of our grandparents, Louis Thames and Sunshyne Davis, Harold and Maureen Flolo, and Daniel Lester and Katie Jones. Given by Emily Warren and Tisa Freck.

Leading in Worship	
Dan Lewis, Senior Pastor	Eilizabeth McGuire, 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.