Welcome!
Fall Kickoff Sunday
Welcome!
We’re Glad You’ve Joined Us for Fall Kickoff at First Presbyterian Church

Summer may not be officially over, but here at First Presbyterian we’re energized by the return to our fall traditions.

Your clergy and formation team have prayerfully created offerings we believe will engage everyone – no matter what stage of life – in the journey of being in relationship with God and with others who are part of our church family here at the corner of Trade and Church streets in the heart of Charlotte.

We begin today with a focus on prayer through a new sermon series, as well as a focus on The Stories We Tell in our formation programming throughout the fall and into 2017. We will share a meal on the lawn after today’s service and hope everyone will join us, especially our visitors.

And inside this special Fall Kickoff issue of our worship bulletin, you’ll find highlights of the months to come, including opportunities to serve in our community, to share fellowship, to care for each other, as well as chances to learn, pray and worship together for Christ in the heart of Charlotte.

Following the bulletin for today’s service, look for information on Making the Most of Kickoff Sunday, followed by Highlights for Fall 2016 and, on the back page, a map of our buildings to help you locate everything.
Order of Worship
September 11, 2016
9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

You are invited to use the time before the service to prepare your heart and mind for worship. In consideration of others, please silence your cell phones.

Preparation

Prelude
Trumpet Tune in A Major
David N. Johnson

Words of Welcome
Reverend Pen Peery

Adoration

Choral Call to Worship (paraphrase of Psalm 24)
Will Young

The earth is the Lord's and all that dwell therein. Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and the King of Glory shall come in. Amen.

*Hymn No. 32 "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" ELLACOMBE

Confession

Call to Confession
Reverend Katelyn Gordon

Prayer of Confession

All: God of grace,
you promise to make all things new
and draw us into whole and loving relationships.
We confess that we have not believed in your forgiveness.
We have held our neighbors’ mistakes and failures against them,
and we have refused to share the mercy you offer us so freely.
Now, we repent.
Forgive us, Lord, and lead us into a new beginning.
Make us your people again,
for we choose to be reconciled
in Jesus’ name.

One: In silent prayer let us confess to God the things we choose not to speak aloud...
A time of silence will be kept.

Response (Hymn No. 698)
Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be; set your seal upon my heart and live in me.
To be sung multiple times.
Assurance of Pardon
One: Friends, believe the good news.
All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*Response (Hymn No. 581)
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.

Sacrament of Baptism
Sacrament of Baptism (11am)  
Spencer Lee Lesley 
McCall Elyse Lesley

*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.

Children in kindergarten through 2nd grade may leave for First Church. They will return to the sanctuary during the last hymn. Younger children may go to the nursery.

Proclamation

Time with Children (9 am)  
Children in kindergarten through 2nd grade may leave for First Church. They will return to the sanctuary during the last hymn. Younger children may go to the nursery.

Second Scripture Reading Matthew 18:20  
Sermon Reverend Pen Peery  
“Lord, Teach Us to Pray: In Community”

*Hymn No. 306 “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

Large-print hymnals and Bibles are available. Please let an usher know if you would like one.

Spencer and McCall are the twin daughters of Robert and Elyse Lesley. Participating in the baptism today are Susan Shimp, Elder, and Carole Lesley, guest Elder.

The sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Doug and Anne Wilson by Helen Neil and Diane Maye.

The rosebud in the sanctuary celebrates the birth of Carter Glen Cox, son of Christina and Michael Cox.

The 11 am service is televised over WSOC-TV, Channel 9, this morning and streamed live at www.firstpres-charlotte.org.
Response

*Apostles’ Creed (9 am)  
Reverend Erika Funk

Call to Prayer  
Sergei Rachmaninoff  
“Open thou my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall show forth thy praise.”

Prayers of the People

God of us all, it is a privilege for us to gather in community to worship you.
We praise you that with loving care, you welcome us to shared experiences of worship,
fellowship, prayer and praise. Through these, we are reminded that we are all
connected as your children.

We praise you, Lord, our renewing God, that you re-invigorate us in our worship and
in the witness and relationships that flow from this time together. We thank you that,
together and individually, we will be cleansed and refreshed by the holy winds of your
Spirit as it blows around and within us.

O Lord our God, you give new life and new blessings to us all and so we join our voices
to praise and glorify you. Blessings, honor, glory and power belong to you our God,
creator of us all, who claims us all as beloved children.

Stewardship of Life
Christian Formation
Presentation of Tithes and Offering

Offertory Anthem  
“This Is the Day”  
John Rutter

This is the day, the day which the Lord hath made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. O
praise the Lord of heaven. Praise him in the height. Praise him, all ye angels of his. Praise
him, all his host. Praise him, sun and moon. Praise him, all ye stars and light. Let them
praise the name of the Lord. For he shall give his angels charge over thee to keep thee in
all thy ways. The Lord himself is thy keeper. The Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand
so that the sun shall not burn thee by day, neither moon by night. The Lord shall preserve
thee from all evil. Yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy
going out and thy coming in from this time forth. He shall defend thee under his wings.
Be strong, and he shall comfort thine heart. And put thou thy trust in the Lord.

*Doxology  
OLD HUNDREDTH

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.

Prayer of Dedication 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.

Sending Forth

*Hymn No. 307  
“God of Grace and God of Glory”  
cwm rhondda

*Charge and Benediction

*Benediction Response  
“Amen”  
danish

Postlude  
“God of Grace”  
Paul Manz

During our sermon series on prayer, we will pray the Prayers of the People in unison following the choir’s introduction. These prayers were written or selected by members of the Prayer Ministry Team. A pastor will conclude the prayer.

The sympathy of the congregation is expressed to Emily Hyder and her family on the death of her mother, Laura Webster; and to Robbie Howell and her family on the death of her father, Wool Howell.

A time of personal prayer is offered following both services. If you would like to pray with a pastor and a member of our prayer team, please meet them in the sanctuary overflow area after the 9 a.m. service or in the chapel following the 11 a.m. service.

* Please stand if you are able.
Making the Most of Kickoff Sunday

As you look ahead to Fall Kickoff on Sunday, September 11, you may want to use this page to plan for a rich experience of worship, formation and fellowship.

**Worship**

9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Childcare for infants and toddlers is provided by trained and paid caregivers every Sunday, 8:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

**Christian Formation**

10-10:45 a.m. (Various offerings & locations. Details this page. Map on page 8.)

**Potluck on the Lawn**

12:15 p.m. All are invited to lunch on the lawn following the 11 a.m. service.

**First Church: Worship for K-2nd Grade**

Children who are in kindergarten through grade 2 leave for First Church after the Time for Children in worship and return to the sanctuary during the last hymn. First Church, where children learn the parts of worship and lead a simplified service, is offered at both the 9 a.m. and the 11 a.m. services.

Where: P205

---

**Sermon Series:**

**Lord, Teach Us to Pray**

Today, the Rev. Pen Peery will launch a new worship series, *Lord, Teach Us to Pray*. The first sermon, at both the 9 a.m. and the 11 a.m. services, will be *Lord Teach Us to Pray in Community*, based on Matthew 18:30 and Acts 2:27-31.

Subsequent sermons will be:

- **September 25** – “Lord, Teach Us to Pray When We Are Out of Control,” the Rev. Pen Peery, Job 42:1-6
- **October 2** – “Lord, Teach Us to Pray When We Don’t Know What to Pray,” the Rev. Pen Peery, Romans 8:26-30

**Awake my soul and sing!**

God’s Word is proclaimed everywhere and every day. Do we have ears to hear it? Could even the radio in our cars be a tool for proclamation? Even Billboard’s top 40? Why not? Our Wednesday Worship kicked off last week and continues September 14 through October 19 at noon with six more songs that sing of Scripture. Come, hear and practice new ways of listening. You may want to prepare yourself by checking out the playlist for the Wednesday Worship sermon series at our new Spotify.com account, FPCplaylist.

**More Sermon Series for this Fall**

After we conclude the September sermon series on prayer, we will launch a series on the subject *From Our Home to Theirs* for October 9-30. And on All Saints Sunday, November 6, the sermon series *The Questions God Asks* begins and continues through November 20.

**Christian Formation:**

*A Year to Focus on The Stories We Tell*

This year, we will tap into the power of stories—the power to create connection, strengthen community and inspire change. We’ll weave the theme of *The Stories We Tell* throughout our Formation offerings this fall and in 2017.

Today we resume all Formation classes for children, youth and adults from 10-10:45 a.m. You’ll find a map showing the rooms mentioned on the back of this special issue of the bulletin.

---

**Preschool Classes**

*Nursery for Preschool Children (Infants-TK)* - 8:45-10 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

*Where:* Infants P104

Toddlers P103; 2 year olds P110

3 year olds P109; 4 year olds-TK P108

*Formation Hour for Preschool Children (2-year-olds - TK)* - 10-10:45 a.m.

Bible stories, games, crafts

*Where:* 2 year olds, P110

3 year olds, P109; 4 year olds-TK, P108

**Elementary Classes**

*Formation Hour for Elementary Children (K-Grade 5)* 10-10:45 a.m.

Exploring and learning God’s Word in a variety of ways

*Where:* Kindergarten-Grade 1, P311

Grades 2-3 P307; Grades 4-5 P306

---

**Middle & High School Classes**

*Formation Hour for Middle and High School youth is 10-10:45 a.m.*

Middle School (Grades 6-8) youth enjoy fellowship while learning about the biblical foundation of faith through stories and wrestling with how God is calling us into the world.

*Where:* P301

High School (Grades 9-12) youth have a morning snack, visit with church friends, grow in faith through study, small group discussions, and even participate in intergenerational classes.

*Where:* P321

**Adult Classes**

Sunday mornings provide weekly time for those in similar life stages to find community while exploring biblical stories and their applications to our lives. Adults are welcome to visit any class.

---

**The Chapel Class (A Bible Study for All Ages): The Present Word**

Through thematic study of biblical stories, class members are invited into a deepened relationship with God and a clearer connection between life and faith. Study book available with daily devotionals connected to the lesson.

*Where:* Chapel

**Passages: Who Am I to You?**

Using Scripture and personal stories, we explore how God guides our interaction with parents, children, spouses, siblings, friends, neighbors, coworkers and strangers. Rotating topics and leaders.

*Where:* S203

**Conversations: Conversations About Love**

What does it mean to love our family members, those different from us, or our enemies as Jesus loved? This class focuses on this Biblical command as a way to balance the demands of our full schedules, advancing careers, aging parents, and active children.

*Where:* P212

**Friends in Faith: The Bible Project**

This class, which attracts those experiencing new careers and parenting young children, discusses the messages of specific Bible stories while connecting them to the larger story of the Old and New Testaments, using a weekly timeline and video resource. Begins September 18.

*Where:* P206

**Good Samaritan Class: Faith and Culture**

Seeking direction, not answers, this class bases its weekly topic on current events and engages in a search for meaning in the sometimes chaotic process of launching careers and building relationships.

*Where:* Fresco Lobby

**Thinking Critically, Living Faithfully**

Using articles from *The Christian Century* magazine, this class will discuss social, ethical, and theological matters impacting our lives today. Weekly articles accessible via email link and in the classroom. All ages welcome.

*Where:* P201

---

Want to read more about our Formation classes? Check out the brochures for Children’s Formation, Youth Formation and Adult Formation in the Historical Lobby or in the narthex on September 4 and September 11.
Fall Into Some Great Programs and Events

September
17 - Habitat for Humanity build begins
18 – 6 p.m. Presbyterian Youth Connection
19 – 7-9 p.m. Enneagram, 11-week class
25 – 10 a.m. Confirmar, Parent, & Sponsor Meeting
25 – 10-10:45 a.m.: First Welcome S202
25 – Noon: Middle School Small Groups lunch
25 – 5 p.m.: Youth Council (also Oct. 9, 3:15 p.m.; Nov. 6, 5 p.m.)
30-Oct. 2 – Congregational Retreat in Montreat

October
5 – 6 p.m. First Wednesdays
8 – 9 a.m.-Noon: Try It! Crisis Assistance Moving Ministry
9 – 10 a.m. Second- and Third-Grade Bible Education, Third-Grade Worship Education begin
9 – 4-6 p.m. Fall Festival

November
2 – 6 p.m. First Wednesdays
6 – 12:30 p.m.: Prime Timers Brunch Bunch
13 – Noon Stop Hunger Now Meal packing
19 – 9 a.m.-Noon: Try It! Loaves and Fishes Distribution
19-20 - High School Fall Retreats
20 – 10 a.m. Elementary Advent Workshop
27 – First Sunday in Advent

December
1 – 11 a.m. Presbyterian Women Advent Communion Service & Luncheon
4 – 10 a.m. Middle School Christmas Class
4 – 5:30 p.m. Singing in the Season
4 – 7 p.m. High School Christmas Party
11 – 10 a.m. Children’s Nativity Play
13 – 7 p.m. Service of Wholeness & Healing
18 – 9 and 11 a.m. Music Sunday
18 – 10 a.m. Preschool Breakfast with Mary & Joseph
24 – 10 a.m. Christmas Eve Family Service
24 – 8 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
24 – 10 p.m. Christmas Eve Handbell Choir
24 – 11 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion

Try It! Outreach Opportunities You Might Enjoy
Our new Try It! program allows you to find your best fit in various outreach opportunities. Check out these opportunities:
- Crisis Assistance Moving Ministry helps move furniture for those who are moving into new housing. Help on Saturday, October 8, from 9 a.m.-noon.
- Charlotte Rescue Mission Sunday Lunch is Sunday, October 16, at 907 W. First Street.
- Loaves and Fishes distribution pantry on Saturday, November 19, 8:45 a.m.-noont, to help clients select a week's worth of groceries.
- Men’s Shelter of Charlotte, 3410 Statesville Avenue, on Tuesday, November 29, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. to serve dinner to the 200 men staying there.

Look for details and links to sign up on the website under Serve/In Our Community.

Adult Small Groups
Small Groups start back in September, providing time in intimate settings to delve deeply into the stories of Scripture. Groups meet on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Details in the Adult Formation brochure in the Historical Lobby, in the narthex and on the website.

Congregational Retreat
The deadline is Friday, September 16, to register for the Congregational Retreat on September 30-October 2 in Montreat. Details are online and in brochures available in the receptionist’s area just off the Historical Lobby.

First Welcome
Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 25, at 10 a.m., to attend First Welcome, a time for visitors, prospective members and others to learn about what it means to be a member of First Presbyterian. Coffee, pastries and conversation in the Lemma Howerton Room, S202. Childcare will be available. Contact Lucy Caldwell at lcaldwell@firstpres-charlotte.org.

First Wednesdays
Our new First Wednesdays forums will offer food for thought on four Wednesday nights in October, November, February and March. First Wednesdays include dinner and childcare. Here’s the line-up:
- October 5 – Digging In: Archaeology Enhances the Familiar Stories of Our Faith
  Just returned from a dig in Jerusalem, UNCC professor Dr. James Tabor will share discoveries that shed new light on the stories on which our faith is built.
- November 2 – Other Voices: Are We Listening?
  Three people will tell their life-altering stories, after which we will explore the ways listening reveals insights into our own lives.
- February 1 – Embracing the Journey: Stories of Healing and Hope
  This program will continue the conversation about mental health.
- March 1 – Getting Real: Our Pastors Talk about Doubt
  A pastors’ panel will explore doubt and how it shows up in their lives and strengthens their faith.

Community Outreach
Westerly Hills Academy also offers multiple opportunities to engage with students this school year, including tutoring for one hour a week through Heart Math Tutoring or as a Literacy Tutor/Classroom Helper. You can also participate in Project Backpack Weekend Meal Bags, because no child should go without food over the weekend.

And the Habitat build begins September 17 and continues through November 19. Check out details and register to help on the website. Contact Lisa Dillard, Community Engagement Coordinator, 704-927-0242 or ldillard@firstpres-charlotte.org.

Sponsor a Student
One of the best ways to support our partners in

Bayonnais, Haiti, is to sponsor a student at the Institute Classique de Bayonnais. On September 18, Actionnel Fleurisma and his wife, Yolande, will share stories of hope and transformation. After worship, look for an information table on how to sponsor a child in Haiti.

Enneagram: Becoming More Authentic
Mondays, September 19-November 28. 7-9 p.m. An in-depth, 11-week look at the Enneagram personality style model will be taught by the Reverend Dr. Paul Hanneman. The Enneagram helps us explore our inner geography down to the soul level. Register on the website. Cost: $105.

Singing in the Season
We’ll kick off the Christmas season with a sing-along for everyone on Sunday, December 4, at 5:30 p.m. in Wood Fellowship Hall. The Sanctuary Choir, children’s choirs, handbells and orchestra will lead us in a program of sacred and secular holiday music, including opportunities for audience participation in favorite songs.

Middle School Girls Retreat & Guys Retreat
Go on a retreat with identified gender groups to draw near to God, strengthen relationships, and get comfortable with being who God created you to be. October 15-16, in different locations.

High School Junior/Senior & Freshmen/Sophomore Fall Retreats
Each retreat seeks to encounter God through relationships, renewal and rest. Badin Lake, November 19-20, in separate houses.
Sanctuary is above this space

The Weekday School and the church offices are in the Church Street side of the building. These class-rooms and offices are not in use on Sunday mornings, so have been left off the map.
Hymn No. 32  “I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

1 I sing the mighty power of God
that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad
and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained
the sun to rule the day.
The moon shines full at God's command,
and all the stars obey.

2 I sing the goodness of the Lord
who filled the earth with food.
God formed the creatures through the Word,
and then pronounced them good.

Lord, how thy wonders are displayed,
where'er I turn my eye,
if I survey the ground I tread,
or gaze upon the sky!

3 There's not a plant or flower below
but makes thy glories known.
And clouds arise, and tempests blow,
by order from thy throne,
while all that borrows life from thee
is ever in thy care,
and everywhere that we can be,
thou, God, art present there.

Hymn No. 306  “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

1 Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.

2 Before our Father's throne
we pour our ardent prayers.
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

3 We share our mutual woes;
our mutual burdens bear.
And often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.

4 When we are called to part,
it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart,
and hope to meet again.

5 From sorrow, toil, and pain,
and sin we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reign
through all eternity.

Hymn No. 307  “God of Grace and God of Glory”

1 God of grace and God of glory,
on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

2 Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

3 Cure thy children's warring madness;
bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

4 Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore.
Let the gift of thy salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving thee whom we adore,
serving thee whom we adore.