

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

**Rise in body or in spirit...(as indicated below.)*

WE ASSEMBLE TO WORSHIP GOD

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Sheep May Safely Graze

J.S. Bach

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT (Hymnal 386, v. 1)

Come, Worship God

O QUANTA QUALIA

Come, worship God, who is worthy of honor; enter God's presence with thanks and a song! You are the rock of your people's salvation to whom our jubilant praises belong.

*CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalms 33,145, and 69

One: The Lord looks down from heaven and sees all humankind.

All: From where he sits enthroned God watches all the inhabitants of the earth.

One: The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

All: The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.

One: You who seek God, let your hearts revive.

All: For the Lord hears the needy, and does not despise his own that are in bonds.

*OPENING PRAYER WITH 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.

*OPENING HYMN 19

God of Great and God of Small

GOD OF GREAT AND SMALL

WE CONFESS OUR SIN

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, there is just so much need around us that we become paralyzed and unable to respond. As a result, we shut our eyes and harden our hearts to the suffering of our neighbors. Forgive us, and give to us the eyes to see, the heart to feel, and the will to get involved in the lives of your children. Empower us to bring the love of Jesus to a hurting world. We pray in Jesus' name,
Silent Prayer - (How have you let God, others, or yourself down?)
AMEN.

*KYRIE ELEISON 551

Lord, Have Mercy

LAND OF REST

**Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: In Jesus Christ, God has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities. Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven, our shame is removed, and we are made new. Friends, believe the gospel:

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Praise be to God!

*RESPONSE (Hymnal 581)

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI (Creatorex)

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 WORD OF GOD PROCLAIMED

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rev. Kara Wheeler

(Children through 2nd grade are welcome in Children's Church with Ms. Kara.)

ANTHEM

Offertory

John Ness Beck

With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, Shall I come before Him with yearling calves? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give Him my firstborn for my transgressions, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O man; He has shown you what is good. And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 25:31-40

(Pew Bible p.27)

John 13:12-17

(Pew Bible p.101)

THE SERMON

Dr. Lee Zehmer

What's Good About the Church: Meeting Human Need

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

What is God saying to you through Scripture, sermon and song?

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN OF RESPONSE 761

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

BEECHER

*WE SAY WHAT WE BELIEVE – A Declaration of Faith 8:4

In his concern for justice in the social order

God has never forgotten the needs of individuals.

In the end the Lord will judge all persons

by the simple, unremembered acts of kindness

they did or failed to do for the least of their sisters and brothers.

We acknowledge God is at work here and now

when people show personal concern for each other

and work to make helping agencies,

including the church itself, more compassionate.

We believe God sends us to risk our own peace and comfort

in compassion for our neighbors.

We are to give to them and receive from them,

accepting everyone we meet as a person;

to be sensitive to those who suffer in body or mind;

to help and accept help in ways that affirm dignity and responsibility.

We must not limit our compassion to those we judge deserving,

for we ourselves do not deserve the compassion of God.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Please touch the plate as it is passed to offer your time, talents, and tithes to God.

OFFERTORY

Children of the Heavenly Father

arr. Dale Wood

*RESPONSE

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

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! Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We offer our gifts with gratitude that we are able to give. As we dedicate our gifts to you, gracious God, let us also dedicate our lives to making your kingdom come in all that we do. Amen.

WE ARE SENT TO SERVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR

*CLOSING HYMN 733

We All Are One in God's Mission ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN

*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (Hymnal 295, v. 1)

Go to the World!

SINE NOMINE

Go to the world! Go into all the earth. Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth, baptizing as the sign of our rebirth. Alleluia! Alleluia!

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Toccata in F

Dietrich Buxtehude

The flowers in the Sanctuary today are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Donna Martin on what would have been her 90th birthday on August 11. They are given by her family.

Guests...WELCOME to First Presbyterian Church!

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us and

pray that you will discover anew God's love for you today.

Please sign the Friendship Pad with your contact information

when it is passed. Church members and staff would be delighted

to provide you with more information about FPC.

Nursery Care Today: Michele Murdoch **August 16:** Diane Hicks
Elder/Deacon on Duty Today: Ann Hunsucker, Carolyn Johnson
Elder/Deacon on Duty August 16: Paul Horne, Betsy Forrest
Monitor/Greeter Today: Alan Johnson **August 16:** Bob Ballard
Acolytes Today: Rhett Keener, Brynn Kirksey
Acolytes August 16: Cecily Zelinski, Penelope Zelinski

Remember the following in prayer: Worth Kendall, Mary Tice, Shirley Burton, Beth Easley, Michele Horne, Keira Esposito, Ashley Platts, Nancy Lowery, Colleen Lathan, Manfred Liewald, Allen Tice, Patti Cloninger, Jean Horton, Sam Curry, the family of Donna Martin, Eddie Gainey, and Alvane Deal

Sunday Morning Updates for August: We have now returned to our 11:00 am worship time. Our Rally Day breakfast and Fall Kick-Off will be at 10:00 am on August 16. Bring a covered-dish breakfast item to share! Sunday School classes will return at 10:00 am on August 23. Please join us as we kick off a new school year of study and faith formation at FPC!

Help for HOPE: During the month of August, our congregation will collect boxes of breakfast cereal to contribute to the clients of HOPE of Rock Hill. You may bring in any brand or type of cereal. (ex: Cheerios, Chex, etc.) Please leave your boxes in the Narthex by Sunday, August 23. On behalf of the Mission Committee and the clients of HOPE of Rock Hill, thank you!

Mahjong: Interested in playing mahjong? Join us at the church on Wednesday, August 12 at 6:30 pm. No instruction will be given at this event. Join the What’s App FPC Mahjong Community for announcements with this QR code.



Pizza & Plans: Youth Families are invited and encouraged to stay after worship on August 16 for lunch and to learn about our Fall 26 – Spring 27 Youth Program for our middle & high school students. Information about youth group dates and confirmation plans will be shared.

Plentiful Harvest Kitchen: We will be serving on Sunday, August 16. Shifts are available from 2-4 pm to cook and 4-6 pm to serve and clean-up, with 3-4 volunteers per shift. If you are interested in this opportunity, please reach out to Jennifer Abernathy at 704-902-6877 or jennifer.abernathy@pauldavis.com.

Pickleball: If there’s enough interest, players meet at the church to play pickleball on Thursdays at 5:00 pm. Join the What’s App FPC Pickleball Community for announcements with this QR code.



Yoga: A limited number of classes will be held in the summer months on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm. Use this QR code to see the Sign-Up Page to let Susan know when you will attend.



FPC Men’s Fall Bible Study: Join us Wednesdays at 6:30 pm starting August 19. We will be reading Adam Hamilton’s book titled *Half Truths*. In this 6-week Bible study, we will search for the whole truth by comparing common Christian clichés with the wisdom found in Scripture. Study books are available in the Church Office. Requested donation of \$10/book to help offset the cost.

Rise Against Hunger: Join FPC on Sunday, August 23 at 3:00 pm for an exciting, hands-on volunteer opportunity to package meals for global hunger relief--sponsored by FPC’s Mission Endowment. **There is plenty of room for more volunteers to register!!**



Montreat Weekend is October 16-18! Registration is ongoing. It’s not too late to register!! See Kara with questions and for more info!

 This QR Code may be used for all online contributions to the church. There is a 1% processing fee for Checking/ACH transfers and 3% fee for Credit Card transaction.

This Week’s Calendar

Sunday, August 9

10:00 am Reception of New Members in the Chapel
10:15 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
11:00 am Worship
12:00 pm Security Team Meeting
3:30 pm Handbells

Monday, August 10

9:00 am Property Committee
11:00 am Staff Meeting

Tuesday, August 11

4:00 pm Seniors Exercise Class

Wednesday, August 12

6:00 pm Yoga
6:30 pm Mahjong

Thursday, August 13

2:00 pm Yarns of Love
4:00 pm Seniors Exercise Class
5:00 pm Pickleball

Sunday, August 16

9:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am Rally Day Breakfast and Kick-Off
11:00 am Worship
12:00 pm Youth Family Lunch
2:00 pm Plentiful Harvest Kitchen @ Covenant PC
3:30 pm Handbells
5:00 pm Children’s Choirs

Members of the Session

Susan Roberson, Clerk

Class of 2026

John Abernathy
Jimmy Campbell
Scott Harris
Elizabeth Owen
Susan Roberson

Class of 2027

Paul Horne
Ann Hunsucker
Chip Hutchison
Julia Nichols
Sheryl Smith

Class of 2028

Clair Roberts
Bo Redmond
John Blackwelder
Cynthia Johnson
Rob Joiner

Members of the Diaconate

Beth Janicke, Moderator

Class of 2026

Jennifer Abernathy
Heather Dellinger
Kathy James
Margaret Joiner
Dave Keely

Class of 2027

Beth Janicke
Allen Katz
Joan Musselwhite
Steve Roberts
Sherry Hutchison

Class of 2028

Cameron Lawson
Carolyn Johnson
Jonathan Nichols
Richard Quandt
Betsy Forrest

Deacons of the Month for August

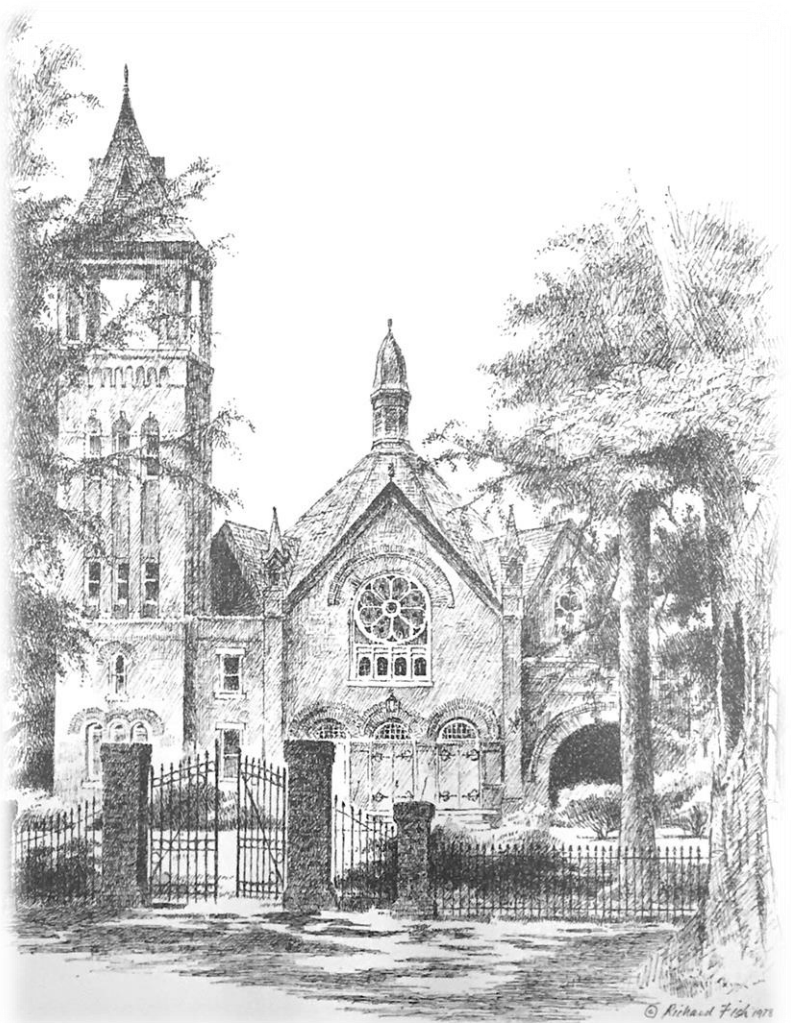
Kathy James, Joan Musselwhite, Beth Janicke

Office Staff and Contact Information

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(803) 328-2467 - firstpresrh@gmail.com - www.fpc-rockhill.org

Church Office Hours

Monday – Wednesday: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Thursday: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Friday: Closed



August 9, 2026
11:00 am

We are a diverse family of believers in Jesus Christ, who seek to glorify God by celebrating and sharing God’s renewing and transforming love as we:

Worship the living God with joy and thanksgiving

Teach the Word of God to deepen our faith and grow in our love of Christ

Serve others through sharing our unique gifts of the Holy Spirit

Fellowship with one another to energize our life together as a congregation

Nurture and Embrace all of God’s children.

Dr. A. Lee Zehmer – Senior Pastor

Rev. Kara Wheeler – Associate Pastor of Family Ministries

Dr. Donald M. Rogers – Director of Music

M. L. Marley – Organist

Angela Harris – Director of Cherub Choir

Ashley Platts – Director of Handbell Choirs

First Presbyterian Church

234 East Main Street, Rock Hill, SC 29730
Organized 1869