

September 14, 2025

THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WE ASSEMBLE TO WORSHIP GOD

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY

If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee

J.S. Bach

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Living Waters

Bill Lehman

CHORAL INTROIT (Hymnal 412, v.3)

God, Reveal Your Presence

ARNSBERG

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: With steadfast love and growing faith,

All: We come as the people of Christ.

One: With prayers of hope and songs of joy,

All: We come to worship God, the eternal and ever-loving.

One: With thankful hearts and humble prayers,

All: We come to give God glory and praise.

One: As people of faith and hope let us worship and celebrate the good news of Jesus Christ.

*OPENING PRAYER WITH 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.

*OPENING HYMN 394

God Is Made the Sure Foundation

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

WE CONFESS OUR SIN

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the Light of the World, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. Too often, we turn away from the poor, ignore cries for justice, and do not strive for peace. Forgive us, God. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and baptize us once again with your Spirit. May we reflect the love and life of Jesus Christ as we step away from the sidelines and enter into our world. We pray in Jesus name,

Silent Prayer - How have you disappointed God, others, or yourself?

AMEN.

*KYRIE ELEISON

KINGDOM

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: Friends, hear this Good News: the love of God is beyond measure, and we are included in that love. Know that you are forgiven and thus freed to love and serve.

All: In Jesus Christ, we have been lifted up to new life with him! Thanks be to God!

*RESPONDING WITH PRAISE

Glory Be to the Father (Hymnal 581)

GLORIA PATRI

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 Kara.)

ANTHEM

Psalms 139

Allen Pote

Lord, you have searched me and known me, you know everything I do. When I rise up, when I lie down, you are with me through and through. Before a word is on my tongue, you know what I will say, your presence follows me day by day. Where can I flee from your spirit? Where can I go to run away? If I go to heaven, or live in hell, you are there. Search me, O God, and know me, try me and know my heart. See if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 28:16-20

(Pew Bible p. 32)

James 1:22-25

(Pew Bible p. 215)

Ephesians 2:4-10

(Pew Bible p. 181)

THE SERMON

Don’t Be a NPC!

Dr. Lee Zehmer

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

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

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

*HYMN OF RESPONSE 727

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

THE SERVANT SONG

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *A Declaration of Faith (8:1)*

God has not taken his people out of the world, but has sent them into the world to worship him there and serve all humankind.

We worship God in the world

by standing before the Lord in behalf of all people.

Our cries for help and our songs of praise

are never for ourselves alone.

Worship is no retreat from the world; it is part of our mission.

We serve humankind

by discerning what God is doing in the world

and joining him in his work.

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

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

arr. Paul Manz

*RESPONSE: *The Doxology* (Hymnal 606)

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

God of great mercy and love, accept our offerings that we bring forward now to share in the work and ministry of the church. Through these gifts may the Good News be proclaimed and shared with all the world. May the joy of our giving and living be a blessing for us all. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

WE ARE SENT TO SERVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR

*CLOSING HYMN 730

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

GRAND ISLE

*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION (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

Allegro from ‘Suite Gothique’

Leon Boëllmann

We thank Mike Forrest and Bobby Smith for sharing their musical talents this morning alongside Pastor Lee.

The flowers today are to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Midge White by Wendy and Butch Blanchard.

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: Lindsey Skinner **September 21:** Christy Goodner
Elder/Deacon on Duty Today: Jimmy Campbell, Dave Keely
Elder/Deacon on Duty September 21: Terry Dodge, Heather Dellinger
Monitor/Greeter Today: Kinch Edwards **September 21:** Bob Ballard
Acolytes Today: Amelia Skinner, Keaton Esposito
September 21: Henry Goodner, Ben Williams

Remember the following in prayer: Worth Kendall, Mary Tice, Shirley Burton, Beth Easley, Michele Horne, Rev. Dr. Barry Lambert, Keira Esposito, Ashley Platts, Nancy Lowery, Colleen Lathan, Jean Horton, Linda Bradshaw

Youth: Come tonight for Bible Study and Snack Supper. We will meet in Rm. 225.

Children’s Choirs: Join us today at 5:00 pm! See Dr. Don for more information.

Help for HOPE: During the month of September, we will be collecting jars of peanut butter and jelly. Please consider contributing a jar(s) to the Narthex box by Sunday, September 21. Your donations will go to families in Rock Hill. Thank you on behalf of the clients of Project HOPE and the members of the Missions Committee.

Small Groups Have Begun! **Women's Fall Bible Study:** *Acts: Awakening to God in Everyday Life* by Melissa Spoelstra, Tuesdays at 10:00 am.

Rock of Ages: This is an evening small group comprised of mostly empty nesters (although all are welcome) that meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 pm. Contact Se and Michele Murdoch with questions.

Men’s Fall Bible Study: *Moses: In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet* by Adam Hamilton on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm. Please contact Terry Dodge for more information. Books available in the Church Office for the three studies. Requested donation of \$10/book.

A Reception of New Members will be held on Sunday, September 28 at 10:30 am in the Chapel. Contact Pastor Lee or Kara if you are interested in joining the church.

Our 2025 Montreat Weekend will be Friday, October 3 - Sunday, October 5. Full payment is due by October 1. Don’t let cost prevent you from attending this restful weekend in the mountains. Last call to register with Kara!

October Craft Fair Mark your calendars for the 2nd Annual Craft Fair at FPC to be held on Saturday, October 25 from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm.

In October, we will start collecting gently used books for a **Book Sale** at the Craft Fair. Contact Steve Roberts with questions.

A **Bake Sale** will also be held. Members of the church can contribute their favorite baked goods including cakes, pies, breads (sourdough and sweet breads), cookies, candies, and snack mixes. Both whole items and individually packaged items will be sold. Please consider what you might like to donate to help support Bethelwoods scholarships. If you have questions, contact Karen Holt or Melissa Granacher. Thank you for your support!

Fall Festival! We will be hosting the Special Needs students from the three high schools for a Fall Festival at FPC on Thursday, October 30. Please contact Kara Wheeler or Ann Hunsucker for more info and to volunteer.

Office Staff and Contact Information

Jonna Eichorn - Administrative Assistant – jeichorn@fpcrockhill.org
Robyn Brown - Financial Secretary - rbrown@fpcrockhill.org
Mail to: Post Office Box 1011 - Rock Hill, S.C., 29731
(803) 328-2467 - firstpresrh@gmail.com - www.fpc-rockhill.org



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 transactions.

This Week’s Calendar

Family Promise Week

Sunday, September 14

9:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship
3:30 pm Handbells
4:30 pm Middle School Bible Study
5:00 pm Children’s Choirs
5:30 pm Youth Snack Supper
6:00 pm Sr. High Bible Study

Monday, September 15

11:00 am Staff Meeting

Tuesday, September 16

8:30 am Walking Group
10:00 am Women’s Bible Study
4:00 pm Seniors Exercise Class
6:00 pm Session

Wednesday, September 17

6:30 pm Men’s Bible Study

Thursday, September 18

8:30 am Walking Group
2:00 pm Yarns of Love
4:00 pm Seniors Exercise Class
5:00 pm Pickleball Open Court Play

Sunday, September 21

9:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship
3:30 pm Handbells
5:00 pm Children’s Choirs

Members of the Session

Susan Roberson, Clerk

Class of 2025

Butch Bailey
Terry Dodge
Mimi Goodner
Mary Anne Sheppard
Chris Wheeler

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

Members of the Diaconate

Christy Goodner, Moderator

Class of 2025

James Crean
Vickey Dodge
Christy Goodner
Diane Hicks
Sue Munn

Class of 2026

Jennifer Abernathy
Heather Dellinger
Kathy James
Margaret Joiner
Dave Keely

Class of 2027

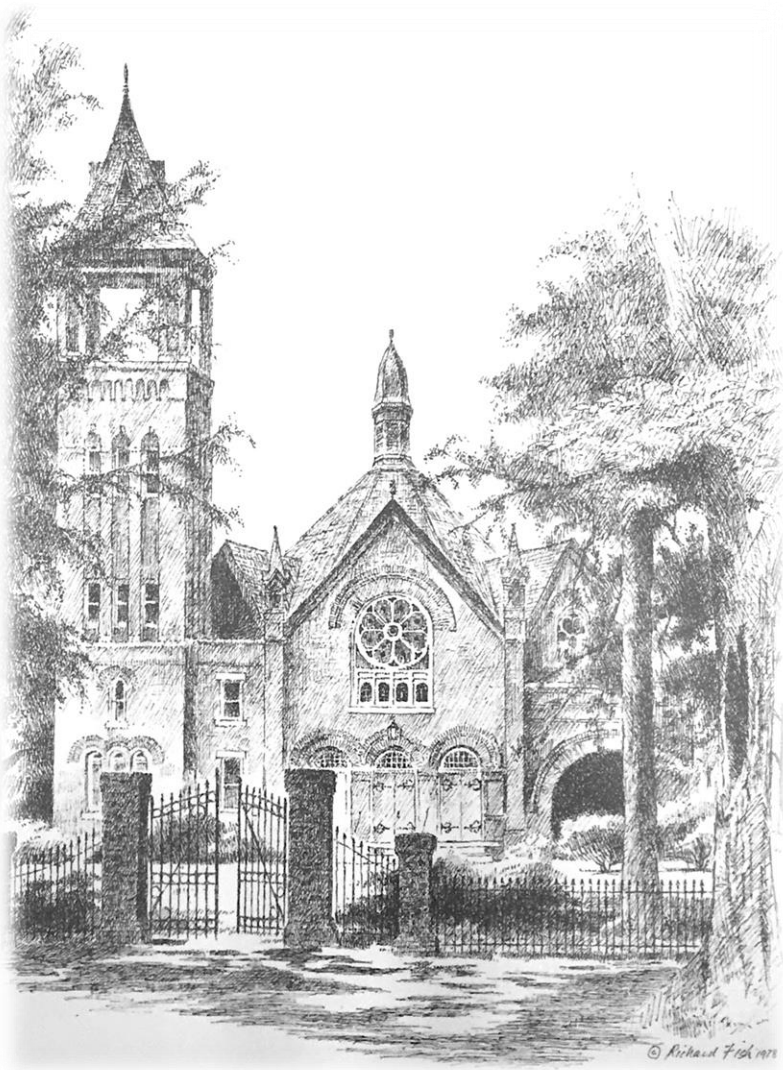
Beth Janicke
Allen Katz
Joan Musselwhite
Steve Roberts
Sherry Hutchison

Deacons of the Month for September

Diane Hicks, Margaret Joiner, Steve Roberts

Church Office Hours

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



First Presbyterian Church

234 East Main Street
Rock Hill, South Carolina 29730
Organized 1869

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 – Director 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