

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

WE ASSEMBLE TO WORSHIP GOD

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Psalm XX Benedetto Marcello

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT (Hymnal 386, v. 3)

Come, Worship God O QUANTA QUALIA
We are your people, the sheep of your pasture; you are our Maker, and to you we pray. Gladly we kneel in obedience before you; great is the one whom we worship this day!

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Listen, God is speaking!
All: God's voice whispers to us in the stillness.
One: It thunders across the skies.
All: It breaks out from the heavens.
One: All creation proclaims the glory of the Lord.
All: God also speaks through the Word.
One: That Word took on flesh to make God known to us.
All: The Word is truth and life.
One: The Word proclaims the promises and purposes of God.
All: We are listening! God is speaking!

*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 32

I Sing the Mighty Power of God ELLACOMBE

WE CONFESS OUR SIN

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace and glory, you have given us the gift of Scripture, but we fail to read and study your Word with diligence. You commanded us to teach our children your laws and the story of your people, but we put other things and activities at a higher priority. You commanded us to instruct all new disciples in your ways, but we fall short. You gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit, yet we find excuses to avoid sharing the good news of the gospel. Create in us a hunger to read and meditate on Scripture — individually and with our families. Forgive us for those times when our words and actions are in direct conflict with your teaching. Inspire us to find ways to bear witness to those who do not know your redeeming grace.

Silent Prayer-How have you disappointed God, others, or yourself? **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: God is gracious and merciful, steadfast in love and abundant in forgiveness. Friends believe the good news:
All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, renewed, and set free to live in the faith! Thanks be to God. Amen.

*RESPONSE (Hymnal 581)

Glory Be to the Father GLORIA PATRI (Greatest)
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

Sing to the Lord! Henry Mollicone
(Refrain) Sing to the Lord, sing his praise, all ye peoples, new be your song as new honors ye pay; Sing of his majesty, bless him forever, show his salvation from day to day.
Tell of his wondrous works, tell of his glory, till through the nations his name is revered; Praise and exalt him, he is almighty, God over all: let the Lord be feared. (Refrain)
Vast are the heathen gods, idols and helpless, God made the heavens and his glory they tell; Honor and majesty shine out before him, beauty and strength in his temple dwell. (Refrain) Bless him forever!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Hebrews 4:12-16 (Pew Bible p.206)
2 Timothy 3:16-17 (Pew Bible p.201)

THE SERMON

The Sword of God! 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 465

What a Friend We Have in Jesus CONVERSE

*WE SAY WHAT WE BELIEVE – A Declaration of Faith: 6:1

God makes himself known through his Word.
God has not waited to be discovered.
The Lord has taken the initiative
and addressed his Word to humankind in many ways.
Through the Word of God, the world was created.
The Word became flesh in Jesus Christ.
Through the Word of God, the New Creation is being formed.
We believe God's Word is God's communication to us.

Although God is free to speak to us in unexpected ways,
we confidently listen for his Word
in Jesus Christ,
in holy Scripture,
in preaching and the sacraments.

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

Just as I Am 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

Gracious God, all that we have and all that we are come from you. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and trust. Use them, and use us, to share your love, serve those in need, and bear witness to the good news of Jesus Christ. May all that we offer help accomplish your purposes and bring glory to your name. Amen.

WE ARE SENT TO SERVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR

*CLOSING HYMN 459

O Word of God Incarnate MUNICH

*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

Postlude on ITALIAN HYMN Albert Travis

The flowers in the Sanctuary today are given to the Glory of God by Marsha and Ken Roberts in celebration of Marsha's birthday on September 23.

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: Susan Dove **September 27:** Libba Faircloth
Elder/Deacon on Duty Today: Bo Redmond, Jennifer Abernathy
Elder/Deacon on Duty September 27: Rob Joiner, Heather Dellinger
Monitor/Greeter Today: Bill Lehman **September 27:** Jimmy Campbell
Acolytes Today: Alexander Roberson, Ellis Williams
Acolytes September 27: Ben Williams, Charlie Cycak

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

Help for HOPE: For September we are collecting jars of peanut butter and jelly. School children can make a PB & J sandwich for their breakfasts, lunches or after school snacks. Leave your donations in the Narthex by TODAY. Thank you from the Mission Committee and the clients of HOPE of Rock Hill!

Youth Group Bible Study on September 20: 4:30 pm - Middle School; 5:30 pm - Snack Supper provided by Matt & Mimi Goodner; 6:00 pm - High School
Exploring a Call of Creativity & Praise on September 27
5:30 pm Snack Supper provided by Jimmy & Kia Hicklin
6:00 pm **All Youth Group:** Panel Discussion with Church Members

Women’s Fall Bible Study: Join us as we begin our fall study on *Joshua: Winning the Worry Battle* on Tuesdays at 10:00 am until October 27. Books are available in the Church Office (\$10.00 each). The first video and discussion is September 22. Please come and join this lively group of women! Contact Vickey Dodge at vjdodge@comporium.net for questions.

September 23 BBQ & Book Discussion: Join us for our Fall Book Study on Wednesday, September 23 at 5:30 pm on the book, *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi. After a BBQ dinner (\$12/plate), we will have our small groups discussion. Childcare will be available. **RSVP by TODAY** on the clipboard in the Narthex.

Outreach Opportunities: Hunger Outreach Program (HOP) will meet on Tuesday, September 22 at 2:30 pm in Hopkins Hall to assemble sandwich bags. We will serve at the Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen on Thursday, September 24 at 10:00 am. Contact Wendy Blanchard to help.

What Does It Mean to be a Member of FPC? Pastor Lee will be leading an informational class for those who are interested in joining the church or would just like to find out more about who we are as a church on Sunday, September 27 at 10:00 am in the Chapel. He will talk about the core beliefs that make us reformed and about how we govern ourselves that make us Presbyterian. Participants will learn about the church’s leadership, ministry, staff, outreach, and how to join, among many other things. Please RSVP to Pastor Lee at lzehmer@fpcrockhill.org to let us know that you will be attending. We hope to see you there!

Montreat Weekend is October 16-18! The cost is \$140/night for your family – with financial assistance available. See Kara with questions and to register. This is a relaxing opportunity for church family fellowship in the mountains during peak leaf season. Hope you can join us!

October Craft Fair Our 3rd Annual Craft Fair at FPC to be held on Saturday, October 24 from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. Questions? Contact Steve or Clair Roberts.

Fall Festival! We will be hosting the Special Needs students from the area high schools for a Fall Festival at FPC on Friday, October 30. Please contact Ann Hunsucker to volunteer 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, September 20

9:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am Sunday School for all ages
11:00 am Worship
3:30 pm Handbells
4:30 pm Youth Group (see announcements for details)
5:00 pm Children’s Choirs

Tuesday, September 22

10:00 am Women’s Bible Study
2:30 pm Hunger Outreach Program (HOP)
4:00 pm Seniors Exercise Class
6:00 pm Rock of Ages

Wednesday, September 23

5:30 pm BBQ & *Theo of Golden*

Thursday, September 24

10:00 am Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen
2:00 pm Yarns of Love
4:00 pm Seniors Exercise Class
5:00 pm Pickleball

Sunday, September 27

9:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am Sunday School for all ages
10:00 am FPC Info Class - Chapel
11:00 am Worship
12:15 pm Worship Committee
3:30 pm Handbells
5:00 pm Children’s Choirs
5:30 pm Youth Group (see announcements for details)

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 September

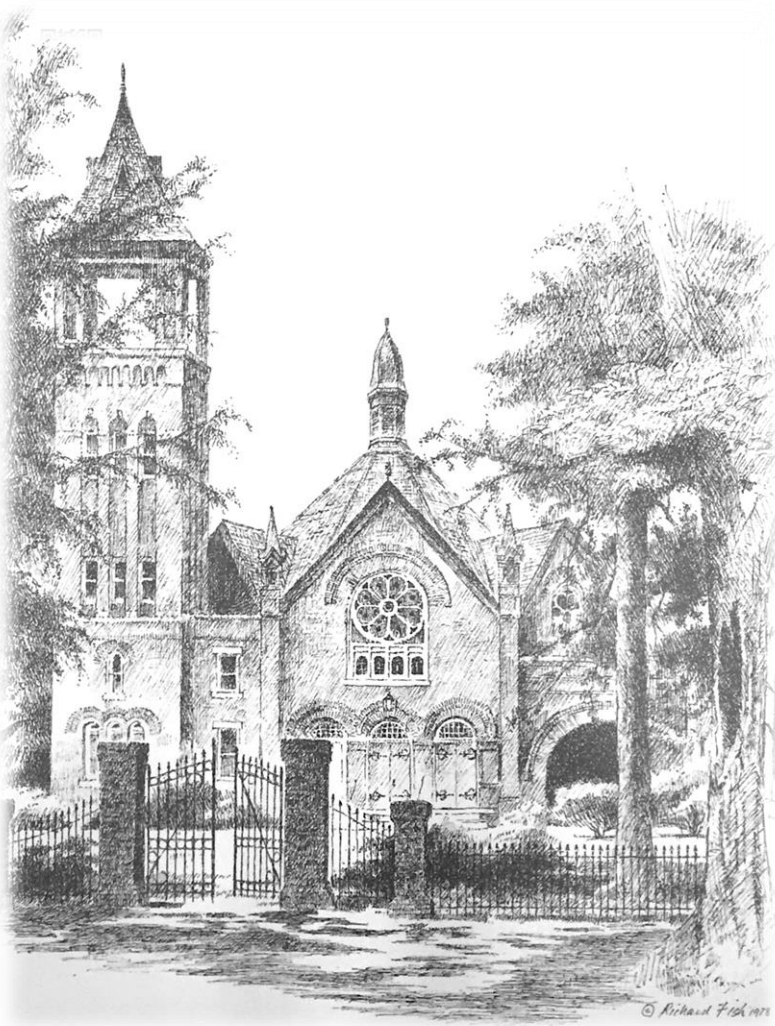
Margaret Joiner, Steve Roberts, Jonathan Nichols

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



September 20, 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