

September 21, 2025

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WE ASSEMBLE TO WORSHIP GOD

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY Rev. Marsha Roberts, organ
All My Hope on God Is Founded Michael Burkhardt
Based on MICHAEL by Herbert Howells, 1892-1983

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT (Hymnal 415, v.1)
Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy RESTORATION

*CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 42
One: As the deer thirsts for streams of water
All: So our souls thirst for you, O God.
One: You alone are our hearts desire
All: And we long to worship you.
One: May our worship magnify your holy name;
All: And may we worship you with all the joy you have given us.

*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 804
Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart! MARION

WE CONFESS OUR SIN

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION
O God, you have created us in your image and made our body the temple of the Holy Spirit. Yet, too often we do not care for ourselves as we should. We take in things that can harm us, and we dwell on the negative. Then we are surprised when we become cynical and despairing of how this world is. Forgive us, and empower us to think on the things that are lovely and noble. So change our perspective that we can see this world as you see it. 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
Eternal Light, Shine in My Heart Eugene Englert
Eternal Light, shine in my heart; eternal hope lift up my eyes; eternal power be my support; eternal wisdom make me wise. Eternal life raise me from death; eternal brightness, make me see; eternal Spirit give me breath; eternal Savior come to me. Until by your most costly grace, invited by your holy word, at last I come before your face to know you, my Eternal God.

SCRIPTURE READINGS
Philippians 4:8-9 (Pew Bible p. 187)
Matthew 6:22-23 (Pew Bible p. 6)
1 Corinthians 6:12 (Pew Bible p. 158)
Luke 11:33-36 (Pew Bible p. 69)

THE SERMON
The GIGO Principal 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 817
We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight DUNLAP’S CREEK

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *The Apostles’ Creed (Contemporary)*
I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day, he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from where he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting, Amen.

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 SOLO
Consecration John Ness Beck/ed. Craig Courtney
Tyler Lewis, tenor
[For text, see Hymn 697]

*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
Gracious God, you have blessed us with all that we need and often more than we need. Help us receive what you give with grace. In turn, help us be generous — with our monetary gifts, our possessions, our talents and our time. We ask that you would accept and consecrate all these gifts to further your work in the world. Amen.

WE ARE SENT TO SERVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR

*CLOSING HYMN 821
My Life Flows On HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

*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
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God setting, David M. Cherwien

Our substitute organist today is Rev. Marsha Roberts. Marsha is a member of our church, our Chancel Choir, and plays in our Handbell Choir and Handbell Quartet. She was previously the Director of Music at Woodland United Methodist Church and First Presbyterian Church in Lancaster.

Our guest soloist today is Tyler Lewis. You'll remember Tyler as he was a choral scholar from 2013 to 2014. Tyler is currently the organist at Westminster Presbyterian Church and sings in the York County Choral Society. He holds two degrees in music from Winthrop University.

The flowers today are to the Glory of God by Ken Roberts and in celebration of Marsha Roberts’ 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: Christy Goodner **September 28:** Libba Faircloth
Elder/Deacon on Duty Today: Terry Dodge, Heather Dellinger
Elder/Deacon on Duty September 28: Scott Harris, Margaret Joiner
Monitor/Greeter Today: Bob Ballard **September 28:** Craig Rollins
Acolytes Today: Henry Goodner, Ben Williams
September 28: Taylor Chubb, Alexander Roberson

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

2026 Youth Mission Trip Info: Join us in the Chapel after worship today OR October 26 to learn more about our summer trip with Mission Emanuel to the Dominican Republic, Saturday, June 27 - Friday, July 3, 2026.

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 TODAY. 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.

October Newsletter: If you have any news for the next newsletter, please email it to Jonna at jeichorn@fpcrockhill.org by Wednesday, September 24.

A Reception of New Members will be held on Sunday, September 28 at 10:15 am in the Chapel. Contact Pastor Lee or Kara if you are interested in joining the church.

High School Mission Night: On September 28 at 5:00 pm, the High School Youth will be preparing and serving a meal at the Bethel Men’s Shelter. Let Kara know of your participation this week.

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. Your donations will help support Bethelwoods scholarships. If you have questions, contact Karen Holt or Melissa Granacher.

Pancake Fundraiser for Bethelwoods Camp & Conference Center: All are invited on Saturday, September 27 in Hopkins Hall from 9:00 – 11:00 am. Pay what you can! Stacks of pancakes, bacon, fruit, and coffee will be served along with warm fellowship and an opportunity to invest in a ministry that truly makes a difference.

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.

Northside School of the Arts Buddy Program We are expanding our partnership with the 7:30 am Reading Buddies to include being a Lunch or Recess Buddy with a student in need (10:15 am to 2:00 pm). The need is for the "Buddy" to spend 30 minutes each week to get to know the student and encourage them to work their best in school. To be a part of this investment, reach out to Elizabeth Rollins for the application process.

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

Sunday, September 21

9:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am New Officers Mtg. in Chapel
11:00 am Worship
12:00 pm Youth Summer 2026 Mission Trip Mtg.
3:30 pm Handbells
5:00 pm Children’s Choirs

Tuesday, September 23

8:30 am Walking Group
10:00 am Women’s Bible Study
2:30 pm HOP Ministry in Hopkins Hall
4:00 pm Seniors Exercise Class
6:30 pm Rock of Ages

Wednesday, September 24

6:30 pm Men’s Bible Study

Thursday, September 25

8:30 am Walking Group
11:00 am Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen
2:00 pm Yarns of Love
4:00 pm Seniors Exercise Class
5:00 pm Pickleball Open Court Play

Saturday, September 27

9:00 – 11:00 am Bethelwoods Pancake Brunch in Hopkins Hall

Sunday, September 28

9:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am Sunday School
10:15 am New Member Reception in Chapel
11:00 am Worship
3:30 pm Handbells
5:00 pm Children’s Choirs
5:00 pm High School Youth Mission Night at Bethel Men’s Shelter

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

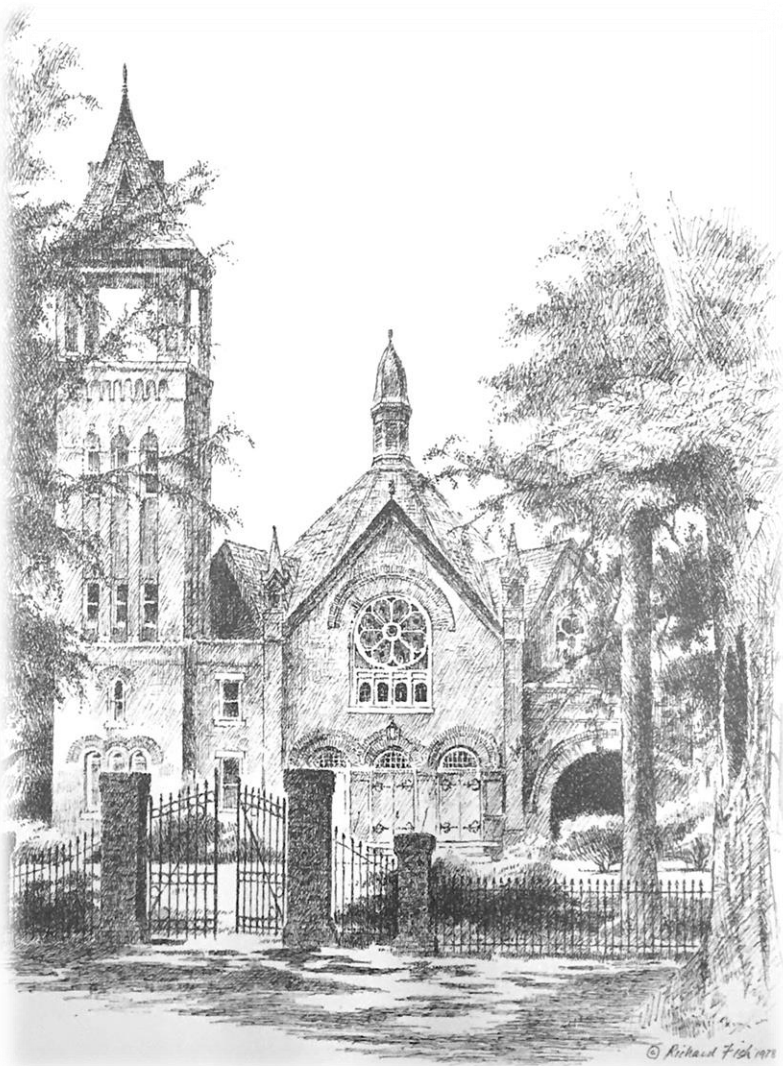
Beth Janicke
Allen Katz
Joan Musselwhite
Steve Roberts
Sherry Hutchison

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