

The Eighteenth Sunday
after Pentecost

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

WE ASSEMBLE TO WORSHIP GOD

OPENING VOLUNTARY

*Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus*arr. J. Wayne Kerr

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT (Hymnal 386, v. 4)

*Come, Worship God*O QUANTA QUALIA

Now let us listen for you speak among us; open our hearts to receive what you say. Peace be to all who remember your goodness, trust in your word, and rejoice in your way!

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.
All: God’s steadfast love endures forever.
One: God fills our lives with grace and surrounds us with abundant mercy.
All: Every good gift comes from the generous hand of God.
One: Come, let us worship with grateful hearts.
All: Let us praise the God who gives freely and loves without measure.
One: Come, let us worship the Lord.
All: With joy and thanksgiving, we worship God.

*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 41 [vv.1, 2, 4 & 5]

*O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!*LYONS

WE CONFESS OUR SIN

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you have entrusted us with gifts, abilities, time, resources, and opportunities to serve you. Yet we confess that too often we hold back what you have given us. We allow fear to keep us from acting. We hesitate when you call us to serve. We bury our gifts rather than use them, protect our comfort rather than risk for your kingdom, and forget that everything we have is ultimately yours. Forgive us for the times we have been poor stewards of your grace. Forgive us for opportunities missed, gifts unused, and faithful work left undone. Give us courage to use what you have entrusted to us. Make us faithful in both small things and great things, so that our lives may bear fruit for your kingdom and bring honor to you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray,

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 SERMONRev. Kara Wheeler

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

ANTHEM

*Let Us with a Gladsome Mind*MONKLAND/arr. Alan Ridout

Let us with a gladsome mind, Praise the Lord for he is kind: For his mercies shall endure, ever faithful, ever sure. Let us blaze his name abroad, for of gods he is the God: For his mercies shall endure, ever faithful, ever sure. He with all commanding might, filled the new made world with light: For his mercies shall endure, ever faithful, ever sure. He the golden tressed sun caused all day his course to run: For his mercies shall endure, ever faithful, ever sure. The horned moon to shine by night, mid her spangled sisters bright: For his mercies shall endure, ever faithful, ever sure. All things living he doth feed, his full hand supplies their need: For his mercies shall endure, ever faithful, ever sure. Amen!

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 25:14-30(Pew Bible p.27)

THE SERMONDr. Lee Zehmer

Don't Bury Your Gifts!

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 [vv.1, 3 & 5]

*Will You Let Me Be Your Servant?*THE SERVANT SONG

*WE SAY WHAT WE BELIEVE – The Apostle's 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.

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

*Be Thou My Vision*arr. Sondra Tucker

*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, you have entrusted us with many gifts—our time, our abilities, our resources, and our lives. Receive these offerings as a sign of our desire to be faithful stewards of all you have given us. Take what we offer and use it for the work of your kingdom. Give us courage not to bury our gifts in fear, but to use them generously and faithfully in service to you and to others. May all that we have and all that we are bring glory to your name. Amen.

WE ARE SENT TO SERVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR

*CLOSING HYMN 69

*I, the Lord of Sea and Sky*HERE I AM

*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

*Fugue on the Kyrie*Francois Couperin

The flowers in the Sanctuary today are given by friends to the Glory of God and in celebration of Jean Horton’s birthday on September 30.

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: Libba Faircloth **October 4:** Joanne Lehman
Elder/Deacon on Duty Today: Rob Joiner, Heather Dellinger
Elder/Deacon on Duty October 4: Sheryl Smith, Jonathan Nichols
Monitor/Greeter Today: Jimmy Campbell **October 4:** Barry Goodner
Acolytes Today: Ben Williams, Charlie Cycak
Acolytes October 4: Taylor Chubb, Keaton Esposito

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, Eddie Gainey, Alvane Deal, and Katie White

Help for HOPE: During the month of September, our congregation contributed 81 jars of peanut butter and 68 jars of jelly. This was quite an increase from last year’s 42 jars peanut butter and 57 jars of jelly! **During October**, we will collect boxes of pasta (spaghetti, penne, elbow noodles, etc.) and jars or cans of sauces (marinara, alfredo, meat, etc.) The Missions & Outreach Committee and the clients of HOPE thank you for your generosity in helping to combat hunger right here in Rock Hill.

Youth Group: Tonight! - *Exploring a Call of Creativity & Praise*
5:30 pm Snack Supper provided by Jimmy & Kia Hicklin
6:00 pm **All Youth Group:** Panel Discussion with Church Members

October Retirees Lunch: Our Retirees lunch and program will be held in Hopkins Hall on Thursday, October 8 at noon. **RSVP by Monday, October 5 with a blue pew reservation card OR by contacting Jonna in the Church Office at jeichorn@fpcrockhill.org.** The meal will be from Jimmy Johns. Tea, lemonade, and dessert will also be offered. **The price per person is \$15.** Pay that day with a check or cash. Theresa and Richard Quandt will present a musical program. Volunteers are needed to help host each month:

Set-Up: Set and decorate lunch tables (can be as simple as you’d like) AND prepare the drinks for the lunch. (The tables and chairs will already be in place.)
Pick Up Lunch/Clean Up: Pick up the food from the restaurant at 11:00 am AND coordinate the cleaning after the lunch.
Contact Jonna in the Church Office with the month/tasks you are able to help.

The Next Men’s Bible Study will be Oct. 7 - Nov. 18, on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. Pastor and best-selling author Adam Hamilton explores four major world religions—Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism—and compares the beliefs of each with those of Christianity. In examining these major world religions and the beliefs of their followers, Hamilton urges us as Christians to build bridges with others so that we might grow in our faith, seek peace in our world, love our neighbors, and find positive ways to share the gospel. Study books are available in the Church Office. Requested donation of \$10/book to help offset the cost.

Fall Festival! We will be hosting the Special Needs students from the area high schools for a Fall Festival at FPC on Friday, October 23. Please contact Ann Hunsucker to volunteer and for more info.

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.
A Bake Sale will be held during the Craft Fair. Members of the church can contribute your 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. Proceeds will go to Better Bound Books, a local organization that supports at risk teens. If you have questions, please ask Karen Holt or Melissa Granacher.



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 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)

Tuesday, September 29

10:00 am Women’s Bible Study
4:00 pm Seniors Exercise Class

Wednesday, September 30

6:30 pm Men’s Bible Study @ Hickory Tavern

Thursday, October 1

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

Sunday, October 4

9:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am Sunday School: Seekers & New Cov. Berean
11:00 am Worship – World Communion Sunday
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 September

Margaret Joiner, Steve Roberts, Jonathan Nichols

Deacons of the Month for October

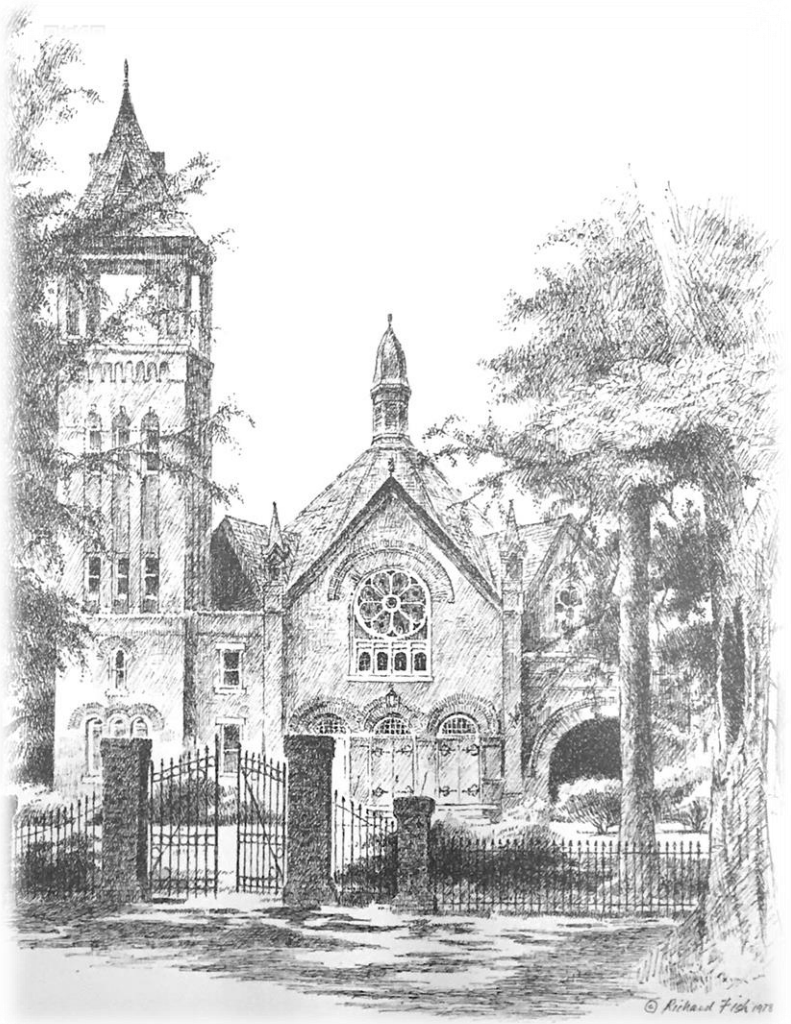
Dave Keely, Sherry Hutchison, Richard Quandt

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

Church Office Hours

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



September 27, 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