

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

WE ASSEMBLE TO WORSHIP GOD

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Nimrod from 'Enigma Variations'

Edward Elgar

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT (Hymnal 402, v. 1)

How Lovely, Lord

MERLE'S TUNE

How lovely, Lord, how lovely is your abiding place; my soul is longing, fainting, to feast upon your grace. The sparrow finds a shelter, a place to build her nest; and so your temple calls us within its walls to rest.

*CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 34

One: O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.

All: We will bless the Lord at all times; and God's praise shall continually be in our mouths.

One: O taste and see that the Lord is good;

All: Happy are those who take refuge in him.

One: Let us worship the God who calls us His children.

*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 175

Seek Ye First

LAFFERTY

WE CONFESS OUR SIN

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving and forgiving God, we are conflicted. We want to be followers of Christ, but we cling to our own desires and plans. We want to be filled with joy, but we are beset with worry and anxiety. We long for a vibrant prayer life, but our busy lives leave us tired and afraid of solitude. Forgive us, we pray. Renew within us hearts that are open to receive your grace. Refresh our spirits by the cleansing rain of your forgiveness. Rekindle within us faith, compassion and generosity. We ask this in the name of our Savior and Friend, Jesus Christ.

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 (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

LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER

Let Us Break Bread Together

arr. John Ness Beck

[See Hymnal 525 for the text.]

SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 Corinthians 1:4-9

(Pew Bible p.155)

John 1:29-42

(Pew Bible p.86)

THE SERMON

Dr. Lee Zehmer

Come and See

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

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

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*WE SAY WHAT WE BELIEVE – *A Declaration of Faith 5:3*

We testify that today the Holy Spirit makes us able to respond in faith to the gospel and leads us into the Christian Community.

The Spirit brings us out of death into life, out of separation into fellowship.

The Spirit makes us aware of our sinfulness and need, moves us to abandon our old way of life, persuades us to trust in Christ and adopt his way.

In all these things we are responsible for our decisions.

But after we have trusted and repented we recognize that the Spirit enabled us to hear and act.

It is not our faith but God's grace in Jesus Christ that justifies us and reconciles us to God.

Yet it is only by faith that we accept God's grace and live by it.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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

OFFERTORY

Kyrie, Gott Vater in Ewigkeit BWV 672

J.S. Bach

*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

With gratitude for all your good gifts to us, O God, we dedicate these offerings to you. Use them to sow seeds of hope where there is despair, seeds of compassion where there is pain, and peace where there is discord. Help us not to grow weary in doing what is right with the resources you have given us. We pray in our Savior's name, Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

*HYMN OF PREPARATION 529

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

UNION SEMINARY

WORDS OF INVITATION and INSTITUTION

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

The Communion bread is gluten, dairy, soy, and nut free.

Taste and See

Rita and Paul Baloché

Taste and see the Lord is good

Good to those who hunger after Him

Drink and be filled from the Living Well

And never thirst again, never thirst again

Taste and see the Lord is good

He's been good to me

Jesus is the Bread of Life

Broken and poured out for us

And because of His great sacrifice

We can know the Father's love

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

How grateful we are for this family meal you have prepared for us, most gracious God. As we have gathered around your table, might we be open to receiving the gift of your love in the food we have shared. Let it nourish us when we feel depleted, sustain us when times are difficult, comfort us when we are sorrowful and enhance our joys when our cups overflow. For the meal we have eaten, O God, make us truly thankful. Amen.

WE ARE SENT TO SERVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR

*CLOSING HYMN 739

O for a Closer Walk with God

CAITHNESS

*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

Processional in G

John Stanley

Deacons will be at the exits today to receive your Deacon's Fund Offering.

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: Mary Alice Owen **September 13:** Megan Keener
Elder/Deacon on Duty Today: John Abernathy, Kathy James
Elder/Deacon on Duty September 13: John Blackwelder, Margaret Joiner
Monitor/Greeter Today: Floyd Hale **September 13:** Steve Roberts
Acolytes Today: Mary Catherine Wheeler, Hugh Dellinger
Acolytes September 13: Rhett Keener, Millie Goodner

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 Sunday, September 20. *THANK YOU* from the Mission Committee and the clients of HOPE of Rock Hill!

September Retirees Lunch: Our Retirees lunch and program will be held in Hopkins Hall on Thursday, September 10 at noon. **RSVP TODAY with a blue pew reservation card OR by contacting Jonna in the office at jeichorn@fpcrockhill.org.** The menu will be baked chicken tenders, green beans, potato salad, mac-n-cheese, baked beans, and dinner rolls. Tea, lemonade, and dessert will also be offered. The price per person is \$12. Pay that day with a check or cash. 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/CLEAN-UP: Pick up the food from the store or restaurant at 11:00 am AND coordinate the cleaning after the lunch. Please contact the Church Office if you are able to help.

Youth and Parents Fall Kick Off! On Sunday, September 13 at 5:00 pm at Cherry Park Multi-Purpose Fields, we will Kick-Off to a New Year with a FRIENDLY Parent vs. Youth Kickball Game. We’ll grab dinner together after at Burgers & Barley. Bring the whole family - younger siblings will make great cheerleaders!

Family Promise: We are hosting families again September 13-19. We need overnight hosts, dinner providers, and greeters to open the building, visit with our guests and help other volunteers. Please consider how you might serve. Use this QR code or see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex to volunteer. Contact Kathy Pender for more information.



Women’s Fall Bible Study: Join us for the organizational meeting on Tuesday, September 15 at 10:00 am as we begin our study on *Joshua: Winning the Worry Battle* by Barb Roose. Books will be available (\$10.00 each). The first video and discussion is September 22. Contact Vickie 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 Sunday, September 20 to the Church Office or on the clip boards located in the Narthex and the Adult Classrooms.

Montreat Weekend is October 16-18! *Extra rooms will be released back to the SC Inn on September 9th.* 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.

This Week’s Calendar

Sunday, September 6

9:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am Sunday School for Seekers & New Covenant
11:00 am Worship and Communion
3:30 pm Handbells

Monday, September 7 *Office is closed for Labor Day.*

Tuesday, September 8

4:00 pm Seniors Exercise Class
6:00 pm Rock of Ages

Wednesday, September 9

6:00 pm Yoga
6:30 pm Men’s Bible Study

Thursday, September 10

12:00 pm Retirees Lunch and Program
2:00 pm Yarns of Love
4:00 pm Seniors Exercise Class
5:00 pm Pickleball

Sunday, September 13

9:00 am Mission and Outreach Committee
9:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am Sunday School for all ages
11:00 am Worship
3:30 pm Handbells
5:00 pm Youth Kickball Game & Burgers & Barley
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

Office Staff and Contact Information

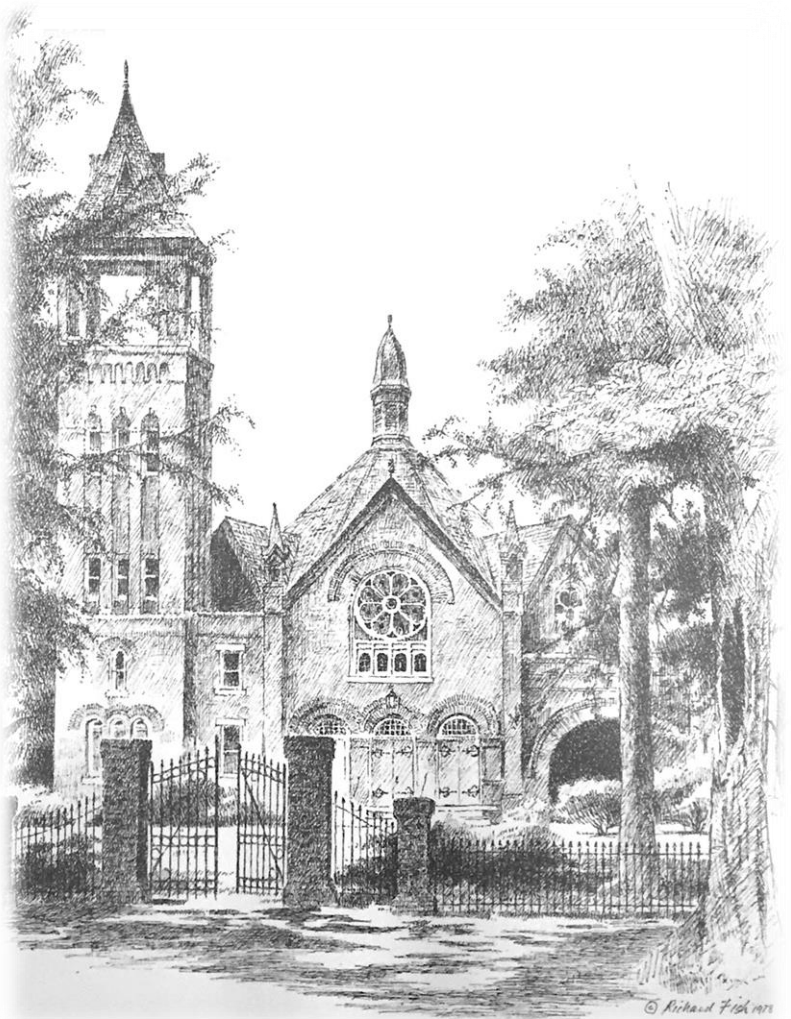
Jonna Eichorn - Administrative Assistant – jeichorn@fpcrockhill.org
Robyn Brown - Financial Secretary – rbrown@fpcrockhill.org
Mail to: Post Office Box 1011 - Rock Hill, S.C., 29731
(803) 328-2467 - firstpresrh@gmail.com - www.fpc-rockhill.org

Church Office Hours

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



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.



September 6, 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