

FIRST THINGS FIRST

NEWS FOR THE CHURCH FAMILY AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STERLING, COLORADO

OCTOBER 2026



They sowed fields and planted vineyards that yielded a fruitful harvest...

~Psalm 107:37

A MESSAGE FROM MICHELLE. . .

Tell Me Something Good

As part of our current series, at our stewardship kickoff potluck lunch last Sunday, the congregation was invited to write “something good the church is doing/has done in your life, in the community, in the world.” We’re filling a bulletin board downstairs with those good things.

(There are cards/pens on the bulletin board downstairs if you didn’t get a chance to post something.) Something

good that came to my mind was the way the church offers **beauty** — in our building/windows, in music, in food, in the creative expression that our members offer in making special centerpieces or artistic adornment of a cross in the sanctuary. Taking in beauty is good for the soul. Actually, it’s good for the mind and body — studies have shown there are health benefits to looking at beauty. We engage in more traditional forms of mission, of course. We support HOPE House, Help for Abused Partners, Cooperating Ministry, Family Resource Center, international missions, etc. But, we might take for granted the missional impact of beauty. The psalmist writes, *One thing I asked of the Lord... to behold the beauty of the Lord.* And I think that is something that our church is uniquely passionate about. It ministers to those who see, or taste, or hear the beauty we offer, and doesn’t it also minister to the ones who create beautiful things? Singing in the choir, ringing in the bell choir, preparing a favorite dish for the potluck, planning creative visuals for the sanctuary and fellowship hall... in all these ways and more, we find purpose and meaning as we see our gifts used to glorify God and inspire the people of God. I am grateful for many things at FPC — too many to name. But, today, I am giving thanks for the beauty our church offers. May God bless our offering of beauty to serve God’s mission in our community and in the world.



Propagating roots—new life springing directly from the stem. More than centerpieces, these offer a beautiful reminder that we are rooted in Christ, drawing life and strength from the true Vine, and abounding in thanksgiving.

Rev. Michelle

MISSION...

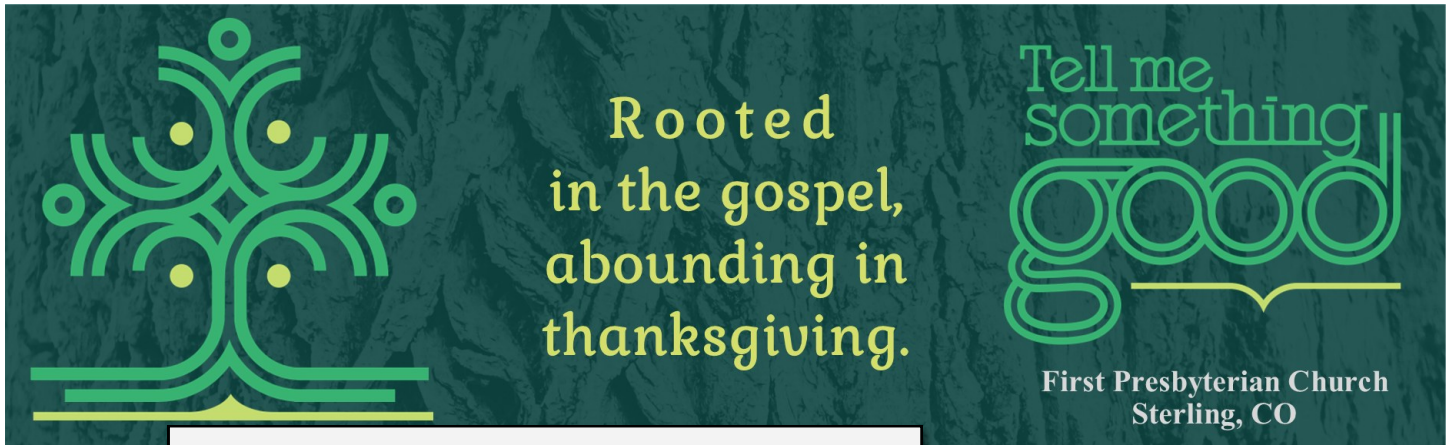


On Sunday, September 20, we heard from Shaun Wilson and Ashley Whited of HOPE House.

Shaun and Ashley shared with the congregation about their work and their stories of transformation and inspiration, and then received a prayer and blessing from Rev. Michelle.

HOPE House is one of the local missions that FPC supports.

STEWARDSHIP. . .



2027 Estimate of Giving

\$ _____

If you haven't received your 2027 Estimate of Giving card, you should be getting it soon.

What's an Estimate of Giving (EOG)? It's just a way of letting the church know how much you plan to give in the coming year. Sometimes people call this a "pledge" because it's also a spiritual practice, a commitment between you and God, to give in faith and gratitude for all God has given you.

Spiritually, taking the time to fill out an EOG card helps us grow in faith.

Practically, it helps us make financial plans for the coming year.

*You're deeply rooted in Christ...
Let your living spill over into thanksgiving.*

Colossians 2:6-7 (MSG)

Your faithful and generous gifts make ministry possible.

Thank you for turning in your 2027 Estimate of Giving.

We will be dedicating the Estimates of Giving on Sunday, November 1.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

First Friday @ First Presbyterian

*Elsie Fetzer, Marsha Davis
& Darla Korrey Gertner*



“Autumn Settings for the Soul”

October 2, 2026 ~ 12:05 -12:35

onsite or online at www.youtube.com/@fpc.sterling

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The session has called a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 18, 2026 during fellowship lunch following the Sunday service for the purpose of electing officers.

SESSION. . .

Highlights of the August 18, 2026 Session Meeting

Dennis Kaan was appointed acting clerk.

The minutes of May 19, 2026 were approved.

Jayden Bechdel received the sacrament of baptism during the worship service on June 14, 2026

Rev. Michelle Witherspoon officiated the marriage of Scott Guenzi and Jayden Bechdel held in the sanctuary on June 20, 2026.

A funeral service was held for Vivian Leacock at Halouska Family Chaney-Reager Funeral Home on June 15, 2026, with Rev. Michelle Witherspoon officiating.

Approved Rev. Michelle Witherspoon's participation in the "Guatemala Trip for Clergywomen – Inspired from the Margins" (March 1-9, 2027).

Mike Tyson has donated a series of framed Advent/Christmas themed cross stitch panels to the church. It was decided Janet could hang the panels in the back of the sanctuary during Advent and Christmas

Thank you cards were received from Hope House for our monthly donation, from Jaylyn Lynch for the Frances Melvin Scholarship, and from Stewardship & Funds Development Office of the PCUSA for a One Great Hour of Sharing Offering.

Two people were removed from the active member roll; and two people were received as active members.

A service of Ordination to the Ministry of Word and

Sacrament for Brandon Eaton was held in the sanctuary on August 9, 2026.

Approved leasing part of the church's mineral interest in Weld County for the sum of \$1000 per net acre for a 3-year lease with a 2-year option to extend and a 20% royalty on production. Gross Acres= 316.53; Est. net acres = 4.94578125; Est. bonus @ \$1000/net acre = \$4,945.78.

May, June, and July Transaction Detail Reports were approved.

Approved removing Terrorism coverage from our insurance policy (for a cost savings of \$544/year), and to add the Colorado Historical Foundation as an additional insured to comply with our existing easement.

Approved using \$232 from the Memorial Fund to cover the cost of the new piano lamp for the sanctuary piano.

It was noted Jan Mari will not serve as VBS director next year. The CE committee will be looking for a new director.

Approved a \$500 donation to the Alzheimer's Association through Bob's Walkers.

Approved a \$500 donation to the Presbytery of Plains and Peaks for Thrive – A Threshold Experience for Young Adults.

Scheduled the fall Rummage Sale for October 3-9, 2026.

Two ELMST Fund requests were approved.

Your generosity makes
mission & ministry possible...

Thank you!

Profit & Loss Summary	Jan-Aug. 2026
Total Income	\$170,892.64
Total Expense	221,985.68
Net Ordinary Income (Loss)	(51,093.04)
Budgeted Transfers	28,369.44
Other Transfers	0.00
Net Ordinary Income (Loss) with Transfers	(22,723.60)

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Military Personnel

Luke Brigham (Randy & Terry's son) | Thomas Gage Snyder (Kim Schlup's son)
Cameron Venn (Doris Ramsel's grandson)

For those with special needs or concerns....

Joe Baran (in-law of Ted & Penny Propst)
Jackie Barton
Tye Bennett (Neblett's grandson)
Clark Bernhardt
Norm Blackburn
Brenda Boeff
Randy Brigham
Leah Burt (friend of Judy Roumph)
CEDEPCA (Protestant Ministry in Guatemala)
Cooperating Ministry
Sally Craig (friend of Jackie Reynolds)
Dylan Cranwell — Peace Corps
Taylor Cranwell
Jeanne Crouch & Family
Dave & Marsha Davis
Sarah Davis
Andrew DeSouza (Michelle Hawkins' son)
Gary Espinosa (Arden Fennell's family)
Family Resource Center
Brad Fitzgerald Family (Connie Sue Clark's
Cousin)
Carolee Goldsmith (mother of Brandon Eaton)
Meredith Goodwin (friend of Propsts)
Mike Hawkins (Michelle Hawkins' brother)
Highlands Camp
Sonja Holden (friend of Arden Fennell)
Dennis Kaan
Robert Koehler (friend of Laura Guenzi)
Debby Korrey (Delinda's & Darla's sister)
Delinda Korrey McDowell
Jim Leh
Jim Miller (friend of Jane Robinson)

Rena Morrison
Rose Neblett
Dirk Nye and Regine Bendelow (Jackie Barton's
step-father & mother)
Jeni Porter (In-law of Blackburns)
David Prince (Tanna's brother)
Emma Rich (Granddaughter of Gary & Kay Rich)
Cadie, Hailey, and Austen Rose (Jason Rose
family)
Leslie Rudolph (sister of Mike Tyson)
Betty Scharf
Linda Schoyer (Sister of Connie Sue Clark)
John Seffens (friend of Mike Tyson)
Darrell Smith and family
Montelle Smith
Jim Stegman
Becky Stieb, Justin & Torin (friends of Michelle
Hawkins)
Amy & Byron Uhrich (Jill Vollmer's parents)
Under the Umbrella
Robert Vance (Michelle White's dad)
Laurie Weskamp Wagner (Jeff's sister)
Jeff Weskamp
Michelle Wilson (friend of David Chrisp)

Do you have an update on anyone listed
on our church prayer list?
We'd love to hear the good news of recovery,
healing and answered prayer.

If you have a joy to report, let us know!

Food Pantry

You may bring your donations to the church
and put them under
the table outside the church office,
or in the box in the elevator vestibule.

Cooperating Ministry: October
Canvas Shopping Bags

NJC Food Pantry:
Nutritious Non-Perishable
Prepared Foods

THANK YOU!

October **BIRTHDAYS**

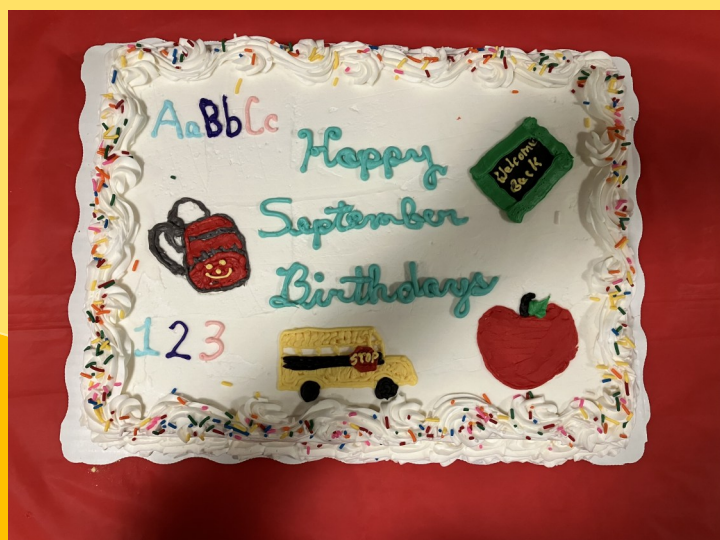
- 1 Jackie Barton**
- 6 Marcia Panice**
- 6 David Rhodes**
- 8 Lindsey Jackson**
- 9 Sarah Davis**
- 10 Charles Reynolds**
- 10 Jane Robinson**
- 12 James Leh**
- 14 Jillian Mathews-Salazar**
- 17 Meghan Jackson**
- 17 Tom Westfall**
- 21 Jayden Guenzi**
- 22 Jeff Weskamp**
- 24 Leila Hutt**
- 25 Penny Propst**
- 25 Marc Reck**
- 27 Jennifer Reck**
- 28 Jan Mari**

Birthday Sunday:

October 11

Happy Birthday...
May your day be blessed!

SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



SERVING IN CHURCH — OCTOBER

USHERS

October 4 Carrie Lovenburg, Alex Hicks
October 11 Sue Weingardt, Lora Boren,
Leila Hutt
October 18 Liz Chaney, Laura Guenzi
October 25 Ken McDowell, Delinda Korrey
McDowell

FIRST RESPONSE/BULLETIN DELIVERY

October Sue Weingardt

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE

October 4 No Coffee—Rummage Sale
October 11 Membership/Stewardship Committee
October 18 Fellowship Committee
October 25 Personnel Committee

COUNT OFFERING

October 4 David Chrisp
October 11 Jerri Spear
October 18 Bev Cumming
October 25 Connie Ham

ACOLYTES/BIBLE BEARER

October 4 Ted & Penny Propst
October 11 Guenzi Family
October 18 Ted & Jeannie Park
October 25 Chuck & Ashlee Glaser

LITURGISTS

October 4 Linda Meisner
October 11 Jim Neblett
October 18 Rose Neblett
October 25 Tara Guenzi



CHILDREN'S MOMENT

October 11 Rose Neblett

AV TEAM

October 4 Dean Boeff (Sound)
Jeff Christenson (Slides)
October 11 Alex Hicks (Sound)
Myra Westfall (Slides)
October 18 Justin Cranwell (Sound)
Pam Trimble (Slides)
October 25 Jeff Christenson (Sound)
Callie Jackson (Slides)

PREPARE & SERVE COMMUNION

OCTOBER 4

Prepare Sue Weingardt, Tanna Prince
Serve Michelle Hawkins, Linda Meisner,
Traci Reeves

Remember to let the church office know if you trade serving dates with someone (522-2708).

Serving schedules subject to change. Check the website for most up-to-date schedules.

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
				4:30 Zumba 5:30 Bells 6:30 Choir	12:05 First Friday	10:00 Rummage Sale Set up
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10:30 Worship/ Communion	9:00-4:30 Rummage Sale Set-Up	9:00-4:30 Rummage Sale Set-Up	8-12:00 Rummage Sale Set Up 10:00 Worship & Sacraments 5-8pm Rummage Sale	8:00-4:00 Rummage Sale 5:30 Bells 6:30 Choir	8:00-2:00 Rummage Sale	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship Coffee with Birthday Celebration	12:00 Finance Meeting	5:00 Zumba	12:00 Membership/ Stewardship	1:30 Women's Bible Study 4:30 Zumba 5:30 Bells 6:30 Choir		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship Lunch Congregational Meeting		5:00 Zumba 6:00 Session Meeting		<i>Retreat</i> 4:30 Zumba 5:30 Bells 6:30 Choir	<i>Retreat</i>	<i>Retreat</i>
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<i>Retreat</i> 10:30 Worship in Fellowship Hall 11:30 Fellowship Coffee		5:00 Zumba		4:30 Zumba 5:30 Bells 6:30 Choir		

SAVE THE DATE

To help us imagine
the communion of saints,
please bring framed photos of loved
ones you'll be remembering on

All Saints' Sunday

November 1

All Saints Sunday



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

130 S. 4TH STREET ~ STERLING, CO 80751

WORSHIP

Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

onsite ~ online

www.facebook.com/fpc.sterling

www.youtube.com/@FPC.Sterling

CHURCH PHONE 970.522.2708

Fax 970.522.1365

WEBSITE www.firstpressterling.org

OFFICE HOURS: M/W/F: 9-noon T/Th: 1-4
(or by appointment)

Staff:

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RASHELL FRITZLER

BOOKKEEPER

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KARLEE MANUELLO

MUSIC COORDINATOR/ORGANIST

ELSIE FETZER

CHOIR DIRECTOR

DARLA KORREY GERTNER

BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR

LINDSEY JACKSON

PROPERTY MANAGER

JANET KLOBERDANZ

NEWSLETTER TEAM

BEV CUMMING
TAMMIE MALONE
JACKIE REYNOLDS