

# FIRST THINGS FIRST

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

SEPTEMBER 2025



*Sharing peace at First Presbyterian Church*

*May the peace of Christ be with you!*

# A MESSAGE FROM MICHELLE. . .



This fall we are heading into a season of encouragement. As I studied the lectionary scripture readings for September-November, I was struck by repeated themes of persistence, perseverance, determination, and grit. We're admonished to "hold fast," "keep the faith," and "take hold of the life that really is life." In perhaps the most dramatic instance from this fall's readings, in the gospel of Luke, we'll hear: "by your endurance you will gain your souls."

So this fall, we'll be thinking about what makes us weary and tempted to give up. And as we acknowledge the challenges we face, we'll look to scripture for guidance and inspiration to show us how we can *hold on* in the midst of difficulties.

*So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good.  
At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we **don't give up**, or quit.  
Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the good of all  
and especially for those of the family of faith.*

Galatians 6:9-10 (MSG/NRSVUE)

If you are feeling weary and discouraged, or if you have comfort and courage to share, let's show up with and for each other in this season, which begins at a special service, with the return of the **choir** and **blessing of the backpacks**, on **September 7**.

*Every time we get the chance, let's work for the good of all...*

*Rev. Michelle*

# T-SHIRTS!



T-Shirt FRONT



T-Shirt BACK

## T-Shirt Order Form — Order by Sept. 14

*\$20-\$25/shirt (the more we order, the lower the cost).*

*Please wait to pay until T-shirts are ordered.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Blue T-Shirt: \_\_\_\_\_  
*quantity*

Size: XS S M L XL 2XL 3XL  
*please circle size(s)*

Maroon T-Shirt: \_\_\_\_\_  
*quantity*

Size: XS S M L XL 2XL 3XL  
*please circle size(s)*

## UPCOMING EVENTS...

**First Friday @ First Presbyterian**

**Brian, Jess & Doug Davis**

**Singers & Songwriters**

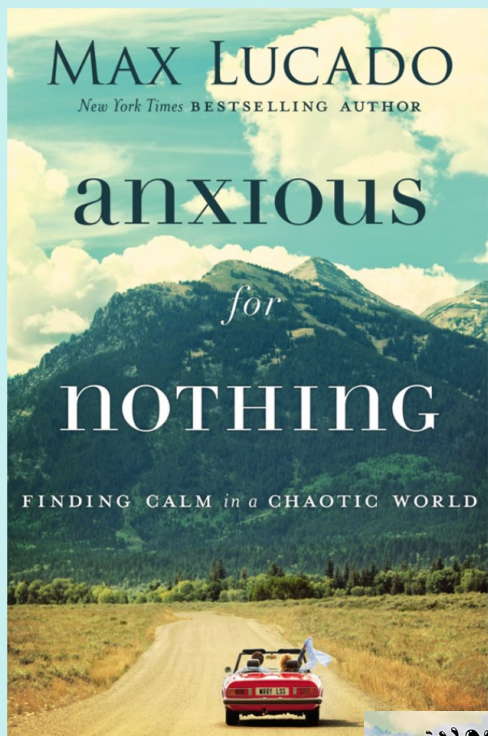


**September 5, 2025**

**12:05 to 12:35**

onsite, or online: [www.youtube.com/@FPC.Sterling](http://www.youtube.com/@FPC.Sterling)





# Women's Bible Study

Third Thursdays ~ 1:30pm  
September-June



## Women's Book Study Begins Thursday September 18, 2025

*Anxious for Nothing, Finding Calm in a Chaotic World* by Max Lucado is the book for this 9 month book study. The meetings are every third Thursday of the month starting at 1:30pm and ending at 3:00 pm. The last meeting is June 18. The sessions are held in the Fellowship Hall of the church. A sign-up sheet and books are available in the foyer.

Max Lucado is America's bestselling inspirational author and currently serves as a Teaching Minister at Oak Hills Church in San Antonio. *Anxious for Nothing* is an easy read, feel good book that has its focus on Philippians 4: 4-8 which is used as a guide to promote actions that stabilize our soul in the Sovereignty of God.

Women of all ages are welcome, desired, and wanted!

Suggested Donation: \$24 (includes book + guided prompts resource)

## UPCOMING EVENTS. . .

# GOING AWAY RECEPTION

*for*

*Bart & Barb Thiele*

Sunday, September 14

following worship

Bart and Barb Thiele are moving.

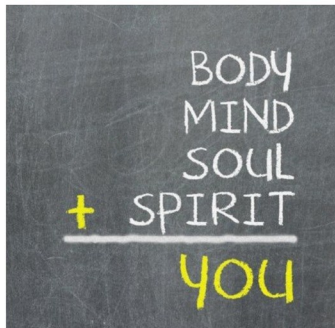
Help us to send them off with our love and prayers.

A reception is planned during the Fellowship Coffee

following worship on Sunday, September 14.



# UPCOMING EVENTS. . .



## Thrive in 2025!

*"Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul." 3 John 1:2*

Good health is the harmony of a healthy mind, healthy body, healthy spirit and healthy relationships.

To help you travel the path to good health, the First Presbyterian Church is hosting free seminars presented by professionals to help pave the way.

### Session 2: Self-Care and Well Being

**Presented by Jackie Barton**

*Licensed Clinical Social Worker*

Self-Care plays a key role in your overall health and well being by applying the Golden Rule to yourself. It is to treat yourself in a way that you treat others. It is to respect, love, protect, and care for yourself each and every day, physically, socially, mentally, spiritually and emotionally. Good self-care involves sleeping, laughing, music, art, hobbies, reading, meditating: It means taking the time to do what we enjoy. Self-care is not a luxury but a priority. For more information, or to reserve a seat contact First Presbyterian Church at 970-522-2708.



These **FREE** Educational Sessions Include Refreshments, Presentations, Discussions, Questions And Networking On The Fourth Monday Each Month from 5:15 p.m.-6:15 p.m. In The Fellowship Hall

**Upcoming Sessions: Sept 29 | Oct 27**

# SESSION. . .

Session did not meet in July.

## Save the Date:

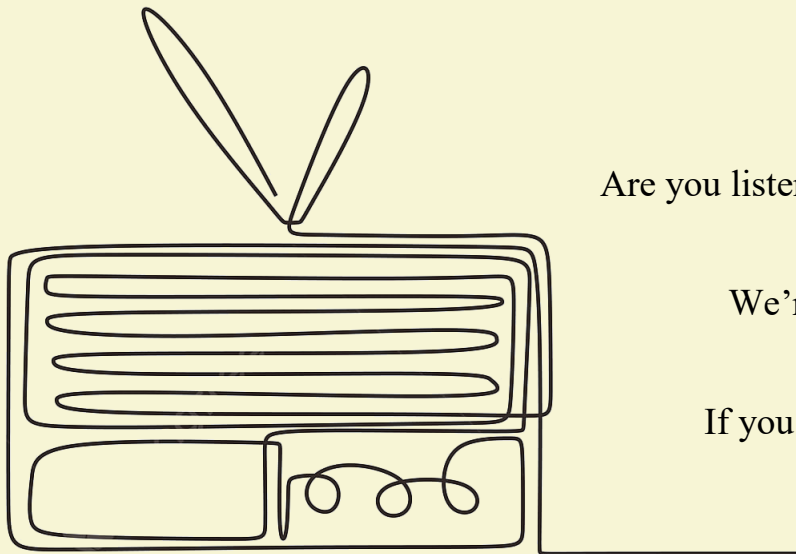
**There will be a Called Congregational Meeting to elect officers  
on Sunday, October 19, following the worship service.**

## Radio?

Are you listening to the Sunday service on the radio?

We're trying to assess this ministry.

If you listen to the service on the radio,  
please let us know!



Your generosity makes  
mission & ministry possible...

*Thank you!*

Profit & Loss Summary	January-July 2025
Total Income	163,861.32
Total Expense	194,710.08
Net Ordinary Income (Loss)	(30,848.76)
Budgeted Transfers	7,727.84
Other Transfers	0.00
Net Ordinary Income (Loss) with Transfers	(23,120.92)



# LOOKING AHEAD...

## 3rd & 4th Grade Bibles

**We are making plans to present bibles to 3rd and 4th graders in the congregation.**

**Do you have a 3rd or 4th grader in your family?**

**Let us know!**



*Point your kids in the right direction —  
when they're old they won't be lost.*

Proverbs 22:6 (MSG)

### **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: September**

Canvas Wal-Mart Bags,  
Canned Chili Beans  
(with pop-top preferred)

### **NJC Food Pantry:**

Nutritious Non-Perishable  
Prepared Foods

**THANK YOU!**

## *September* **BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Bruce Kelley
- 3 Florence O'Neil
- 10 Bailey Jackson
- 14 Jean Williamson
- 15 Kim Weingardt
- 16 Alie Sheldon
- 17 Jamie Spicer
- 20 Terri Rhodes  
Grace Reeves
- 24 Curtis Clark
- 27 Ellis Jackson
- 28 Jace Rhodes
- 30 Janet Forinash  
Connie Ham



***Birthday Sunday:***

***September 14***

*Happy Birthday...*  
May your day be blessed!

# 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....

Florence Annan  
Grace Ann (Connie Clark's relative)  
David Balabanis Family  
Joe Baran (in-law of Ted & Penny Propst)  
Jackie Barton & Family  
Sharon Bennett (Neblett's son-in-law's mother)  
Tye Bennett (Neblett's grandson)  
Clark Bernhardt  
Norm Blackburn  
Brenda Boeff  
Randy Brigham  
Leah Burt (friend of Judy Rounph)  
CEDEPCA (Protestant Ministry in Guatemala)  
Cooperating Ministry  
Sally Craig (friend of Jackie Reynolds)  
Jeanne Crouch & Family  
Deb Daughtery (sister of Ken McDowell)  
Cierra Davis (friend of Becky Cranwell)  
Dave and Marsha Davis  
Sarah Davis  
Andrew DeSouza (Michelle Hawkins' son)  
Gary Espinosa (Arden Fennell's family)  
Family Resource Center  
Carolee Goldsmith (mother of Brandon Eaton)  
Meredith Goodwin (friend of Propsts)  
Mike Hawkins (Michelle Hawkins' brother)  
Abby Henry & family (friend of Jackie Barton)  
Highlands Camp  
Sonja Holden (friend of Arden Fennell)  
Chris Jutz  
Josh Jutz & Kaylee  
Robert Koehler (friend of Laura Guenzi)  
Debby Korrey (Delinda's & Darla's sister)  
Ann Leh and Family  
Delinda Korrey McDowell  
Susan Kozik (former sister in-law of Mike Tyson)  
Aline Marquez (friend of Becky Cranwell)

Rose Neblett  
Dirk Nye and Regine Bendelow (Jackie Barton's step-father & mother)  
Mari Paradise (Jim Neblett's sister)  
Jeni Porter (In-law of Blackburns)  
Emma Rich (Granddaughter of Gary & Kay Rich)  
Sergio Rosado (family friend of Jackie Reynolds)  
Cadie, Hailey and Austen Rose (Jason Rose family)  
Agnes Rundus  
Betty Scharf  
Linda Schoyer (Sister of Connie Sue Clark)  
John Seffens (friend of Mike Tyson)  
Steven Shinn (friend of Jim Leh)  
Darrell Smith and family  
Montelle Smith  
Becky Stieb, Justin & Torin (friends of Michelle Hawkins)  
Charlie & Roseanne Thompson (friends of Nebletts)  
Sharon Treacy (mother of Laura Guenzi)  
Mike Tyson  
Amy & Byron Uhrich (Jill Vollmer's parents)  
Under the Umbrella  
Robert Vance (Michelle White's dad)  
Don and Virginia Werner (Parents of Mike Werner)  
Jeff Weskamp  
Jean Williamson and family

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!**



# HIGHLIGHTS: August 2025



**Birthday Sunday**



**Choir & Friends Potluck**





# HIGHLIGHTS: *August 2025*



**Sharing in  
Worship  
and Fellowship  
Together**



# SERVING IN CHURCH — SEPTEMBER

## USHERS

September 7	Carrie Lovenburg, Alex Hicks
September 14	Michelle Hawkins, Gary Slimmer
September 21	Alie Sheldon, Jacob Paiz
September 28	Ken McDowell, Delinda Korrey McDowell

Thank  
You

## FIRST RESPONSE/BULLETIN DELIVERY

September	Deacons
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## FELLOWSHIP COFFEE

September 7	Nominating Committee
September 14	Membership/Stewardship
September 21	Worship & Sacraments Committee
September 28	Fellowship Committee

## COUNT OFFERING

September 7	Connie Ham
September 14	Bev Cumming
September 21	Linda Meisner
September 28	Bob Smith

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

September 14	Penny Propst
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## ACOLYTES/BIBLE BEARER

September 7	Tanna Prince, Connie Ham
September 14	Ashlee Glaser, Chuck Glaser
September 21	Jeff & Kathy Rice
September 28	Traci Reeves, Connie Brown

## LITURGISTS

September 7	Connie Sue Clark
September 14	Jeff Rice
September 21	Rose Neblett
September 28	Jim Neblett

## AV TEAM

September 7	Dean Boeff (sound) Callie Jackson (slides)
September 14	Jeff Christenson (sound) Pam Trimble (slides)
September 21	Justin Cranwell (sound) Myra Westfall (slides)
September 28	Dean Boeff (sound) Callie Jackson (slides)

## COMMUNION—SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

**Preparers**—Sue Weingardt, Tanna Prince

**Servers**—Linda Meisner, Bob Smith, Tanna Prince

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.  
[www.firstpressterling.org/servingschedules](http://www.firstpressterling.org/servingschedules)



# September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Labor Day: Church Office Closed	12:00 Membership/ Stewardship  5:00 Zumba  5:15 Fellowship	10:00 Worship & Sacraments	4:30 Zumba  5:30 Bells  6:30 Choir	12:05 Frist Friday Concert	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10:30 Worship/ Communion  11:30 Fellowship Coffee	12:00 Finance			5:30 Bells  6:30 Choir		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10:30 Worship  11:30 Fellowship with Birthday Celebration	Newsletter Deadline	5:00 Zumba  5:30 Personnel  6:00 Session	10:00 Hearstrings	1:30 Women's Bible Study  4:30 Zumba  5:30 Bells  6:30 Choir		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10:30 Worship  11:30 Fellowship Coffee		5:00 Zumba		4:30 Zumba  5:30 Bells  6:30 Choir		
28	29	30				
10:30 Worship  11:30 Fellowship Lunch	5:15 Thrive in '25 Self-Care	5:00 Zumba				



# BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

SUNDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 7  
10:30 A.M.

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

130 S. 4TH STREET ~ STERLING, CO 80751

### WORSHIP

Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

onsite ~ online ~ radio

[www.facebook.com/fpc.sterling](http://www.facebook.com/fpc.sterling)

### RADIO MINISTRY

Sunday, 10:30 a.m. On KSTC (AM 1230)

CHURCH PHONE 970.522.2708

Fax 970.522.1365

WEBSITE [www.firstpressterling.org](http://www.firstpressterling.org)

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

### Staff:

#### PASTOR

E-mail [pastor@fpcsterling.org](mailto:pastor@fpcsterling.org)

MICHELLE WITHERSPOON

#### OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

E-mail [office@fpcsterling.org](mailto:office@fpcsterling.org)

RASHELL FRITZLER

#### BOOKKEEPER

E-mail [finance@fpcsterling.org](mailto:finance@fpcsterling.org)

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