

The Service of Worship

August 30, 2026

Chimes

Prelude

If with All Your Hearts
Elsie Fetzer

Felix Mendelssohn

Greeting and Announcements

Introit

Morning Has Broken
Mike Tyson

Eleanor Farjeon

***Call to Worship and Opening Prayer** (responsive)

Every day, our attention gets pulled in a hundred directions:

toward what's loud, what's urgent, what's easy to notice.

But Scripture invites us to choose, on purpose, what we set our minds on.

So we come this morning to practice that choosing:

To attend, in this hour, to the things God calls us to appreciate.

Open our eyes, Lord. Open our hearts.

Holy God, capture our attention and direct us to see and hold onto the things that you want us to contemplate.

Form us in this hour of worship that we may become more and more the people you call us to be.

Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

O Lord, Our God, How Excellent (vv. 1, 2 & 5)

#25

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession** (responsive)

Gracious God,

you have shown us what is right and good, and still we look past it, we miss it.

We notice what's convenient before we notice what's true.

We reward what's impressive before we honor what's faithful.

We protect our own comfort before we pursue what's just.

Forgive us for the things we've failed to appreciate: the quiet kindnesses, the patient labor, the ordinary grace that surrounds us every day, unnoticed.

Forgive us, also, for appreciating the wrong things:

mistaking status for honor, noise for truth, comfort for peace.

Turn our attention, God. Redirect our focus. Help us to see and appreciate whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, may we think about these things.

Amen.

***Declaration of Forgiveness** (responsive)

Hear this good news!

God does not wait for us to find focus and clarity before God loves us, before God comes to us.

While we're still looking the wrong direction, Christ comes looking for us. While we're still confusing what matters with what merely glitters, Christ died and rose to make all things — including us — new.

Turn to see and believe this good news today:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Amen.

***The Peace** (responsive)

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

***Response**

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.**

Prayer for Illumination (responsive)

Holy Spirit, before a word of Scripture is read aloud, open something in us first.

Quiet the hundred other things competing for our attention, and make room for this one.

Let us hear, today, whatever is excellent — not as information to file away, but as a word that reshapes how we see and how we live.

Speak, Lord. Your servants are listening.

Amen.

Scripture Reading

2 Peter 1:2-8

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

You Raise Me Up
Mike Tyson

Rolf Lovland & Brendan Graham

Scripture Reading

Daniel 6

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

If There Is Any Excellence

Rev. Michelle D. Witherspoon

*Hymn of Response

How Firm a Foundation (vv. 1, 2, 4 & 5)

#463

*Affirmation of Faith (responsive)

The apostle Paul says:

Summing it all up, friends, I'd say you'll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious—the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse. Put into practice what you learned from me, what you heard and saw and realized.

Brothers and sisters:

whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, we will think about these things.

Amen.

Prayers of the People and 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.

Giving of Ourselves and Our Offerings – Moment for Grateful Reflection

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Mike Tyson

*The Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication** (responsive)

God of abundance, you give us so much to savor and appreciate.

We respond to your generosity with gratitude.

**Receive the offering of our life and labor
and bless it to advance whatever is excellent,
that those in our church, in our community, and in all the world
would be able to see and appreciate how you are at work.
Amen.**

***Sending Hymn**

Come, Great God of All the Ages (vv. 1, 3 & 4)

#309

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response**

Abide with Me
Mike Tyson

Henry Lyle & William Monk

***Chimes**

Postlude

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
Elsie Fetzer

arr. David Hagarty

**Indicates those who are able, please stand.*

Worship Notes – Sources Used in Today’s Liturgy

Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, Declaration of Forgiveness, Prayer for Illumination: created in collaboration with Claude by Anthropic.

Affirmation of Faith: Adapted from Philippians 4:8 (*The Message* and NRSVue).

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Prayer Concerns August 30, 2026

Military Personnel

Luke Brigham (Randy & Terry's son)
Thomas Gage Snyder (Kim Schlup's son)

Presbytery of Plains & Peaks

Loveland, First United Presbyterian Church

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 Routhph)
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

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)
The family of Sharon Treacy (mother of Laura Guenzi)
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)

Prayer List Updates:

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!

Announcements—August 30, 2026

We invite you to join us in our work and worship at First Presbyterian Church.

At a Glance

August 30	10:30	Worship Service
	11:30	Fellowship Coffee
August 31	10:30	Summer Gathering with Rev. Michelle
September 1	5:00	Zumba
September 2	10:00	Worship & Sacraments
September 3	4:30	Zumba
	5:30	Bells
	6:30	Chancel Choir
September 4	12:05	First Friday Concert
September 6	10:30	Worship Service
	11:30	Fellowship Coffee

Church Office hours: Mon/Wed/Fri: 9:00 am—Noon; and Tues/Thurs: 1:00-4:00 pm

Food Pantry Items: Throughout the month of September we are collecting: Shopper's Choice (something that you like at home). 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.

Tithes & Offerings: Thank you... your support makes mission & ministry possible.
Donate online at tinyurl.com/FPCPayPal or tinyurl.com/FPCSterlingGive



First Presbyterian Church

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Church Staff

Pastor	Rev. Michelle D. Witherspoon
Music Coordinator/Organist	Elsie Fetzer
Choir Director	Darla Korrey Gertner
Bell Choir Director	Lindsey Jackson
Office Administrator	Rashell Fritzler
Bookkeeper	Karlee Manuello
Property Manager	Janet Kloberdanz

Serving Today

Liturgists	Michelle D Witherspoon, preacher Darla Korrey Gertner, liturgist
Acolyte/Bible Bearer	Pam Trimble, LeRoy Morrissey
Ushers	Brenda Christenson, Jane Robinson
AV	Rex Witherspoon (Sound), Chloe Hutt (Slides)
Offering Count	David Chrisp
Fellowship Coffee	Property Committee
Bulletin Delivery	Brenda Christenson



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