

The Service of Worship

September 6, 2026

Chimes

Prelude

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven
Elsie Fetzer

arr. Elsie Fetzer

Greeting and Announcements

Introit

How Firm a Foundation
Emma Parrish

arr. C. E. Walz

***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**

All Creatures of Our God and King (vv. 1, 4 & 6)

#15

***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 praiseworthy — 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

1 Peter 1:3-7

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Give Me Jesus
Emma Parrish

arr. Tom Fettke

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 1:9-14

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Worthy of Praise

Rev. Michelle D. Witherspoon

*Hymn of Response

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

#35

*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.

The Lord's Supper

INVITATION

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Emma Parrish

arr. Jason W. King

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Giving of Ourselves and Our Offerings – Moment for Grateful Reflection

These Things (Philippians 4:8)
Darla Korrey Gertner

Darla Korrey Gertner

*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 praiseworthy,
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

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

#645

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

More Love to Thee, O Christ
Emma Parrish

arr. Cindy Berry

*Chimes

Postlude

Praise the Lord with Drums and Cymbals
Elsie Fetzer

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

**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).

Prayer Concerns September 6, 2026

Military Personnel

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

Presbytery of Plains & Peaks

Berthoud, First 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
Jill 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
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)
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—September 6, 2026

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

At a Glance

September 6	10:30	Worship Service with Communion
	11:30	Fellowship Coffee
September 7	Church Office Closed (Labor Day)	
September 8	5:00	Zumba
September 9	5:15	Finance Meeting
September 10	4:30	Zumba
	5:30	Bells
	6:30	Chancel Choir
September 13	10:30	Worship Service — Blessing of the Backpacks
	11:30	Fellowship Coffee with Birthday Celebration

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 Klobberdanz

Serving Today

Liturgists	Michelle D Witherspoon, preacher Sarah Davis, liturgist
Acolyte/Bible Bearer	Justin & Becky Cranwell
Ushers	Jill Vollmer, Jackie Barton
Communion Preparers	Jomari Lechtman, Bev Cumming
Communion Servers	Pat Borner, Rex Witherspoon, David Chrisp
AV	Justin Cranwell (Sound), Laurie McKenzie (Slides)
Offering Count	Bev Cumming
Fellowship Coffee	Bell Choir
Bulletin Delivery	Jane Robinson



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