

The Service of Worship
September 14, 2025
14th Sunday after Pentecost

Chimes

Prelude

He Giveth More Grace
Elsie Fetzer

Hubert Mitchell

Greeting and Announcements

Introit

He Will Hold Me Fast
Chancel Choir

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

In times when we might be shaken in mind or alarmed,
either by spirit or by word or by letter,

let us stand firm and hold fast to the traditions of our faith.

For this purpose God called you through the gospel,
so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Maker loved us
and through grace gives us courage and good hope.**

May God comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

Let us pray:

Almighty God,

we step back from the things that alarm and discourage us
to give you praise.

We take in the bigger picture, and we remember your goodness.

Meet us here today, and by your Spirit show us your grace and glory,
that we would be uplifted and encouraged today
and in the days to come.

Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less (vv. 1 & 2)

#353

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession** (unison)

We buy into the myth that we are self-sufficient,
and we exhaust ourselves trying to keep it all together.

We can get so caught up
in daily routines, habits, patterns...

Sometimes we forget that each day is new.

There is brokenness everywhere,
and sometimes it feels like too much,
and sometimes we want to give up.

**Forgive us when we nurture despair
in ourselves and in each other.**

Free us to live in courage and with hope.

Amen.

***Declaration of Forgiveness**

...May you be made strong with all the strength
that comes from his glorious power,
so that you may have all endurance and patience,
joyfully giving thanks to God,
who has enabled you to share in the inheritance
of the saints in the light.

We are equipped for every good work.

**God has rescued us from the power of darkness
and transferred us into the kingdom of God's beloved Son,
in whom we have redemption,
the forgiveness of sins.**

Thanks be to God! Amen.

***The Peace**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

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.**

A Moment for All God's Children

Penny Propst

Jesus Loves the Little Children

Jesus loves the little children,

All the children of the world.

Every color, shape, and size;

All are precious in his eyes.

Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

God of mercy, you promised
never to break your covenant with us.

**Amid all the changing words of our generation,
speak your eternal Word that does not change.
Then may we respond to your gracious promises
with faithful and obedient lives;
through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Luke 15:1-10

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Oh, What Grace
Chancel Choir

arr. Spacht

Scripture Reading

1 Timothy 1:12-17

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Hold On... to Overflowing Grace

Rev. Michelle D. Witherspoon

***Hymn of Response**

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound (vv. 1, 2 & 3)

#649

***Affirmation of Faith – The Apostles' Creed** (unison)

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church;**

**the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting.
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

The Ninety and Nine
Elsie Fetzer

arr. Ellen Jane Lorenz

***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 Dedication (responsive)**

Generous God,
you always equip us to do what you call us to do.
**Let us not grow weary in doing what is right,
for we will reap at harvest time,
if we do not give up.**
So then, whenever we have an opportunity,
O Lord, let us work for the good of all.
**Receive the offerings of our life and labor
to bless people with comfort and courage,
faith and love,**
through Christ our Lord,
Amen.

***Sending Hymn**

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

#463

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response**

He Will Hold Me Fast
Chancel Choir

***Chimes**

Postlude

Marvelous Grace of Our Loving Lord
Elsie Fetzer

Daniel B. Towner

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

Worship Notes – Sources Used in Today’s Liturgy

Call to Worship: adapted from 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-5, 13-17

Declaration of Forgiveness: adapted from Colossians 1:11-14; 2 Timothy 3:17

Prayer for Illumination: *Book of Common Worship*

Prayer of Dedication: Galatians 6:9

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Prayer Concerns September 14, 2025

Military Personnel

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

Presbytery of Plains & Peaks

Pinewood Springs, Pinewood Springs Community Presbyterian Church

Those with Special Needs or Concerns

Grace Ann (Connie Clark's relative)	Delinda Korrey McDowell
David Balabanis Family	Susan Kozik (former sister-in-law of Mike Tyson)
Joe Baran (in-law of Ted & Penny Propst)	Jomari Lechtman
Jackie Barton and Family	Ann Leh and Family
Sharon Bennett (Neblett's son-in-law's mother)	Aline Marquez (friend of Becky Cranwell)
Tye Bennett (Neblett's grandson)	Rose Neblett
Clark Bernhardt	Dirk Nye and Regine Bendelow (Jackie Barton's step-father & mother)
Norm Blackburn	Mari Paradise (Jim Neblett's sister)
Brenda Boeff	Jeni Porter (In-law of Blackburns)
Randy Brigham	David Prince (Tanna's brother)
Leah Burt (friend of Judy Routh)	Emma Rich (Granddaughter of Gary & Kay Rich)
CEDEPCA (Protestant Ministry in Guatemala)	Sergio Rosado (family friend of Jackie Reynolds)
Cooperating Ministry	Regina Riggle (Niece of Jackie Reynolds)
Sally Craig (friend of Jackie Reynolds)	Cadie, Hailey, and Austen Rose (Jason Rose family)
Jeanne Crouch & Family	Agnes Rundus
Deb Daughtery (sister of Ken McDowell)	Betty Scharf
Cierra Davis (friend of Becky Cranwell)	Linda Schoyer (Sister of Connie Sue Clark)
Dave & Marsha Davis	John Seffens (friend of Mike Tyson)
Sarah Davis	Steven Shinn (friend of Jim Leh)
Andrew DeSouza (Michelle Hawkins' son)	Darrell Smith and family
Gary Espinosa (Arden Fennell's family)	Montelle Smith
Family Resource Center	Becky Stieb, Justin & Torin (friends of Michelle Hawkins)
Carolee Goldsmith (mother of Brandon Eaton)	Charlie & Roseanne Thompson (friends of Neblett's)
Meredith Goodwin (friend of Propsts)	Sharon Treacy (mother of Laura Guenzi)
Mike Hawkins (Michelle Hawkins' brother)	Mike Tyson
Abby Henry & family (friend of Jackie Barton)	Amy & Byron Uhrich (Jill Vollmer's parents)
Highlands Camp	Under the Umbrella
Sonja Holden (friend of Arden Fennell)	Robert Vance (Michelle White's dad)
Chris Jutz	Don and Virginia Werner (Parents of Mike Werner)
Josh Jutz & Kaylee	Jeff Weskamp
Robert Koehler (friend of Laura Guenzi)	Jean Williamson
Debby Korrey (Delinda's & Darla's sister)	

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 14, 2025

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

At a Glance

September 14	10:30	Worship Service with Communion
	11:30	Fellowship Coffee with Birthday Celebration and Thiele reception
September 15		Newsletter Deadline
September 16	5:00	Zumba
	5:30	Personnel Committee
	6:00	Session
September 17	10:00	Heartstrings
September 18	1:30	Women's Bible Study
	4:30	Zumba
	5:30	Bell Choir
	6:30	Chancel Choir
September 21	10:30	Worship Service
	11:30	Fellowship Coffee
	11:30	Membership/Stewardship

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 Canvas Wal-Mart bags and Canned Chili Beans (with pop-top preferred). 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.

On **September 14** we will have a reception during the Fellowship Coffee for Bart and Barb Thiele to wish them well as they move to Arizona.

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!

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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www.firstpressterling.org | Radio Broadcast AM—1230

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 Jeff Rice, liturgist
Acolyte/Bible-Bearer	Ashlee Glaser , Chuck Glaser
Ushers	Michelle Hawkins, Gary Slimmer
Children's Sermon	Penny Propst
AV Techs	Jeff Christenson (Sound), Pam Trimble (Slides)
Count Offering	Bev Cumming
Fellowship Coffee	Membership/Stewardship Committee
Bulletin Delivery	Sue Weingardt



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