

First Presbyterian Church, Lancaster, PA | May 17, 2026 |

The Seventh Sunday of Easter | 10:30 a.m.

# Ascension Sunday

## Leading in Worship Today

The Rev. Dan Snyder

The Rev. Claire George-Drumheller

## MUSIC

Dr. William Wright, Director of Music

Matt Weaver, Organist

The Chancel Choir

*\* Please stand in body or in spirit.*

PRELUDE *Partita on "Foundation"*

Janet Linker

WELCOME

INTROIT *Hail Thee, Festival Day!*

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Hail thee, festival day! Blest day that art hallowed forever,  
Day when the Christ ascends, high in the heavens to reign.  
He who was nailed to the cross is Lord and the ruler of nature;  
All things created on earth sing to the glory of God:  
Hail thee, festival day! Blest day that art hallowed forever,  
Day when the Christ ascends, high in the heavens to reign.

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 47)

ONE: Clap your hands, all you peoples!

**ALL: Shout to God with loud songs of joy!**

ONE: For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome.

**ALL: God reigns over the whole earth.**

ONE: Sing praises, one and all!

**ALL: Sing praises to our God. Let us worship together.**

\*HYMN #265 *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun*

DUKE STREET

\*CALL TO CONFESSION (from 1 Peter 5:6-11)

ONE: Scripture tells us that our sufferings are known to Christ. Confident in God's love for us through Jesus Christ, let us confess our sins together.

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**ALL: Christ our Savior, when you returned to the Father, you left the work to us. You called us to keep the movement going and to witness to the ends of the earth—praying, healing, and glorifying you through our thoughts, words, and deeds. We have fallen short of this call. We have hidden ourselves in fear, sought our own comfort, and resigned ourselves to the status quo. Forgive us and strengthen us to do your will, that we may be signs of your coming reign.**

*(silent confession)*

\*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS (from John 17:11)

ONE: Listen to this prayer: "Protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one." This is the prayer that Christ prayed on our behalf. This tenderness and care for us shows us who Jesus is—the one who hears our prayers and responds to us with forgiveness with mercy.

**ALL: Thanks be to God; praise be to Christ; glory be to the Holy Spirit. Alleluia! Amen.**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE *Glory Be to the Father*

Henry W. Greatorex

Glory be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be-  
gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A - men, a - men.

WORSHIP ARTS BLESSING

*Children through 7th grade can meet their Worship Arts teachers at the front of the sanctuary.*

God be with you here.

**God be with you there.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**ALL: Holy God, guide us as we hear your word. Send us your Holy Spirit that we may follow the path of life and hear your call to discipleship. Amen.**

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: **Psalm 47** (pg 400 OT in the pew Bible)

*After each reading:*

ONE: The word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: **Acts 1:1-14** (pg 90 NT in the pew Bible)

SERMON

\*HYMN #463 *How Firm a Foundation*

HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed

**ALL: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

ANTHEM *O Clap Your Hands*

Stephen Lay

*During this time of music, you are welcome to come forward to present your offerings, to leave a prayer request, or to light a candle as a symbol of your prayer.*

O clap your hands! O clap your hands, all you people, shout with joy!

Our God has ascended, our gone has gone up with trumpet blasts, with shouts of praise!

The Lord has ascended, and sits upon his holy throne, and governs all the nations.

O clap your hands! O clap your hands, all you people, shout with joy! Alleluia!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

**ALL: 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.**

\*HYMN #260 *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!*

HYFRYDOL

\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Sing Ye to the Lord*

Everett Titcomb

Sing ye to the Lord who ascended to the heav'n of heav'n, to the sunrising, Alleluia!

POSTLUDE *Fugue in C Major BWV 545*

Johann Sebastian Bach

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## ***Chancel Flowers***

*Today's flowers are given in loving memory of  
F. Perry Love, by his daughter, Carol Susan Love.*

## **Welcome, Visitors!**

We would love to reach out and say hello! Write your contact information on the back of the orange prayer cards or leave your email address at the Visitor's Table. We are grateful you have joined us for worship and hope you will come back again soon and often.

# Worship and Picnic in the Park!

## Lancaster County Central Park Pavilion #1

(1049 Rockford Road, Lancaster)

**Sunday, June 14**

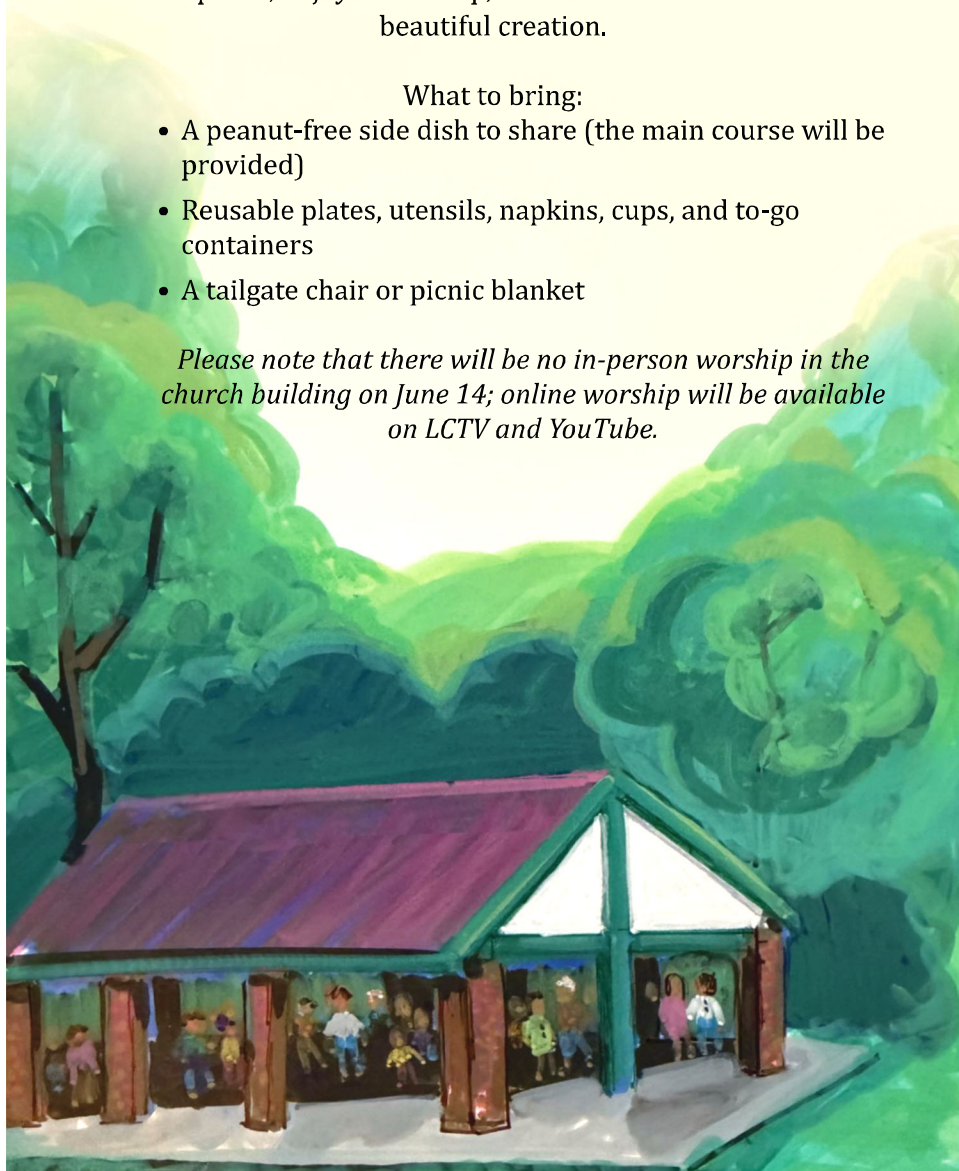
**11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**

Let's take a break from construction and spend a joyful morning together! We will gather in County Park for one combined worship service at 11:00 a.m., followed by the annual church picnic. Join us for this special gathering as we worship God, enjoy fellowship, and share a meal—all in God's beautiful creation.

What to bring:

- A peanut-free side dish to share (the main course will be provided)
- Reusable plates, utensils, napkins, cups, and to-go containers
- A tailgate chair or picnic blanket

*Please note that there will be no in-person worship in the church building on June 14; online worship will be available on LCTV and YouTube.*



# Ways to Give: Mission Giving



*Our second quarter mission giving supports our partners  
that serve those in the Lancaster community  
experiencing housing insecurity.*

**Clare House** (344 E. Chestnut St.) is a transitional housing program for mothers and children facing homelessness. Clare House has an employment-focused program that provides safety, housing, and supportive services with the goal of financial stability.  
[www.clarehouse Lancaster.org](http://www.clarehouse Lancaster.org)

**Tenfold** (105 E. King St.) operates TLC, a 52-room shelter that provides temporary housing and support services for individuals, couples, families, and veterans experiencing homelessness.  
[www.WeAreTenfold.org/TLC](http://www.WeAreTenfold.org/TLC)

**Chestnut Housing** (434 E. Chestnut St.) provides affordable rental housing to people experiencing homelessness, and they are committed to supporting affordable housing solutions in the City of Lancaster.  
[www.chestnuthousing.org](http://www.chestnuthousing.org)

## Volunteer Mission Opportunities

**Crispus Attucks Food Pantry**  
**Wednesday, May 27 | 12:45-3:45 p.m.**  
Volunteer parking lot- 412 Locust Street, Lancaster  
or carpool from Wegman's lot.

**Chestnut Housing Service Project**  
**Saturday, May 30 | 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**  
Service project at Dinah's Hill site (former Strawberry Hill restaurant, 128 W Strawberry St., Lancaster)  
Light cleaning and setup. Appropriate for ages 13 and older.



**Chestnut  
Housing**

**FPC Service Project—Saturday Edition!  
with Chestnut Housing  
Saturday, May 30 | 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

Please save the date for a special Saturday service project with Chestnut Housing, one of the recipients of this quarter's mission giving. In early 2024, Chestnut Housing was awarded control of the site now known as Dinah's Hill (formerly the Strawberry Hill Restaurant), with the plan to create affordable apartments, as well as office and meeting space for the organization and local neighborhood groups. FPC volunteers will help with light cleaning and setup; this opportunity is appropriate for ages 13 and older.

Those interested in participating should  
email Patti Overly: [patti@fpclancasterpa.org](mailto:patti@fpclancasterpa.org)

# SUMMER CHORAL CAMP

For rising 3rd-12th grade students  
(2026/2027 school year)

**JUNE 22-26 / 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

at First Presbyterian Church / 140 E Orange St / Lancaster



**FIRST**  
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Lancaster, PA  
[www.fpclancasterpa.org](http://www.fpclancasterpa.org)

A day camp for  
students who  
love music and want to  
explore and develop  
their musicality  
in a fun  
choir setting

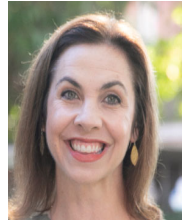


## SCHOLARSHIPS NEEDED

Please consider a financial gift to support our Children & Youth Ministries this summer. Summer Choral Camp needs seven scholarships at \$225 each, and the Honduras Youth Mission Team is raising \$3,000 to add a fifth clinic day to their week of service. Donations can be made through the QR code or by check, indicating Honduras or Choral Camp in the memo line.



# Family Ministry



**Katie Kindig**  
Director of Family Ministry

## Celebrating Children at FPC

### Dear parents of young children,

Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house! All are welcome!

Sit toward the front where it is easier for little ones to see and hear what's going on. They tire of seeing the backs of others' heads.

Quietly explain the parts of the service and actions of the pastor, ushers, musicians, etc.

Sing the hymns, pray, and voice the responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.

If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

Remember, the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the church, to God, and to one another. Let them know they are at home in this house of worship.

### Dear church members,

The presence of children is a gift to the church and they are a reminder that our congregation is growing.

Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

## Sunday Mornings

### The Nursery

**Suggested for 6wks up to 4yrs**

**Second Floor, open 9:00-11:30 a.m. / Professional Staff**

Nursery students engage in free-play, a short Scripture lesson and organized activity time.

We ask that you assist with your student's hand-washing upon arrival. We have hand sanitizer stations as well.

A nut-free snack is provided. Please bring a labeled water bottle and alternative snacks if needed. A changing table, with quiet room are also available.

### Worship Arts Faith Formation

**Suggested for 4yrs through grade 7**

*Worship Arts begins with a combined lesson and then splits to separate age-appropriate groups to study. A peanut free snack is offered.*

*Taught by FPC volunteer teachers, we study Scripture through reading, dramatic play, storytelling, and song.*

**Students begin worship in Shirk Hall (9:00 a.m.) OR the sanctuary (10:30 a.m.) with their families.**

Teachers will escort students who wish to participate in Worship Arts to the upper level following the "Worship Arts Blessing."

**Parents attending the 9:00 a.m. service** - Students will be escorted back to you before the end of the service.

**Parents attending the 10:30 a.m. service** - Students will return to the sanctuary at the end of worship or can be picked up in the lobby.

### Youth Ministry

**Designed for grades 7-12 and led by Family Ministry staff and volunteers.**

May 17—Youth study, location TBA, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

May 30—Chestnut Housing service project at Dinah's Hill, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

*Large-print hymnals are available. Please alert an usher or greeter if you would like one for today's service.*

Online prayer request here:

Guest WIFI Password:  
Welcome2FPC

