



First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
15th Sunday after Pentecost

September 21, 2025

10:00 a.m.

In preparation for worship, please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Hymn

Words of Welcome

Prelude

“Bourree I and II”

J.S. Bach

Call to Worship

We invite the rivers to worship with us:

***the Delaware, the Mississippi, the Nile, the Jordan
and all the rivers that flow to the sea.***

We invite the country creeks to sing:

***perch, sunfish, and flashing bass, trout streams and
gurgling springs.***

We invite the fauna to praise God with us:

***loon, heron, and mallard duck, dragonflies, otters and
sleepy tortoises.***

We join with the waters in praising God:

***waterfalls singing upstream and ripples dancing
at the river mouth.***

We celebrate the song of the river!

Sing, river, sing!

* Hymn 36

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession

We remember the rivers where we have sailed and played.

***O God, we thank you for the splendors of creation
and the gift of rivers.***

We remember and confess how we have poisoned and polluted the rivers in our garden planet.

Christ, crucified on a tree, hear our cry.

We regret that we have forgotten Earth and treated this garden planet as a beast to be tamed and as a place to be ruled.

Christ, the hope of all creation, we lament our failings.

* Silent Confession

* Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

Hear the Good News: Christ, baptized in the Jordan, hears our confession, forgives our sins against the river, and calls us now to open our ears and our hearts to revive rather than to desecrate the rivers pulsing through our planet.

***Christ, teach us to love Earth as our home and all living creatures as our kin.
Help us to return home to Earth.***

* Response (598)

Amen, we praise your name, O God!

Amen, we praise your name, O God!

Amen, amen. Amen, amen! Amen, we praise your name, O God.

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Revelation 22:1-5 (NT p. 260)

Psalter: Psalm 46 (OT p. 517)

A Time with Children

Anthem

“Love Never Fails”

J.A.C. Redford

Second Lesson: Genesis 2:4-14 (OT p. 2)

Sermon: The Good News: Watershed Discipleship

Rev. Zencka

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 754

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

* Affirmation of Faith: A Creed from Iona

***We believe that God is present in the darkness before dawn;
in the waiting and uncertainty where fear and courage join hands,
conflict and caring link arms, and the sun rises over barbed wire.***

We believe in a with-us God

who sits down in our midst to share our humanity.

***We affirm a faith that takes us beyond the safe place:
into action, into vulnerability and into the streets.***

We commit ourselves to work for change

and put ourselves on the line;

to bear responsibility, take risks, live powerfully

and face humiliation;

to stand with those on the edge; to choose life

and be used by the Spirit for God's new community of hope. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Minute for Peacemaking

Jodi Cieszkowski

Offering

Offertory

“La Cinqantaine”

G. Marie

* Response (698)

***Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.***

* Prayer of Dedication

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn 821

“My Life Flows On”

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude

“Prelude in C Major”

J.S. Bach

If you are leaving before the postlude is finished, please do so quietly.

* All who are able shall stand.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Guest Preacher	Rev. Susan Gilbert Zencka
Coordinator of Children and Youth	Jana Schillinger
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Liturgist	Jodi Cieszkowski
Cellist	John Weiss

Church Family Announcements

Our congregation worships God, equips God's people for ministry in the world, and serves God in ways that are faithful to the Gospel.

Thank you for joining us for Worship.

- We gather at 10:00 a.m. in person or on our YouTube channel, (or stream the service on YouTube at a later time).
- Please use the red attendance pads to record your presence today.

Old Testament Connections at Wednesday Night Bible Study

Our Wednesday night Bible study this season continues with "Old Testament Connections." Each week, we will use a different lens to understand how various stories of the Bible connect to one another using maps, timelines, world history, and other tools. We will meet at 6:00 p.m. in the library (Room 206).

Bell Choir begins rehearsals Wednesday, October 24 at 8 p.m. If you have an interest in trying out bell ringing, contact Dick Cochrane.

Tell us your prayer concerns. Prayer Request Cards are in the pew racks. Pass them to the center aisle to be collected during the first hymn.

Please pray for: Hall, Mollie, Ellen S., Jeff, Jean, Nancy, Sarah, Carol, Leslie, Kim, Stuart, Kathy, Tim, Claire, Craig K., Gary K., Judy S., AJ, Lee, Sally, Terry, Estelle, Nate, Len, Millie, family and friends, Faith, Erin, Terry B., Katie, Mary, Sue and family, Renee, Wendy, Margaret.

State Hospital Luncheon: The women of the church will host a fall luncheon for friends from Clarks Summit State Hospital on October 7, noon, in Fellow-ship Hall. Volunteers are needed to greet our guests, and assist with set-up, serving and clean-up of the meal. **There is a need for several items:** new or used **luggage/ backpacks** (in good condition); **shoes;** (used) **working CD players; leggings** (new); **baseball caps.** Donation boxes have been placed in the narthex. Any questions, call Janet Dobson at 570-563-1887.

Confirmation Meeting takes place today for families with young people in 7th grade or older. Classes begin October 12 and run weekly thru May.

FPC Young(er) Adult Group - Saturday, October 18: Campfire Night

Join the FPC Young(er) Adult Group for this family friendly event on Saturday, October 18 at 6pm. We will meet at Charlie and Robin Pinches' home. Bring a snack or beverage to share. To RSVP and get the address, please reach out to Michael at mkthompson96@gmail.com or 518-577-8691. And let us know your ideas for November!

Sign up for Worship Through Service projects. A sign-up sheet that includes the list of projects is in this bulletin. You can also sign up in the Narthex or use the link in Wednesday's **Light from the Hill**.

Hoping to see you at the Celebration for Rev. Bill's anniversaries on October 5.

Reservation envelopes, with meal selection and payment may be placed in either the offering plate or the wooden box in the Narthex. **Deadline: September 22.**

Looking Ahead:

- October 5, World Communion Sunday
- October 12, Confirmation begins
- October 12, Arts at FPCCS: Echoes from the Cathedrals with Arcadia Chorale, 4pm
- October 25, Hickory Street Meal
- October 26, LIFT program (following worship), topic is **Reformation**
- October 26, Arts at FPCCS: Blue Grass with Colebrook Road, 4 p.m.

Copies of September Happenings Magazine can be found in the Narthex.

Take a Presbyterian trip to Ireland



Registration is now open for our church's journey to the Emerald Isle. Scheduled for April 12-21, 2026, a group of Presbyterians will travel to Dublin, Galway, and all the spots in between. Brochures are available in the narthex. As with the trip to Scotland, Witte Travel of Grand Rapids is organizing an extraordinary trip for us. Reach out to **Rev. Bill Carter** or Jamie Strong with questions.

On Sunday, October 12, 4 p.m., The 2025-26 Arts at First Presbyterian concert series will feature **The Arcadia Chorale**, a professional chamber choir of 24 voices which has been presenting concerts since 1983. This program will feature the soaring choral and organ music of England, France, Italy, Spain, and Germany inspired by the great cathedrals of Western Europe. Guest organist is Christopher Johnson, who was featured on last year's Arts Series. The group performs under the direction of Matthew Rupcich.

HICKORY STREET MEAL PROGRAM: Our next meal event at Hickory Street Presbyterian Church is set for October 25th. Preparation of the main dish, providing desserts, assistance at Hickory Street on meal day, and food transport to Hickory Street are some of the tasks where volunteers are needed. Donation of food for grocery bags is also an integral part of our commitment. If you want to support our church's efforts financially, please make checks either paper or electronic, payable to First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit, and indicate "Account No. 2041, Community Meals" in the check memo line. The menu, recipes, sign-up sheets, and other information will be available in the narthex starting on October 5th.

This Week at a Glance

Sunday, September 21

- 10 a.m., Worship in the sanctuary and online
- 11:15 a.m., Confirmation Class family meeting
- 3 p.m., OA, Room 210

Tuesday, September 23

- 9:30 a.m., Yoga, Room 111
- 10 a.m., My Brothers' Keeper Quilting, Fellowship Hall
- 6 p.m., OA, Room 210
- 7 p.m., Deacons, Room 206
- 7 p.m., AA, Room 111

Wednesday, September 24

- 9 a.m., Presbyter mailing, Room 206
- 10:30 a.m., Prayer and Share, Room 209
- 6 p.m., Wednesday Night Bible Study: Old Testament Connections
- 7 p.m., Choir rehearsal, sanctuary
- 7:30 p.m., AlAnon, Room 206
- 8:00 p.m., Bell Choir begins, Fellowship Hall

Thursday, September 25

- 7 p.m., AA, Room 111

WORSHIP THROUGH SERVICE WEEKEND

Saturday, September 27

- 8:30 a.m., Service Project at Weinberg

Sunday, September 28

- 10 a.m., Worship in the sanctuary and online
- 3 p.m., OA, Room 210

We are grateful for the many ways that people support our church's ministry to the community and world. If you wish to contribute by cell phone, scan here.



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