



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Church of Nashville

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

August 23, 2026
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.



To know Christ, to make Him known and to exhibit His love through worship, education and service.

WORDS OF PREPARATION

There is no absence, no non-presence, of God in His creation...God's presence to the whole world from the beginning and for all time is in His Word... —Karl Barth

ORDER OF WORSHIP

VOLUNTARY

Adoration
Florence Price

WELCOME

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Kickoff Sunday Committee

INTROIT

Praise Him! Praise Him!
JOYFUL SONG

Praise him! Praise him! Jesus our blessed Redeemer! Sing, O earth, his wonderful love proclaim! Hail him! Hail him! highest archangels in glory, strength and honor give to his holy name! Like a shepherd, Jesus will guard his children; in his arms he carries them all day long: Praise him! Praise him! Tell of his excellent greatness! Praise him! Praise him! ever in joyful song!

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. John Musgrave (8:30)
Rev. Sara Hill (11:00)

Leader: O Lord, open thou our lips.

All: And our mouths shall show forth thy praise.

Leader: O God, make speed to save us.

All: O Lord, make haste to help us.

Leader: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

All: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Leader: Praise ye the Lord.

All: The Lord's name be praised.

*OPENING HYMN

God Is Our Strength and Refuge
AURELIA

**God is our Strength and Refuge, a Helper ever near.
While resting in his shelter, no evil will we fear—
not if the mountains crumble into the angry sea,
nor if the surging ocean exceeds its boundary.**

**A quiet stream refreshes the city of our God;
his throne stands unaffected while kingdoms rise and fall.
One word from Jacob's Savior will melt the raging throng.
The Lord of hosts is with us; he is our fortress strong.**

**Behold God's glorious power: he makes all warfare cease.
Each weapon he will shatter; the world will be at peace.
"Be still!" cries heaven's Sov'reign, "Be still, for I am God!
All kingdoms—all creation—will bow beneath my rod."**

**The violent sea turned placid when Jesus cried, "Be still!"
Fears gone, twelve men stood gasping when waves obeyed his will.
And soon the same voice speaking will calm earth's rebel storm.
This Lord of hosts is with us both now and evermore!**

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. Mallory Hammond (8:30)
Adrian Taylor (11:00)

FIRST LESSON | Hebrews 12:18-24 (page 1009)

Nicki Cook (8:30)
Ada Shapiro (11:00)

¹⁸ For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest
¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages
be spoken to them. ²⁰ For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the
mountain, it shall be stoned." ²¹ Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear."
²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to
innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven,
and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of
a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Gage Arnold

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O Father, we are gathered before you, the Maker of heaven and earth, whose chosen dwelling place
is with the broken and contrite, to confess that we have sinned in thought and word and deed; we
have not loved you with all our heart and soul, we have not loved you with all our mind and strength;
we have not even loved our neighbor as ourselves. In your mercy, deepen our sorrow for the wrong
we have done and for the good we have left undone, so that we may hate our sin with a holy hatred.
But, please, Father, do not leave us in sorrow. With you, O Lord, there is forgiveness. In your mercy,
restore the joy of our salvation; so that we may love you with a holy love. Amen.**

A moment for silent confession.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE

Glory Be to the Father
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.**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | Apostles' Creed

**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.**

*Whether you are a longtime member or a guest, please mark your presence by
signing the friendship pad and greet those seated near you as you pass it along.*

‡BLESSING OF THE YOUNG DISCIPLES

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (8:30)

PRESENTATION OF CHILD

Przemek and Evelyn Kaestner Parkitny are presenting their daughter, Rose Katarzyna Parkitny, for baptism.
Assisting Elder: Gray Thornburg

BAPTISMAL QUESTIONS

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE BAPTISM

‡During the 8:30 and 11:00 services, PreK and Kindergarten
children (ages 4–6) are invited to join Young Children & Worship.

SONG OF PREPARATION

Still, My Soul, Be Still
Keith and Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend

1. Still, my soul, be still, and do not fear,
though winds of change may rage tomorrow.
God is at your side, no longer dread
the fires of unexpected sorrow. (Chorus)

2. Still, my soul, be still; do not be moved
by lesser lights a fleeting shadows
Hold onto his ways, with shield of faith
against temptation's flaming arrows. (Chorus)



3. Still, my soul, be still; do not for - sake the truth you learned in the be-gin-ning.
Wait up-on the Lord, and hope will rise as stars ap-pear when day is dim-ming.
God, you are my God, and I will trust in you and not be shak - en.
Lord of peace, re - new a stead-fast spi-rit with-in me to rest in you a -
lone. I rest in you a - lone, I rest in you a - lone.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING | Psalm 46 (page 471)

¹ God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. ² Therefore we will not fear though the earth give way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, ³ though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. ⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. ⁵ God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. ⁶ The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. ⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. ⁸ Come, behold the works of the LORD, how he has brought

desolations on the earth. ⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire. ¹⁰ “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!” ¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

A Mighty Fortress

Dr. Ryan Moore

“...a very present help in time of trouble...The LORD of hosts is with us...” —Psalm 46:1, 11

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERTORY

O Spirit All-Embracing

Richard Proulx

O Spirit all-embracing and counsel or all-wise, unbounded splendor gracing a shoreless sea of skies: unfailing is your treasure, unfading your reward; surpassing worldly pleasure, the riches you afford. Come, stream of endless flowing, and rescue us from death; come, wind of springtime blowing, and warm us by your breath. O beauty ever blazing in flower, field, and face, you show yourself amazing in unexpected place. We see you and remember what once our dreams had been; you fan the glowing ember and kindle hope within. Come, fire of glory gracious, bless all who trust in you; undying flame tenacious, burn in your Church anew. Come, passion's power holy, your insight here impart, and give your servants lowly an understanding heart to know more clearly when faith and love are tried, to seek you more sincerely when false ideals have died: for vision we implore you, for wisdom's pure delight; in prayer we come before you to wait upon your light.

As you reflect on the Lord's goodness, you can make an offering by dropping your gift in the offering plate, texting "GIVE" to 707-475-3005, or donating online at fpcnashville.org.

INTRODUCTION TO NEW MEMBERS (11:00)

Rev. Sandra Randleman

Cooper Christian
Cheryl and James Cox

Hailey Fox
Zoe and Michael Limbaugh

Parker McWilliams
Mollie Clark Williams

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.

*CLOSING HYMN 275

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
EIN' FESTE BURG

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

I Will Lift Mine Eyes
Jake Runestad

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this day forth for evermore.

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Toccata
Mark Fax

** Those who are able, please stand.*

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Ryan Moore, PhD – *Pastor*

Gage Arnold, MDiv – *Associate Pastor to Youth and Their Families*

Mallory Hammond, MDiv – *Parish Associate, Director of Ministry to Children and Their Families*

Sara Hill, MDiv – *Parish Associate for Congregational Care*

John Musgrave, DMin – *Parish Associate*

Sandra Randleman, DMin – *Parish Associate for Congregational Care*

Adrian Taylor, MDiv – *Director of Missions Ministry*

Raphael Bundage, DMA – *Director of Music*

Ariana Corbin, DM – *Organist and Assistant Choral Director*

Rhonda Swanson, MM – *Assistant Organist*

Acolytes – David Mapangala, Julianna Mapangala, Kasen Bede, Jay Ekiss

Claire Paschal, soprano

Stephen King, guitar

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Flowers in the Chancel are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mrs. Priscilla H. Brown, and in celebration of the baptisms of her great granddaughters, by Susan and Todd Kaestner, Margo and David Lombardi, and Evelyn and Przemek Parkitny.



WELCOME AYANNA BOATENG

Ayanna Boateng will serve as Ministry Assistant to the Associate Pastor for Discipleship at First Presbyterian Church. In this role, she will support adult discipleship ministries through administrative coordination, communication, events, and member engagement, helping members connect and grow in their faith.

Originally from Sacramento, California, Ayanna recently moved to Nashville after graduating from Tulane University with a B.A. in Sociology and a minor in Psychology. Her passion for discipleship and ministry has grown through mentors and her experience leading student outreach and ministry. Outside of work, Ayanna enjoys visiting art museums, roller skating, exploring parks, spending time with family and friends, and serving Nashville's unhoused neighbors.



WELCOME MONIKA WHITELEY

Monika Whiteley will serve as the Contributions and Donor Relations Coordinator in the Finance department at First Presbyterian Church. In this role, she will provide essential support to the financial and stewardship ministries and serve as the primary point of contact for donor inquiries.

Originally from Southern California, Monika brings a deep passion for philanthropy and serving her community. Her career in nonprofit work spans 25 years. When not at work, Monika enjoys spending time behind the wheel shuttling her teen daughter around, as well as attending live music shows and sporting events.

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Wednesday Night Fellowship | Sept. 16–Nov. 18 | 5:00–6:00 p.m. Dinner; 6:00–7:00 p.m. Programming | Courtenay Hall — Join us Wednesday evenings this fall as we explore how the Gospel story is reflected through art, storytelling, and creative expression. Dinner is served from 5:00–6:00 p.m., followed by teaching and conversation led by Darren Kennedy, with occasional guest speakers. Dinner is \$10 per person, with a \$30 maximum per family. Children’s programming drop-off begins at 5:45 p.m., with pickup by 7:15 p.m. The playground will also be open during dinner for children with parent supervision.

Wednesday Night Youth | 6:00–7:30 p.m. | Stanford Chapel — 7th–12th graders begin with food, games, and fellowship at 6:00 p.m., followed by worship, large-group games, and a lesson at 6:30 p.m. The evening concludes with grade- and gender-based small groups led by young adult leaders from 7:00–7:30 p.m.

ThriftSmart Bags — Once again this year, ThriftSmart will be onsite during Kickoff Sunday to collect your gently-used items (clothes, shoes, books, furniture, etc.). Collection bags will be available at the end of worship today for you to take home with you and bring back next week. If you have a bag to bring on Kickoff Sunday, please place it on the ground behind your trunk, and ThriftSmart will come by and pick it up, or you may bring it to the donation truck yourself.

Presbyterian Women’s Bible Study Kickoff | Tuesday, Sept. 8 | 9:30 a.m. Coffee; 10:00 a.m. Bible Study | Cheek House & Stanford Chapel — Presbyterian Women’s Bible Study will kick off the 2026-2027 year, beginning a monthly study of N.T. Wright’s *Acts for Everyone*, that will conclude in May. Wright’s study explores early Christian fervor in spreading Jesus’ message globally. The morning will begin with coffee and fellowship in the Cheek House at 9:30 a.m., followed by Bible Study with Dr. Randleman in the Stanford Chapel at 10:00 a.m. Small group discussions will begin at 10:30 a.m. Presbyterian Women’s Bible Study meets the second Tuesday of each month, Sept.– May. All women of every age and life stage are invited to join for discussion, fellowship and encouragement. *Please note that the time and format have changed from what was previously published.*

CHILDREN

Pop-Up Sunday | Sept. 13 | 9:45 a.m. — Everyone’s moving up! On Pop-Up Sunday, children from birth through sixth grade will “pop up” to their new grades and classrooms—and for the first time, all children’s Sunday School classes will gather in the Children’s Wing! Come celebrate this exciting new beginning with treats, music, new teachers and volunteers, and plenty of reasons to give thanks.

FIRST FRIENDS

Tour of Belmont Mansion and Belmont University | Thursday, Sept. 10 | 9:45 a.m.–3:00 p.m. — Join First Friends for a day of history, fellowship and exploration! We’ll tour Belmont Mansion, learning about its architecture, collections, and the lives of the people who lived and worked there. After lunch at The Cookery, we’ll tour featured areas of Belmont University, including the Fisher Center. Cost is \$30, plus lunch. Come enjoy a fun and fascinating day with us! Register online at fpcnashville.org/first-friends.

Book Club: *Notorious in Nashville* with author Phyllis Gobbell | Sept. 15 | 2:30–3:30 p.m. | Memorial Library — Our September book will be *Notorious in Nashville* written by local author, Phyllis Gobbell.

Luncheon and Speaker Series: Clint Holloway on Collectibles | Thursday, Sept. 17 | 12:00 p.m. | Courtenay Hall — Monthly luncheons resume in September, featuring church member Clint Holloway, owner of Dr. Holloway’s Estate Sales, and a trained archivist, historian and author. Clint will share his expertise on collectibles, and help us discover the history and value of treasures we may have at home. Lunch is \$10 per person; register online at fpcnashville.org/first-friends.

MISSIONS

Blood Drive | Sept. 2 | 12:00–5:00 p.m. | Courtenay Hall — Someone in the U.S. needs blood every two seconds due to an accident, disaster, or illness. Roll up your sleeves to help save lives in your community by giving the gift of life by donating blood at our next blood drive. Sign up online or in-person at the Mission Fair on Kickoff Sunday, Aug. 30, between services.

MEN

First Tuesday Men’s Lunch with Darren | Sept. 1 | 12:00 p.m. | Five Guys Burgers Brentwood, 330 Franklin Rd. — Join us for a relaxed lunch gathering on the first Tuesday of each month at locations around town. These lunches are open to anyone able to step away from work or daily routines to share a meal and enjoy conversation together.

RECREATION

Calling all Soccer Saints | Dates through Oct. 24 — We want to welcome and love the soccer families as they play, cheer, and coach on the FPC campus. Would you help us create a warm and welcoming atmosphere by volunteering as a Soccer Saint at one of our welcome tents on Saturday mornings during soccer season? Whether you are young, old, or in between, it’s a great way to serve God’s people and spread joy. Your ministry of presence will be a blessing to our community. Sign up online at fpcnashville.org/soccer under the soccer saints volunteer sign up tab. Questions? Contact recreation@fpcnashville.org.



KICKOFF SUNDAY: STEP RIGHT UP!

Sunday, Aug. 30 | 9:30 a.m. | Front Porch
Our celebration kicks off outside the Sanctuary between morning worship services with a State Fair-themed morning of fun for all ages! Worship services will feature special music, followed by a festival outside with fair games, special prizes, delicious food, and plenty of opportunities for fellowship. Kickoff Sunday is your opportunity to gather with the whole church family and discover new ways to grow and serve at FPC this fall—through small groups, Sunday School classes, service opportunities, and more. Come reconnect after a busy summer and celebrate the start of a new season together!

MISSION FAIR

As a part of the morning's festivities, explore the Missions Fair to meet some of our mission partners. ThriftSmart will also have a donation truck on site—bring gently used clothes to share. For every pound donated, ThriftSmart will provide \$1 in gift cards to bless another mission partner.

BLUE RIBBON CONTESTS: FLOWER ARRANGING & PIE BAKING

Entries due Friday or Saturday, Aug. 28-29 | 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Kickoff Sunday is going full State Fair, and we're looking for our best bakers and flower arrangers! Enter the Flower Arranging and/or Pie Baking Contest and share your gifts with the church family. Bring your best homemade pie to be judged and enjoyed by the congregation after judging, or create your best fresh-flower arrangement, displayed in a clear glass jar no larger than 8 inches. All entries must be dropped off August 28 or 29, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Join us for 8:30 or 11:00 worship service, and the 9:30 Kickoff Festival

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug. 30 | 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. | Celebration of the Lord's Supper
Aug. 30 | Kickoff Sunday Festival and Missions Fair
Sept. 7 | Office Closed for Labor Day
Sept. 13 | Fall COBs begin
Sept. 16 | 5:00 p.m. Dinner; 6:00 p.m. Classes | Wednesday Night Fellowship Begins

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Sept. 13 | CM Grade-Level Sunday School Classes Begin
Sept. 20 | 9:45–10:45 a.m. | Singing the Faith Milestone (Age 2–3, Nursery Lobby)

MEN

Sept. 1 | 12:00 p.m. | First Tuesday Men's Lunch with Darren: Five Guys Burgers, Brentwood
Sept. 24 | 7:00 a.m. | Men's Breakfast Speaker Series
Tuesdays | 7:00 a.m. | Men's Bible Study
Fridays Through Aug. 28 | 6:00 a.m. | Men's Track Workouts

FIRST FRIENDS

Sept. 10 | 9:45 a.m.–2:30 p.m. | Day Trip: Belmont Mansion and Belmont University
Sept. 15 | 2:30 p.m. | Book Club: *Notorious in Nashville*
Sept. 17 | 12:00 p.m. | Luncheon and Speaker Series

MISSIONS

Aug. 30 | 9:30 a.m. | Missions Fair @ Kickoff Sunday
Sept. 2 | 12:00–5:00 p.m. | Blood Drive
Oct. 10, 17; Nov. 7, 14 | Habitat Build
Oct. 18 | 5:00–6:30 p.m. | Matthew 25 Meal
Nov. 7–13 | Dominican Republic Medical Mission Trip
Second Tuesdays | 4:30–7:30 p.m. | Nueva Vida Service Project

RECREATION

Aug. 22–Oct 24 | Fall Soccer Season
Thursdays, Sept. 3–Oct. 29 (except Sept. 17) | 5:30–8:00 p.m. | Pickleball

YOUTH

Today | 4:00 p.m. | Crud Day
Sept. 13, 20 | 9:45 a.m. | Youth Follow Me

YTD AT JULY 31, 2026

Actual \$2,719,354

Budget \$ 2,634,760

Variance \$84,594

We are especially thankful to report that summer giving has remained strong and is currently ahead of budget. During a season when giving often slows, your continued generosity provides stability and momentum for ministry. Thank you for your faithfulness, your support, and your investment in the mission of our church.