



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Church of Nashville

ELEVENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

August 24, 2025

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

Though our feelings come and go, His love for us does not. It is not wearied by our sins, or our indifference; and, therefore, it is quite relentless in its determination that we shall be cured of those sins, at whatever cost to us, at whatever cost to Him.

—C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

VOLUNTARY

III. Allegretto from Sonata No. 4
Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

WELCOME

INTROIT

Come, Ye that Love the Lord
arr. Alice Parker

Come, ye that love the Lord, and let your love be known; join in a song of sweet accord and thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne. Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God; but favorites of the heav'nly King may speak their joys abroad, may speak their joys abroad.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

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

Pastor: Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

All: For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm!

Pastor: God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne. The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham.

All: For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted!

*OPENING HYMN

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty
LOBE DEN HERREN

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

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

FIRST LESSON | Revelation 5:9-14 (page 1031)

Sam Gould (8:30)
Samantha Bowers (11:00)

⁹ And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation," ¹⁰ and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth." ¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" ¹³ And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" ¹⁴ And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Gage Arnold (8:30)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from death to life, and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him, or acknowledged his rule in our lives. We have gone along with the ways of the world, and failed to give him glory. Forgive us and raise us from sin, that we may be your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world and is head of the Church, his body. In the mighty name of Jesus we pray. 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

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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

PRESENTATION OF CHILD

(8:30) Mary Ann and John Marcelli are presenting their son, Leo Samuel Marcelli, for baptism.
Assisting Elder: Elizabeth Wagster

(11:00) Alison and Steven Coley are presenting their son, Rhett Bate Coley, for baptism. Savannah and Brandon Van Pernis are presenting their daughter, Alison Adele Van Pernis for baptism.
Assisting Elder: Mark Eberle

BAPTISMAL QUESTIONS

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE BAPTISM

HYMN OF PREPARATION

How Deep the Father's Love
Stuart Townend

(1.)How deep the Fa - ther's love for us, how vast be - yond all meas - ure that
(2.)Be - hold the Man up - on a cross, my sin up - on His shoul - ders. A -
3 (3.)I will not boast in an - y - thing: No gifts, no pow'r, no wis - dom. But
He should give His on - ly Son to make a wretch His treas - ure. How
shamed, I hear my mock - ing voice call out a - mong the scof - fers. It
5 I will boast in Je - sus Christ: His death and res - ur - rec - tion. Why
great the pain of sear - ing loss. The Fa - ther turns His face a - way as
was my sin that held Him there un - til it was ac - com - plished; His
7 should I gain from His re - ward? I can - not give an an - swer. But
wounds which mar the Cho - sen One bring man - y sons to glo - ry.
dy - ing breath has brought me life. I know that it is fin - ished.
this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ran - som.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING | Matthew 26:6-13 (page 831)

⁶ Now when Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, ⁷ a woman came up to him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on his head as he reclined at table. ⁸ And when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, “Why this waste? ⁹ For this could have been sold for a large sum and given to the poor.” ¹⁰ But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a beautiful thing to me. ¹¹ For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. ¹² In pouring this ointment on my body, she has done it to prepare me for burial. ¹³ Truly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her.”

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Wasteful Love of God

Dr. Ryan Moore

Why this waste? —Matthew 26:8

OFFERTORY

Benedictus from *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace*
Karl Jenkins

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hossanna in the highest.

*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.*

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 363

Rejoice, the Lord Is King!
DARWALL'S 148TH

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

May the Mind of Christ, My Savior
ST. LEONARDS

May the mind of Christ, my Savior, live in me from day to day, by his love and power controlling all I do and say. May the Word of God dwell richly in my heart from hour to hour, so that all may see I triumph only thro' his pow'r. May the peace of God my Father rule my life in everything, that I may be calm to comfort sick and sorrowing. May his beauty rest upon me as I seek the lost to win; and may they forget the channel, seeing only him.

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

IV. Allegro maestoso e vivace from Sonata No. 4
Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

* *Those who are able, please stand.*

MUSIC NOTES: *Come, Ye that Love the Lord* Music by Alice Parker © 1967 Alfred Sacred All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-714895. | *How Deep the Father's Love For Us* – Stuart Townend © 1995 Thankyou Music Ltd For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 1121456 | *Rejoice, the Lord is King* (Descant – © 1985 Hymns Ancient & Modern (admin. Hope Publishing Company) All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-714895. | *Benedictus from The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace* by Karl Jenkins © 2000 Boosey & Hawkes (BMI) Used by permission. CCS License #9151.

COVER IMAGE: *Mary Magdalene Anointing the Feet of Christ*, German School, 16th century. Public domain—What others condemned as wasteful, Jesus received as a beautiful act of devotion — an anointing that pointed toward his coming death and burial. Her act of extravagant love continues to challenge us: what does it mean to offer ourselves so freely to Christ that it might look foolish to the world? The painting *Mary Magdalene Anointing the Feet of Christ* (16th-century, German School) captures this story with vibrant color and tender reverence. Though created centuries later, the artist conveys the abundance and intimacy of love poured out without reserve. The title of this artwork reflects an inherited historical error common in 16th century Eastern Europe: Mary Magdalene was often conflated with other women of the Gospels, while today we recognize them as distinct individuals. Scholars debate whether it might actually have been Lazarus's sister Mary who anointed the feet of Jesus.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Ryan Moore, PhD – *Pastor*
Sara Hill, MDiv – *Parish Associate*
John Musgrave, DMin – *Parish Associate*
Adrian Taylor, MDiv – *Director of Missions Ministry*
Gage Arnold, MDiv – *Director of Youth Programming*
Mallory Hammond, MDiv – *Director of Ministry with Children & Their Families*
Raphael Bundage, DMA – *Director of Music*
Joseph Fala, MM – *Assistant Director of Music and Organist*
Sari Reist – *Cello*
Acolytes – Corinne Kaufman and Thomas Kaufman, Kasen Bede and Jay Ekiss

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Flowers in the chancel are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the baptism of Leo Samuel Marcelli by his grandparents, Elizabeth & John Wagster and Barb & Rick Marcelli

SUPPORTING FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

You can make a gift or fulfill a pledge payment by placing your gift in the offering plate, texting “GIVE” to 707-475-3005, donating online at fpcnashville.org, or scan the QR code.



WELCOME

First Presbyterian Church extends a warm welcome in the name of Christ to all who worship with us today. Since 1814 First Presbyterian has sought to be faithful in service to Jesus Christ and the common good. We are rooted in the Reformed, orthodox, and evangelical traditions of the larger church. If you do not have a church home, we would love to welcome you!

Hearing Assistance App Directions

Join WiFi network. You must be connected to this network for the app to work. Download the WaveCAST app. Open the app and select “First Pres Sanctuary.” Plug in your headphones and adjust the volume to your preference.

To **livestream** worship and special events or view past services, visit youtube.com/firstpresbyterianchurchofnashville.

Children of all ages are invited to worship alongside their families, and worship activity bags are provided at each entrance to the Sanctuary. Children ages 4-6 are invited.

Join us downstairs in Courtenay Hall between services for coffee and doughnuts.

Young Children & Worship following the Blessing of the Young Disciples. Parents pick up their child after worship at Grundy Hall, located in the Children’s Ministry Wing. Following 8:30 a.m. worship, children of all ages are invited to stay for the Education Hour. Check-in and pickup for Nursery–Kindergarten is located in the Children’s Ministry lobby, while Elementary is located in Oak Hill C-Wing. **Nursery care** for children ages 0–3 is available from 8:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m. The **Mother and Infant Quiet Room** is located in the Nursery Wing.

Kickoff Sunday | Sunday, September 7 | 9:30 a.m. | Front Porch—Join the entire church family at our all-church kickoff as we reconnect after a busy summer! Our Kickoff Sunday is a time to gather as a church family for fellowship and learn ways to connect at FPC this fall. Our football-themed celebration kicks off outside the Sanctuary between morning worship services with fun for all ages.

Columbarium Rededication | Sunday, September 7 | 6:30 p.m. | Sullivan Gardens—Join us for a special evening as we rededicate the Sullivan Gardens and Columbarium following its complete landscaping restoration. Light refreshments will be served. The renewed space offers a beautiful and peaceful setting for remembrance and prayer. The service will include music and moments of reflection as we give thanks for this cherished space where we remember the saints who have gone before us in faith.

Ordination of Mallory Hammond | Sunday, September 14 | 3:00 p.m. | Sanctuary—We are delighted to share that Mallory Hammond will soon be ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). After her ordination, Mallory will continue as our Director of Ministry to Children and Their Families as a Parish Associate. Her ordination is the culmination of years of theological study, preparation, and discernment, and we give thanks to God for guiding her to this calling. Please join us for Mallory's ordination service on Sunday, September 14, at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, and in praying for her and our church as she begins this next chapter of ministry among us.

PW Fall Gathering | Tuesday, September 9 | 11:00 a.m. Courtenay Hall—All FPC women are invited to the PW Fall Gathering. Register online or in person in Courtenay Hall on Sunday, August 31, during the Education Hour. Registration closes September 4. Register online at fpcnashville.org/pw

Men's Bible Study | Tuesdays | 7:00–8:00 a.m. | Vance Hall—Our Tuesday Men's Bible study has been a cherished tradition for decades—a place where friendships grow, faith deepens, and meaningful conversation happens over a good cup of coffee. This fall, we will finish our study of Acts, led by a variety of group members and church staff. Whether you have been with us for years or are just curious to see what it's all about, you're invited to join anytime. Coffee is ready at 7:00 a.m. No registration needed. Questions? Contact Ron Pasquale at ronpasquale@comcast.net or 615-812-6215.

Congregational Care in Sandra's Absence—If you have a congregational care need—such as a hospitalization, surgery, or personal crisis—please contact Charlotte Schierbaum, Congregational Care Ministry Assistant, at cschierbaum@fpcnashville.org or 615-298-9527. Charlotte is coordinating all care concerns and will confidentially share them with Senior Pastor Ryan Moore and Parish Associates Dr. John Musgrave and Rev. Sara Hill to ensure you are supported with prayer and presence.

September Women's Chorale—Women's Chorale will rehearse September 14, 21, and 28 from 9:45–10:00 a.m. and will sing more advanced music on September 28 in worship. With only two rehearsals, it's best for confident singers. Led by Dr. Raphael Bundage. To sign up, contact Daphne Garey at dgarey@fpcnashville.org.

First Friends Book Review | Thursdays, August 28–September 25 | 3:00 p.m. | Vance Hall—FPC will host a five-week book discussion on *Conscious Living, Conscious Aging* by Ron Pevny, exploring what it means to embrace retirement and later life with intentionality and purpose. For more information, contact Sally Ostheimer at sostheimer@fpcnashville.org.

Soccer Saints | Saturdays, September 6, 13, 20, 27—Help us welcome soccer families as they play, cheer, and coach on the FPC campus on Saturday mornings. Volunteers serve at one of our three welcome tables, greeting families, handing out treats to players, and answering questions. 25 percent of the guest children at this year's VBS came through FPC soccer referrals. Volunteer slots are open between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on the following game days: September 6, 13, 20, and 27.

Crud Day | Today | 4:00 p.m. | South Field—Join us in one of FPC's most storied youth ministry traditions. Adults and youth get muddy together, and we are all reminded that God lifts us out of the muddy pit. Mud volleyball, color wars, the infamous obstacle course, and the newly added gauntlet challenge will be highlights of this afternoon. We can't wait to see who brings home the Crud Cup in 2025!

MISSIONS

Blood Drive | Wednesday, September 3 | 11:00 a.m. | Courtenay Hall—Someone in the United States 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 on our website or in person in Courtenay Hall in between services. Contact Adrian Taylor for more information at ataylor@fpcnashville.org

GENERAL FUND GIVING SUMMARY

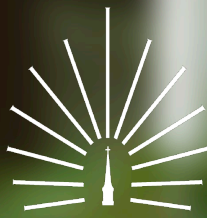
YTD AT JULY 31, 2025

Actual \$2,597,940

Budget \$2,786,500

Variance (\$188,560)

As part of our commitment to transparency and to deepen our shared understanding of church finances, the Finance Committee is now providing monthly updates on giving.



Kickoff SUNDAY — at FPC —

September 7 | 9:30 a.m. Front Porch

Our football-themed celebration kicks off outside the Sanctuary between morning worship services with fun for all ages—pony rides, an inflatable obstacle course, games, and even the chance to collect vintage FPC swag!

This year's special highlight is Missions. Explore the Missions Fair to meet our Kingdom Partners and current Project 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.

Kickoff Sunday is your opportunity to gather for fellowship and discover new ways to grow and serve at FPC this fall—through small groups, Sunday School classes, service opportunities, and more. Join the whole church family as we reconnect after a busy summer!

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept. 1** | Office Closed for Labor Day
Sept. 3 | 11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. | Blood Drive
Sept. 7 | 9:30 a.m. | Kickoff Sunday
Sept. 7 | 6:30 p.m. | Sullivan Garden Rededication
Sept. 14 | 3:00 p.m. | Ordination Service for Mallory Hammond
Sept. 25 | Dinner (5:30) and Choral Vesper Service (6:30)
Oct. 25 | 9:00 a.m. | Inquirers Class
Oct. 26 | Reformation Day Worship
Oct. 26 | 3:30–5:00 p.m. | Fall Festival Trunk or Treat
Oct. 29 | Dinner (5:30) and All Saints Vesper Service (6:30)

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

- Sept. 21** | 9:45–10:45 a.m. | Singing the Faith Milestone (Age 2–3)
Sept. 27 | 5:00–8:00 p.m. | Parents Night Out
Sept. 28 | 9:45 a.m. | Missions Milestone (4th–5th Grade)
Oct. 26 | Baptism Remembered Milestone (Kindergarten)

YOUTH

- Sept. 7** | 6:00 p.m. | Youth Small Group Kickoff
Sept. 14, 21, 28 | 9:45 a.m. | Follow Me Sunday School Series for 7th Graders & Parents
Oct. 19 | 5:30–7:00 p.m. | Blacklight Dodgeball
Oct. 25–26 | Fall Overnight

FIRST FRIENDS

- Aug. 28** | 3:00 p.m. | Book Review: *Conscious Living, Conscious Aging* (Thursdays through September 25)
Sept. 18 | 12:00 p.m. | First Friends Lunch & Speaker Series
Sept. 22 | 9:30 a.m. | FF Woodworking Workshop with Julia Wilk – Making Charcuterie Boards
Oct. 9 | 11:30 a.m. | New Beginnings Fall Lunch for Widows
Oct. 10 | Mens Trip to Lane Auto Museum and Lunch
Oct. 13 | Day Trip to Dickson and Lyles
Oct. 16 | 12:00 p.m. | Lunch and Speaker Series
Oct. 30 | Nashville Ballet Viewing of Nutcracker Rehearsal

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

- Sept. 9** | 11:00 a.m. | PW Fall Gathering
Sept. 24 | 6:00–8:00 p.m. | PW Spiritual Gifts Class
Oct. 5 | Spiritual Gifts Class

MISSIONS

- Sept. 9, Oct. 14** | 4:30–7:30 p.m. | Service Project with Nueva Vida
Sept. 3 | 12:00–5:00 p.m. | Blood Drive
Sept. 13–14, 20–21, 27–28, & Oct. 4–5 | Habitat for Humanity Build