



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
Church of Nashville

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST

*September 14, 2025*  
*8:30 & 11:00 a.m.*



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

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WORDS OF PREPARATION

*This is the root of grace: the dismantling of our own power. Only to the degree that all our own power is dismantled will God go on effecting the results of his Spirit and the construction of his cause through us, in us, and among us—not otherwise.*

—Eberhard Arnold

ORDER OF WORSHIP

VOLUNTARY

*Largo from Trio Sonata No.2 in C Minor, BWV 526*  
J. S. Bach

WELCOME

INTROIT

*O Lord, Open Thou Our Lips*  
Richard Webster

O Lord, open thou our lips and our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Sara Hill

Pastor: People of God, set your hearts to seek the Lord, worship him with great gladness, praise him day by day, and sing to him with all your might.

**All: I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. O my strength, I will sing praises to you, for you, O God, are my fortress, the God who shows me steadfast love.**

Pastor: All you who hear, come and worship the Son of the Most High God:

**All: Jesus Christ, the Lord's Anointed One.**

\*OPENING HYMN 475

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*  
NETTLETON

\*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Gage Arnold (8:30)  
Malloy Hammond (11:00)

FIRST LESSON | Isaiah 61:1-3; 10-11 (page 620)

Laura Purswell (8:30)  
Matt Hubbard (11:00)

<sup>1</sup> The Spirit of the LORD GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; <sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup> to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. <sup>10</sup> I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments

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of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the LORD GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

Dr. John Musgrave (8:30)

Adrian Taylor (11:00)

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Eternal and Almighty Father, we acknowledge and confess before your holy Majesty that we are poor sinners, conceived and born in guilt and corruption, prone to evil, unable of ourselves to do any good; who, by reason of our sinfulness, transgress your holy commandments. O Lord, with heartfelt sorrow we repent and deplore our offenses! Be pleased then to have compassion on us, Father of all mercies, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. And in removing our guilt and corruption, grant us the daily increase of your Holy Spirit that we might put to death the sin that is within us and bear all the fruit of the Spirit in our daily lives. We trust you for these graces on the basis of the death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*A moment for silent confession.*

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

#### \*RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE

*Jesus! What a Friend of Sinners!*

HYFRYDOL

**Jesus! what a Friend for sinners!  
Jesus! Lover of my soul;  
Friends may fail me, foes assail me,  
He, my Savior, makes me whole.**

*Refrain:*

**Hallelujah! what a Savior!  
Hallelujah! what a Friend!  
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,  
He is with me to the end.**

**Jesus! I do now receive him,  
More than all in him I find,  
He hath granted me forgiveness,  
I am his, and he is mine. Refrain**

#### \*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.*

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## ‡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 (8:30)

### PRESENTATION OF CHILD

Megan and Stewart Koch are presenting their son, Graham Stewart Koch, for baptism.  
Assisting Elder: Lauren Ross

### BAPTISMAL QUESTIONS

### \*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

### THE BAPTISM

## HYMN OF PREPARATION 270

*O Lord, You Are My God and King*  
JERUSALEM

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

## SCRIPTURE READING | Matthew 5:1-12 (page 809)

<sup>1</sup> Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: <sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. <sup>5</sup> “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup> “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. <sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. <sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. <sup>9</sup> “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. <sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

### **Kingdom Belonging**

Dr. Ryan Moore

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. —Matthew 5:3*

## OFFERTORY

*O How Amiable*  
Ralph Vaughan Williams

O how amiable are thy dwellings: thou Lord of Hosts! My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord: my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God. Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house, and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young: even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be always praising thee. The glorious Majesty of the Lord our God be upon us: prosper thou the work of our hands upon us. O prosper thou our handywork, O prosper thou our handywork. O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

*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](http://fpcnashville.org).*

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INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS (11:00)

Julia Wilk

Ashland Arnold	Brigit Cowden	Mary DiCarlo	Erika Mangan
Charles Bush	John Cowden	Sam DiCarlo	Thomas Martin
Jennifer Sarah Bolton	Michael Crick	Polly Douse	Cale Schmit
Caitlin Brackin	Jerry Crook	Julia Long	Kacy Schmit
Will Brackin	Libba Crook	Ryan Long	

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 438

*Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*  
TOPLADY

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

*The Lord Bless You and Keep You*  
Peter Lutkin

\*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

*Festival Finale*  
Malcolm Archer

*\* Those who are able, please stand.*

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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*  
Rhonda Swanson, MM – *Assistant Organist*  
*Acolytes* – David Pitman and Lauren Pitman, Christopher Douse and Robert Douse

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Flowers in the chancel are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Nelson Shields by his wife Sheila Shields.

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](http://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](https://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.

### Young Children & Worship

following the Blessing of the Young Disciples. Parents pick up children after worship in room CW 110, 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 – 3rd Grade** is in the Children’s Ministry lobby, while **Preteens (4th and 5th grade)** may check-in outside of CC 131. **Confirmation** will check-in outside of E201 in the 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.

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

## INTERESTED IN GETTING MORE CONNECTED?

If you are new to our community, we would love to get to know you and welcome you personally into the life and ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Whether you are a guest or a longtime member, fill out the Connect Card to get more involved, update your contact information, or sign up for church communications. Drop your completed Connect Card in the offering plate so we can follow up!

*Stay informed about news and upcoming events by reading FPC’s weekly Parish News email.  
To subscribe, email [communications@fpcnashville.org](mailto:communications@fpcnashville.org).*

## SPECIAL ART SERIES: BEATITUDES THROUGH THE ART OF ROGER DALE BROWN

**ABOUT THE ARTIST:** Roger Dale Brown, a Tennessee native, has spent his life studying and capturing the beauty of nature, history, and culture through painting, earning Master Status with Oil Painters of America, the American Impressionist Society, and the American Society of Marine Artists. A celebrated teacher and juror, he has led workshops across the United States and abroad while continuing to create art that reflects the Impressionist belief that painting from life is essential. Roger and his wife, Beverly Ford Evans, were married by Sandra Randleman in 2014 and began attending First Presbyterian that same year; together they formally joined in 2022. For this series on the Beatitudes, Roger has prayerfully paired his own artwork with each passage, inviting us to engage both heart and senses as we worship the living God together.

**COVER IMAGE:** Roger Dale Brown, *Scottish Wonder*. Oil on canvas, 30 × 40 in.—We are naturally inclined to rely on ourselves and our own accomplishments, rather than on God’s guidance. It is only when we fully depend on Him that our spirits are truly open to be filled by His presence. I chose this painting, *Scottish Wonder*, to represent this verse because, standing before God’s majesty in Scotland, I felt both small and humbled. In that moment, I became deeply aware of my own limitations and open to letting His will be done, using me for His glory. —RDB

**MUSIC NOTES:** *Preces and Suffrages in the Mixolydian Mode*, © Richard Webster, published by Advent Press, Used by permission. | *O How Amiable* by Ralph Vaughan Williams © 1940 Oxford University Press Renewed 1968. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-417895. | *The Lord Bless You and Keep You. Amen* by Peter Lutkin © 1959, Concordia Publishing House All rights reserved. Used by permission. OneLicense.net License A-714895. | *Festival Finale* from “*The Organ Music of Malcolm Archer - Twenty-five characteristic pieces*”, (c) 1993 Kevin Mayhew Ltd. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-714895.

**Our Pastoral Staff Is Here for You – With Prayer and Presence**—Our Pastors, Dr. Ryan Moore, Rev. Sara Hill and Dr. John Musgrave, are committed to walking alongside you in every season of life. If you are facing surgery, spending time in the hospital, or simply in need of a call, a visit, or prayer, our pastoral staff would love to support you. Please reach out to one of our pastors, email [care@fpcnashville.org](mailto:care@fpcnashville.org) or contact our Congregational Care Assistant, Charlotte Schierbaum at 615-298-9527. Any concerns shared will be held in confidence and passed along to our pastoral team with great care. We believe in the power of presence and prayer—and we want to ensure you feel supported, seen, and uplifted.

**Ordination of Mallory Hammond | Today | 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. Reception to follow in Courtenay Hall.

**Congregational Meeting | September 28 | Following both Worship Services**—The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, September 28, following both worship services, for the purpose of voting on a slate of nominees to serve on an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, and voting on a slate of new officer candidates presented by the Officer Nominating Committee.

**Spiritual Gifts Workshop | Two date options provided: Sept. 24 | 6:00–8:00 p.m. or Oct. 5 | 12:00–2:00 p.m.** — Join us for a shared meal followed by a workshop led by Rev. Sara Hill on discovering and cultivating your spiritual gifts. Paul reminds the church in Corinth, “Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed.” Together, we’ll explore how God equips each of us with gifts to be used at home, at work, in the church, and in daily living. Come ready to identify your gifts and consider how they can be used to God’s glory. Hosted by Presbyterian Women—all are welcome! Registration is required; please note if you need childcare when registering. Register at [fpcnashville.org/events](http://fpcnashville.org/events).

**Communities of Belonging (COB) | Begin mid-September**—COBs are seasonal small groups designed for connection and growth. This fall COBs will study The Call by Adam Hamilton, following the life and witness of the Apostle Paul. Questions about finding the right COB? Contact Ellie Richmond [erichmond@fpcnashville.org](mailto:erichmond@fpcnashville.org) or 615-298-9509. To register, visit [fpcnashville.org/cob](http://fpcnashville.org/cob).

**Empty Nester Fellowship | Wednesday, September 17 | 6:30 p.m. | Tyne House**—Join us for an evening of dessert, fellowship, and encouragement for those entering the “empty nest” season of life. Pastor Ryan Moore will gather us to reflect on this new chapter, share stories, and consider ways we can support one another as households grow quieter and roles shift. Whether you have just dropped off your youngest at college or launched your post-college adult into the world, this is a space to connect, reflect, and walk this season together. RSVP at [fpcnashville.org/emptynest](http://fpcnashville.org/emptynest).

**Oak Hill School Fall Consignment Sale**—The Oak Hill School Fall Consignment Sale is just around the corner! Held twice a year, this beloved community event offers a wide selection of gently-used children’s clothing, toys, books, baby gear, and more — all at great prices. The public sale takes place Wednesday, September 24 (10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.) and Thursday, September 25 (9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.), with a half-price sale on Friday, September 26 (10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.) and Saturday, September 27 (8:00–11:00 a.m.).

**Soccer Saints | Saturdays, September 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. Twenty-five 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. Visit [fpcnashville.org/soccer](http://fpcnashville.org/soccer) to sign up.

## MISSIONS

**Fall Habitat for Humanity Build | September 20-21, 27-28, and October 4-5**—This fall, our church is partnering with Habitat for Humanity to help build a home and build community. With over 170 volunteer spots for both construction and lunch crews, there’s a place for everyone to serve. Register at [fpcnashville.org/habitat](http://fpcnashville.org/habitat).

## GENERAL FUND GIVING SUMMARY

YTD AT **AUG. 31, 2025**

**Actual** \$2,889,990

**Budget** \$3,248,000

*Variance (\$358,010)*

While giving to date is below our projections, expenses have also been lower than expected, so our financial position remains stable. Many households choose to make their full pledge later in the year, and we have \$1.8 million in pledges yet to be received. We invite everyone to prayerfully consider the timing of your 2025 pledge and how you might participate in supporting our shared mission.

## Adult Sunday School Class Locations

**Bible & Coffee:** *Jones Session Room*

**Cornerstone:** *Vance Hall*

**Current Issues:** *L200*

**Discipleship:** *Witherspoon Room*

**Fellowship:** *Memorial Library | 10:00 a.m.*

**Good News:** *L207*

**June Ramsey:** *Cheek House Living Room*

**Life Together:** *L203*

**Logos:** *Stanford Chapel | 10:00 a.m.*

**Walk Through the Bible:** *L201*

**Young Adults:** *Courtenay Lounge*

## Youth, Children & Worship Check-in & Class Locations Moving

Today is first morning for young children Sunday School in their new locations.

### CHECK IN AND PICKUP:

**Nursery–Kinder (Ages 0–6):** *CM Wing Lobby*

**Elementary (1st-3rd):** *CM Wing Lobby*

**Preteens (4th-5th):** *CW131 (Old Bookstore)*

**Confirmation Class (6th):** *E201 (Old Rec Office)*

### SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSROOMS

**Infants & Crawlers (Birth-12 months):** *CW126*

**Walkers & Toddlers (12-24 months):** *CW127*

**2-3 Year Olds:** *CW124*

**Quiet Room:** *CW125*

**PreK + Kindergarten Large Group:** *CW110*

**PreK:** *CW116*

**Kindergarten:** *CW114*

**1st Grade:** *CW111*

**2nd + 3rd Grade:** *CW120*

**Preteens (4th–5th Grade):** *CW131 (Old Bookstore)*

**Confirmation (6th Grade):** *E201, OHS C Wing*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sept. 14** | 3:00 p.m. | Ordination Service for Mallory Hammond

**Sept. 24** | 6:00–8:00 p.m. | Spiritual Gifts Class (Option 1)

**Sept. 25** | Dinner (5:30) and Choral Vesper Service (6:30)

**Oct. 5** | 12:00–2:00 p.m. | Spiritual Gifts Class (Option 2)

**Oct. 25** | 9:00 a.m. | Inquirers Class

**Oct. 26** | 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. | 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** | 9:45 a.m.; 11:00 a.m. Recognition | Baptism  
Remembered Milestone (Kindergarten)

### YOUTH

**Sept. 14, 21, 28** | 9:45 a.m. | Follow Me Sunday School  
Series for 7th Graders & Parents

**Oct. 25-26** | Fall Overnight

### FIRST FRIENDS

**Sept. 18** | 12:00 p.m. | Lunch & Speaker Series

**Sept. 18** | 3:00 p.m. | Book Review: Conscious Living,  
Conscious Aging (Thursdays through September 25)

**Sept. 22** | 9:30 a.m. | Woodworking Workshop with Julia  
Wilk – Making Charcuterie Boards

**Oct. 9** | 11:30 a.m. | New Beginnings Fall Lunch for Widows

**Oct. 10** | Men's 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

**Oct. 14** | PW Circles Begin

### MISSIONS

**Sept. 20–21, 27–28, & Oct. 4–5** | Habitat Build

**Oct. 14** | 4:30–7:30 p.m. | Nueva Vida Service Project