



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
Church of Nashville

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST

*September 28, 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

*As we learn about one another in relationship, we learn more about who we are, and who God is. Today's sermon will explore how we relate to God. The Psalms are a good starting-point since prayer is the practice of the divine-human relationship.*

—Dr. Megan Daffern

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

VOLUNTARY | Psalm 37:11

*Psalm Prelude, Op. 32, No. 2*  
Herbert Howells

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 | Psalm 113

Gage Arnold (8:30)  
Adrian Taylor (11:00)

Leader: Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD! Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore! From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised!

**All: The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens! Who is like the LORD our God, who is seated on high, who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?**

Leader: He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people. He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children. Praise the LORD!

**All: Exalt the LORD our God; Worship at his footstool! Praise the LORD!**

\*OPENING HYMN 645

*Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*  
MIT FREUDEN ZART

\*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. Mallory Hammond

FIRST LESSON | Isaiah 44:1-8 (page 604)

Michael Baron (8:30)  
Glynn Dowdle (11:00)

<sup>1</sup>“But now hear, O Jacob my servant, Israel whom I have chosen! <sup>2</sup> Thus says the LORD who made you, who formed you from the womb and will help you: Fear not, O Jacob my servant, Jeshurun whom I have chosen.

<sup>3</sup> For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. <sup>4</sup> They shall spring up among the grass like willows by flowing streams. <sup>5</sup> This one will say, ‘I am the LORD’s,’ another will call on the name of Jacob, and another

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will write on his hand, ‘The LORD’s,’ and name himself by the name of Israel.”<sup>6</sup> Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: “I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.<sup>7</sup> Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen.<sup>8</sup> Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any.”

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Dr. John Musgrave (8:30)

Rev. Sara Hill (11:00)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. 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.*

HYMN OF PREPARATION 377 (8:30)

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*  
HOUSTON

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ANTHEM (11:00) | Women's Chorale

*My Song in the Night*  
Elaine Hagenberg

O Jesus my Savior, my song in the night, come to us with thy tender love. my soul's delight. Unto thee O Lord, in affliction I call my comfort by day and my song in the night. O why should I wander, a stranger from thee, or cry in the desert, thy face to see? My comfort and joy, my soul's delight. O Jesus my Savior, my song in the night.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING | Matthew 18:1-5 (page 823)

<sup>1</sup> At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" <sup>2</sup> And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them <sup>3</sup> and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>5</sup> Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me..."

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

**Who Is Like God?**

Dr. Megan Daffern

*The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens!*

—Psalm 113:4

OFFERTORY | Psalms 65 & 67, Isaiah 23

*Thou, O God, Art Praised in Sion*  
Malcolm Boyle

Thou, O God, art praised in Sion, and unto thee shall the vow be perform'd in Jerusalem. Thou that hearest the prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come. Blessed is the man whom thou chooseth and receivest unto thee. He shall dwell in thy courts and shall be satisfied with the pleasures of thy house, e'en of thy holy temple. Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stay'd on thee. Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the Lord for ever, for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength. Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stay'd on thee, because he trusteth in thee. Let the people praise thee, O God, yea, let all the people praise thee. Then shall the earth bring forth her increase; and God shall give us his blessing.

*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 [spcnashville.org](http://spcnashville.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 802

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*  
ST. COLUMBA

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

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CHORAL RESPONSE | Psalm 121

*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

*A Thornbury Fanfare*  
Malcolm Archer

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

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#### PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

Ryan Moore, PhD – *Pastor*  
Megan Daffern, DPhil – *Canon Chancellor of Wells Cathedral*  
Mallory Hammond, MDiv – *Parish Associate, Director of Ministry to Children and Their Families*  
Sara Hill, MDiv – *Parish Associate*  
John Musgrave, DMin – *Parish Associate*  
Adrian Taylor, MDiv – *Director of Missions Ministry*  
Gage Arnold, MDiv – *Director of Youth Programming*  
Raphael Bundage, DMA – *Director of Music*  
Joseph Fala, MM – *Assistant Director of Music and Organist*  
Rhonda Swanson, MM – *Assistant Organist*  
Women's Chorale (11:00)  
*Acolytes* – Graham Swafford and Kennedy Swafford, Sam Byram and Ward Byram

#### SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Flowers in the chancel are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the marriage of Ollaneve Marie Storms and Michael Hudson MacDonald and in loving memory of Joy Williams.

#### 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.



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#### SYMPATHIES

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of

**Lucille White Hoffman**, who died September 17.

## 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://www.youtube.com/firstpresbyterianchurchofnashville).

### Sunday Morning for Families

On Sunday mornings, children are welcome in worship alongside their families. **Nursery** care is available for ages 0–3 in the Nursery Wing from 8:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m., with a Mother and Infant Quiet Room nearby. **Children ages 4–6** are invited, following the Blessing of the Young Disciples, to Young Children & Worship in Grundy Hall, with pickup in Room CW 110 after the service. **Older children** remain in worship, where activity bags are available at each Sanctuary entrance. At 9:45 a.m., children of all ages are invited to the Education Hour. Nursery through 3rd grade gather in the Children’s Ministry lobby for check-in and pickup. Preteens (4th–5th grade) check in outside Room CC 131, while 6th graders in Confirmation gather outside Room E201 in the Oak Hill C-Wing.

## GUEST PREACHER DR. MEGAN DAFFERN

We are delighted to welcome Megan Daffern as our guest preacher. Megan is Canon Chancellor of Wells Cathedral, England, where she oversees Education, including the Chained Library and Archives. She previously served as Acting Dean and Director of Studies in Theology at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, and has taught Hebrew Bible/Old Testament courses at Cambridge and Oxford. Her research focuses on the Psalms and Hebrew Bible poetry, with particular interest in exegetical methods informed by linguistics.

Megan has a special connection to our congregation: just over a year ago, the First Presbyterian Choir served as choir-in-residence at Wells Cathedral. During that week, Megan’s sermons and conversations revealed her depth, kindness, and sense of calling. She even preached a memorable sermon inspired by Dolly Parton’s *How to Be a Diamond in a Rhinestone World*, which she received as a gift from our choir.

**MUSIC NOTES:** Malcom Archer, composer of today’s opening voluntary, is an English composer, conductor and organist. He was Organist and Master of the Choristers at Wells Cathedral (1996-2004), followed by posts at St Paul’s Cathedral and Winchester College. Set to the tune Thornbury, the English hymn extols God’s guiding hand toward “one church, one faith, one Lord.”

*Come, Ye That Love the Lord* arr. by Alice Parker © 1967 Lawson-Gould Music Publishers All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-714895 | *I Will Lift Mine Eyes* by Jake Runestad © 2010 Boosey & Hawkes, an Imagem Company (ASCAP). All rights reserved. CCS #9151 | *My Song in the Night* - Elaine Hagenberg © 2022 Elaine Hagenberg Music, LLC. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-714895. | *Three Psalm - Preludes for Organ, Op. 32: Psalm-Prelude II* - organ arrangement | Herbert Howells © 2020 The Leupold Foundation. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-714895. | *Thou O God Art Praised in Sion* by Malcolm Boyle © 1987, Paraclete Press All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-714895.

**COVER IMAGE:** Franz Ludwig Catel, *First Steps*, c. 1820–25. Oil on canvas, 18 3/4 × 14 3/4 in. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.—A child takes its first steps, guided and supported; an image of trust, growth, and new beginnings. Like Matthew 18:1–5, it reminds us to approach God with humility and childlike faith. It echoes Psalm 113 in celebrating how God lifts the lowly and Isaiah 44:1–8 in showing the Spirit pouring life into dry and waiting places. In this tender moment, we glimpse the faithful care of God, who nurtures, sustains, and redeems.

**Congregational Meeting | Today | Following both Worship Services**—The Session has called a Congregational Meeting 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. View the slate of nominees at [fpcnashville.org/nominees](http://fpcnashville.org/nominees).

Class of 2028 Elder candidates are: Bill Akin, Sam Cook III, Nell Ann Crowe, Ben Elrod, Rick Gernert, Carrie Hininger, Warner McNeilly III, Dorothy Pace, Bob Rolfe Sr., Hal Sauer, Jane Smith, and Scott Standard.

Class of 2028 Deacon candidates are: Will Akin, John Atchley Jr., Charles Barrett, Jean Campbell, Amy Colton, Gretchen Ekiss, Mary Julia Hannon, Patricia Heim, Laura Hollins, Mary Frances Kerr, Blewett McInteer, Laura Morgan, Suzy Morrison, Will Overton, Katie Pickel, James Pitman, Jack Richmond, Jackson Ross III, Lamar Stanley, and Brannon Taylor.

**Security Changes for Sunday Mornings**—For the past several months, our Worship Council and Diaconate have been thoughtfully reviewing how best to make our Sunday mornings both safe and welcoming. As part of this effort, beginning Sunday, October 5, the Hospitality Center doors (located to the left of the Sanctuary, near the accessible parking and elevators) will remain locked throughout the morning. Because we know this entrance is especially important to many, a greeter will be stationed there from 8:00–11:00 a.m. to welcome you and provide entry. These doors may feel a little different—locked instead of open—but you will still be able to use them as usual, now with the added benefit of being greeted personally. Our main entrances on Sunday mornings remain the Children’s Entrance and the Sanctuary Entrance, both of which continue to be staffed with greeters and security personnel.

**Our Pastoral Staff Is Here for You—With Prayer and Presence**—Dr. Ryan Moore, Rev. Sara Hill, Dr. John Musgrave and Rev. Mallory Hammond 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.

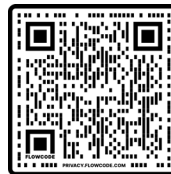
**Midweek Study with Ryan Moore | Wednesdays | 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. | Session Room**—All are welcome to a weekly lunch and study with Dr. Ryan Moore. This fall, the class will be studying the book of Ecclesiastes. Ecclesiastes is for people who have their doubts about God but can’t stop thinking about him. The author of Ecclesiastes has his doubts also, and these allow him to speak to skeptics and believers down through the ages. A light lunch will be served, payment for which is donation-based.

**Spiritual Gifts Workshop | 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. Together, we will explore how God equips each of us with gifts to be used at home, at work, and in the church. Come ready to identify your gifts and consider how they can be used to God’s glory. Registration is required; please note if you need childcare when registering. Register at [fpcnashville.org/events](http://fpcnashville.org/events).

**Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat | Oct. 26 | 3:30–5:00 p.m.** Pull out your costumes, gather the family, and join us for an afternoon of festive fun and sweet fellowship! Our Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat will be packed with decorated trunks, candy galore, games, music, and all the cozy community fellowship you love. Whether you’re new or a familiar face, this is a great chance to celebrate the season together with church friends and neighbors. Come for the fun—stay for the fellowship!

**Fall Habitat Build | Oct. 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).

**Service Project | Oct. 14 | 4:30–7:30 p.m. | Nueva Vida** Help pack and distribute food to our neighbors in need through the Nueva Vida Food Project. Tasks include sorting, stocking shelves, and offering a friendly smile. We are looking for up to 5 volunteers for each date: Oct. 14, Nov. 18, Dec. 9. Register at [fpcnashville.org/missions](http://fpcnashville.org/missions).



VISIT [LINKTR.EE/FPCNASHVILLE](http://LINKTR.EE/FPCNASHVILLE) TO REGISTER, DONATE, OR LEARN MORE

**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.

# First Friends

## UPCOMING EVENTS

First Friends is a dynamic ministry that caters to the needs of adults ages 55 to 105. Whether you've been active before or never attended a First Friends event, you're invited to join any of the activities below! For questions or more information about any First Friends event, contact Sally Ostheimer at [sostheimer@fpcnashville.org](mailto:sostheimer@fpcnashville.org), call 615-298-9551 or visit [fpcnashville.org/firstfriends](http://fpcnashville.org/firstfriends).

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

**Men's Trip to Tour Lane Auto Museum & Lunch**  
Oct. 10 | 10:00 a.m.–2:15 p.m.

**Day Trip to Dickson and Lyles**  
Oct. 13 | 9:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

**Luncheon & Speaker Series: Cybersecurity 101**  
Oct. 16 | 12:00 p.m.

**Book Club: *A Walk in The Park***  
Oct. 21 | 2:30 p.m.

**Goodwill Industries Tour & Lunch**  
Oct. 27 | 9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

## STAY CONNECTED

*Stay informed about FPC by:  
reading our weekly email, Parish News,  
or seasonal print newsletter, First News.*

*To sign up, email  
[communications@fpcnashville.org](mailto:communications@fpcnashville.org)  
or update your subscriptions at:  
[fpcnashville.org/my-subscriptions](http://fpcnashville.org/my-subscriptions).*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Oct. 5** | 12:00–2:00 p.m. | Spiritual Gifts Class (Option 2)
- Oct. 25** | 9:00–1:00 p.m. | One Day 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)
- Nov. 2** | 11:00 a.m. | New Members Joining Day
- Nov. 2** | 12:15–1:30 p.m. | Christmas Pageant Tryouts & Lunch
- Nov. 9** | 12:15–1:30 p.m. | Christmas Pageant Rehearsal & Lunch
- Nov. 10** | 7:00 p.m. | Organ Recital, Joey Fala (Nashville AGO)
- Nov. 11** | 8:00 a.m. | Veteran Breakfast
- Nov. 16** | 12:15–1:30 p.m. | Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

## CHILDREN & FAMILIES

- Sept. 28** | 9:45 a.m. | Mission Milestone (4th–5th Grade)
- Oct. 26** | 9:45 a.m.; 11:00 a.m. | Recognition; Baptism Remembered Milestone (Kindergarten)
- Nov. 16** | 9:45 a.m. | Sanctuary Tour and Communion Milestone (1st Grade)

## YOUTH

- Sept. 28** | 9:45 a.m. | Follow Me Sunday School Series for 7th Graders & Parents
- Oct. 25–26** | Middle School Fall Overnight
- Nov. 2** | 9:45 a.m. | Prayer Partner Breakfast
- Nov. 8** | 9:00 a.m. | Youth Serve Saturday
- Nov. 23** | 9:30 a.m. | Thanksgiving Breakfast with Children and Youth Stewardship Presentation

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

- Oct. 14** | Circles Begin
- Nov. 3** | PW Handiwork Drop-in

## MISSIONS

- Oct. 4–5** | Habitat Build
- Oct. 12** | 4:30–6:30 p.m. | Serving Meals at Matthew 25
- Oct. 14** | 4:30–7:30 p.m. | Nueva Vida Service Project
- Nov. 12** | 11:00–5:00 p.m. | Blood Drive
- Nov. 18** | 4:30–7:30 p.m. | Nueva Vida Service Project