

\* Confession of Sin  
Gracious Lord,  
you created the world and called it good,  
but we see division and suffering all around.  
You call us to maintain the unity of Spirit  
through the bond of peace,  
but we choose division over diversity,  
confrontation over civility,  
conflict over peace born from justice.  
You call us to love the least of these,  
but we hear the cries of the oppressed  
and choose our own comfort.  
Forgive us. Grant us fresh vision  
to see one another as siblings in Christ.  
Rekindle in us your gifts  
that with faith in Christ,  
we might be made new  
and be part of bringing forth  
your peaceable kingdom

\* Assurance of Forgiveness

\* Musical Response *Glory Be to the Father*  
words from liturgy | music by John Stafford

Scripture: Matthew 2:13-15

Scripture: Exodus 14:5-7, 10-14, 21-29

Sermon Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

\* Affirmation of Faith

*The 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.

Prayers of the People

Announcements

Minute for Mission

Commitment 2023  
Troy and Kia Creamer

Celebrations

Offertory *No Longer Slaves*  
words and music by Jonathan David Helser and Melissa Helser

\* Doxology *New Doxology*  
words and music by Louis Bourgeois | Thomas Ken | Thomas Miller

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Communion of the People

**"The body of Christ, given for you."**

**"The blood of Christ, shed for you."**

Music during Communion

*Remembrance (The Communion Song)*

words and music by Matt Maher and Matt Redman

*You are invited to sing as Communion is served.*

\* Prayer after Communion

\* Song *Children of God*  
words and music by David Carr, Mac Powell, Mark Lee and Tai Anderson

\* Benediction

Postlude

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\*Those who are able are invited to stand.

**Bold** indicates words spoken in unison.

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**The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God,  
and in loving memory of Lois Simone  
and in honor of all church musicians,  
by Richard and Lynn Miller**

**Joys and Concerns this week:**

Barbara Wilson, Brooke and Stephanie Cunningham, Allen Cook,  
Betty Lomax

**Continuing Concerns:**

Dave Clingensmith (Fred Aggers' brother-in-law), Myrna  
Crocker, Lois Boyd (Ellie Grover's mother), Wanda Huntley,  
Maria Hudson, Rocky Mead (Chris Mead's father), Mike Purser  
(Kathy Sanborn's brother), Lee Sack (Gail Drinkard's mother),  
Carol Smith, Sharon Whittington

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### Church Life

**Reading Tutors Needed for Overton Elementary School** –  
Overton still needs reading tutors. If you are interested or have  
questions, please email Kathy Sang at [ksang@carolina.rr.com](mailto:ksang@carolina.rr.com) or  
call 704-762-0810.

**New Swingset for Overton** - Overton has asked for a swing set  
for their children with special needs. We need funds to purchase  
the materials to build the swing set and seats with safety  
harnesses. If you can make a donation to this project, please write  
"swing set" on the memo line of your check. We also need a team  
to build the wooden foundation. If you want to be part of this  
building team, please contact Kathy Sang at 704-762-0810.

**Maxwell Chambers Trust** will meet on Monday, October 17, at  
6:00, in Everyman's Classroom. We need all current and former  
Elders to attend, please.

**Day School Needs You!** If you like reading to children and  
seeing their eyes light up when they hear a story, the Day School  
has just the place for you! We'd love to have some guest readers  
to share stories and the love of reading with our kiddos. If you  
have an hour to share, please reach out to Christy Godbold  
([dayschool@fpc-sal.org](mailto:dayschool@fpc-sal.org)). You can pick your day and time to read  
with these precious gifts from the Lord.

# First Presbyterian Church

October 2, 2022  
World Communion Sunday  
8:30 am



**Hands-On Commitment** - The first step in determining how you will support the Lord's work through FPC is to pray with a humble heart. As you pray, be still and listen for the Lord's direction. As you listen to the Lord, let him guide you as you pledge your resources to give, serve, and reach out in His name. Pray and listen to what God wants you to do with the resources you have been given.

**Adult Sunday School** – We encourage you to grow in fellowship and faith by joining a Sunday School class. Here is what everyone is studying this fall:

The Contemporary Christian Class: Book of Mark will continue into the fall, then they will move on to “The Mothers and Daughters of the Bible Speak,” by Shannon Bream.

Mary and Martha Class: The Present Word

Open Door: Max Lucado's “You Are Never Alone” looks at the miracles of Jesus as recorded in the book of John.

New Horizons: “Fear of the Other” by William Willimon

Discovery: Select topics and will begin “The Journey” by Adam Hamilton for Advent.

Everyman's Bible Class: The Present Word

Sisters in Christ: Kelly Minter's “Encountering God”

**FPC is in the process of starting a new driving ministry!**

We are calling it “Presbyterian Pick-up,” and its primary objective is to provide rides to Sunday worship services to fellow disciples who no longer drive. It will be a service provided by the Board of Deacons under the Congregational Connection Committee. Drivers will be matched with riders on an as-needed basis. If you would be willing to help by volunteering to be a driver, please call or email Anne Saunders at 704-640-4546, anneramsaysaunders@gmail.com.

**New Prayer time Ministry!** Join us on Wednesday mornings at 7:30 am, in the Sanctuary. Pastor Lara will be leading the Contemplative Prayer time. Join her for a mid-week moment to be still and know that God is God.

**New Members Class** – Wondering what First Presbyterian is all about? Interested in joining our family of faith? Join us on Sunday, October 16, at 12:15, in Fellowship Hall for our New Members Class. Reservations are requested no later than October 10 by calling the church office at 704-636-1321. Lunch will be provided.

**Prayer Warriors** – The Evangelism Committee has re-established the prayer group “Prayer Warriors.” It is a small but friendly group believing strongly in the power of prayer. The group meets weekly via ZOOM and keeps a daily list of prayer needs. If you have a prayer concern of any kind or are interested in joining the group, please contact Diane Coggin. Email ddcoggin54@gmail.com, text or call 704-754-3650.

**Don't assume we know** - Are you or your family having surgery, going through an illness, having a new baby, or any life-changing events? Your pastors and congregation want to care for you through prayer, visitation, letters, and more, but we can't do that unless you tell us something is going on. Let us love you.

FPC Cash Flow as of 8-31-22		Giving	
YTD Income	\$721,594.99	YTD Budgeted Giving	\$728,308.67
YTD Expense	\$720,182.61	YTD Actual Giving	\$696,755.91
<b>Positive</b>	\$ 1,412.38	<b>Under</b>	\$ 31,552.76

**This Week @ FPC**

2 Sun	3 Mon	4 Tues	5 Wed	6 Thurs
8:30: Worship- Lewis Hall 9:45: Sunday School 11:00: Worship- Sanctuary 7:00: RTF Study-Zoom	11:00: PW Bible Study 5:30: Personnel 6:00: Youth 7:00: All Committee	10:00: Staff	5:30: Handbells 5:30: Jr/1st Kids 7:00: Choir, RTF Study-Zoom 7:30: Youth @ Porch	6:30: LCW Rehearsal

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**Missional Priorities**

Spirit-Centered Discipleship      Friendship Across Difference  
Hands-on Local Mission              Embracing the Unchurched

**Worship of the Living God**

Prelude

Welcome

Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

\* Call to Worship

*Adapted from Isaiah 55*  
Dr. Randy Kirby

From north and south and east and west,  
**all Creation sings forth your praises!**  
The mountains and the hills burst into song;  
**the trees of the field shall clap their hands.**  
Your steadfast love never ceases.  
**With joy and peace, let us worship God together.**

\* Song

*I Am Free*  
words and music by Jon Egan