

\* Song *Not To Us*  
Words and music by Chris Tomlin | Jesse Reeves

\* Confession of Sin  
**Great God of storytelling,  
you tell us that we are created  
as your beloved children,  
sinner and saint, flawed and forgiven,  
little and loved.  
Yet, too often, we hear and tell false narratives  
that forget who we are in your sight,  
that paint neighbors as threats or competitors,  
and overlook your covenant commitment  
to this world.  
We are sorry and humbly repent.  
Turn our hearts back to you.  
Sing to us the song of your salvation.  
Surround us with the story of your love.**

\* Assurance of Forgiveness

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

Baptism & Children's Message

Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20

Scripture: Genesis 11:27-12:9

Sermon Rev. Josh 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 & the Lord's Prayer

Announcements

Minute for Mission Rochelle Bost

Celebrations

Offering

Offertory *My God is Still the Same*  
words and music by Benji Cowart | Chris Rohman | Dustin Lolli | Josh Bronleewe

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

\* Prayer of Dedication

\* Song *Great Are You Lord*  
Words and music by David Leonard | Jason Ingram | Leslie Jordan

\* 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 Patsy and John O. Reynolds  
by Ozzie, Chance, and family**

**Joys and Concerns this week:**

Carol Smith, Allen Cook, Betty Lomax, Jennifer Hands, Dave Clingensmith (Fred Aggers' brother-in-law)

The family of Rip Kersey, who died on September 10

Tony Almeida and family, on the death of his brother, Mike Almeida

Acey and Carol Worthy, on the birth of their great-granddaughter, Anastasia Kerr, on September 4. Her parents are Acey and Vicki Kerr

**Continuing Concerns:**

Jim Ayers (Anne Hollifield's son-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), Sharon Whittington

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**Church Life**

**Baptism** – This morning, during the 8:30 service, Johnny and Maggie Behrooz present their daughter, Lottie Frances Behrooz, for baptism. Lottie was born on February 22, 2022, and her older siblings are Eleanor and James.

**Courtyard Vespers return!** TODAY we will gather in the church courtyard for Vespers at 4:00. The service will feature special music provided by John Stafford and focus on scripture readings, prayers, and reflection time, allowing space for more contemplative worship. An additional feature this fall will be the inclusion of prayers for Healing and Wholeness. We hope you will join us. The prelude music begins at 3:45.

**From Covenant to Christ: Journeying Through The Bible In a Year** - From now through mid-May, the weekly sermon scriptures will come from the Narrative Lectionary. The texts will walk through the big story of the Bible in order. From Genesis to Revelation, the story of God's redemptive love will come together week to week!

**First Presbyterian is committed to doing hands-on local mission with Overton Elementary this year.** We have an audacious goal of supporting at least 10% of their most at-risk families with at least 10% of our congregation this year. We want to be champions for Overton in partnership and prayer. The school has asked us to first, step up by reading weekly with kids.

# First Presbyterian Church

September 18, 2022

8:30 am



## Missional Priorities

Spirit-Centered Discipleship  
Hands-on Local Mission

Friendship Across Difference  
Embracing the Unchurched

## Worship of the Living God

Prelude

Welcome

Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

\* Call to Worship

Dr. Randy Kirby

Through creation, God was writing a story,

**a story of life, goodness, and beauty.**

Through covenant with Israel, God was writing a story,

**a story of love's commitment through human sin.**

Through Christ, God was writing a story

**a story of hope in the face of evil and death.**

Through the early church, God was writing a story

**a story of transformational community.**

God has been writing one great story,

**a story of redemption and healing  
for the whole world**

God is still writing that story here and now.

**Come, let us find ourselves in the midst**

**of God's grand story!**

## Reading Tutors Needed for Overton Elementary School –

Do you have an hour a week that you could help two children read? You choose the day and time that is best for you. To volunteer, you need to complete a criminal background check and child abuse prevention training. If you are interested or have questions, please email Kathy Sang at [ksang@carolina.rr.com](mailto:ksang@carolina.rr.com).

## Overton Missions - All Overton Elementary School Volunteers

are invited to dinner Wednesday, September 28, at 5:00, in Lewis Hall. Learn more about the mission opportunities at Overton, find out what a reading tutor does, and complete the mandatory child abuse prevention training. Call the church office or email Kathy Sang at [ksang@carolina.rr.com](mailto:ksang@carolina.rr.com) to sign-up. The registration deadline is September 22.

## 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.

## Calling parents of all 8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders who have not

participated in Confirmation! Please contact Kathy Sanborn at 980-234-2336 or [mcduffkp@yahoo.com](mailto:mcduffkp@yahoo.com) by September 30 to let her know if your child will be joining our 2023 Confirmation Class. Confirmation is scheduled to run from January through April during the Sunday School hour. Additional information will be provided in early October to confirmands and their parents. We hope to see a large group to learn more about what we believe, how we worship, and the church's sacraments.

## Do you love organizing things? Do you love books? Are you

interested in serving the children of our church in a unique way? We need a librarian for the Children's Library, utilized often by our Day School and church members. If you are interested, please let Melanie Burton (704-500-6055) know. Many thanks to Helen Kichefski, who has served as the librarian in the Children's Library for several years. We appreciate your dedication and service.

## Hands-On Commitment - As we begin this Commitment

season, please remember the four components of our Hands-On Commitment. Pray with a humble heart. Give with a grateful heart. Serve with a willing heart. Reach out with an open heart. Hebrews 13:16 says, "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." As you begin considering your role in doing the Lord's work through FPC, seek to know what God wants you to do with the resources you have been given.

## Special Opportunity - Hear Dr. Gary Freeze's talk on "Notes on

the Racial History of Rowan" at the September 27 meeting of the Race Task Force in Lewis Hall. The meeting starts at 5:30 with a covered-dish dinner; participants are asked to bring a side dish or dessert. Call the church office or email [cmowery@fpc-sal.org](mailto:cmowery@fpc-sal.org) to make a reservation. The deadline is September 23.

## Adult Sunday School Kicks off today! Join a class now. 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: The Wired Word

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"

## 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.

### This Week:

18 Sun	19 Mon	20 Tues	21 Wed	22 Thurs
8:30: Worship-Lewis Hall	10:30: PWCT	10:00: Staff	12:00: Newsletter deadline	MOW
9:45: Sunday School	5:00: Finance	5:00: RHM Board mtg	5:30: Handbells	6:30: LCW Rehearsal
11:00: Worship-Sanctuary	7:00: Session		5:30: Jr/1st Kids	
4:00: Courtyard Vespers			7:00: Choir/RTF Study-Zoom	
5:00: Youth			7:30: Youth @ Porch	
7:00: RTF Study-Zoom				

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