

* Hymn 804

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

* Confession of Sin

Merciful God,

we confess that our words and actions do not always line up. We are quick to confess our faith, but slow to live it. We sing praise to your name, but harden our hearts to those in need.

Change us, O God. By your grace, transform us. Root out our selfishness, and replace it with compassion and generosity. Empower us by your Spirit that we might be doers of your word and not hearers only. All this we pray in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

* Assurance of Forgiveness

* Response 581

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.

Proclamation of the Word

Children's Message

Delaine Fowler

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: James 1:17-27

Scripture: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Sermon

Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

Moment for Reflection

Responding to the Word

* Affirmation of Faith

Rev. Margaret Almeida

The Brief Statement of Faith

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, Come, Lord Jesus! With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Announcements & Celebrations

Offering

Offertory

Sanctuary Choir

Invitation to Communion
Deborah Govenor

* Hymn 498

Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken

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

* Prayer after Communion

Sending to share the Word

* Hymn 306

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

* Benediction

* Benediction Response

Postlude

Toccata on Wedlock – God is My Strong Salvation
Gordon Young

The living Christ encounters us in the ordinary elements of Communion. Christ extends the invitation to the Lord's Supper and is open to all – believers and doubters, young children and adults, members and non-members. To highlight this gracious welcome, only non-alcoholic juice is served, and gluten-free bread is available. If you would like to refrain from the feast, you may cross your arms, and a blessing will be offered. If you cannot come forward, a minister will serve you in your seat. If you feel so moved to respond, people often reply with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God."

*Those who are able are invited to stand.

Bold indicates words spoken in unison.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Richard Hudson, Henry McDuffie (Kathy Sanborn's brother-in-law), Bella Ross (Kathy Sanborn's young friend), Wayne and Jerry Boyer (Carol Worthy's cousins), Alice Edwards (Tracy Smith's mother)

Carol Sayers on the death of her daughter, Kelly Vecchio.

CONTINUING CONCERNS

Fred Aggers, Bill Baker, Scott Hay, Tricia Johnson, Vonnie Jordan (Mike Jordan's mother), Andy Rowland (Jared Rowland's father), Margie Shoaf (Jeff Shoaf's grandmother), John Smith, Ebbie Whisenant, Sharon Whittington, Acey Worthy

CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays: Margaret Harris, George Fisher, Libby Gish, James Mead, Cory Menees, Maggie Alexander, Kathy Lawrence, Jody Blackwell, Anne Saunders, Bill Shaw, Adair Doran, Lizzie Fisher, Delaine Fowler, Margaret Poor

MINISTRY FOCUS – DEEPLY ROOTED

Welcome! We welcome all new and returning visitors to First Pres. We are glad you're here and hope you feel God's presence as you worship and fellowship among this community of believers. Children are always welcome in worship. However, if your little one needs some time to wiggle or play, a nursery is available for children 4 and younger. Please see an usher for more information.

Communion Elder: John Cave

Grow in Faith: Children's Sunday School is on recess until September 15.

Grow in Friendship: First Pres 101 will meet on Sundays September 22 and 29 in the Welcome Center (classroom closest to Lewis Hall) from 9:45-10:45. This is a time to learn more about the rich history, faithful witness, and polity of the Presbyterian Church USA and First Pres. Anyone wishing to join in membership or a member seeking a refresher course are encouraged to attend. Please let the church office know you will be attending.

Grow in Faith: Confirmation will be held for all 8th and 9th graders from 9:45 to 10:45 on Sunday mornings beginning Sunday, September 22. Please share your interest with Kathy Sanborn if you would like to participate in confirmation as a student, leader, or mentor.



Grow in Faith: We need you! We are seeking Sunday School teachers for our elementary and adolescent Sunday School classes. Please prayerfully consider volunteering to lead or shepherd. Please sign up using the QR code below.

Grow in Friendship: Hands-On Rally Day – Sunday, September 15, we will host a Hands-on Rally in Lewis Hall beginning at 9:45! Plan to come and find a place to make a difference, grow your faith, or learn more about our wonderful church.

Grow in Friendship: Yoga Classes: Exercise your body, connect with your mind, and find strength through Yoga. Yoga is led by Felicia Hoyle and meets each Wednesday at 9:00, in the Fellowship Hall with a suggested \$10 donation. All are welcome.

CORE

Staff: Staff Emails: Please be sure to update the staff emails addresses in your accounts. Our old emails are no longer valid. **Here are the updated emails: pastorjosh, pastorlara, ahathcock, tfreitas, cmowery, clewis, atucker, and dayschool...all ending with @firstpressalisbury.org.**

Staff: Don't assume we know: 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.

BRANCHING OUT

Showing Up: Reading Tutors needed! School has started and we need to make plans for tutoring at Overton School! Many of you who tutored last year have indicated that you would like to return this fall. Now that the time has come, please confirm with us that you are still interested. Contact Lynn Hales by text at 704-640-7156 or Mike Drinkard at 770-283-9046 to confirm. We would also love some NEW volunteers. One day of your choice a week.

Community Ministries: The Race and Justice Ministry Team is having its 3rd EYES Table, a 4-week conversation, in September. Participants will select the day of the week they are available. Women of different races and denominations will meet at an EYES (Embrace Your Elephant Spiritually) table to journey and focus on educating, sharing, and addressing the elephant in the room for many Christians, Racism. Contact Michelle Strong at eyes.table@gmail.com or Debbie Collins at dgristcollins@gmail.com if you are interested.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sept 1	8:30	Contemporary Worship: Lewis Hall
	9:45	Adult Sunday School
	11:00	Traditional Worship: Sanctuary
Sept 2		Church Office Closed
	5:30	Showing Up Team
Sept 3	10:00	Staff
	3:00	Grow in Friendship
	7:00	Grow in Faith
Sept 4	9:00	Yoga
	5:30	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00	Choir Rehearsal, RJM Book Study
Sept 5	11:00	RISE Meeting
	6:30	Life Center Worship Rehearsal
Sept 8	8:30	Contemporary Worship: Lewis Hall
	9:45	Adult Sunday School
	11:00	Traditional Worship: Sanctuary
	7:00	RJM Book Study

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First Presbyterian Church
308 W Fisher St Salisbury NC 28144
704-636-1321 www.firstpressalisbury.org

First Presbyterian Church

September 1, 2024

11:00 am



Missional Priorities

Spirit-Centered Discipleship Friendships Across Differences
Hands-on Local Mission Embracing the Unchurched

Worship of the Living God

Gathering around the Word

Prelude Teresa de Freitas
In Remembrance
Buryl Red
Welcome Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

* Call to Worship Rev. Lara Musser Gritter
Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
for now, the winter is past; the flowers appear on the earth.
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
the time of singing has come;
the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.
Join with all nature in manifold witness,
arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
Let us worship God!