

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
September 1, 2024 11:00 am

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WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

PRAYER (TO BE PRAYED SILENTLY UPON ENTERING THE SANCTUARY)  
From Ephesians 4:2- 4: Father, please help us to walk in a manner worthy of You and Your call to us. Give us a spirit of humility, gentleness and patience that we may show tolerance for one another in love. Help us to be diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF FRIENDSHIP PADS

INTROIT

*"Take, O Take Me as I Am; There is a Place of Quiet Rest"*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Arise, my love, my fair one and come away.

**People: Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,**

Leader: For now the winter is past; the flowers appear on the earth.

**People: Sun, moon and stars in their courses above**

Leader: The time of singing has come; the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

**People: Join with all nature in manifold witness**

Leader: Arise, my love, my fair one and come away.

**People: To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.  
Let us worship God!**

\*HYMN "This is My Father's World" No. 370  
(Purple Hymnal)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**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 we pass by orphans and widows on the other side of the street. Change us, O God. By your grace, transform us. Root out the selfishness that hardens our hearts, 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 PARDON

\*GLORIA PATRI No. 623 (Red Hymnal)  
**"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."**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

ANTHEM "We Gather at Your Table, Lord"  
By Walter Ehret

SCRIPTURE LESSON James 1:17-27

SCRIPTURE LESSON Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

SERMON Rev. Larry Green  
Irritable Christian Syndrome

\*THE APOSTLES' CREED (see back of red hymnal)

\*HYMN "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness" No. 291  
(Purple Hymnal)

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY No. 624 (Red Hymnal)  
**"Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen."**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Minister: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

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

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Minister: It is truly right and our greatest joy ... Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the choirs of

heaven and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**People:** *Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

Minister: Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we take this bread and this wine from the gifts you have given us and celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen. Great is the mystery of faith.

**People:** *Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.*

Minister: Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

**All:** *AMEN.*

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(see back of red hymnal)

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Minister: This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.

**All:** *Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.*

\*HYMN "Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling" No. 418  
(Purple Hymnal)

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

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

**Leading Worship:** Rev. Larry Green, Minister; Margaret Poppell, Liturgist; Leah Metzger, Accompanist & Director



# Holy Communion



**KiDS** of all ages are welcome to join us on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month, starting October 6, for **KiDS PRAISE**. A time where kids can learn more about the Bible while having fun! Kids will join us in the sanctuary and walk over with a volunteer after the Gloria Patri.

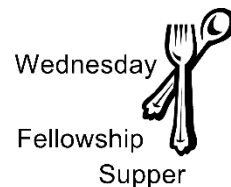
For more information contact Kristie Lutz.

We warmly greet all who have come to worship God. Your presence will enhance our worship experience and our fellowship together. Sincere thanks to each of you for your participation in the service. Glory be to God!

Presbyterians celebrate an "Open Communion." All are welcome to the table. "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" are encouraged to partake of this Holy Sacrament.

## **Notes & Announcements**

- **Church Office** closed Monday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>
- **Soup for the Soul** Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am
- **Ushers** for September 8<sup>th</sup>: Warren Gregory, Polly Kincaid, Betty Culbreath, Zack Wiggins, Stan Whiddon
- **Liturgist** for September 8<sup>th</sup>: Shona Whiddon
- **FPC website** [www.firstpresperry.org](http://www.firstpresperry.org)
- Send **prayer requests** to [prayer@firstpresperry.org](mailto:prayer@firstpresperry.org) or contact Jeanne Hilgendorf



Wednesday  
Fellowship  
Supper

**Wednesday night suppers** will resume Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> with potluck.

### **Session Committee leaders**

Administration-Joey Ratliff, Michael McMillan, Chuck Eckel

Christian Education-Martha Davis

Clerk-Cindy Brown

Congregation Care-Nancy Bell

Finance-Chuck Eckel, Jim Culbreath

Mission/Outreach-Cindy Brown

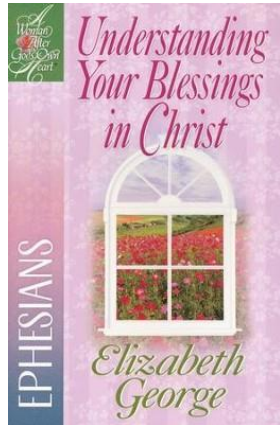
Worship/Music-Marilyn Culpepper, Zachary Wiggins

**Tuesday Bible Study** invites you to begin a new study on September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Room: 6

Time: 10:00 am

Contact Dianna Sandonato for more information



### **Understanding Your Blessings in Christ**

By: Elizabeth George

As God's children we have everything we could ever need for daily life. Yet we often miss these riches because we don't know what they are. In *Understanding Your Blessings in Christ*, Elizabeth George leads you through Ephesians to discover practical and fulfilling truths for your journey. There's nothing you can't handle with Christ's love inside you.

### **Craft Class**

We will resume craft class September 9th in room 6 at 1:00 pm. It is a busted canvas. If you are interested, RSVP to Dianna Sandonato by text by September 6th to have enough supplies.



### **Sunday School – Fall 2024**

On Sundays of September 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>, Marilyn Culpepper's class will join Cindy Brown's class.

**Why did Jesus teach parables?** The Sojourners adult Sunday School class will be returning to a study of Jesus' parables. Cindy Brown will be leading the study based on Terry Johnson's book The Parables of Jesus, Gary Inrig's book The Parables Understanding What Jesus Meant and John MacArthur's book Parables The Mysteries of God's Kingdom Revealed Through the Stories Jesus Told. The first three weeks will be about parables which seek to help us grow in God's kingdom. The next parables will be to help us seek to live in God's kingdom and the final parables will help us seek to finish in God's kingdom. The lesson on September 8<sup>th</sup> will be on the parable of the dragnet from Matt. 13:47.

Susan Lincoln will teach the Sojourners class beginning in January. The study will be announced at a later time.

### **A study of the book of Romans**

On September 29<sup>th</sup>, Marilyn's class will begin a study of the book of Romans. Understanding Romans is beneficial in understanding all of Scripture. In his comprehensive statement of the gospel, Paul brings together all the Bible's greatest themes: sin, law, judgment, human destiny, faith, works, grace, justification, sanctification, election, the plan of salvation, the work of Christ and of the Spirit, the Christian hope, the nature and life of the church, the place of Jew and non-Jew in the purpose of God, the meaning and message of the Old Testament, and the principles of personal godliness.