



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison, Pastor

Paul Laird, liturgist

October 18, 2026

Andrew Morris, organ

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Friendship Pads: Please help us maintain good communication with all our members and guests by completing the Friendship Register as it is passed from the end of each pew. Please let us know the best way to communicate with you. Be sure to greet folks new to you at the end of worship!

Cards of Encouragement: Blue cards found in the pew rack ~ please put in offering plate and we will send them out in the mail.

Introit

The Heavens Are Telling
HAYDN, MARTHA LYNN THOMPSON, arr

Westminster Ringers
Carol Fleeger, director
Andrew Morris, organ

Call To Worship

One: Come along with me as a sojourner in faith. Bring along a sense of expectancy, a vision of high hopes, a glimpse of future possibility, and a vivid imagination. For God's creation is not done.

All: We are called to pioneer a new future with God. As we venture forward, we leave behind our desires for a no-risk life, worldly accumulations, and certainty.

One: Let us travel light in the spirit of faith and expectation toward the God of our hopes and dreams.

All: Come along together as sojourners in faith, knowing that God goes with us and God is here now!

* Hymn of Praise

Here in This Place
GATHER US IN

Glory to God #401

* Call To Confession

Paul Laird, liturgist

One: So often, in the midst of demanding schedules or ordinary routines, the joy of loving relationships or the pain of conflict and loneliness, we forget our opportunity to encounter a more lasting, comprehensive reality. Consumed by our own ideas, we close ourselves to the presence of a holy God, a divine being whose image shines in those who are open. Let us confess together that we might open ourselves to God's presence with us.

* Prayer of Confession

Paul Laird, liturgist

God of wilderness people, whose children often traveled confused and fearful, we confess our own wanderings in sorrow, sadness and doubt. We know how it feels to be lost, hurting and troubled. It seems often that we are wandering scared from all that threatens us. Desperate for survival, we settle for only half-hearted attempts at life. Forgive our reckless measures to find security. Forgive our lack of confidence in the face of death. Give us a large measure of your spiritual nourishment so that even in the great difficulties, we will flourish in your grace.

* Silent Prayers of Confession

* Pouring the Water

* Words of Forgiveness

Paul Laird, liturgist

One: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. In our forgiveness, may we blossom fully with purpose and resolve, so that the world will know us by our love.

- * **Passing the Peace** Paul Laird, liturgist
 One: Knowing the grace and mercy of the Lord, we share it with one another.
 The peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you.
(Please greet one another and exchange signs of peace and reconciliation.)
- * **Hymn** GLORIA PATRI
Glory Be to the Father
Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.
- Prayer of Illumination** Paul Laird, liturgist
Holy One, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Spirit, that, as the scriptures are read
and your word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.
- Gospel Reading** Paul Laird, liturgist
 Romans 15:7-13
- Choral Anthem** Chancel Choir
Exsultate! Jubilate!
 KYLE PEDERSON
"Rejoice and shout to God, all the land!"
 Dr. Adrian Hartsough, director
 Andrew Morris, piano
- Hebrew Bible Reading** Ruth 1:14-19
- Sermon** Pastor Helen Hutchison
 Because the world is sick with sorrow go with joy
 Ruth - Loyalty/Faithfulness/Joy
- Hymn** **Glory to God #324**
For All the Faithful Women
 NYLAND
- Prayer of the People and the Lord's Prayer** from the Maori Tradition
Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world;
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trial too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.
- Minute for Mission** bobbie frances mcdonald
 Stewardship
- Call to Offering**
- The Offering** Andrew Morris, organist
- * **Doxology** **Glory to God #606**
Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heav'nly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

* **Prayer of Dedication**

* **Affirmation of Faith**

God is unfolding a new moment -- an hour of blessing, a time of healing, a day of beauty. It is a gift offered to you, filled with ordinary moments made holy by attention to the movements of Grace, the tremors of Love, the ripples of Hope, the whispers of Peace. This time is for you.

* **Closing Hymn**

You Shall Go out with Joy/The Trees of the Field (2 times)
THE TREES OF THE FIELD

Glory to God #80

* **Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Andrew Morris, organist

* Stand as you are able – in spirit or in body

Welcome!

We encourage everyone to come as you are, be who you are, and be in community with us! Whether you are joining us virtually or in person; we are happy to have you with us anytime! If you are new to First Presbyterian Church, please let us know you are here by signing the **Friendship Pad**. If you are worshipping with us online either live or recorded, please **email us at linda@firstpreslawrence.org** letting us know you joined us in worship. We look forward to getting to know you. If you are interested in membership, please talk to Pastor Helen.

Prayer List

Cares, Concerns and Celebrations

- **Our families** facing transitions and providing care to loved ones.
- **Mary Newberg Gale**, our former associate pastor, has received a cancer diagnosis. Prayers for her and her family as she begins chemotherapy.
- **Kelly Grube** is receiving a round of chemotherapy and is grateful for our prayer support.
- **Nora Wallace** asks for prayers for herself and her extended family as they manage multiple health issues.
- **Judy Wilson** is healing from a dog bite and a skin graft to repair it.
- **Kristi McAlister** continues to receive cancer treatments. Kristi and Pat McAlister (her mother) are grateful for our continued prayers and support.
- **Betty Thomas, Joy Laird's mother**, is receiving hospice care at Presbyterian Manor. Prayers help.
- **Diana Schoneweis' great nephew, Luke (12)**, completed chemotherapy. Prayers for healing.
- **Susan and Pat** - dealing with health concerns.
- **George Crump** asks for our prayers as he navigates life issues.
- **Allison Clunn-McPlin and family**, friends of Dave and Lois Dutcher. Allison has ALS and has entered a clinical trial which has proven helpful to her.

- **Nancy Brink**, a friend of Lois and Dave Dutcher, asks for prayers as she copes with brain and lung cancer.
- **Sammie Locke** is receiving care at Bridge Haven where she lives.

Sunday Helpers

Ushers: Larry Flottman

Greeters: Erinn Barcomb-Peterson, Petra and Quinn

South Door Greeter: Marcia McPhail

Offering: Paul Laird and Jim Rumsey

Friendship Pad Collector: Petra Peterson

Bag Brigade Volunteer: Linda Longino

Birthdays in the Congregation

October 22

Diane Zinn

John Mitchell

Annette Camlin

Thomas Lushington

October 23

Kim McLain

October 25

Trevor Lindemyer

Deacon Family Groups - 2026

A-B	Dorothy Devlin	Lf-Me	Deborah Norwood
C-Di	Lois Dutcher	Mf-N	Becky May
Dj-F	Sandy Groene	O-R	Diana Schoneweis
G-Ha	Melinda Fischer	S-Si	Charles Tuttle
Hb-J	Lucille Eggenberger	Sj-To	Mary Parkinson
K-Le	Linda Longino	Tj-Z	Nikki Barcomb

Calendar

October 18

9:15 am	Children's Sunday School
9:15 am	Adult and Youth Sunday School
10:00 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:30 am	Worship
11:30 am	Nominating Committee Meeting
11:30 am	2 nd Annual Chili Cook-Off

October 19

9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
1:15 pm	FPC Staff Meeting
2:00 pm	Pastor Helen's Class
6:00 pm	Westminster Ringers Rehearsal

October 20

9:00 am First 5 Years Classes
1:00 pm Small World Classes
2:00 pm Parkinsons Support Group
6:00 pm Deacon Meeting

October 21

9:00 am First 5 Years Classes
5:00 pm Personnel Committee Meeting
6:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 59 Meeting
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

October 22

9:00 am First 5 Years Classes
1:00 pm Small World Classes

6:30 pm

Property Committee Meeting

October 23

9:00 am First 5 Years Classes
10:00 am Men's Group
5:30 pm Girl Scout Troop 6219 Meeting

October 24

8:30 am Presby Pickers Rehearsal
9:15 am Children's Sunday School
9:15 am Adult and Youth Sunday School
10:00 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:30 am Worship
5:30 pm Solar Plug-In Presentation

Children Sunday School

• Sunday School Classes for Children

◦ Our October Study is called Honor God's Diversity

When you read the Bible closely, you can see that one of its amazing qualities is how its pages embrace a great diversity of voices. From one book to another—and even within a single book—the Bible is able to hold diverse genres, contexts, perspectives, and even theologies together. A beautiful example of this is at the very beginning of the Bible where we have, not one, but two creation stories back to back. Their mere presence testifies to a biblical valuing of diversity, and the content of these stories actually shows us some important principles about honoring God's diversity.

Just as the biblical text honors God's diversity in its many perspectives and in the balance that is struck between the broad and the specific, we are called to honor God's diversity in ways that balance broad inclusivity with specific foci. To truly honor God's diversity, the acknowledgment and praise of the diversity that we see in the Bible, creation, or our communities is one step. But it is not the end goal. Honoring diversity, as opposed to just seeing or having diversity, requires the difficult work of striving toward justice and equality. The following four central principles can guide us down a path of truly honoring God's diversity. We must:

- Affirm people who are marginalized
- Center voices from the margins
- Work for liberation while challenging oppression
- Use advantages to overturn inequality

Adult and Youth Sunday School

- Jeff Southard is leading a class "Islam in a Nutshell". He will provide an overview of the basic beliefs of Islam which is helpful as we try to understand the current events unfolding in the Middle East. All are welcome to join him in the Fireside Room.

Youth Activities and Opportunities –

- **Our next collection – Shoes!** We have collected 81 pairs of shoes for donation to the HRC. We will continue collection through the end of October. Please bring any donations you have collected by 10/31.
- Cooler temps may signal we have made it to fall. In the spirit of cooler weather we are announcing a **FALL FEST on Sunday, October 18th**. We will gather at my place, 3113 Winston Drive at 6:30. We will have a bonfire, pumpkins to paint, apple cider and snacks. Please RSVP if you plan to attend so we will have enough supplies for pumpkin decorating. Bring a friend or two and join us for some relaxing, outdoor time. PLEASE BRING A CHAIR for relaxing around the fire pit, as you are able. We will also welcome donations of gently used shoes that we are collecting, in support of HRC.

Second Annual Chili Cook-Off is today! We have our contestants and invite you to join us for a variety of chili types for lunch after worship today. Meet us in Fellowship Hall – I am sure you will be able to smell the wonderful aroma of chili!

Pastor Helen's Monday Class will gather together on October 5 to start a new class called **Christianities: the first 4 centuries C.E.** at 2 pm in the Fireside Room. We will be looking at different theological understandings in the early church movement. This week we turn to the Ebionites.