



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison, Pastor

Suzanne Galle, liturgist

September 27, 2026

Prelude

Andrew Morris, organ

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.

Choral Introit

Jazz Introit
CRAIG COURTNEY

Chancel Choir
Dr. Adrian Hartsough, director
Andrew Morris, piano

Call To Worship

One: Gathered here are the people of God, who come to sing praise and seek guidance for the lives we live.

All: Gathered here are the people of God, who come in joy and sorrow, in peace and despair.

One: Gathered here are the people of God, who come in thanksgiving and regret, in hope and grief.

All: We are the people of God! We give gratitude for this day, which will not dawn again.

One: Let us lift our voices in praise and thanksgiving.

* Hymn of Praise

Praise the Lord! God's Glories Show
LLANFAIR

Glory to God #33

* Call To Confession

Suzanne Galle, liturgist

* Prayer of Confession

Suzanne Galle, liturgist

God of wilderness people, whose children often roam confused and afraid, we confess our own wilderness wanderings. We know how it feels to be lost and alone, running scared from all that threatens us. Trying to serve you, we often come to the end of what our patience, strength and good sense can handle. Desperate for survival equipment, we cling to flimsy excuses or collapse in the midst of our journey.

As you have helped in ages past, speaking after earthquake, windstorm and fire, speak to us once again. Forgive our reckless measures to find security. Make the wild places of our lives fertile ground for the sound of your call. Give us spiritual food, so that we might have the energy to follow, even in extreme circumstances, in the way of your Son the Christ.

* Silent Prayers of Confession

* Pouring the Water

* Words of Forgiveness

Suzanne Galle, liturgist

One: Throughout Scripture, God uses wilderness experiences for important transformation, calling people to acts of great courage, service or discipleship. No place is so distant, dangerous or deserted that God cannot call, even in a still, small voice. Brothers and sisters in Christ, whether or not we are in the wilderness, we are called all along our journeys. Know that we are forgiven, and be at peace.

* Passing the Peace

Suzanne Galle, 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	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i> <i>Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost;</i> <i>As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.</i> <i>As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.</i> <i>Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.</i>	GLORIA PATRI
Prayer of Illumination	Suzanne Galle, 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	Matthew 11:28-30	Suzanne Galle, liturgist
Anthem	Chancel Choir You'll Never Walk Alone / Climb Every Mountain RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN, MARK HAYES, arr. Dr. Adrian Hartsough, director Andrew Morris, piano	
Hebrew Bible Reading	1 Kings 19:1-16	
Sermon	"God Provides Help"	Pastor Helen Hutchison
Hymn	<i>Be Still, My Soul</i> FINLANDIA	Glory to God #819
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	Nominating Committee	Paul Laird
The Offering	Andrew Morris, organist	
* Doxology	<i>Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow</i> <i>Praise God from whom all blessings flow</i> <i>Praise God all creatures here below</i> <i>Praise God above ye heav'nly host</i> <i>Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost</i>	Glory to God #606
* Prayer of Dedication		
* Affirmation of Faith	We are not alone; we live in God's world. We believe in God who has created and is creating; who has come to us in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new; who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church, to celebrate God's presence; to live with respect in creation; to love and serve others; to seek justice and resist evil; to proclaim Jesus' message of hope, inclusion and grace. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.	

* **Closing Hymn**

"Every Time I Feel the Spirit"
PENTECOST

Glory to God #66

* **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 they face this challenge.
- **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.
- **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 please.
- **Diana Schoneweis'** great nephew, **Luke (12)**, completed chemotherapy. Prayers for healing.
- **George Crump** asks for our prayers as he navigates life issues.
- **Sammie Locke** is receiving care at Bridge Haven where she lives.
- **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.
- **Susan and Pat** - dealing with health concerns.
- **Nancy Brink**, a friend of Lois and Dave Dutcher, asks for prayers as she copes with brain and lung cancer.

Sunday Helpers

Ushers: Need some volunteers please!

Greeters: Eva Alley

South Door Greeter: Jan Poulsen

Offering: Jeff Southard and Paul Laird
Friendship Pad Collector: Petra Peterson
Bag Brigade Volunteer: Dede Dresser

Birthdays in the Congregation

September 29	October 2
Ricky Moore	Pat Bates
September 30	Alisa Stucky
Erin Tuttle	
Rebecca Colburn	

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

September 27

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
11:30 am	Nominating Committee Meeting

September 28

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
6:00 pm	First 5 Years Board Meeting

September 29

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

September 30

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

October 1

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

October 2

9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
10:00 am	Men's Group
12:15 pm	First 5 Years Staff Meeting
4:00 pm	Boy Scout Hunter Education

October 3

8:30 am	Boy Scout Leadership Training
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October 4		10:00 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:15 am	Children's Sunday School	10:30 am	Worship
9:15 am	Adult and Youth Sunday School	1:30 pm	CROP Walk

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

- **New class will begin on September 27th.** Watching and reading the news and scrolling on social media can lead to sadness, fear, anger, and helplessness. We might even be grieving. But wait! There is always hope at the intersection of our current world crises and our faith! We can seek to grieve prophetically, seeing our world, even at its darkest, with the spirit and energy of the Hebrew prophets and the resurrected Christ. We are called to make a difference and contribute to the greater good. We will discuss the book, ***Grieving Our Loss of Democracy*** by Anne Hays Egan, with **Rev. Marc Giedinghagen** leading the discussion. Marc is a retired parish minister, chaplain and Clinical Pastoral Educator.

Youth Activities and Opportunities –

- **Be sure the CROP Walk is on your calendar for October 4th at 1:30.** Sign up with Claire Boyette to walk for this great cause! Please keep Kelly and family in your prayers as she continues with Chemo.
- **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.

Pastor Helen's Monday Class will not meet this week but 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. We will start with Acts of the Apostles and look at Pentecost (Acts 2:1–13, 2:22–36, 41), Phillip and The Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26–40), Peter and Cornelius (Acts 10:24–48) and The Council at Jerusalem (Acts 15:1–21). If you have a chance to look over these passages and ask yourself how do these early disciples understand Jesus and his role and ministry? Everyone is welcome.

World Communion Offering – Sunday October 4

The World Communion Offering works to ensure all God's people flourish as God intends through ministries working for racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith relations. Thank you for supporting this PCUSA Special Offering.

Worship for October and November

Every Gift Tells a Story

This past year has been one with wars in the international setting, battles in our political spheres, and people struggling to keep up with expenses. As we move into October and November our sermon series will be focused on ordinary people doing extraordinary things. There are many examples in Scripture and many examples in our church and community. This is our Stewardship Theme reminding all of us that we make a difference. When I get discouraged I look to two quotes that inspire me:

- “It is not your duty to finish the work, but neither are you at liberty to neglect it,” from Rabbi Tarfon (Pirkei Avot 2:16)
- “I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something that I can do.” Helen Keller

As we seek to acknowledge there are amazing things happening in a crazy world, we acknowledge God is working and engaged, and we offer ourselves trusting that with God we make a difference.

Handbell Ringers Needed!

The Westminster Ringers Handbell Choir is looking for new ringers for both treble and bass bells, beginning Monday, August 31. Rehearsals are held on Mondays, from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The group regularly participates in the 10:30 am worship service on the third Sunday of each month, September through May, with occasional additional services throughout the year.

Westminster Ringers will celebrate 50 years of ringing in 2027! If you would like to be part of this dynamic and fun group of musicians, contact director Carol Fleeger at carolfleeger@yahoo.com or 225-235-9285. We are looking forward to having YOU join us!

Answering the Question: But What Can We Do? Haskell Cemetery Donations

The Matthew 25 group is leading First Presbyterian Church's initiative to develop a closer and more informed, aware relationship with our Indigenous brothers and sisters. Part of that initiative is financially supporting the cleaning, refreshing, refurbishment, and resetting of the 103 gravestones in the Haskell Cemetery. This sacred space contains the burials of children and teens who died while at Haskell, predominantly spanning the years 1884 – 1913. Most of the tombstones were placed in the 1930's and detail the children's names, tribes, and lifespans. In a conversation with Travis Campbell, Director of the Haskell Cultural Center, inquiring about how First Presbyterian could be of meaningful support, he shared that he and Courtney King, Manager of Haskell's Eric Allen Greenhouse, are in the process of refurbishing the cemetery gravestones. This task requires substantial funds to purchase special gravestone cleaning kits with appropriate brushes and chemicals and to reset the stones as needed. Mr. Campbell was delighted and enthusiastic to hear that First Presbyterian will be making a financial contribution to this vital work of honoring those buried there. You can learn more about Haskell's early years and those buried in the cemetery in *Haskell Institute: 19th Century Stories of Sacrifice and Survival* by Haskell Professor Emerita Dr. Theresa Milk. You can donate by stopping by the Matt 25 table in the narthex or by giving by check or online to First Presbyterian Church, Haskell Cemetery Project.

Blessing of the Animals

Several people have asked that we have a Blessing of the Animals service. So, on Saturday, October 10th we plan to do just that! The Lawrence Humane Society has agreed to work with us on this project and in return we will help them with some much needed supplies. You can bring your donations of soft dog treats, dog and cat food, peanut butter, paper towels, sheets, blankets, small rugs, and spray cheese to the box in the Narthex. The Humane Society will bring some of their pets to share (adoption has to happen at their facility, so will not be available at this event). You might be a lucky person who can take a pet home for a day – if you are interested. Watch this space for more information as we get closer, but bring in those donations anytime!

