



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison, Pastor

Paul Laird, liturgist

October 4, 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: We praise you, extraordinary God, for the holiness of ordinary things —

All: A gathering of fellow believers, a song of praise, a prayer of thanksgiving,

One: A word, a loaf of bread, a cup, a fountain of water.

All: Send your spirit to rush, cool and clear, through our dry and brittle places.

One: May the spirit seep into the cracks and crevices of our hearts, that we might know you more fully and worship you more deeply.

* Hymn of Praise

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me
I'M GONNA LIVE

Glory to God #700

* 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

Holy God, you catch us unaware. From burning bushes, majestic sunrises, gentle streams, cluttered desks and hurried meals, you invite us to know you and hear your message. You visit us in so many ways. Your Presence can transform even the most ordinary into holy ground. Yet we are blind to you, for we expect you only in ways that fit our expectations, our conceptions. We are reluctant to heed your call, for it asks for commitment. We are filled with excuses and self-doubts when action is called for.

Remind us again that we are not alone, that in our weakness is your strength, and that in your call is our joy. In the name of Jesus.

* 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.
- Acts of the Apostles Reading** Paul Laird, liturgist
 Acts 4:13-20
- Anthem** Chancel Choir
Light of a Clear Blue Morning
 DOLLY PARTON, arr. CRAIG HELLA JOHNSON Dr. Adrian Hartsough, director
Andrew Morris, piano
- Hebrew Bible Reading** Judges 6:11-18
- Sermon** Pastor Helen Hutchison
*"Because the world is in despair go with hope
 God is in the Ordinary - think of what you can do!"*
- Hymn** See Insert
This Little Light of Mine
- Minute for Mission** Claire Boyette
 Crop Walk
- 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**
- Sacrament of Holy Communion**
Invitation to the Lord's Table
Words of institution
Communion of the People
 As the ushers direct your row, please come forward by the center aisle to receive the bread and the cup.
 You will partake of communion at the front and return to your seats by the south aisle.
 Communion will be taken to those who wish to remain in their seats.
- Prayer of the People and The Lord's Prayer**
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.
- * **Affirmation of Faith** The Apostle's Creed (Traditional Version)
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

* Closing Hymn

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart
BICENTENNIAL

Glory to God #523

* 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.
- 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 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: Eva Alley

Greeters: Jeff and Peggy Southard

South Door Greeter: Jan Poulsen

Offering: Erinn Barcomb-Peterson, Larry Flottman

Friendship Pad Collector: Petra Peterson

Bag Brigade Volunteer:

Birthdays in the Congregation

October 5

Web Golden

October 9

G. R. Laughlin

Taylor Mitchell

October 10

Ruth Hughes

LeeAnne Pringle

Andrew Schoneweis

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 4

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

1:30 pm

CROP Walk

October 5

9:00 am

First 5 Years Classes

1:15 pm

FPC Staff Meeting

2:00 pm

Pastor Helen's Class

3:45 pm

PW Eve Circle Meeting

6:00 pm

Westminster Ringers Rehearsal

October 6

9:00 am

First 5 Years Classes

1:00 pm

Small World Classes

October 7

9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
6:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop 59 Meeting
7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
October 8	
9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
1:00 pm	Small World Classes
6:30 pm	PW Ruth Circle Meeting
7:00 pm	Girl Scout Service Unit Meeting
October 9	
10:00 am	Men's Group

October 10	
12:00 pm	Girl Scout Hispanic Heritage Event
1:00 pm	Blessing of the Animals
October 11	
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 pm	Justice Matters House Meeting

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

- **Grieving Our Loss of Democracy with Rev. Marc Giedinghagen** concludes this Sunday at 9:15 am in the Fireside Room. 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! Marc is a retired parish minister, chaplain and Clinical Pastoral Educator.
- **Beginning Sunday, October 11, Jeff Southard will offer 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 –

- **Join Claire Boyette for the CROP Walk at 1:30 today, October 4th.** 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 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 (look in the newsletter for readings).