



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF PORTLAND

Service for the Lord's Day

July 26, 2026

10:30 AM

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Please remember to silence your cell phone.

*Please stand as you are able.

Regular text is read by minister.

Bold text is read by congregation.

THE GATHERING

The prelude is a time of music for quiet reflection to prepare our hearts for worship.

PRELUDE

Prelude on *Nettleton*
Prelude on *Repton*

Craig Phillips
Charles Callahan

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Those attending worship are invited to fill out a blue card in the pew to register your attendance or express interest in the church's programs. You may place the cards in the offering plates as you depart at the end of the service. Those worshipping online are invited to click the blue tab on the worship page, "Visiting FPC? Let's Connect!"

INTROIT

God of Wondrous Beauty

Christine Manderfeld

God of wondrous beauty! Light of all creation!

Awaken in our hearts new songs of praise.

Give praise to God, all you nations. Give glory, all you peoples.

Strong is God's love for us; God is faithful forever.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We believe in God

who cherishes the poor and offers them the riches of the Kingdom of God,
who hears the sobbing of the sorrowful and provides them with undying comfort,
who sees those who tread softly and humbly
and gives to them the care of the earth.

We believe in God

who satisfies the hungry and thirsty with the hospitality of choicest Table,
who honors the merciful and shows them the fullness of the mercy of God,
who recognizes pure hearts and allows them to look upon the glory of God.

We believe in God

who strengthens the peacemakers who are the children of God,
who suffers with the persecuted and promises them the freedom of the City of God.
This is the God we believe in!

***PRAYER OF THE DAY** (*Unison*)

Gracious and loving God,
you draw near to those who are weary, humble, and longing for hope.
Open our hearts to the good news
proclaimed by the prophet and fulfilled in Christ.
Bless those who mourn, strengthen those who hunger for righteousness,
and teach us the way of mercy, peace, and joy.
By your Holy Spirit, shape us into people who bear your light
and share your blessing with the world.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN #15** All Creatures of Our God and King (*verses 1, 4, 5*)

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*Unison*)

Merciful God, you call us to the way of blessing,
but we confess that we often choose another path.
When you call us to humility, we cling to pride.
When you call us to mercy, we choose judgment.
When you call us to purity of heart, our desires become divided.
When you call us to hunger and thirst for righteousness,
we settle for comfort and convenience.
When you call us to make peace, we too easily deepen divisions.
When others suffer, we look away.
When faithfulness becomes costly, we shrink from your call.
Forgive us, O God. Renew our hearts by your Spirit.
Teach us to trust your grace, to seek your kingdom,
and to follow Christ in the way that leads to life.
In his holy name we pray.

Prayers of confession continue in silence.

***LORD, HAVE MERCY**

The musical score is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us." The first staff covers the first two phrases, and the second staff covers the third phrase. There are rests for the words "on" and "us" in the first and third phrases. The score ends with a double bar line.

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
- on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear the good news:

The blessing of God is not earned by the worthy;
it is given in grace through Jesus Christ.

The One who proclaimed, “Blessed are the poor in spirit,” also welcomed sinners,
forgave the broken, and offered peace to all who turned to him.

In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven, our hearts are made new,
and we are invited to live as citizens of God’s kingdom.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE #645 (verse 4)**

**Throughout my toilsome way along I sing aloud thy praises,
that all may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and body, take your part:
to God all praise and glory!**

Text: Johann Jacob Schütz, 1675; trans. Frances Elizabeth Cox, 1864, alt.

Tune: MIT FREUDEN ZART, 8.7.8.7.8.8.7; Bohemian Brethren’s *Kirchengesang*, 1566

***SHARING THE PEACE**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you!

Please take a moment to greet those around you with God’s peace.

THE WORD

*We are grateful for the joy and energy children bring to our faith community
and look forward to our Children’s Moments resuming after the summer months!*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Melissa Dailey

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 61:1-4

Pew Bible, OT p. 691

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM**Light Dawns on a Weary World**

William P. Rowan

Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to see all people's dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world: the promised day of justice comes.
The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes *shalom*.

Love grows in a weary world when hungry hearts find bread and children's dreams are fed.
Love grows in a weary world: the promised feast of plenty comes.

Hope blooms in a weary world when creatures, once forlorn, find wilderness reborn.
Hope blooms in a weary world: the promised green of Eden comes.

— Mary Louise Bringle, 2001

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 5:1-12

Pew Bible, NT p. 4

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

“Reconstructing Your Heart”

Rev. Dr. Joan Miller

RESPONSE TO THE WORD***HYMN #731**

Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith is Firm

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*Unison*)

**We believe in God, whose love reaches to the poor in spirit,
whose mercy embraces those who mourn,
and whose justice lifts up the humble.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, who announced the coming of God's kingdom,
who called the unlikely “blessed,” who welcomed the forgotten,
fed the hungry, forgave sinners,
made peace among enemies, and remained faithful even to the cross.**

**We believe the Holy Spirit forms us into the likeness of Christ,
creating in us humble hearts, a hunger for righteousness,
merciful hands, pure intentions, and the courage to make peace.**

**We believe that God's kingdom is already breaking into the world,
even as we await its fullness.**

**Therefore, we will seek justice, extend mercy,
walk humbly with our God, and rejoice in hope,
trusting that nothing can separate us
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Thank you for your faithful support.

Contributions to the life and ministry of this congregation may be made by:

- *Leaving your gifts in the offering plates as you depart.*
- *Mailing a check to the church office.*
- *Scanning the QR code on the right.*
- *Visiting firstpresportland.org.*



OFFERTORY

What Does the Lord Require of You?

Jim Strathdee

What does the Lord require of you?
To seek justice and love kindness
and walk humbly with your God.

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise Christ, all
peo-ple here be - low; praise Ho-ly Spir-it ev - er - more;
praise Tri-une God, whom we a - dore. A - men.

The musical notation is written on three staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for 'Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all'. The second staff contains the melody for 'people here be low; praise Holy Spirit ever more;'. The third staff contains the melody for 'praise Tri-une God, whom we adore. Amen.'.

Text: © 1990 by Neil Weatherhogg Music: © 2008 by Hal H. Hopson (*Glory to God* No. 608)

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Unison*)

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 and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE SENDING

***HYMN #697**

Take My Life

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Prelude in F Major

Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel

Music reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-706706.

IN MEMORIAM

Our prayers are with the family of Jerry Johnson who passed away on July 12, 2026.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We join in holding in prayer: Dennis Bradley, Kathy Callas, Doug Marcks, and others facing illness and loss.

You can request prayer by calling 503-228-7331 x 2 or emailing prayer@firstpresportland.org. Please let us know whether you would like someone to follow up with you and whether your request should be shared publicly or kept confidential.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Today's sanctuary flowers are given in honor of Norma Welty and in memory of James Welty by Robert Bulkley and Joyce MacWilliamson.

VISITING US?

We're so happy to welcome you to FPC! Please take a moment to fill out a visitor card (located in the back of the pews) or scan the QR code to the right for a digital version.

We hope you'll join us at coffee hour downstairs in Geneva Hall after the service. We'd love to get to know you!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Brenna Out of Office

Pastor Brenna is off on the second half of her sabbatical and will not be reachable till she is back in the office on **September 8**. We wish her well as she is on this renewal leave!

Presbyterian Women's Ministry Meeting

When: Sun, Jul 26, 11:45 am

Where: Heritage Room

Presbyterian Women's Ministry will hold a meeting today following worship. Zoom address will be provided for those unable to attend in person. Topics to be discussed are recipients of our mission funds, the annual bake sale and an election.

August Birthdays Celebration

When: Sun, Aug 2, 11:30 am

Where: Geneva Hall

After worship next week, we'll wish a happy birthday to all those born in August. We want to celebrate you after with cupcakes and a song at coffee hour!

Mirabella Exhibit Opening Reception

When: Sun, Aug 2, 11:45 am

Where: Chapel

Join us after worship next Sunday for the opening reception of the Mirabella Artist Exhibition. Meet the talented artists of Mirabella, whose work includes painting, photography, quilting, woodworking, needlework, and more. Nearly 15 resident artists are featured, with many exhibiting professionally throughout their careers. Enjoy refreshments and browse artist statements highlighting the inspiration behind their creative work. We hope to see you there!

Register Now: Walk the Wildwood

When: Sat, Aug 8, 7:30 am

Where: Hoyt Arboretum

Registration closes this Friday, July 31, for the 5th annual Walk the Wildwood! Enjoy a guided walk of Hoyt Arboretum's beautiful trails (1, 3.5, or 7 miles), enjoy a delicious catered lunch at Stevens Pavilion, and support Kamwenge Secondary and Vocational School's vital work in Uganda. Today is the last day of registration help in Geneva Hall before the walk. Bring your used sneakers to Geneva Hall or the event to donate for more funds for the school. Let's celebrate 20 years of education and community together! For more info and registration, visit firstpresportland.org/news-events/walk-the-wildwood

Menucha Summer Volunteer Work Party

When: Sat, Aug 15, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Where: Menucha

Menucha's next work party is coming up soon! We'll celebrate summer by bonding as a community while improving the sacred property, with a particular focus on our paths and trails. Lunch will be provided. Please sign up by emailing Menucha at hello@menucha.org. If you have any questions, feel free to also email or call the Menucha office at 503-695-2243.

Summer Choir Invitation

All are welcome to join in singing with the Summer Choir through the end of August. There is no mid-week rehearsal, but participants are asked to prepare on their own during the week. Contact Greg Homza (ghomza@firstpresportland.org) for more info.

Have an announcement for the bulletin or eBlast? Submit it at this link by Monday each week! shorturl.at/eVnBQ

PERSEVERING *toward* WHOLENESS

The 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, addressed constitutional governance, racial justice, gender justice, denominational finances and the direction of the church, laying groundwork for work continuing through the next assembly.

Co-moderators elected, GA228 to be held in Puerto Rico

Commissioners elected the **Rev. Marta Pumroy-Cordero**, border ministry coordinator for the Tres Rios Border Foundation in Tres Rios Presbytery, and the **Rev. Dr. Kristopher D. Schondelmeyer**, pastor and head of staff at First Presbyterian Church in Davenport, Iowa, as co-moderators. They will preside at GA228, June 11-22, 2028, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Commissioners also **approved full, in-person assemblies**, including an exhibit hall, beginning in 2030.

Budget and per capita

Commissioners approved a **balanced \$188.4 million unified budget** for Presbyterian Life & Witness (PL &W) and the A Corporation for the 2027–2028 biennium, about \$5.8 million more than the previous budget: \$90.45 million for 2027 and \$97.92 million for 2028. Per capita rates were set at \$13.04 in 2027 and \$12.72 in 2028.

General Assembly Relationships

The GAR Committee approved the new Organization for Mission, the structure for the General Assembly as the denomination's highest council, and **established PL&W** and its governing board.

Israel/Palestine

Commissioners approved RIW-04, declaring that the **Israeli government has violated international law** prohibiting genocide in its war in Gaza. As amended, RIW-04 directs the denomination's Office of Public

Witness to advocate against U.S. military sales to Israel and purchases from Israel. It also encourages members to avoid products from Israeli companies linked to violations of international law.

Constitutional interpretation, missiology, and mission co-worker dismissals

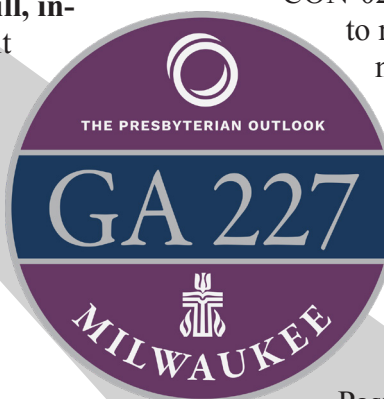
Following testimony on staff dismissals during **World Mission's closure**, the assembly approved CON-02, directing PL&W and the A Corporation to revise employment policies to prohibit nondisclosure covenants for employees, with a report due to the 2028 assembly. RIW-01 calls for review of the processes that terminated mission co-worker positions and World Mission. RIW-02 directs the development of a new missiological statement for global engagement.

Pastors will now be required to complete **boundary and abuse-prevention training** at least every three years. An overture to remove the Board of Pensions' medical coverage requirements was rejected.

Commissioners referred CON-10, which seeks an authoritative interpretation of monogamy, for discussion within the theological framework proposed in GEN-09, "Beyond Changing Families."

Gender and Sexuality Justice

The Constitutional Interpretation Committee **rejected a call for a special study of the Olympia Overture amendments**, citing related proposals GEN-06 and GEN-09. GEN-06 directs the development



of a mechanism that would allow congregations to indicate their openness and readiness to call an LGBTQIA+ candidate on their Ministry Discernment Profiles. Candidates would be allowed to view congregational responses. GEN-09, “Beyond Changing Families: Flourishing Relationships and Belonging,” seeks a theological framework and a study guide on human sexuality and gender that reflect the PC(USA)’s commitment to full inclusion.

The assembly reaffirmed support for **access to medically necessary gender-affirming healthcare** and approved development of a survey collecting non-identifying information about sexual misconduct in church settings.

Climate and Environmental Justice

The Climate Justice Committee approved CLJ-02, “Changing Course for a Green Future,” **directing divestment from more than 50 companies** by 2030 and barring new investments in them. All CLJ items were placed on the consent agenda, including a call for education on regenerative farming and prioritizing responses to the climate crisis.

White Christian nationalism

Commissioners voted overwhelmingly to declare White Christian nationalism and similar ideologies “**a theological error**” incompatible with the teachings of Jesus Christ; language changes in the *Book of Order* require presbytery ratification. Commissioners rejected an amendment that would have removed references to White Christian nationalism from the Special Committee on the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Race report.

Racial justice

The Racial Justice Committee advanced several recommendations **strengthening the denomination’s**

anti-racism work, including RAC-04, “The Report from the Special Committee on the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) on Race,” directing “PL&W to create a tracking system that displays the progress/ completion of all GA business... related to race, racism, and White supremacy ...”

RAC-01 calls for PC(USA) entities to report to the 228th GA on implementation of RGJ-13, the 2022 Report from the Disparities Experienced by Black Women and Girls Task Force. RAC-03, the “Resolution on Liberia Project 180,” explores establishing theological learning and repair, and developing **acknowledgment and apology for Presbyterian involvement** in and support of the American Colonization Society and its lasting effects on Indigenous Liberians.

Ordered ministry

The Theological Education and Ordination Committee approved changes **modernizing preparation for ministry** while preserving Presbyterian ordination standards. ORD-02 clarifies that ministry preparation in G-2.06 and G-2.07 of the *Book of Order* applies to those training for the ministry of Word and Sacrament; it requires a two-thirds presbytery vote. ORD-03, addressing collaborative ministry teams, was approved; ORD-04, seeking removal of the time-of-service requirement for ruling elders in mid council roles, was not.

A new confession

A newly appointed special committee will continue **considering a new confession**. The draft seeks to articulate Christian faith in response to contemporary challenges including racism, economic inequality, environmental degradation, violence and political polarization.

For full stories about General Assembly or other news from the PC(USA):

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Love God.
Love Our Neighbors.

Vision Statement

We commit to be a church that is:

Engaged: A forward-thinking and involved congregation committed to each other and to the wider community.

Inclusive: A faith community that affirms and welcomes all people.

Compassionate: A congregation that follows in Christ's way, advancing the well-being and dignity of all people, working for a just and equitable society, and caring for all creation.

Faithful: Living our faith authentically with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love while expanding the circle where God's love is known.

CHURCH STAFF

Principal Church Staff:

Rev. Dr. Joan Miller, Interim Head Pastor
Rev. Brenna Dykman, Associate Pastor
Rev. Andrew Wall, Associate Pastor
Rev. Aaron Morris, Stated Supply Pastor
Greg Homza, Director of Music Ministries
Marc Lavender, Church Business Administrator

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Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday | 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church

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