



July 27, 2025 ~ 7th Sunday after Pentecost; Sacrament of Holy Baptism

9:30 a.m. Combined Worship (Sanctuary)

*please stand as you are able

*Have you checked in for worship today on the Church Center app? Please remember to also **sign** the Friendship pads in the pews and greet those seated near you. **NOTE: Worship announcements begin at 9:25 a.m.***

Welcome & Work of God's People

Rev. Wes Allen

Way of the Week #17: Show Who You Really Are

17. SHOW WHO YOU REALLY ARE. Our church is for “real” people. Bring your true self, including your joys, your sorrows, your fears, your strengths and your weaknesses. God loves you as you are. Don’t hide your struggles, failures or problems.

Collect Prayer (unison)

Welcoming God, in a world that often values image over reality, create within our church family a haven of authentic connection. Grant us the courage to shed our masks and to be genuinely seen, flaws and all. Help us to listen with compassion, to offer support without judgment, and to build a community where sharing our true selves fosters stronger bonds and reflects the honest love of Christ. Amen.

Music in Preparation for Worship

Joel Krott, Organ

My Lord What a Morning

Spiritual Arr. Haan

Introit

Kathy Gunsallus, Piano

Rock a My Soul

Traditional Spiritual

Alivia Nawrocki, Soprano

* Call to Worship (Responsive)

Elder Paul Gordon

Come, all who hunger and thirst for justice
For we shall be filled with mercy and grace.
Come, all who are weary and wounded—
For we shall be comforted and healed.

continued

Come, all who seek the heart of God—
For we shall see God in the faces around us.
Blessed are we, broken and beloved,
For in Christ's blessing, we find our home.

*** Prayer of Adoration**

Elder Gordon

*** Hymn No. 99**

When Morning Gilds the Skies

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Elder Gordon

Merciful and Gracious God, You call us blessed when we mourn, yet we often turn away from pain—our own and others. You bless the merciful, yet we confess how quickly we harden our hearts. You bless the peacemakers, yet we often choose silence instead of justice. Forgive us, O Christ, for the times we have forgotten that your kingdom is built not on might, but on meekness, mercy, and love. Shape us again in your image—a people of compassion and courage. Amen.

(Silence for our personal prayers of confession)

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

Elder Gordon

Hear the good news: God's love is not earned but freely given. In Christ, we are not condemned but called—called to rise, to begin again, to bless as we have been blessed. Hear and trust this truth: You are forgiven. You are loved. You are free.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

*** Gloria Patri**

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Rev. Allen, Elder Peg Valora

Margaret "Mia" Maria Gravel

Parents: Laurie Valora and Matthew Gravel

RESPONSE: *Jesus Loves Me, This I Know* (Hymn No. 470)

Congregation Sings

Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so!
Little ones to him belong: they are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Solo

Joel Krott, Piano

Deep River

Spiritual Arr. Burleigh

Frank Mitchell, Bass

Prayer of Intercession and the Lord's Prayer ('debts')

Rev. Allen

Offertory

Rev. Allen



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Offertory Music

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

Adult Choir; Kathy Gunsallus, Director

Southern Hymn Tune

* Doxology No. 809

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Richard Herman

"The Overture"

Scripture: Matthew 5:1-12 (Pew Bible NT p. 4)

Sermon Series: *The Sermon on the Mount*

* Hymn No. 710

We Are Called to be God's People

Music in Preparation for Service

Kathy Gunsallus, Organ

When In Our Music God is Glorified (Hymn 403)

Wagner

* Benediction

Rev. Allen

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Worship flowers are given by Kathy Gunsallus and the First Presbyterian Church Choirs to the glory of God and in honor of Joel Krott and his music ministry.

9:30 a.m. Worship Ministry

Beadle: Elder Paul Gordon; **Audio Technician:** Harris Ransom; **Live Stream Technician:** Michael Boone; **Ushers:** Owen Dietz, Barry Leatherman, Leonard Fitts; **Flower Arrangers:** Stacy Schaffer and Karin Miller; **Trustee Greeter:** Bill Mueller; **Sanctuary Greeter:** Stephen Minister Doris Kahley; **Deacon Greeters/Welcome Centers:** Deacons Mike McNeil and Keith Wright; **Coffee Hospitality:** Donna Leatherman and Sarah Dietz; **Nursery Care:** none so that all may celebrate Joel Krott.

[Retirement Celebration for Joel Krott](#)

You are invited to join us following worship for a Reception in Miller Commons. Drop off cards or notes for Joel in the Commons Lobby. Blank cards are available as well.

Work of God's People (See *Connections*, eblast, website and Church Center app for details)

- **Welcome** our new Director of Outreach [Rev. Mark Budka](#) at a Meet & Greet **Sunday, August 3** (10:15-11:00 a.m.) in Fellowship Hall.

Beach for a Day – The Mission Committee is assembling volunteers to help support the Children's Fresh Air Home on **Tuesday, August 12**. We will be helping with a BBQ for youngsters from UrbanPromise. Our responsibilities will be meeting the children, helping with the BBQ, going to the beach (optional), or playing miniature golf. This group will be older children (teenagers). Please see our [Church Center event page](#) to SIGN UP and for full details of the day. Youth are welcome. **As the home is under renovation, we are hosting the day's events at the Hereford Inlet Lighthouse, located at 111 N. Central Ave. in North Wildwood.** Questions? Contact: Jean Kunkel at jeankunkel215@gmail.com.

Summer Youth Activities -- Rising middle schoolers (grade 7-8) through high school (grades 9-12) are invited to summer activities from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Meet up with your friends and make new acquaintances. We can't wait to see you. **UPCOMING: Wed. July 30:** Pool Party @ Delgado's; **Wed. August 13:** Lawn Games @ Church; **Wed. August 20:** Movie Night @ Church. Contact: Cheryl Gaskill.

The Mustard Seed Cooperative Garden welcomes harvesters! Just show up in the evening (Sundays, Wednesdays and/or Fridays) from 7:00 – 8:00 pm-ish to pick the produce and store it in the church kitchen. The produce grows through Sept/Oct. so come on out! Contact: Leslie Spencer at (215) 584-7659.

Morning Prayer Time: Every Wednesday 6:30-7:30 AM via Zoom. All are welcome to join Joe and Arlita Winston to pray or bring a request for prayer. Stay as your schedule allows. Contact Arlita at 609-234-1351.

Summer Adult Spiritual Formation - **"Drop In and Discuss" (Lounge)** – Stop in Sunday mornings this summer to discuss the day's sermon text. We will gather in the Lounge from 10:15-11:00-ish am. Get your coffee and drop in. Who is on the Hot Seat this week?

NEW: Undies Sunday August 17 -- Presbyterian Women invite you to participate in Undies Sunday on **August 17**! We're collecting new socks, underwear, and pajamas for Camden children ages 6–16 — specifically those with an incarcerated parent. As you shop for Back-to-School supplies, consider picking up an extra package to help a child in need. Look for the donation box in the Commons Lobby. Let's come together to make a difference — one pair at a time!



Sabbatical Presentation -- On **Sunday, August 31**, Stuart Spencer will present a review of his 16-week sabbatical to the congregation. That week is a combined worship Sunday due to the Labor Day weekend, so the presentation will *follow* the **9:30 a.m.** Worship.

Couples Retreat -- Join us for a meaningful Couples' Retreat in Cape May, NJ **Oct. 17-19**. We will again be staying at The Dormer House, a quaint Victorian bed and breakfast. Cost is \$450 per couple. See event page for details and package options.

Kickoff Sunday -- Our 2025-2026 programming year officially gets underway on **Sunday, Sept. 7** as we welcome everyone back to church after busy and eventful summers. Your church staff has been active too! Special happenings are planned as we begin another busy year in ministry.

THANK YOU Joel Krott for your ministry with First Presbyterian Church. You will be profoundly missed.