

W E L C O M E

JULY 20, 2025 | 11:00AM

*Traditional Worship*



**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN**  
CHURCH OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**OUR MISSION** **CREATES SPACES**  
OF CHRIST-CENTERED CONNECTION  
**AND INSPIRES PEOPLE OF ALL AGES**  
TO EXPLORE FAITH IN OPEN AND HONEST WAYS,  
CULTIVATING POSSIBILITIES  
**FOR GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION**

401 Southeast 15th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

[www.firstpres.cc](http://www.firstpres.cc) | (954) 462-6200

## **PRAYER FOR THE PREPARATION OF WORSHIP**

Gracious Teacher, as we come into this time of worship, quiet the noise around and within us. In a season that provides a change of pace, open our hearts to learn from you. Teach us to love with courage, to listen with intention, and to pray with trust. Shape us as your disciples, and help us follow you more faithfully in every part of our lives. Amen.

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Nicholas B. Merchant

## **PRELUDE**

*Assurance - arr. John Ness Beck*

Dr. Alan G. Cook, organ

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Merchant

## **\*OPENING HYMN #393**

*O Day of Rest and Gladness*

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVOGELEIN

## **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Sam Stark

Loving and gracious God,  
You invite us to sit at your feet,  
to listen for your voice,  
to make space for what truly matters.  
But we confess how easily we are pulled away.  
We fill our days with tasks and worries.  
We chase what is urgent and neglect what is holy.  
We try to earn your love instead of receiving it.  
Forgive us, Lord.  
Teach us to slow down.  
Help us to listen with open hearts  
and to choose time with you.  
Amen.

## **\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Stark

## **\*JOYFUL RESPONSE • The Gloria Patri #581**

GREATOREX

Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end.  
Amen, amen

## **FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

[Psalm 15](#)

Stark

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Stark

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.

## SHARING OUR GIFTS

Rev. Merchant

## OFFERTORY

*Elegy - Thalben-Ball*

Cook, organ

## \*THE DOXOLOGY • Hymnal #606

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise him all creatures here below,  
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host,  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

## \*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & ILLUMINATION

Rev. Merchant

## PREACHING TEXT

[Luke 10:38-42](#)

Rev. Merchant

## MESSAGE

*"Jesus, Teach Us To Listen"*

Rev. Merchant

## CLOSING HYMN #694

*Great God of Every Blessing*

AURELIA

## CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Rev. Merchant

## POSTLUDE

*Caprice sur les grands jeux - Clerambault*

Cook, organ

*Those participating in worship today are:*

Dr. Alan G. Cook, Organist; Rev. Nicholas B. Merchant, Preacher;  
Sam Stark, Liturgist

AV Team: Teo Constantinescu, Frantz Cyriac, Mario Rodriguez, Travis Fickinger

***Giving Online is easy, [Click Here](#)***

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

**The Flowers are Dedicated** by Susan and Allan Arch in memory of their parents, Joseph and Thelma Arch & Frank and Katherine Lawlor.

**Flower Availability:** Available Dates: August 3rd and 10th and September 14th and 21st. If you would like to dedicate flowers for the Communion table or a rose-bud in celebration of a newborn, please contact Michelle Shev at [michelles@firstpres.cc](mailto:michelles@firstpres.cc).

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT FIRST PRES!

### **July Blood Drive - TODAY!**

*July 20th, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, Front of Neumann Center*

Why donate, you ask? Simple, it helps save lives! All donors will receive a \$20 eGift card, a top-handle drinkware, and a wellness check. ID is required and walk ins are welcome!

### **Beach Night**

*July 23rd*

Join us on Wednesday, July 23rd, from 6:00–8:00 pm at the southernmost point of Fort Lauderdale Beach, near the volleyball courts. We will be grilling up hot dogs and hamburgers and providing drinks. We ask you to just bring a side dish or dessert to share! This event is open to the entire church family, so bring a chair, a beach towel and a friend!

### **Work Day Paint Party**

*August 2nd, 8:00 am - 12:00 pm, Neumann Center*

Join us for a fun painting party as we get Happyland ready for the new school year! This is a great way to invest in First Pres and make a real difference in our community. Lunch and drinks will be provided, just wear your paint clothes and bring your energy! [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up. Contact Mike Shaw at 954-598-9338 for info.

### **VBS Back-to-School Backpack Mission**

*Now through August 8th*

Our Children's Ministry is leading a Back-to-School Backpack Mission now through August 8th! We're aiming to collect 350 backpacks filled with school supplies for students in need. It takes just \$40 to fill one backpack.

[CLICK HERE](#) to donate and help our VBS kids reach their goal! For more information, please contact Cindy Vason at 954-598-9341 or [cindyv@firstpres.cc](mailto:cindyv@firstpres.cc).

### **Vacation Bible School Workdays - Volunteers Needed!**

July 30th, 9:30 am - Noon

Do you enjoy painting, drawing or building things? Then we need your help to bring our ideas to life! No experience is necessary, and we supply everything you'll need. Contact Cindy Vason at (954) 598-9341 or [cindyv@firstpres.cc](mailto:cindyv@firstpres.cc) for more info.

### **Vacation Bible School - Hurry, Spots Are Filling Up!**

August 4-8th

Join us for a super fun Vacation Bible School experience as we celebrate the Good News! This exciting opportunity is happening August 4-8th in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00 am-12:00 pm and is open to PreK 4-5th graders. [CLICK HERE](#) to register. Contact Cindy Vason at (954) 598-9341 or [cindyv@firstpres.cc](mailto:cindyv@firstpres.cc) for more info.

### **Vacation Bible School - Volunteers Needed!**

August 4-8th

It's such a fun and meaningful week — but as you know, we can't make it happen without the incredible help of amazing volunteers! Even if you can't be here for the week, join us for a day or two. Any help is greatly appreciated. [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up!

#### **Church Membership Connection Class**

Are you interested in learning what it means to be a member of First Pres, or are you ready to take the next step and join? The next Membership Connection opportunity is August 24th at 10:30 am in the Neumann Center Library. Please email Karyn Greep at

[Karyng@firstpres.cc](mailto:Karyng@firstpres.cc) if you are interested in attending, or just show up!

## **REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**9:30 am Contemporary Worship** in the Fellowship Hall

**11:00 am Traditional Worship** in the Sanctuary

**Livestream Sunday Worship** Both services are streamed live, so you can worship with us from wherever you are! Visit [firstpres.cc/worship](http://firstpres.cc/worship) to join our livestreams.

**Children Sunday School** in the Neumann Center

The Children's Ministry at First Pres provides a place where children can go while their parents are at our Sunday Worship services. Our Sunday childcare services are offered to infants - PreK4. For more info please stop by our Connection Counter today!

# Are You Looking For a Bible Study?

## AstepFURTHER

A resource for individuals, families and small groups. Access this resource on the church app under Worship Resources or on our website under Connect. For more info or to get plugged into a group, contact Karyn Greep at [karyng@firstpres.cc](mailto:karyng@firstpres.cc).

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## Happening This Week!

### GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL AGES

*Connect with one (or more!) of our Ministry groups and strengthen your spiritual growth. We have several opportunities throughout the week, for all ages!*  
For additional information contact us at 954-462-6200 or [info@firstpres.cc](mailto:info@firstpres.cc).

#### TUESDAYS

##### **Men's Morning Bible Study**

8:00 am / Via Zoom

(Meeting ID: 483 553 8166)

We are focused on the Gospel of Luke, facilitated by Sam Stark

#### THURSDAYS

##### **Men's Bible Study & Lunch**

12 pm / In Person

Neumann Center Library

#### SUNDAYS

##### **New Testament Bible Study**

9:45 am, In Person.

Binger Conference Room

##### **Children's Sunday School**

9:30 am & 11:00 am

PreK3 & PreK4

Neumann Center, 1st floor

K-5th grade - 9:30 am Neumann

Center, 2nd floor; 11:00 am

Watts Chapel.

##### **Childcare 9:30 am -12:00 pm**

Newborns-PreK 4,

Neumann Center 1st Floor