



JANUARY 18, 2026 | 11:00 AM
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 | (954) 462-6200

PRAYER FOR THE PREPARATION OF WORSHIP

Gracious God, as I come into worship, shape me by your grace. Root me in Christ, open me to learn, and form my life for love and service. By your Spirit, let what you do in me here bear fruit in the world you love. Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chandler Gelb

PRELUDE

Anastasiya Naplekova, piano

Träumerei - Robert Schumann

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Nicholas B. Merchant

***OPENING HYMN #267**

MADRID

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gelb

Faithful God,

we confess that we try to grow on our own strength.

We rush ahead of you,

or drift away from you,

forgetting that apart from Christ we cannot bear fruit.

We neglect your Word and resist the patience required for deep roots.

Forgive us, and draw us back to abide in you.

Prune what no longer gives life,

and teach us again to remain in Christ.

Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***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

Gelb

[Psalm 1](#)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Ellen Whiteman, Teri Stockham

OFFERTORY

Cathedral Choir

O Lord, I Pray arr. Brett Michaels

***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

[John 15:1-8](#)

MESSAGE

*Made for More
(2) To Be Rooted in Christ*

***CLOSING HYMN #450**

SLANE

Be Thou My Vision

***CHARGE & BENEDECTION**

Rev. Merchant

POSTLUDE

Susan Dodd, organ

Exultation - Charles Callahan

Those participating in worship today are:

Rev. Nicholas B. Merchant, Pastor;

Sophia Beharrie, Interim Director of Traditional Worship;

Chandler Gelb, Director of Youth & College Ministries;

Susan Dodd, Organist; Anastasiya Naplekova, Piano; Cathedral Choir

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

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Flowers are Dedicated in loving memory of Aileen and Cliff Pettit, Sr., given by their son Cliff Pettit, Jr.

Congratulations to Sarah and Renauri Castro on the baptism of their son, Lucas Antonio Castro at the Contemporary Service.

Baby Rose Dedication: The rose bud on the chancel is in celebration of the birth of Seanna Louise Wallace, born on December 13th to parents Chelsea and Andrew Wallace, Grandpa David Freeburn, and Uncle Derek Freeburn.

Flower Availability: February 1st & 22nd and March 1st, 15th, & 22nd. 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.

UPDATES & UPCOMING EVENTS AT FIRST PRES

Third Serve Sunday - TODAY!

10:45 am, Family Campus

Join our Young Adult Ministry today after the 9:30 am service for a fun morning of brunch, pickleball, and connection. All are welcome!

Adult Activity Center (AAC) for Seniors

Thursday, January 22nd, 11:00 am, Fellowship Hall

Join us for a dramatic presentation on Presidents and First Ladies at AAC. William and Sue Wills will be proudly sharing the history of Ulysses and Julia Grant, in office during the 100th birthday of the nation. The menu offering is chicken penne pasta. RSVP by 10:00 am on Monday, January 19th to Ellen Whiteman 954-598-9312 or ellenw@firstpres.cc.

Astralis Chamber Ensemble

Sunday, January 25th, 4:00 pm, Sanctuary

Join us for a brilliant evening of music with the Astralis Chamber Ensemble. These award-winning musicians have been described as “scary-good” and “truly riveting.” Angela Massey (flute), Paul Aguilar (violin), Thomas Maternik-Piret (cello), and Alexandra Dunbar (harpsichord) present “Baroque Masters,” Telemann and Vivaldi. Admission is free!

The Neumann Society: Leaving a Legacy of Faith

Sunday, January 25th, 10:30 - 11:00 am, Spanish Room

Have you ever considered how your faith might continue to bless others for generations to come? On Sunday, January 25th, we will have an informational gathering designed to share how planned giving can be a meaningful way to express gratitude to God, care for the future of our church, and leave a lasting legacy of faith. Join us as we reflect on how our

lives, faith, and love for the church can continue to bear fruit for years to come. All are welcome. RSVP to Ellen Whiteman at ellenw@firstpres.cc or 954-598-9312, or just show up!

January Church-Wide Work Day

Saturday, January 31st, 7:45 am, First Pres Campus

Grab your gloves and join us for a fun morning of fellowship and service to help beautify our campus! We'll meet at 7:45 am, with projects running from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect, serve, and make a visible impact on our church home. [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up or contact Mike Shaw for more info at 954-598-9338.

Adult Activity Center (AAC) for Seniors - February Outing

Tuesday, February 10th, Boca Raton

Join us for our annual AAC Trip to The Wick Theater! In February we will travel to Boca Raton for lunch and a show. We'll enjoy a gourmet lunch at Tavern at the Wick while watching a cabaret performance, and a matinee Broadway Show of "My Fair Lady!" Cost is \$132. Self-drive or carpooling recommended. Let Ellen know if you are looking for a carpool. For more info contact Ellen Whiteman at 954-598-9312 or ellenw@firstpres.cc.

Ensemble Altera

Friday, February 13th, 7:00 pm, Sanctuary

Join Ensemble Altera for A New Song: Psalms for the Soul, as they offer a concert exploring the psalm texts in all their dizzying variety and poetic beauty. The concert features a wide variety of music, spanning many musical styles and periods, including Allegri's famous Miserere, as well as selections by Bruckner, Parry, MacMillan, and Rutter, along with world premieres by Michael Garrepy, as well as 4th annual Composition Competition winner, Ian Gabriel Corpuz. Ensemble Altera is a choral supergroup made up of some of the finest artists from across the USA and UK and is not to be missed! [CLICK HERE](#) to purchase tickets today.

Are You Looking For a New Bible Study Group?

Get connected into a bible study group at First Pres! Learning and growing as a follower of Jesus is a vital part of our discipleship, which is why we offer a variety of Bible study groups for every season of life. We'd love to help you find the right fit. [CLICK HERE](#) and share your information to get started.



Bike to Build Sunset Social

Tuesday, January 27th, 5:00 - 7:00 pm, The Federal Fort Lauderdale

We are gearing up for our 14th Annual Bike to Build fundraising event for our next sponsored Habitat for Humanity home. Join us at The Federal, located in the Baptist IcePlex in Holiday Park, for fun and fellowship! There will be a 50/50 raffle with all proceeds going towards our next sponsored home. The 2026 Bike to Build event will take place on February 14th. [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up as a rider or [CLICK HERE](#) to become a corporate sponsor.

REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:30 am Contemporary Worship - Fellowship Hall

11:00 am Traditional Worship - Sanctuary

Livestream Sunday Worship - Online

Both services are streamed live, so you can worship with us from wherever you are! Visit firstpres.cc/worship to join our livestreams.

Children's Sunday School - 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!

HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL AGES

Grow in faith by connecting with one of our ministry groups at First Pres, there is something for all ages throughout the week - every week! Learn more at

firstpres.cc or contact us at 954-462-6200 or info@firstpres.cc.

MONDAYS

Young Adults Virtual Bible Study

7:30 - 8:30 pm / Via Zoom

(Meeting ID: 871 3336 6461)

Passcode: 177983

TUESDAYS

Men's Morning Bible Study

8:00 am / Via Zoom

(Meeting ID: 483 553 8166)

Book of Proverbs

Young Adults A Step Further Study

6:30 - 7:45 pm

Spanish Room

WEDNESDAYS

Cherub Choir Rehearsals

5:00 - 5:30 pm

Happyland

Good Game Wednesday

5:30-7:30 pm

Family Campus

Wednesday Night Live!

5:30-6:30 pm

Fellowship Hall

[CLICK HERE](#) to

RSVP by Monday.

Adults: \$12 / Students: \$8

Kids Under 5: Free

This Weeks Menu:

Chicken Penne Pasta

Bible History Class

6:30-7:30 pm

Chapel In The Sky

THURSDAYS

Women's Bible Study

10:00 - 11:00 am

Study & Renewal Center

Adult Activity Center (AAC)

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Fellowship Hall

Men's Bible Study & Lunch

12:30 - 1:30 pm

Neumann Center Library

Cathedral Choir (Adults)

Rehearsal 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Choir Room

FRIDAYS

Middle School Youth Group

4:00 - 6:30 pm - The Harbor

SUNDAYS

Children's Choir Rehearsals

9:00 - 9:30 am - Choir Room

New Testament Bible Study

9:45 am

Binger Conference Room

Children's Sunday School

PreK3 & PreK4

9:30 & 11:00 am:

Neumann Center, Room #127

K-5th Grade

9:30 am: Neumann Center, Room #224

11:00 am: Watts Chapel

Childcare

Newborns-PreK 4

9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Neumann Center, Room #127

Kirk Singer Rehearsal

4:00 - 5:00 pm

Choir Room

High School Youth Group

4:30 - 6:00 pm

The Harbor

CONNECT WITH US ONLINE!

Stay connected with everything happening at First Pres!

From upcoming events and announcements to weekly happenings, sermon sneak peeks, and so much more.

You won't want to miss it. [CLICK HERE](#) to follow us on your favorite social media platform and keep up with the life of the church!