

WELCOME
THANKS FOR JOINING US

APRIL 26, 2026 | 9:30 AM
Contemporary 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

Risen Christ, you meet us in our questions and fears. Quiet our hearts, open our eyes, and draw near, that we may recognize your presence and trust your voice. Shape us now through your Word. Amen.

WELCOME

Mona Petersen

*SONG

You'll Come

Chains be broken

Lives be healed

Eyes be opened

Christ is revealed, oh

Chains be broken

Lives be healed

Eyes be opened

Christ is revealed, oh

I have decided

I have resolved

To wait upon you, Lord

My rock and redeemer

Shield and reward

I'll wait upon you, Lord

As surely as the sun will rise

You'll come to us

Certain as the dawn appears

You'll come

Let your glory fall as

You respond to us

Spirit rain

Flood into our thirsty hearts again

You'll come, you'll come

We are not shaken

We are not moved

We wait upon you, Lord

Mighty deliverer

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

*Have triumph and truth
We wait upon you, Lord*

*As surely as the sun will rise
You'll come to us
Certain as your word endures*

*You'll come
Let your glory fall as
You respond to us
Spirit rain
Flood into our thirsty hearts again
You'll come, you'll come*

*Chains be broken
Lives be healed
Eyes be opened
Christ is revealed*

*Chains be broken
Lives be healed
Eyes be opened
Christ is revealed*

*You'll come
Let your glory fall as
You respond to us
Spirit rain
Flood into our thirsty hearts again*

*You'll come
Let your glory fall as
You respond to us
Spirit rain
Flood into our thirsty hearts again
You'll come, you'll come*

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Merciful God, we confess that we do not always listen for your voice. We are distracted by louder voices and drawn toward paths that do not lead to life. You call us by name, yet we often live as though we belong to ourselves. You lead with love, yet we resist your care and choose what is familiar over what is faithful.

Forgive us for the ways we wander and for the moments we fail to trust the One who lays down his life for the sheep. Call us back again, O Good Shepherd. Gather us in your mercy and teach us to know your voice and follow where you lead. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*SONGS

Rejoice

*Rejoice in the Lord now and always
Sing it again we rejoice
Delight in the love He has shown us
Gratefully lift up your voice
His gentleness among us
Will join our hearts with praise
We gather in His goodness; a family of grace*

*With each breath He's given praise the Lord
In these times we live in we will praise the Lord
Throughout every season I am sure
We have every reason to praise the Lord*

*Rejoice and be anxious for nothing
Praying for all that you need
Come with a song of thanksgiving
Lay your requests at His feet
His peace will fall upon us
To guard our hearts and minds
In Christ who reigns eternal
The Shepherd of our lives*

*With each breath He's given praise the Lord
In these times we live in we will praise the Lord
Throughout every season I am sure
We have every reason to praise the Lord*

Rejoice in the Lord now and always
Tell of the good He has done
Worship the Lord to remember
All of the joy yet to come
The hope that burns within us
The dark cannot destroy
With praise that's never ending
We say again "Rejoice"

With each breath He's given praise the Lord
In these times we live in we will praise the Lord
Throughout every season I am sure
We have every reason to praise the Lord
We have every reason to praise the Lord

God With Us

Oh You've come to bring peace to be Love
To be nearer to us
Oh You've come to bring life to be Light
To shine brighter in us
Oh Emmanuel, God with us

Our Deliverer You are Savior
In Your presence we find our strength
Over everything our Redemption
God with us, You are God with us

Oh You've come to be Hope to this world
For Your honor and name
And You've come to take sin to bear shame
And to conquer the grave
Oh Emmanuel
God with us

Our Deliverer You are Savior
In Your presence we find our strength
Over everything our Redemption
God with us
You are God with us

You are here

*You are holy
We are standing, in Your glory*

*You are here
You are holy
We are standing, in Your glory*

*You are here
You are holy
We are standing, in Your glory*

*You are here
You are holy
We are standing, in Your glory, Lord*

*Our Deliverer You are Savior
In Your presence we find our strength
Over everything our Redemption
God with us*

*Our Deliverer You are Savior
In Your presence we find our strength
Over everything our Redemption
God with us
You are God with us
God with us
You are God with us*

CHILDREN'S TIME

Gelb

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Rev. Nicholas B. Merchant

***SONG**

Your Voice

PRAYER OF DEDICATION & ILLUMINATION

Rev. Merchant

SCRIPTURE • [John 10:7-18](#)

THE MESSAGE

What comes next when Jesus calls you by name?

SONG

Lay Me Down

*With this heart open wide
From the depths from the heights
I will bring a sacrifice*

*With these hands lifted high
Hear my song hear my cry
I will bring a sacrifice
I will bring a sacrifice*

*I lay me down
I'm not my own
I belong to You alone
Lay me down lay me down
Oh hand on my heart this much is true
There's no life apart from You
Lay me down lay me down
(Oh lay me down lay me down)*

*Letting go of my pride
Giving up all my rights
Take this life and let it shine
Take this life and let it shine*

*I lay me down
I'm not my own
I belong to You alone
Lay me down lay me down
Oh hand on my heart this much is true
There's no life apart from You
Lay me down lay me down
(Oh lay me down lay me down)*

*It will be my joy to say
Your will Your way
It will be my joy to say
Your will Your way
It will be my joy to say
Your will Your way always*

*It will be my joy to say
Your will Your way
It will be my joy to say
Your will Your way
It will be my joy to say
Your will Your way always*

*I lay me down
I'm not my own
I belong to You alone
Lay me down lay me down
Oh hand on my heart this much is true
There's no life apart from You
Lay me down lay me down
(Oh lay me down lay me down)*

*I lay me down
I'm not my own
I belong to You alone
Lay me down lay me down
Oh hand on my heart this much is true
There's no life apart from You
Lay me down lay me down
(Oh lay me down lay me down)*

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Rev. Merchant

**please stand if you are able*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A Celebration of Life Service for Russ Cubbin who passed away on April 13th will be held here in the Sanctuary on Saturday, May 16th at 2:00 pm with a reception to follow in Fellowship Hall. Please continue to keep this family in your prayers.

Christian Sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family and friends of Barbara Tierney who passed away on April 19th in Clearwater, Florida. Please keep this family in your thoughts and prayers.

The Flowers are Dedicated in loving memory of Eleanor Galbreath Dixon who went home to her Lord and Savior on March 11th.

Flower Availability: May 3rd and June 7th & 28th. 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

Topgolf: Young Adult Mission Trip Fundraiser - TODAY!

2:00 - 6:00 pm, Pompano Beach Topgolf

Support our Young Adult & College Mission Trip to Jamaica this summer by joining us TODAY for a fun afternoon at Topgolf! This church-wide fundraiser will help offset travel and ministry costs for the team. Come enjoy an afternoon of golf, great food, fellowship, and friendly competition while supporting an important mission. Whether you are playing golf or simply joining us for dinner and fellowship, your participation will help our young adults and college students. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more, RSVP, or to simply give! For more info, contact Jon Bock at jonb@firstpres.cc.

Adult Activity Center (AAC) for Seniors

Thursday, April 30th, 11:00 am, Fellowship Hall

Our beloved Pastor Nic will be calling BINGO for us at AAC on Thursday! Come have some fun and compete for some great prizes, too! The menu offering is Chicken Alfredo. RSVP online now by [CLICKING HERE](#) or visiting the First Pres app or website at firstpres.cc. Or RSVP by 10:00 am, April 6th to Ellen Whiteman at 954-598-9312 or ellenw@firstpres.cc

Kirk Singer Spaghetti Dinner & Concert

Saturday, May 2nd, 6:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

Join us for a joyful evening of music, community, and support! This special event will feature a delicious dinner and a wonderful performance by our talented Kirk Singers. All proceeds from the evening will help offset costs for the 2026 Kirk Singer Tour to Pittsburgh, PA, and Cleveland, OH this June. Your support makes it possible for these students to share their gifts and grow through this meaningful experience. [Click Here](#) to purchase tickets.

Fellowship Breakfast - Join Us BEFORE the Unified Service on May 3rd!

Sunday, May 3rd, 8:45 - 9:45 am, St. Andrews Room

This will be a time for fellowship, building relationships and connecting those that attend the different services. [CLICK HERE](#) to make a donation.

Florida Grand Opera: Final Sing

Sunday, May 3rd, 3:00 pm, Sanctuary

Join us for a special evening honoring the incredible artists who have brought this season to life. Final Sing is a heartfelt send-off celebrating their dedication, talent, and passion with a program of beloved arias and ensemble highlights. As we close this chapter, we invite you to share in the joy, gratitude, and bittersweet goodbyes – a musical tribute to the voices that have made this season unforgettable and the bright futures that lie ahead.

Calling All 2026 Graduates!

Deadline: May 5th

Are you graduating from high school, college, vocational/technical or graduate school this year? Please contact Suzanne McCawley at TheMcCawleys@gmail.com by May 5th so we can include your information in our Graduate bulletin.

Mother & Son Carnival Dance

Thursday, May 7th, 6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

Step right up for a night of fun, laughter, and unforgettable memories! Boys in PreK4 through 5th grade are invited to bring their mom, grandma, aunt, or another special lady. Enjoy a lively evening filled with games, dancing, and carnival-style fun! [CLICK HERE](#) to RSVP.

WELCOME REV. TRICIA YOUNG!

This past Sunday, our congregation joyfully voted to call Rev. Tricia Young as our new Associate Pastor. We are grateful for God's guidance throughout this process and excited for the ways God will work through her in the life of our church. Rev. Tricia will officially begin her ministry with us on May 25th, and we look forward to welcoming her into our community in her new position in the weeks ahead.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR MUSICAL

One Service: Sunday, May 3rd

The Children's Choirs will present their annual musical during the 10:00 am worship service in the Sanctuary on Sunday May 3rd. Their performance focuses on a Bible story that serves as a lesson for all ages.

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 Ephesians

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.

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

THURSDAYS (cont.)

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
Bininger 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

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

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!

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!