



OCTOBER 25, 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

Gracious God, as I enter this time of worship, quiet the distractions within me and help me rest in your presence. Open my heart to the good news of Jesus Christ. Reform me by your Word and Spirit, that I may see my neighbors with compassion and recognize where you are already at work. Let the love I receive here shape the life I share beyond this place. Amen.

*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Jon Bock

Leader: Come, bringing your joys and your burdens, your questions and your hopes.

People: God welcomes us with grace and love.

Leader: Come, listen for the good news of Jesus Christ.

People: God's Word renews our hope and shapes our lives.

Leader: Come, let us worship the One who calls us to love our neighbors.

People: Open our hearts, O God, to receive your love and share it.

*SONG

A Day For Singing

*Mercy, rising with the rising of the sun
Goodness, rushing in and filling up my lungs
Your faithfulness is here and now
The evidence is all around*

*I bless Your name, I give You praise
Today is a day for singing
Awake my soul, come on praise the Lord
Today is a day for singing*

*Oh my soul, praise the Lord
Oh my soul, today is a day for singing*

*A new song
Is welling up from deep inside of me
There's new life,
Hallelujah I have been redeemed
I've been redeemed*

*I bless Your name, I give You praise
Today is a day for singing
Awake my soul, come on praise the Lord
Today is a day for singing*

Oh my soul, praise the Lord
Oh my soul, today is a day for singing
Today is a day for singing

From the valley to the mountain
The desert to the fountain, oh I will praise You
From the morning to the evening
As long as I am breathing
Today is a day for singing

From the valley to the mountain
The desert to the fountain, oh I will praise You
From the morning to the evening
As long as I am breathing
Today is a day for singing

From the valley to the mountain
The desert to the fountain, oh I will praise You
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Today is a day for singing
Today is a day for singing

Gracious God, you have entrusted us with the good news of Jesus Christ. Yet we confess that our words and actions do not always reflect his love. We speak before we listen, make assumptions before we understand, and turn away when caring becomes difficult. We seek approval and comfort, and hesitate when love asks more of us. Forgive us, and reform us by your Word and Spirit. Give us courage to speak with grace, humility to receive what others teach us, and tenderness to share our lives in love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***SONGS**

Holy Water

*God I'm on my knees again
God I'm begging please again
I need You
Oh I need You*

*Walking down these desert roads
Water for my thirsty soul
I need You
Oh I need You*

*Your forgiveness
Is like sweet sweet honey on my lips
Like the sound of a symphony to my ears
Like holy water on my skin*

*Dead man walking slave to sin
I wanna know about being born again
I need You
Oh God I need You*

*So take me to the riverside
Take me under baptize
I need You
Oh God I need You oh*

*Your forgiveness
Is like sweet sweet honey on my lips
Like the sound of a symphony to my ears
Like holy water on my skin*

I don't wanna abuse Your grace

God I need it ev'ry day
It's the only thing that ever really
Makes me wanna change

I don't wanna abuse Your grace
God I need it ev'ry day
It's the only thing that ever really
Makes me wanna change

I don't wanna abuse Your grace
God I need it ev'ry day
It's the only thing that ever really
Makes me wanna change

Your forgiveness
Is like sweet sweet honey on my lips
Like the sound of a symphony to my ears
Like holy water on my skin,

Like holy water on my skin
Like holy water

No Longer Slaves to Fear

You unravel me with a melody
You surround me with a song
Of deliverance from my enemies
'Til all my fears are gone

I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God
I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God

From my mother's womb
You have chosen me
Love has called my name
I've been born again
Into Your family
Your blood flows through my veins

I'm no longer a slave to fear

*I am a child of God
I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God*

*I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God
I'm no longer a slave to fear
I am a child of God*

*I am surrounded
By the arms of the Father
And I am surrounded
By songs of deliverance*

*We've been liberated
From our bondage
We're the sons and the daughters
Let us sing our freedom*

*You split the sea
So I could walk right through it
My fears were drowned in perfect love
You rescued me
So I could stand and sing
I am a child of God*

*You split the sea
So I could walk right through it
My fears were drowned in perfect love
You rescued me
So I could stand and sing
I am a child of God*

*I am a child of God
I am a child of God*

PASSING OF PEACE

Jonny Barahona

MISSION AND COMMUNITY

Chandler Gelb

SHARING OUR GIFTS

*SONG

Gentle Shepherd, Kind and True

Children's Choir

PRAYER AND BLESSING

Rev. Tricia Young

SCRIPTURE • [1 Thessalonians 2:1-8](#)

THE MESSAGE

Sharing the Gospel, Sharing Our Lives

SONG

*Graves Into Gardens
I searched the world, but it couldn't fill me
Man's empty praise, and treasures that fade
Are never enough*

*Then You came along, and put me back together
And every desire is now satisfied
Here in Your love*

*Oh there's nothing better than You
There's nothing better than You
Lord there's nothing
Nothing is better than You*

*I'm not afraid, to show You my weakness
My failures and flaws, Lord You've seen them all
And You still call me friend*

*'Cause the God of the mountain
Is the God of the valley
There's not a place, Your mercy and grace
Won't find me again*

*Oh there's nothing better than You
There's nothing better than You
Lord there's nothing
Nothing is better than You*

*Oh there's nothing better than You
There's nothing better than You*

Lord there's nothing
Nothing is better than You

You turn mourning to dancing
You give beauty for ashes
You turn shame into glory
You're the only One who can

You turn mourning to dancing
You give beauty for ashes
You turn shame into glory
You're the only One who can

You turn graves into gardens
You turn bones into armies
You turn seas into highways
You're the only One who can
You're the only One who can

Oh there's nothing better than You
There's nothing better than You
Lord there's nothing
Nothing is better than You

BRIDGE 2

You turn graves into gardens
You turn bones into armies
You turn seas into highways
You're the only One who can

BRIDGE 2

You turn graves into gardens
You turn bones into armies
You turn seas into highways
You're the only One who can

You're the only One who can
You're the only One who can

**please stand if you are able*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Flowers are Given by Jim Sabin in loving memory of Barb Sabin's birthday on October 30th.

Baby Rose Dedication on the chancel is dedicated in celebration of the birth of Luke Kenneth Plyer, born October 14th to parents Andrew and Julie Plyer and grandparents Michael and Tanis Guerasio.

Christian Sympathy: A memorial service for Gil Fickinger who passed away on October 12th will be held on Friday, November 6th at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary with a reception to follow in Fellowship Hall.

UPDATES & UPCOMING EVENTS AT FIRST PRES

Third Serve Sunday - TODAY!

10:45 am, Family Campus

Join our Young Adults after the 9:30 am service for brunch, pickleball, games, and fellowship! All are welcome so bring a friend, your kids, or even your dog!

Adult Activity Center (AAC) for Seniors

Thursday, October 29th, 11:00 am, Fellowship Hall

Join us at AAC for a visit from female vocalist Jeanne Lynn Gray. Bring a friend as we celebrate Oktoberfest! Lunch is German style pork roast, sauerkraut and homemade spaetzle. RSVP online now by [CLICKING HERE](#) or visiting the First Pres app or website. Or RSVP by 10:00 am on October 19th to Ellen Whiteman at 954-598-9312 or ellenw@firstpres.cc.

Trunk or Treat 2026 - THIS WEEK!

Wednesday, October 28th, 6:00 pm, First Pres Family Campus

Join us for a fun-filled evening of costumes, candy, creative trunks, and community! Bring the whole family for a safe and festive Halloween celebration.

Want to decorate a trunk? Reserve a FREE spot and compete for prizes! Scan the QR code to register your children, reserve a trunk, or both.

Candy Donations Needed! Drop off candy in the Neumann Center or Main

Church Lobby through October 26th.

[CLICK HERE](#) to preregister your child(ren), reserve a trunk spot, or both!

Socktober - FINAL WEEK!

Ends October 31, 2026

Join the national movement and help us SOCK it to poverty by donating NEW socks for our neighbors who are homeless. Sock donation boxes are located in the church front office, the Fellowship Hall, and in the back of the Sanctuary. You can also order socks online and ship them to the church and include ATTN: Socktober.

AAC November Outing - RSVP DEADLINE IS TOMORROW!

Tuesday, November 17th, NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale

Join us as we enjoy a docent-led tour by church member Shirley Gleason. We will view the diverse and innovative exhibitions at the art museum and enjoy a buffet lunch. Come along for a day of fun and culture with your AAC friends! For more info contact Ellen Whiteman at 954-598-9312 or ellenw@firstpres.cc.

Concert Series: A Night of Gratitude

Thursday, November 5th, 7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall, Free Admission

Join us for an evening to celebrate everything God has done through the generosity of this congregation. Our contemporary worship team will lead us in worship, with space woven throughout to hear stories of God at work in the lives of people in this community. The evening is designed to feel welcoming and unhurried, with an emphasis on community and worship rather than performance, a chance to simply spend time in God's presence as a church family. We will have dessert and coffee in the lobby before and after so we can linger and enjoy one another. Whether you have been here for years or are new to this community, you belong.

SUNDAYS: WATTS CHAPEL PRAYER SPACE

Every Sunday the **Watts Chapel** will be open for prayer following each worship service. Located between the Neumann Center and the Sanctuary, this beautiful sacred space offers a quiet place to come, pray, and be prayed for. Members of our Prayer Ministry will be present to pray with you and for you or you can pray alone.

All are welcome.

Would you like to be part of this ministry and pray with others?

Please contact Associate Pastor Tricia Young
at triciay@firstpres.cc or 954-598-9305.



Christmas Wreaths Presale - PREORDER NOW!

Now through November 1st

Deck your door and support our Kirk Singers' 2027 Tour! Preorder your handcrafted evergreen wreath today, a beautiful way to share the joy of the season. The deadline to order is Sunday, November 1st, and wreath pick-up will be on Sunday, November 29th. Quantities are limited, so order early by scanning the QR code or using the First Pres mobile app under 'give'!

DISCOVER FIRST PRES!

First time and regular visitors are invited to learn more about First Pres **Sunday, November 8th** after the service. Meet at the Connection Counter and we'll share some information about our church, give you a tour of our campus, and answer any questions you may have. Contact Karyn Greep at karyng@firstpres.cc to schedule a time during the week to meet.

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 Colossians

GriefShare

6:00 pm

Chapel In The Sky & Zoom

Young Adults A Step Further Study

6:30 - 7:45 pm
Spanish Room & The Hinge

WEDNESDAYS

Cherub Choir Rehearsal

PreK 4 - Kindergarten
5:00 - 5:30 pm
Happyland

Good Game Wednesday

Youth, 5:50 - 7:30 pm
Family Campus

Bible History Class

6:30 pm
Chapel in the Sky & Zoom

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

Prayer Team Gathering

4:00 pm / Via Zoom
(Meeting ID: 875 15361412)
Passcode: 028762

Cathedral Choir Rehearsal

Adults, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Choir Room

FRIDAYS

Middle School Youth Group

4:00 - 6:30 pm
The Harbor

SUNDAYS

Children's Choir Rehearsal

1st - 5th Grade
9:00 - 9:30 am
Choir Room

A Time For Prayer

10:15 am - 12:30 pm
Watts Chapel

New Testament Bible Study

9:45 am
Bininger Conference Room
First Pres Kids ALL IN Sunday School
Kindergarten - Grade 5
9:15 - 10:45 am

Check In: Neumann Center 1st Floor

Childcare & Nursery

Newborn - Age 4
9:15 am - 12:00 pm
Check In: Neumann Center 1st Floor

Small Group: God's Grace

10:45 am
Study & Renewal Center
Kirk Singer Rehearsal
Middle - High School

4:00 - 5:00 pm
Choir Room
High School Youth Group
5:00 - 6:30 pm
The Harbor

GIVE ONLINE

Make your offering conveniently and securely.
CLICK HERE to give online.

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!