

RALLY DAY 2025

ROOTED IN FAITH



SEPTEMBER 7, 2025 | 11:00AM



**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 and faithful God,
you are the source of life, the ground of our being,
the One in whom we live and move and have our roots.
As we gather in worship, turn our hearts toward you.
Plant your Word deep within us, nourish us with your Spirit,
and shape us into people who bear fruit for your kingdom.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Nicholas B. Merchant

PRELUDE

Brass Quintet

All Creatures of Our God and King
Based on Lasst Uns Erfreuen - arr. Vaclav Nelhybel

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Merchant

***OPENING HYMN #826**

CRUCIFER

Lift High the Cross

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Mona Petersen

**Faithful God, you are the One who makes covenant with your people,
who binds yourself to us in steadfast love.
Yet we confess how often we forget the promises we have made.
We turn from your ways and worship the work of our own hands.
We seek security in what cannot last,
and we chase after gods of our own making.
We come before you with divided hearts and distracted minds,
giving you only a portion of our attention and devotion.**

**Forgive us, Lord.
Renew your covenant within us.
Root us deeply in your love,
so that our worship may be wholehearted
and our lives may reflect your glory. Amen.**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Petersen

***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

CHILDREN'S TIME

Chandler Gelb

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Jon Bock

[Romans 12:1-2](#)

ANTHEM

Cathedral Choir

Let Heavenly Music Fill This Place - Gordon Young

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gelb

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

Gelb

OFFERTORY

Cathedral Choir

A Jubilant Song - Allen Pote

*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

Rev. Merchant

[Exodus 24:1-11](#)

MESSAGE

Rev. Merchant

"Rooted in Covenant: A Life of Worship"

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Rev. Merchant

The Invitation
Prayer of Thanksgiving
The Words of Institution
Celebration of the Supper

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

SONG

Contemporary Worship Band

Establish The Work Of Our Hands

*CLOSING HYMN #641

ENGLEBERG

When In Our Music God is Glorified

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Rev. Merchant

POSTLUDE

Brass Quintet

God of Grace

Paul Manz Op.14 - arr. Jonathan Crutchfield

Those participating in worship today are:

Sophia Beharrie, Interim Director of Traditional Worship; Cathedral Choir;

Oleksii Ivanchenko, Accompanist; Susan Dodd, Organist;

Rev. Nicholas B. Merchant, Pastor;

Mona Petersen, Director of Adult Ministry & Small Groups;

Chandler Gelb, Director of Youth & College Ministries;

Jon Bock, Young Adult Ministry Coordinator

Brass Quintet: *Adam Bookspan, Trumpet; Peter Francis, Trumpet;*

Richard Todd, Horn; John Kricker, Trombone;

Jose Leon, Bass-Trombone; Al Leonardis, Percussion

Contemporary Worship Band: *Jonny Barahona, Albert Leonardis,*

Javier Chia, Amélie De Kegel

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Flowers are Given by Mike Shaw in memory of his grandma “Nanny”, Evelyn Payakovich’s 101 birthday on September 10th.

Flower Availability: September 21st and October 12th. 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

College Care Package Mission

September 1st-28th

Our church family is sending love and encouragement to nearly 60 undergraduate and graduate students through our College Care Package Mission. These packages, filled with practical items and a touch of home, remind our students that they are cared for and supported as they navigate their academic journey. You can help by [CLICKING HERE](#) to access our Amazon wish list and dropping the items at the church by Sunday, September 28th. Financial contributions are also welcome. Please note "College Care Packages" in the memo line. Thank you for blessing our students in this meaningful way! For more info about needed items and more, contact the College Team Chair, Suzanne McCawley at themccawleys@gmail.com.

Kirk Singers - First Rehearsal TODAY!

Sunday, September 7th, 4:00 - 5:00 pm

The Kirk Singers, comprising of youth from 6-12 grade, have their first rehearsal today from 4:00 - 5:00 pm. For more information or to join the Kirk Singers, contact Gretchen Fasulo at gretchenf@firstpres.cc.

Wednesday Night Live (WNL!) Dinners

Wednesdays, September 10th, 5:30 - 6:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

Join us on Wednesdays beginning September 10th for delicious meals prepared by our own Chef Phil. [CLICK HERE](#) to RSVP. For more info, contact Mona Petersen at monap@firstpres.cc or 954-598-9345.

ALPHA Series

Wednesdays, September 10th, 6:00 - 8:00 pm, St Andrews Room

Alpha is a space to unpack the basics of the Christian faith together. No pressure, no judgement. Just open conversation over some good food, that's it. So, come along and see what you think on every Wednesday from September 10th - November 19th. [CLICK HERE](#) to register for ALPHA. For more info, contact Mona Petersen at monap@firstpres.cc or 954-598-9345.

Bible History Class

Wednesdays, September 10th, 2025 - May 20, 2026

Join us as we take a historical look at the Bible "From Galilee to the Globe" Wednesdays at 6:30 pm in Chapel In The Sky and via Zoom. This class will be facilitated by Mary Helen Merchant. For more information, contact Mona Petersen at monap@firstpres.cc or 954-598-9345.

Third Serve Sundays

Sunday, September 21st, 10:45 am, Family Campus

Join our Young Adult Ministry for Third Serve Sundays, a monthly gathering filled with brunch, pickleball games, and connection! Meet us at the Family Campus after the 9:30 am service every third Sunday of the month. All are welcome — bring a friend, your kids, or even your dog! For more info contact Jon Bock at jonb@firstpres.cc.

Women's Thursday Morning Bible Study

Thursdays, Starting September 11th, 10:00 - 11:00 am

ALL women are invited to gather for a fall kickoff and to bring a friend or two! We will gather in the Study & Renewal Center (aka "The Cottage") on Thursday mornings from 10:00 - 11:00 am. Feel free to come a little early for some conversation! Contact Mona Petersen for more information at monap@firstpres.cc or 954-598-9345.

First Informed Communion Classes

Sunday, September 14th, 21st, 28th, 9:30 am, Neumann Center Room 119

We invite children from 3rd to 5th grade to attend a series of meaningful Communion Classes. These classes are meant to train children so that they clearly understand the gospel and encourage them to grow in their personal relationship with the Lord. To sign up for the class, please contact Cindy Vason at 954-598-9341 or cindyv@firstpres.cc.

Habitat Build Day

Saturday, September 20th

Join us September 20th, for our Habitat for Humanity Build Day. Email Kathy Craven for more information and to register at wrcrv@aol.com.

Florida Presbyterian Pilgrimage

April 17-19, 2026, The Retreat, Silver Springs, FL

It's time for you to experience the depth of Christ's love wherever you are on your journey of faith! The Florida Presbyterian Pilgrimage is a three-day spiritual weekend featuring worship, fellowship, and prayer at The Retreat in Silver Springs, Florida. Learn more at Rally Day 2025, or [CLICK HERE](#) for applications and information. Contact Rena Craven for more info at rec0513@hotmail.com or call 954-789-9373.

Are You Looking For a Bible Study?



At First Pres, we believe learning what it is to be a follower of Jesus is important to our discipleship framework. A Step Further is a resource for individuals, families and small groups to dive deeper into Sunday's sermon. We would love to get you plugged in with a group whether it's on the church campus, via Zoom, at a coffee shop or in a home! [CLICK HERE](#) to answer a few questions to get started!

We will also be offering "A Step Further" on Wednesday nights after the WNL! dinner from 6:30 - 7:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Scan the QR Code to sign 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 to join our livestreams.

Children's 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!

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.

TUESDAYS

Men's Morning Bible Study

8:00 am / Via Zoom

(Meeting ID: 483 553 8166)

Starting Book of Proverbs

WEDNESDAYS

Good Game Wednesday

5:30-7:30 pm

Family Campus

Wednesday Night Live!

5:30-6:30 pm

Fellowship Hall

Bible History Class

6:30-7:30 pm

Chapel In The Sky

A Step Further

6:30-7:30 pm

Fellowship Hall

ALPHA

6:00-7:30 pm

Study & Renewal Center

THURSDAYS

Women's Bible Study

10:00 - 11:00 am

Study & Renewal Center

Men's Bible Study & Lunch

12:30 - 1:30 pm

Neumann Center Library

Cathedral Chior (Adults)

Rehearsal 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Choir Room

FRIDAYS

Middle School Youth Group

4:00 - 6:30 pm

The Harbor

SUNDAYS

New Testament Bible Study

9:45 am

Bininger Conference Room

Children's Sunday School

PreK3 & PreK4

9:30 & 11:00 am:

Neumann Center, 1st floor

K-5th Grade

9:30 am: Neumann Center, 2nd floor

Childcare

Newborns-PreK 4

9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Neumann Center 1st Floor

Kirk Singer Rehearsal

4:00 - 5:00 pm

Choir Room

High School Youth Group

4:30 - 6:00 pm

The Harbor