



WELCOME
THANKS FOR JOINING US

APRIL 26, 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

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 & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mona Petersen

PRELUDE

Anastasiya Naplekova, piano

Living Hope arr. Mark Hayes

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Nicholas B. Merchant

***OPENING HYMN #268**

DIADEMATA

Crown Him with Many Crowns

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Petersen

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.

***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

Petersen

[Psalm 23](#)

ANTHEM

Andrew Robichaud, soloist; Cathedral Choir

*The Lord is My Shepherd - Howard Goodall***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Petersen

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

Cathedral Choir

*The Lord Bless You and Keep You - John Rutter****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 10:7-18](#)**MESSAGE***What comes next when Jesus calls you by name?****CLOSING HYMN #187**

BRADBURY

*Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us****CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

Rev. Merchant

POSTLUDE

Susan Dodd, organ

*Gaudeamus - Alec Rowley***please stand if you are able*

Those participating in worship today are:

Rev. Nicholas B. Merchant, Pastor;

Mona Petersen, Director of Adult Ministry & Small Groups;

Sophia Beharrie, Interim Director of Traditional Worship;

Cathedral Choir; Andrew Robichaud, Soloist;

Anastasiya Naplekova, Piano; Susan Dodd, Organist;

AV Team: Teo Constantinescu, Travis Fickinger, Mario Rodriguez, Ryan Tilbrook

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!