



**JANUARY 18, 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](http://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

Jonny Barahona

## \*SONG

### **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*

## **COMMUNITY LIFE**

Jon Bock

## **INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

Rev. Nicholas B. Merchant

## **BAPTISM**

Lucas Antonio Castro

## **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**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.**

## **\*SONG**

**Who You Say I Am**  
*Who am I that the highest King  
Would welcome me*

*I was lost but He brought me in  
Oh His love for me  
Oh His love for me*

*Who the Son sets free  
Oh is free indeed  
I'm a child of God  
Yes I am*

*Free at last, He has ransomed me  
His grace runs deep  
While I was a slave to sin  
Jesus died for me  
Yes he died for me*

*Who the Son sets free  
Oh is free indeed  
I'm a child of God, Yes I am  
In my Father's house  
There's a place for me  
I'm a child of God, Yes I am*

*I am chosen not forsaken  
I am who You say I am  
You are for me not against me  
I am who You say I am*

*I am chosen not forsaken  
I am who You say I am  
You are for me not against me  
I am who You say I am  
I am who You say I am  
I am who You say I am*

*Who the Son sets free  
Oh is free indeed  
I'm a child of God, Yes I am  
In my Father's house  
There's a place for me  
I'm a child of God, Yes I am*

## SHARING OUR GIFTS

Ellen Whiteman, Teri Stockham

### \*SONG

#### Made For More

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION & ILLUMINATION

Rev. Nicholas B. Merchant

SCRIPTURE • [John 15:1-8](#)

### THE MESSAGE

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

### \*SONG

#### Build My Life

*Worthy of every song we could ever sing  
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring  
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe  
We live for You, oh, we live for You*

*Jesus, the name above every other name  
Jesus, the only one who could ever save  
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe  
We live for You, we live for You*

*Holy, there is no one like You  
There is none beside You  
Open up my eyes in wonder and  
Show me who You are and  
Fill me with Your heart  
And lead me in Your love to those around me*

*Jesus, the name above every other name  
Jesus, the only one who could ever save  
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe  
We live for You, we live for You*

*Holy, there is no one like You  
There is none beside You  
Open up my eyes in wonder and  
Show me who You are and  
Fill me with Your heart*

*And lead me in Your love to those around me*

*Holy, there is no one like You  
There is none beside You  
Open up my eyes in wonder and  
Show me who You are and  
Fill me with Your heart  
And lead me in Your love to those around me*

*I will build my life upon Your  
love, it is a firm foundation  
I will put my trust in You  
alone, and I will not be shaken*

*I will build my life upon Your  
love, it is a firm foundation  
I will put my trust in You  
alone, and I will not be shaken*

*Holy, there is no one like You  
There is none beside You  
Open up my eyes in wonder and  
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**CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

Rev. Merchant

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](http://firstpres.cc) or contact us at 954-462-6200 or [info@firstpres.cc](mailto: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!