



JANUARY 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](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

Rev. Nicholas B. Merchant

## \*SONG

*Rising Sun  
Praise Him all you sinners  
Sing, oh sing you weary  
Oh praise Him all you children of God*

*We lift high His glory  
Shown throughout our stories  
We praise Him as the children of God*

*Our great Redeemer glorious Savior  
Your Name is higher than the rising sun*

*Light of the morning You shine forever  
Your Name is higher than the rising sun  
Your Name is higher than the rising sun*

*Praise His Name forever  
Speak it loud and clear now  
Oh praise Him all you children of God*

*Our great Redeemer glorious Savior  
Your Name is higher than the rising sun  
Light of the morning You shine forever  
Your Name is higher than the rising sun  
Your Name is higher than the rising sun*

*Oh Oh  
Oh Oh  
Oh Oh  
Oh Oh*

*Hallelujah name above all  
Simply to speak Your Name is praise  
Hallelujah now and always  
Forever we lift Your Name in praise*

*Hallelujah our God You reign  
Simply to speak Your Name is praise, oh*

*Our great Redeemer glorious Savior  
Your Name is higher than the rising sun*

*Light of the morning You shine forever  
Your Name is higher than the rising sun  
Your Name is higher than the rising sun  
Your Name is higher than the rising sun*

## **COMMUNITY LIFE**

Jon Bock

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

**Patient God,**  
**we confess that our hearts are not always open to your Word.**  
**We allow worry, distraction, fear, and familiarity**  
**to crowd out what you long to grow within us.**  
**We want quick results without lasting change.**  
**Forgive us for the ways we resist your work.**  
**Soften our hearts,**  
**and make us receptive to the seeds you are planting in our lives.**  
**Amen.**

### **\*SONGS**

#### **Lead Me To The Cross**

*Savior I come  
Quiet my soul, remember  
Redemption's hill  
Where Your blood was spilled  
For my ransom  
Everything I once held dear, I count it all as lost*

*Lead me to the cross  
Where Your love poured out  
Bring me to my knees  
Lord I lay me down  
Rid me of myself, I belong to You  
O lead me, lead me to the cross*

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

*You were as I, tempted and tried  
Human  
The word became flesh  
Bore my sin and death  
Now you're risen  
Everything I once held dear, I count it all as lost*

*Lead me to the cross  
Where Your love poured out  
Bring me to my knees  
Lord I lay me down  
Rid me of myself  
I belong to You  
O lead me, lead me to the cross*

*To Your heart  
To Your heart  
Lead me to Your heart  
Lead me to Your heart*

*Lead me to the cross  
Where Your love poured out  
Bring me to my knees  
Lord I lay me down  
Rid me of myself  
I belong to You  
O lead me*

*Lead me to the cross  
Where Your love poured out  
Bring me to my knees  
Lord I lay me down  
Rid me of myself  
I belong to You  
O lead me*

### **Always**

*My foes are many  
They rise against me  
But I will hold my ground*

*I will not fear the war  
I will not fear the storm  
My help is on the way  
My help is on the way*

*Oh my God  
He will not delay  
My refuge and strength always  
I will not fear  
His promise is true  
My God will come through always  
Always*

*Trouble surrounds me  
Chaos abounding  
My soul will rest in You  
I will not fear the war  
I will not fear the storm  
My help is on the way  
My help is on the way*

*I lift my eyes up  
My help comes from the Lord  
I lift my eyes up  
My help comes from the Lord*

## **CHILDREN'S TIME**

Bock

## **SHARING OUR GIFTS**

Chandler Gelb

## **\*SONG**

**Death Arrested**

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION & ILLUMINATION**

Rev. Nicholas B. Merchant

## **SCRIPTURE • [Mark 4:1-20](#)**

## **THE MESSAGE**

*Made for More  
(3) To Be Open to Growth*

## **\*SONG**

### **Made Alive**

*I once was dead in sin alone and hopeless  
A child of wrath I walked condemned in darkness  
But Your mercy brought new life  
And in Your love and kindness  
Raised me up with Christ and made me righteous*

*You have bought me back with the riches of  
Your amazing grace and relentless love  
I'm made alive forever with You life forever  
By Your grace I'm saved  
(By Your grace I'm saved)*

*Lord You are the light that broke the darkness  
You satisfy my soul when I am heartless  
If ever I forget my true identity  
Show me who I am and help me to believe*

*My sin has been erased  
I'll never be the same*

## **CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

Rev. Merchant

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

**The Flowers are Dedicated** in loving memory of Dr. Robert Green, on his birthday, from his loving family.

**Congratulations** to Anna Rosen-Needleman & Josh Needleman, on the baptism of their son Zanvil James Needleman at the Traditional Service.

**Christian Sympathy** of the congregation is extended to the Ehmke family at the passing of Dan Ehmke's father, Herschel Ehmke, on December 31st at 96 years old. Please keep this family in your thoughts and prayers at this time.

**Flower Availability:** 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

## **The Neumann Society: Leaving a Legacy of Faith - TODAY!**

10:30 - 11:00 am, Spanish Room

Have you ever considered how your faith might continue to bless others for generations to come? TODAY 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!

## **Astralis Chamber Ensemble - TODAY!**

4:00 pm, Sanctuary

Join us TODAY 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!

## **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.

## **Adult Activity Center (AAC) for Seniors**

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

DJ Dr. Shane Lemar will visit us at AAC to perform “Bandstand Boogie - The Dancers, Stories and Songs of a Young America.” The menu offering is meat lasagna. RSVP by 10:00 am on Monday, January 26th to Ellen Whiteman 954-598-9312 or [ellenw@firstpres.cc](mailto:ellenw@firstpres.cc).

## **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.

## **Lil Miss Sweetheart Dance**

*Thursday, February 12th, 6:00 - 8:00 pm, Fellowship Hall*

Little girls and their special guy are invited to a magical evening full of fairy lights, dancing, and memories to last a lifetime! Spots will be limited and reservations are needed! [CLICK HERE](#) to reserve your spot.

## **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 Garpepy, 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.

## **NEW TO FIRST PRES?**

First time and regular visitors are invited to learn more about First Pres on Sunday, February 8th in the Neumann Center Library.

This gathering will include an introduction to our history, our mission and our values. You will learn what First Pres has to offer through our ministries, fellowship and mission opportunities.

For more info, contact our Director of Connections,  
Karyn Greep at [karyng@firstpres.cc](mailto:karyng@firstpres.cc).



## ARE YOU READY TO LEARN?

Let us help you dive into a current study, sign up for an upcoming study, and form a new study!

### ALPHA

*Wednesday, March 4th, 6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall*

Do you have questions about your faith? Come to Alpha and ask any question you may have in a safe and supportive setting. [CLICK HERE](#) to register now or on the church app. For more information contact Mona Petersen at [monap@firstpres.cc](mailto:monap@firstpres.cc).

### AAC Bible Study

*Starting Monday, January 26th, 10:00 am, Neumann Canter Library*

Join our new AAC group as we reflect and discuss Scripture text and the sermon message from the previous Sunday using the resource A Step Further. We will meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month. For more information connect with [ellenw@firstpres.cc](mailto:ellenw@firstpres.cc) or [monap@firstpres.cc](mailto:monap@firstpres.cc).

### Women's Thursday Morning Bible Study

*Every Thursday, 10:00 am, Study & Renewal Center*

Our Women's Bible Study resumed on January 8th! We are using A Step Further resource for our gatherings to discuss and reflect on the scripture text and sermon from the previous Sunday. For more info connect with Mona Petersen at [monap@firstpres.cc](mailto:monap@firstpres.cc) or 954-598-9345.

### Get Plugged Into a Bible Study!

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 to one of our many groups. [CLICK HERE](#) and share your information to get started.

## 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:  
Meat Lasagna  
***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

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

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!