

Ministry Updates

July 14, 2024

In Memoriam – Sylvia Fahnestock, member of First Presbyterian Church from February 24, 1992 to July 3, 2024.

Our sympathy and prayers are with Pete Galloway and family in the death of his mother; and with Bob Fahnestock and family in the death of his wife Sylvia.

The rosebuds at the baptismal font are to the Glory of God and in honor of Beckett Karl Robinson, son of Keely and Stuart Robinson, grandson of Karl and Vicki Schroeder; Henry John Hazley, born June 11, 2024, son of Chris and Emily Hazley; and Luca Robert Moreschi, born July 2, 2024, son of Laura Ann and Will Moreschi, grandson of Adriana and Dennis Park.

Summer Office Hours - Through Labor Day, the church offices will be open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. The church will be closed on Fridays.

Upper Room update – The July/August issue of the Upper Room devotional has been delayed due to a shipping issue. They should be delivered within 10 days and will be on the Welcome Center when they arrive. In the meantime, you can access the online copy every day at www.upperroom.org/devotionals and click the “Today's Daily Devotional” link towards the top of the page.

Youth Bowling Night - All youth in grades 6-12 are invited for a fun night of fellowship at Palace Bowling Center tonight from 5-7pm. Dinner will be served and the cost is \$5 per person. We would love to see you there; sign up with Emily Tang!

Youth Summer Service Day - All youth in grades 6-12 are invited to our next Summer Service Day! Join us on Wednesday July 17 from 12:30pm-4:30pm. We would love for you to join us, please sign up by July 16! We will go to Costco to select donations for Rags to Riches Dog Rescue, take the puppies and dogs on a walk & clean their cages, and finish the day by getting Sweet Frog! See Emily Tang to sign up.

July Grand Camp - First Pres's next Grand Camp will be Wednesday, July 17 from 10 am - noon. Grand Camp programs are designed for kids and their grandparents or grand-friends to have fun together. This month's camp is “Memory” themed, with several games and crafts to create and share memories! We need a minimum of 5 families to attend or this program will be moved to the August date (8/12). Please RSVP by contacting Sara Pantazes or through the Sign-up tab of the church website.

Women's Retreat Input Needed - Plans are underway for a Winter 2025 retreat for First Pres women to get away, rest, and grow in faith and friendship together! We would appreciate input from those interested in attending to guide us as we make plans. Go to the Sign-up tab of the church's website to complete the survey. Talk to Elizabeth Hess, Caroline Cupp or Sara Pantazes with any questions.

October Dinner Groups at First Pres - There may be no better way to get to know someone than over a shared meal. First Pres, let's get to know each other! We are looking for hosts to open their homes for our October Dinner Group Gatherings. You'll pick the date and time, and provide the main dish and your home, then FPC members can sign up to attend and bring a dish to share. If interested in hosting, please sign up via the church website Signup tab. Let's break bread together in October!

Greeters – 9:00 am: Dennis and Adriana Park
10:45am: Scott and Becky Gamble

Coffee Deacons: Jenn Carle, Gail Turner

Livestream – Greg Ondo



First Presbyterian Church Staff

Rev. Andrew Esqueda, Senior Pastor, aesqueda@firstpreswc.com

Rev. Caroline Cupp, Executive Pastor, ccupp@firstpreswc.com

Sándor Kádár, Director of Music, skadar@firstpreswc.com

Emily Tang, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries,
etang@firstpreswc.com

Sara Pantazes, Director of Faith Formation,
spantazes@firstpreswc.com

Elizabeth Hess, Director of Engagement, ehess@firstpreswc.com

Amanda Erno, Children's Music Director, aerno@firstpreswc.com

Claire Kramer and **Peter Galloway**, Office Administrators
ckramer@firstpreswc.com, pgalloway@firstpreswc.com

Karen Goldstein, Office Manager, kgoldstein@firstpreswc.com

First Presbyterian Church of West Chester
July 14, 2024

Order of Worship

Prelude None But the Lonely Heart
Pyotr Tchaikowsky

Call to Worship*

God will speak peace to God's people, to God's faithful, to those who turn to God in their hearts.

God's salvation is at hand for those who love God.

When our living is right in God's eyes, when justice makes a path for God's steps, steadfast love and faithfulness meet.

The Lord gives what is good, our land yields in abundance, God's glory dwells among us, and we together worship the God who provides.

Hymn 307* God of Grace and God of Glory

Welcome

**Please rise in body or spirit*

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we wonder why we are willing to descend into the worst areas life offers to us, but reluctant to come into your presence. We stand on shaky foundations, yet find it difficult to dance in your joy. We are so quick to trumpet our hollow achievements, and do not seem to be able to hear your whispers of hope for us. Forgive us, and fill us with your mercy. Set our hearts toward love for you and those in need. Help our hope in Jesus Christ to be unshakable that we might live out our adoption as inheritors of love, peace, and faithfulness forever.

Assurance of Forgiveness

In Christ, God's salvation has come; God's peace wipes away our tears, and faithfulness takes us by the hand to lead us home to God.

God has called us, God has claimed us, God has redeemed us. This is good news for all of creation! Thanks be to God. Amen.

Response*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known;
Creator, Word and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia!**

Passing of the Peace*

First Scripture Reading Psalm 29

Special Music Prelude from Cello Suite #1
J. S. Bach

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer
**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.**

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory On Wings of Song Felix Mendelssohn

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication*

**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. Amen.**

Hymn 694* Great God of Every Blessing

Second Scripture Reading Psalm 85:8-13

Sermon *The Lord Speaks...Still*

Hymn 634* To God Be the Glory

Benediction*

Postlude Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
arr. David Paxton

*All are welcome in worship.
We are a community of people of all ages who cry, vocalize, sing,
fuss, stand, sit, and come and go as needed.
The sounds of people are the joyful noise of God's creation.*

*The nursery is available for children ages 0-3 years.
There are also screens in Fellowship Hall that stream the service if
you need to step out.*

*Audio amplifiers are in a basket at the back of the sanctuary.
Please ask a greeter for assistance if needed.*

*Leading in Worship
Rev. Andrew Esqueda, Senior Pastor
Rev. Caroline Cupp, Executive Pastor
Ann Ellis, Choir Accompanist
Greg Ondo, AV & Streaming
Genevieve Kline, Cello
Tracy Burke, Cantor*

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of West Chester

*We hope that in this place, you encounter
something of the divine in the faces and voices of
those around you.*

*In an era where many hunger for authentic
connection, we seek, however imperfectly, to follow
Christ through our relationships with one another
and our wider West Chester community.*

*In a hurting world, we cling to the hope that
God's plan is not destruction but love, and that
love comes not only at the end of time but here and
now. Jesus invites us each to take part in this
work.*

*We know that being part of Christian community
does not answer all our doubts, but offers comfort
in sorrow, a challenge to despair, and connects us
to a group of people with whom we can live out
our questions and who share our desire to make
this world more just and peaceful for all.*

We are so glad you are here.