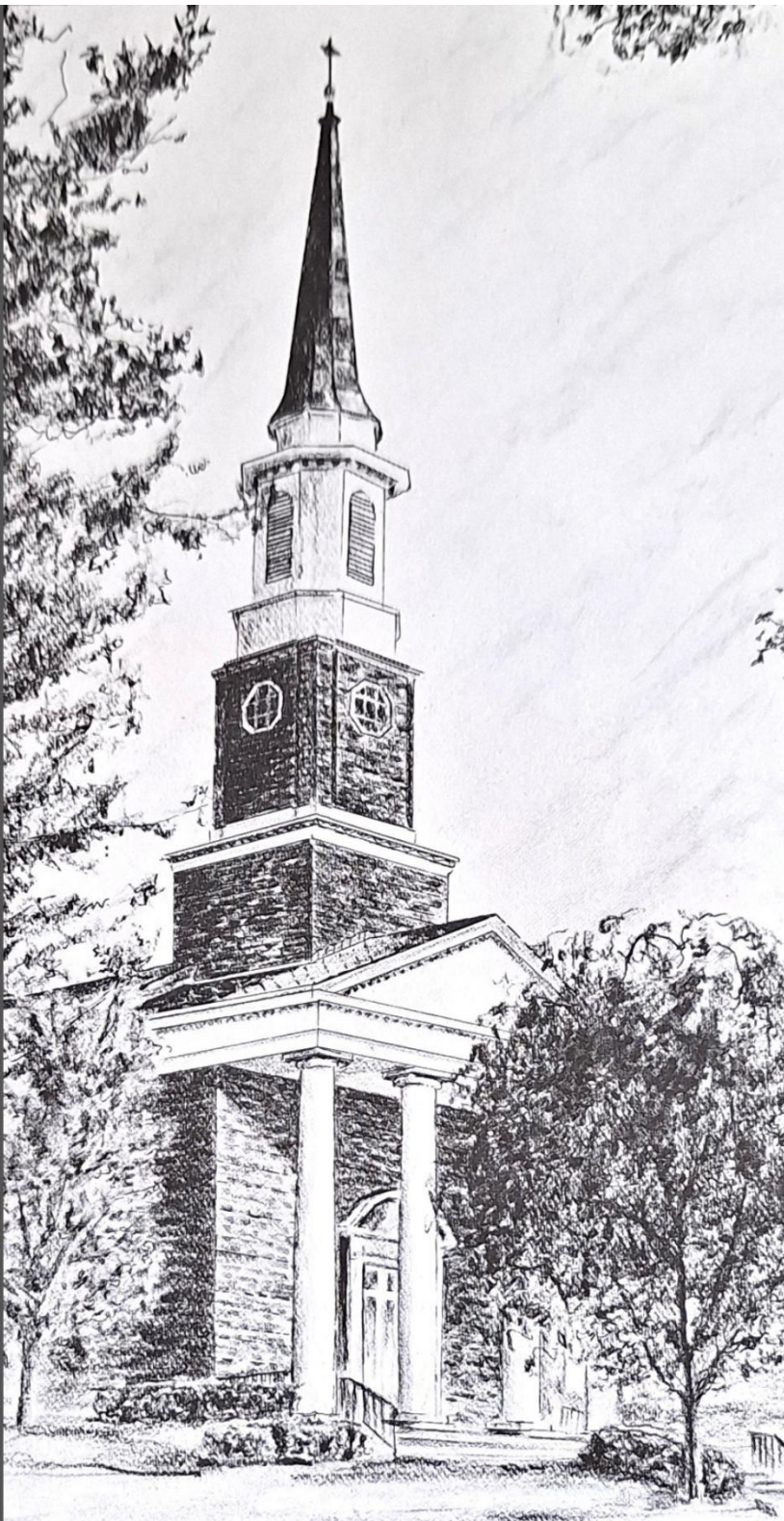


# Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 21, 2025  
10:30 A.M.

FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH



# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

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## THE GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Improvisation on *Hendon*

GREETING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD;

**Praise the Name of the LORD.**

From the rising of the sun to its going down let the Name of the LORD be praised.

**Who is like the LORD our God, who sits enthroned on high and stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?**

God takes up the weak out of the dust and lifts up the poor from the ashes.

**Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD!**

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, protect us from being anxious about all things deep and wide, and give us grace to love all that is above and below. As it is with life, much of what we are used to is passing away. Help us hold fast with grace and gratitude to the great Love which endures; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

\*HYMN 697

*Take My Life*

HENDON

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

There is one God, and one go-between connecting God and humankind: Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself as a ransom for all. Let us pray.

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

(Jeremiah 8:18-9:1)

**O God, is joy gone, is grief upon you, is your heart sick? We provoke you to anger with our idolatry, our looking about for false security. The harvest is past, the summer is ended, but we are still waiting to be rescued. Surely you hear the cries of your people reverberating through the country! Is there no balm in Gilead? For my dear people, I'm heartbroken. I weep, seized by grief.**

**What way is there, with all our casualties, to mend broken bodies and broken hearts? You hurt because we hurt, so help us! Amen.**

*A brief silence is kept for personal prayer.*

PRAYER RESPONSE (HYMN 544)

*Bless the Lord*

BLESS THE LORD

*Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.*

*Bless, the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.*

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

May God's mercy renew and stir us. Remember your baptism and give thanks.

**Amen.**

\*GLORIA PATRI (Hymn 581)

GREATOR EX

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Having been reconciled to God, let us be reconciled to one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

\*SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn 203)

*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

CHERE PONI

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Diane Bowers

May God be with you in worship here.

**May God be with you in worship there.**

*Children may depart the sanctuary for Kids' Kirk. They will return before communion.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Spirit of God, fall on us here and now. Open your Word to us and let us hear its message clearly. Quiet whatever distracts us or resists you. Move us to faithfully discern your way. **Amen.**

## READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Psalm 79:1-9 (O.T.p. 540)

The Psalms are the songbook of God's people. **We sing to the Lord.**

\*Luke 16:1-15 (N.T.p. 79)

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

SERMON

Rev. Marilyn Ericksen

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN 792

*There Is a Balm in Gilead*

BALM IN GILEAD

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(Adapted from A Modern Creed of Faith 2021)

**We believe in one God, Creator of heaven and earth, Source of all life and all love. We believe in Jesus Christ, Fully God, fully human, Savior of the worlds, the risen Prince of Peace. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath and power of God, Sustainer of our lives in Christ. We believe in the Church, Christ's body, God's worthy and vulnerable people, Called to be Love and Light, To pursue justice and show mercy, to proclaim the Good News of Christ, To work for the common good of humanity and all creation. Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

In Christ, we have received everything we need. Freely we have received; now freely we give.

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

*An Open Door*

Jack Warren Burnam

*Look, I have set before you an open door,  
which no one is able to shut.*

*Ask, and it will be given you;  
search and you will find;  
knock, and the door will be opened for you.  
For ev'ryone who asks receives,  
and ev'ryone who searches find,  
and for ev'ryone who knocks,  
the door will be opened.*

*Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking.  
I will come in to you and eat with you,  
and you with me.*

\*THE DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

## SEALING THE WORD WITH THE SACRAMENT

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

*Sung by all: (Hymn 552)*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.**

*The prayer continues.*

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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*All who seek God are invited to the table, regardless of church affiliation or any other condition or identity. Ushers will guide you forward to partake by taking a piece of bread and dipping it in the cup. Servers will come to those who prefer to remain in their seats.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**By the power of your Spirit continue to unite us with Christ and with one another as we work and wait in hope, confident that Christ will come again to make all things well and we will feast again together at his heavenly side. Amen.**

**BEARING THE WORD INTO THE CREATED ORDER**

\*HYMN 340

*This Is My Song*

FINLANDIA

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Praeludium

H. Schroeder

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*\*Rise in body or spirit*

**LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY**

Preacher: *Rev. Marilyn Ericksen*

Liturgist: *Rev. Dr. Mathew Covington*

Communion Servers: *Madeline Howell & Linda Kabalen*

Kids' Kirk: *Kim Lashbrook*

## The Life of the Church

On Sunday, September 28, the mission committee is asking church members to bring a **homemade or store-bought dessert** to take to the Boulware Center. Members of the mission committee will deliver the desserts to the Boulware residents after church.

Printed copies of this week's **PresbyNotes** newsletter are available on the table in the hall.

**You are invited to make a gift to support our church's ministry of sharing God's love:**

- As the offering plate is passed
- By scanning the QR code to the right  
\*Please note that a 2.9% fee + \$0.50 is taken from your donation
- Online at [fpcobky.com/give](http://fpcobky.com/give)  
\*Please note that a 2.9% fee + \$0.30 is taken from your donation
- Or by contacting the church office to set up automatic withdrawal



**Financial Update** Our ministry is funded by the giving of members and friends. Thank you for your generosity.

<b>Year-To-Date (thru Aug)</b>	<b>Month To Date (September)</b>	<b>Week of September 20</b>
Income: \$ 314,028.77	Income: \$ 22,215.09	Income: \$ 16,180.09
<u>Expense: \$ 291,987.88</u>	<u>Expense: \$ 29,089.19</u>	<u>Expense: \$ 7,683.24</u>
Balance: \$ 22,040.89	Balance: (-\$ 6,874.10)	Balance: \$ 8,496.85

**Keep your pledge current and look for more good news here.**



First Presbyterian Church is an inclusive community of faith called to proclaim the good news of the love of Jesus Christ for all people, and to join God in the building of a just, peaceful, and compassionate world.

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# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## SESSION

Debbie McCoy, Clerk  
Allison Bates  
Pat Corkran  
Marilyn Ericksen  
Tom Furlong  
Debbie Hutchinson  
Don Preuss  
Jerry Price  
Patti Price  
CeCe Robinson  
Mary Lou Taylor

## DEACONS

Marilyn Baker  
Rayma Bramschreiber  
Judy Hughes  
Linda Kabalen  
Karen Taylor  
Patti Burns Taylor

## STAFF

Rev. Dr. Matthew Covington  
Interim Pastor

Stephanie Dube  
Director of Children's &  
Youth Ministries

Sasha O'Bryan  
Office Manager &  
Pastoral Assistant

Patrick Ritsch  
Director of Music

Candice Baize  
Custodian

Debbie Hutchinson  
Bookkeeper