

October 19, 2025



WORSHIP SERVICE – 10:45 am

****Please stand as you are able***

Prelude: “Aria”
Paul Manz

Craig Dobbins, *organ*

Time of Welcome

Rev. Dr. Craig M. Walls
Senior Pastor

Gathering Before the Word

***Responsive Call to Worship**

Trey McFarland
Youth Liturgist

Leader: Sing a new song to our God!

People: Songs of celebration, songs of joy!

Leader: Gather all the melodies together into one great harmony of praise.

People: Let the music of our hearts become part of God’s great song, pulsing through all creation.

Leader: Sing a new song to our God!

All: Let us praise our God. Lift our voices, open our hearts, and fill this place with your Holy Spirit. Maranatha. Come Lord. Come.

***Hymn #553: “How Great Thou Art”** (*located in this bulletin*)

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Trey McFarland

Lord, forgive us for our failure to appreciate and enjoy the good things that you provide for our lives, in your mercy. Forgive us for our insensitivity to the needs of others, and for our oversensitivity when we are hurt or feel aggrieved. In your mercy forgive us being consumed by the business of life, for losing faith in your sovereignty and power and mercy and trusting the powers and principalities of the world. Forgive us for our outright rejection of your ways, for consenting to wrong practices and cool silence. Reform our will, reinforce our courage; create in us a new heart, O God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Time of Silent Prayer and Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

Pastoral Prayer

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; lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

Children's Message

Rev. Walls

***Hymn #863:** *"Take My Life and Let It Be"* verses 1-4 (located in this bulletin)

Proclaiming the Word

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:40-45

⁴⁰ A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." ⁴¹ Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" ⁴² Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed. ⁴³ Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: ⁴⁴ "See that you don't tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them." ⁴⁵ Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon: "A Life-Changing Ask"

Rev. Walls

Responding to the Word

*Affirmation of Faith – The Apostles' Creed

We believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

Call for the Offering (Online giving available, scan code on back)

Rev. Walls

Anthem: "There is a Higher Throne"

Keith Getty and Kristyn Lennox Getty, arr. Lloyd Larson

Torey Gricks, *tenor*

*There is a higher throne
Than all this world has known,
Where faithful ones from ev'ry tongue
Will one day come.
Before the Son we stand,
Made faultless through the Lamb;
Believing hearts find promised grace—
Salvation comes.*

*Hear heaven's voices sing;
Their thund'rous anthem rings
Through em'rald courts and sapphire skies.
Their praises rise.
All glory, wisdom, pow'r,
Strength, thanks, and honor are
To God our King, who reigns on high
Forevermore.*

*And there we'll find our home,
Our life before the throne;
We'll honor Him in perfect song
Where we belong.
He'll wipe each tear-stained eye
As thirst and hunger die.
The Lamb becomes our Shepherd King;
We'll reign with Him*

*Hear heaven's voices sing;
Their thund'rous anthem rings
Through em'rald courts and sapphire skies.
Their praises rise.
All glory, wisdom, pow'r,
Strength, thanks, and honor are
To God our King, who reigns on high*

*Forevermore... forevermore... forevermore...
forevermore...*

*Hear heaven's voices sing;
Their thund'rous anthem rings
Through em'rald courts and sapphire skies.
Their praises rise
All glory, wisdom, pow'r,
Strength, thanks, and honor are
To God our King, who reigns on high
Forevermore.*

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; alleluia, alleluia!
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Rev. Walls

***Hymn #249:** "Great is the Lord Our God" verses 1-3 (located in this bulletin)

***Invitation, Charge and Benediction**

Postlude: *Postlude on "How Great Thou Art"*

Wilbur Held

Craig Dobbins, *organ*

Welcome back guest musician, Craig Dobbins!

Once again, we welcome Craig Dobbins as substitute organist
for Alaine Fink. Thank you, Craig, for stepping in again!

How Great Thou Art

1 O Lord, my God, when I in awe - some won - der
 2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der,
 3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing,
 4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion,

con - sid - er all the works thy hand hath made,
 I hear the birds sing sweet - ly in the trees;
 sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
 and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!

I see the stars, I hear the roll - ing thun - der,
 when I look down from loft - y moun - tain gran - deur
 that on the cross, my bur - den glad - ly bear - ing,
 Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o - ra - tion

thy power through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
 and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
 he bled and died to take a - way my sin;
 and there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

How Great Thou Art (continued)

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to thee: how great thou art,

how great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to thee:

how great thou art, how great thou art!



Ongoing/Upcoming Opportunities . . .

Hospitality Hour

Join us after worship this morning for a time of refreshments and fellowship in the chapel. If you're visiting with us, we would especially like to get to know you!

Sunday School

The Cornerstone Class continues to explore the early Church through a study of the **Book of Acts**.

The class meets from **9:30 - 10:30 a.m.** in **Room #17** (chapel area, next to the stage). If you'd like to join them for fellowship and learning, please contact **Charlie Claudon** at **412-400-4868**.

Children's Sunday School also continues in Room 4 downstairs. All children ages kindergarten to fifth grade are invited.

Junior Church (formerly *Children in Worship*) Schedule

We have changed the name of *Children in Worship* to *Junior Church* to make it more inclusive for children of different ages. Junior Church will resume on November 9th from after the Children's Message during Worship until the end of the service. Junior Church will meet in the same room #4 and use the same curriculum as the Children's Sunday School class. Note that it will not meet on Communion Sundays as we want the children to experience the Communion Service. We will also be starting a Children's Communion Curriculum in November.

If you are interested in volunteering with our kids programming or have questions, please reach out to Denice Claudon or Holly Conner for more information. **Please note that if you volunteer to be with our children, you need to have clearances on file at the church.

New Member Class

Interested in becoming a member of First Church? We will be holding an introductory New Members Class on **Sunday, November 2** beginning at **9:30 am** downstairs in the cafeteria. The follow-up class will be held on Sunday, November 9. If you'd like to participate, contact Cheryl Swartz at the church office at 412-471-3436 x220 or cswartz@fpcp.org. All are welcome!

Special Giving Opportunity: *Undue Medical Debt Relief Campaign*

As one of the Matthew 25 congregations of the Pittsburgh Presbytery, we are invited to contribute to the *Undue Medical Debt Relief Campaign*. The campaign is hoping to raise \$65,000 by the end of this month. All of the proceeds will benefit people in Allegheny County. If every member of the Presbytery would give \$5.00 (even \$1.00 will do a lot!) the \$65,000 goal will be reached. \$65,000 will abolish over \$11 Million in medical debt for those who just can't get out from under this crushing burden.

For more information and to donate to Pittsburgh Presbytery's Undue Medical Debt Campaign, visit: <https://unduemedicaldebt.org/campaign/pittsburgh-presbyterians-ask-wont-you-help-our-neighbors/>

Sean Ryan Baran Memorial Gala

The Second Annual tribute concert for our beloved minister of music *Sean Ryan Baran* will take place on **Tuesday, October 28 at 7:30 pm** at **Trinity United Methodist Church of Youngstown** (30 West Front Street, Youngstown, OH). All are welcome!

Candy Donations Needed for The Cellar

The Cellar will be hosting its annual “Candy-Palooza” on **Thursday, October 30**. As you may know, *The Cellar* is the largest high school after-school program downtown, hosting 70+ high school students each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoon. Your donation of *individually-wrapped, snack-sized treats* (fruity and chocolate) would be much appreciated! Donations can be brought to the church office or left on the chapel stage on Sunday.

Christmas Tree Raising – Saturday, November 15

It's time to raise our beautiful 24' Christmas tree in the Chapel! Those of you who have participated in the raising of the tree in the past know that it's a task that requires many hands. *Light Up Night* 2025 is November 22, so we need to have the tree in place by then.

We're hoping that some of you can arrange your schedules to join us on **Saturday, November 15** from **9am-1pm**. There are numerous small tasks related to the raising of the tree, so even if you don't have much muscle to offer, we can still use your help. (*Enter through Oliver Avenue entrance; pastries and coffee will be available*). If you can join us, please contact Cheryl in the church office at 412-471-3436 or cswartz@fpcp.org. Thanks in advance for your help!

Light Up Night - November 22

Once again, First Church is pleased to participate in Pittsburgh's annual *Light Up Night* - - a festive prelude to the Christmas season. The church will be open to the public **Saturday, November 22** from **4:30-8:00 pm**. We will offer refreshments, tours of the church and Christmas music. We will need a dozen volunteers the night of the event to help make this outreach a success. We will also need cookie bakers/donors in advance of the event. Please let Cheryl at the church office know if you can help in any way – cswartz@fpcp.org or 412-471-3436 x220.

Ligonier Camp Fall Work Day- Saturday, November 1

Please join Ligonier Camp for our annual Fall Work Day on November 1. We will start the day off at 8:30am with a light breakfast, start work projects around 9:00am, work till 1:00pm, at which time we will break for lunch and then finish the day out around 3:00pm. Some of the projects we will be working on include: splitting firewood; cleaning up leaves; working on renovating a cabin. If you would like to join us, please let Facilities Director Larry Shean know by email at lshean@ligoniercamp.org, or by calling the camp office at 724-238-6428.

World Mission Initiative News – Annual McClure Lecture

It is almost time for the annual McClure Lecture. This year, on **October 21**, the featured speaker, **Dr. Michael Parker**, will talk about the mission legacy of Ken Bailey. (You may recall that the late Rev. Bailey made a few visits to FPCP to teach Sunday School and preach.) For more information or to register, visit www.pts.edu/McClure-Lecture-2025. There are in-person and virtual options, and there is no cost.

Birthday Greetings

Emilie Delo – 10/16; Marah Delo-10/17; Frances Wilson – 10/17; John Muha – 10/22; Violet Boyd – 10/25

First Church Staff

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Victor Ndinyah
Doug Williams
Dan Conner
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Brian Vertz

Our Sanctuary is open to visitors Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Call to Schedule a Tour!

You can reach the Church Office Monday – Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Call: 412-471-3436 | Email: info@fpcp.org | www.fpcp.org.

Visiting Us Today?



Scan Code to Connect with Us!

Giving Online?



Scan Code to Give!

Need Validated Parking?

Sundays only, get a sticker for your parking ticket at the FPCP Welcome Center in the Narthex (front lobby). Scan both sides of the ticket at the payment booth at the **Oliver**, **Mellon Square**, and **Smithfield** garages to pay \$1 for parking.

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