

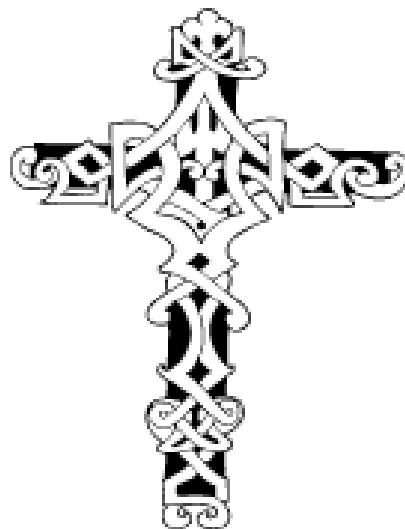
First Presbyterian Church

101 South Decatur Street • Strasburg, PA 17579

(717) 687-6030

www.straspres.org

Sunday, August 17, 2025
TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



PASTOR: Rev. Robert K. Bronkema

ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER: Jonathan Jones

DIRECTOR OF MODERN WORSHIP: Goggie Sween

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES: Beth Feiler

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH: Kristin Kondratowski

WORSHIP LEADER/READER: 8:30am Peter Witmer / 11am Jeff Marsh

WORSHIP: 8:30am and 11:00am

Sunday, August 17, 2025

Welcome!

8:30am Worship

*Open your heart and give yourself up to Christ who is here to meet you today.
"Be still and know that I am God." ~ Psalm 46:10*

PRELUDE

"Short Prelude and Fugue in E Minor"

J. S. Bach

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS / RINGING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 96

Leader: O sing to the Lord a new song, sing to the Lord, all the earth.

People: Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

*HYMN

"The God of Abraham Praise"

No. 488

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

Loving God, and giver of all good and perfect gifts. We praise you today for your protection and your provision. Your Scripture promises that you will always be by our side, no matter where we may find ourselves. We adore you, help us to show it in our lives. We ask for forgiveness for those times that we rely upon our material goods to see us through each day, instead of your path which is narrow and sometimes difficult. Continue to encourage us even as we falter. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*SHARING SIGNS OF PEACE [*Please share Christ's peace with one another.*]

*HYMN

"Spirit of the Living God"

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Beth Feiler

FIRST SCRIPTURE

I Kings 4:20-21

SECOND SCRIPTURE

Matthew 22:15-22

SERMON SERIES: MATTHEW: GOSPEL OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

SERMON

"Death and Taxes"

Rev. Robert K. Bronkema

*HYMN	<i>"We Give Thee but Thine Own"</i>	No. 428
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER		Pg. 16
WE BRING OUR GIFTS TO GOD		
OFFERTORY	<i>"And Can It Be"</i>	arr. Joshua Evanovich
*DOXOLOGY		
PROFESSION OF FAITH: APOSTLES CREED		Pg. 14
*HYMN	<i>"O Jesus, I Have Promised"</i>	No. 388
*BENEDICTION		
POSTLUDE	<i>"Toccata"</i>	Johann Pachelbel

**You are invited to stand if you are able during those places in the worship service marked with an asterisk.*

Sermon Notes

Please contribute your tithes and offerings using one of the following methods:

- Place your contribution in the collection plate
- Scan the QR code to the right and follow the prompts
- Click the DONATE button on the church web site
- Mail your check to FPCS, 101 S. Decatur Street, Strasburg, PA 17579



Sunday, August 17, 2025

Welcome!

11:00am Service

Greeting and Announcements

*Praise & Worship *10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord)*
 In Christ Alone
 Cornerstone

Prayer & Peace

Children's Message

Beth Feiler

Scripture I Kings 4:20-21
 Matthew 22:15-22

SERMON SERIES: MATTHEW: GOSPEL OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Sermon *"Death and Taxes"*

Rev. Robert K. Bronkema

Offering

*Praise & Worship *Benediction*

*Benediction

**You are invited to stand if you are able during those places in the worship service marked with an asterisk.*

Prayer Requests

Red Bortzfield – LGH
Gwen Bortzfield – LGH
Ed Bredin
Jim Law – Hospice
Dick Cummings – LGH



Comfort in Time of Loss: Please pray for the family of Carl Meshey who passed into eternal life on July 31, 2025.

August Deacons of the Month: Janice Bowers & Deb Welk

In Need of the Prayer Chain? Please contact the church office at 717-687-6030.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, August 17 * Blessing of the Backpacks

- 8:30am **Worship** (Classic)
9:30am **Coffee Hour**
10am **Sunday School Classes** for all ages
*Children's Sunday School Grades K – 5: Rm 12
*Youth Sunday School
~Grades 6 – 7: Room 5 ~Grades 8 – 12: Youth Room
*Young Adults – Choir Room
*Wired Word – Library
*Young at Heart – Room 4
11am **Worship** (Modern)
12:30pm **Annual Church Picnic – Tinney Pavilion (133 South Fulton St.)**

***IGNITED • NO YOUTH GROUP**

Monday, August 18

- 9am Kindermusik – Fellowship Hall 6pm IMPACT Young Adult Women's Bible Study
Contact Kristin Kondratowski for details

Tuesday, August 19

- 2pm Food Pantry

Wednesday, August 20

- 1pm Knifty Knitters – Library 7pm Praise Team – Sanctuary
3pm Stitchin' Sisters – Room 4 7pm Session Meeting – Room 4

Thursday, August 21

- 6:30am Men's Fellowship & Devotions – Library
1pm Food Pantry Committee Meeting – Room 4
6pm Bible Study – <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzoMo4VUuahmT0CFUtwZzgg>
7pm Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

Friday, August 22

- 2pm Food Pantry
6pm Our Table

NEXT WEEK ~ AUGUST 24, 2025

1st Scripture: Jeremiah 1:4-10 2nd Scripture: Luke 13:10-17

Sermon: *"Wrestling with Rest: Do Good"*

Rev. Brett Foote, Guest Preacher



ANNOUNCEMENTS



We are glad to see you here! Check out our website: www.straspres.org under the "Events" tab for current church events and please be sure to like us on Facebook. Children's Church is available for kids K-5th grades. Children will go to room 11 after the children's message.

*Flowers are provided this weekend to the glory of God from
Norma Weaver in memory of her loving husband Bob.*



COFFEE HOUR • Join us each Sunday at 9:30am for coffee and fellowship with old and new friends. Hosts for today: The Colvin Family. **There are currently no hosts for next week, Sunday, August 24th.** All volunteers will be reimbursed for their purchases. If you would like to help with Coffee Hour, please contact Theresa Rineer at 717-682-9954 or rineertheresa@yahoo.com. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Please choose the date(s) that work best for you!



The Library is open for extra reading! School is starting soon and we have children's books out in the hall by the library for extra summer reading! Take a look and see! But that is only a sample of what is in our library, as there is so much more!

Clubhouse Helpers: Another year of Clubhouse is just around the corner, and we need YOU! What is Clubhouse? It is a monthly program for children preschool through 5th grade that meet from 6 – 7:30pm on the first Wednesday of each month, September – May. The children are from our church family, preschool family, and the community. The program is Christian theme incorporating music, crafts, games and Bible stories. Volunteers are involved with these activities and "shepherd" a group of children to these activities as a group leader. You certainly don't need to commit to each month. Please see Beth Feiler or Amanda Allison if you are interested.



Have you completed your **MISSION SURVEY** yet??!! We are seeking feedback on how our congregation feels led to engage in **Mission**. Please consider taking a couple of minutes to share your thoughts by filling out the survey enclosed in the bulletin, or complete the electronic survey by following the link [Mission Survey](#) or using the QR code shown.



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS • Bring your pet on **October 19th at 3pm** as we will have an opportunity for a pet blessing service. All animals are welcome! Join us outside in the grassy area of the church yard.



Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Events!

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC • Come enjoy fun, food and fellowship **TODAY, Sunday, August 17th at 12:30pm at Tinney Pavilion (133 South Fulton St).** There will be a corn hole tournament, bingo and kids games! Pulled pork, hotdogs, beverages and paper products provided. Please bring a side or dessert to share!



Register for **"Toddler Music, Movement & Play Classes"** **KINDERMUSIK** through All Together Now Studios. Join Fiona Gillespie this fall starting **September 4th here at FPCS.** Classes will be held **Thursday afternoons at 3:30pm**, and will run as monthly sessions. Caregivers are required to stay present and encouraged to participate! Sign up using the link <https://www.fionagillespiemusik.com/kindermusik.html> or QR code.



BIBLE CHALLENGE • Beginning **Monday, September 1st**, join us for a 9-month read through the Bible Challenge, like we did in 2023. Bible Challenge brochures are available in the wall rack in the Well and on the table in the glass foyer.

COMMUNITY WIDE WORSHIP • Gather with all the churches of Strasburg for worship at the Strasburg Park on **Sunday, September 21st at 10am.** There will be no worship here at FPC, so come and join our brothers and sisters in Christ from Strasburg to worship on this day.



CHANCEL CHOIR • It's that time of year again! The Chancel Choir is preparing to sing in worship and has started rehearsals. If you enjoy singing beautiful, inspiring anthems, we invite you to join us for a one-hour rehearsal each **Thursday at 7pm**, in the Choir Room, and then again each Sunday at 8am in the Sanctuary for a 15-minute rehearsal before singing in worship. If you have any questions, please contact Jonathan Jones, 484-949-4514 or jjones@straspres.org. We would love to have you join us!

MISSION TO ITALY 2026 • Parents of high school students, your youth is invited to attend this experience with First Presbyterian in 2026. Join us for an informational and organizational meeting on **Sunday, September 14 at 12:15pm.** If you are interested in the trip, but cannot make the meeting, please contact Pastor Bob or Kristin Kondratowski for information and to be added to the list.



RECOGNIZING AND REPORTING CHILD ABUSE IN PA



MANDATED REPORTER TRAINING • If you are a volunteer with our youth/children, there are several clearances you must complete. One is **Mandated Reporter Training**, which is available to complete on your own at www.reportabusepa.pitt.edu. It is a 3-hour online course, for which you will receive a certificate at the completion of the course. Please make a copy of your certificate and give to Nicole Keays or Beth Feiler. We will be offering a group training session on **September 28th at 12:15pm.** Pizza will be served. A signup sheet will be in the Well on the table under the TV. Any questions please see Beth Feiler.

ASSISTANCE CORNER

CURRENT FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

We continue to need your help in supplying our neighbors in need with items to face any food insecurities that they may be experiencing. We have started the summer months with an influx of need. You can be a vital part of this ministry by considering donating any of the following most needed items listed below. Thank you for your consideration and being a part of this ministry!

-Cereal

-Peanut Butter

-Jelly



If you would like to make a monetary donation there are envelopes in the pew racks marked FOOD and one of our board members or volunteers will do the shopping. Lastly, please continue to pray for our neighbors in need.



The Church World Service Kids Kit ministry program provides much needed school supplies to children in their time of need. **See the list below for items we are collecting in August.** Please put your items in the basket outside room 5. If you have any questions, please see Beth Feiler.

- *12 pack of colored pencils
- *2-pocket folders
- *Glue sticks
- *Pencil pouches
- *Blunt-tip scissors

- *12" rulers
- *Box of 24 crayons
- *Hand held pencil sharpeners
- *70-page wide spiral bound notebooks



LAY READERS ARE NEEDED to read Scripture for second service. If you are willing and able to sign up to read for one or more Sunday services please use the link below, scan the QR code to sign up, or contact Andrea Petrokonis at petrokonisandrea@gmail.com. Middle school or older



children are more than welcome to participate as well! [FPC Worship Leader 2nd Service Sign Up](#)

CARDS • One of the outreach ministries of the Deacons is sending cards to members of our church family and friends of FPC. Should you have any **anniversary** cards you would like to donate to this outreach, please place them in the Deacon mailbox. Thank you!



WATER STREET RESCUE MISSION

There are opportunities for our congregation to serve meals at Water Street Rescue Mission. These events will require around 2.5 hours of your time serving meals to the Mission's residents. Our church has 2 slots reserved for each of the following meals and there will be someone from our volunteer team serving with you.

-September 19, Friday, Lunch

-September 23, Tuesday, Dinner

If you are interested in serving or if you would like to learn more about these serving opportunities reach out to Terry Sweigart at 717-606-6907 or by email at tLsweig@gmail.com. Thanks for your consideration.

Mission Survey – First Presbyterian Church of Strasburg – 2025

Purpose: We are seeking feedback on how our congregation feels led to engage in Mission. Would you consider taking a couple minutes to share your thoughts?

Instructions: The survey is anonymous. For open ended questions, 1-2 sentences will suffice!

Questions:

1) Demographic data: *(Circle one option for each point)*

- Gender: M / F
- Age Bracket: 24 or younger / 25-44 / 45-64 / 65 or over
- Member for how many years? 5 or less / 6-15 / 16-25 / 26 or more

2) There are many different ways of defining “mission;” think evangelism, social justice, relief work, specific causes, local vs. global, church programs, etc. How should “mission” look at 1st Pres?

3) When you think of “mission” in the Bible, what is a verse or story that comes to mind?

4) If you are personally involved in mission, how? (Circle all that apply.)

- a. Financial donation
- b. Volunteer work with outside agency
- c. Involvement in 1st Pres programming
- d. Engagement in updates, newsletters, communications, etc. from an organization
- e. Prayer
- f. Other (if selected, please explain): _____

5) What or who is a missionary, mission agency, or non-profit that you would like the church to support and why?

6) How strong are your feelings about what you want mission to look like in the church? Please select one of the below:

- Have a strong opinion about what our church’s mission should be
- Not overly passionate about a particular definition of church mission

Blessing of the Backpacks: A Prayer

Leader: O God, we ask that you place a blessing on each of these backpacks – and more importantly on each person who carries them: students and teachers, nurses and bus drivers, aides and administrators, and all.

People: Lord, bless these backpacks.

Leader: We pray that today will stand as a constant reminder that you go with all of those gathered here as they enter this new school year. We ask that you would calm all fear and anxiousness that may arise in them and in their parents.

People: Lord, bless these backpacks.

Leader: We pray that the knowledge of your presence with them would give your people the ability to learn well, and grow in knowledge and wisdom during this school year.

People: Lord, bless these backpacks.

Leader: We pray that in large ways and in small you would lead your people here to show the love they have received from you, and the change you have made in their lives.

People: Lord, bless these backpacks.

Leader: We pray that as a whole congregation we would be reminded to pray for our students and all who guide and help them throughout the year, constantly asking for your blessing in them, through their learning and study and growth.

People: Lord, Bless these backpacks.

Leader: We pray all this to the God who does infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, and we pray again,

All: Lord Bless these backpacks, and all those who carry them, Amen.



STRASBURG BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

Featuring

Summit Hill Bluegrass Band

With Guests J-Time Bluegrass & Gospel Band

SATURDAY August 30 AT 6:00PM

Strasburg Community Park

151 Precision Ave, Strasburg

Bring your lawn chair and a friend!

Sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church of Strasburg





SOUTHERN (SEPN) & EASTERN (EEN) **EUROPE PARTNERSHIP NETWORKS**

**WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR
DISCUSSIONS ABOUT PCUSA MISSION
WORK AS WE NAVIGATE THE CHANGES
IN OUR WORLD AND DENOMINATION.**

OCTOBER 23-25, 2025

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STRASBURG, PA**

save
the Date