

First Presbyterian Church

101 South Decatur Street • Strasburg, PA 17579

(717) 687-6030

www.straspres.org

Sunday, September 28, 2025



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 Steve Szczesniak / 11am Jeffrey Marsh

WORSHIP: 8:30am and 11:00am

Sunday, September 28, 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

"Andante (Chœur de voix humaines)"

Louis James Alfred Lefébure-Wély

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS / RINGING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 101

Leader: I will sing of loyalty and of justice; to you, O Lord, I will sing.

People: I will study the way that is blameless. When shall I attain it?

*HYMN

"The Church's One Foundation"

No. 442

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

Almighty and all-knowing God, we praise you for your grace as we stumble about looking to do your will. We thank you that you have equipped us with all that we need to understand your promises and to obey your commandments. We ask for forgiveness for those times that we speak with certainty about things that we are uncertain. We confess that we have been quick to demand when you call us to be servants. Free us from our wishes to be first so that you might increase in our lives and in the world. 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

ANTHEM

"I Will Rejoice"

Joseph Martin

FIRST SCRIPTURE

Ezekiel 34:1-6

SECOND SCRIPTURE

Matthew 23:1-12

SERMON SERIES: MATTHEW: GOSPEL OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

SERMON

"Don't Believe Everything You Hear"

Rev. Robert K. Bronkema

Sunday, September 28, 2025

Welcome!

8:30am Service

*HYMN

"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"

insert

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

WE BRING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

"Oh, How He Loves You and Me"

arr. Fred Bock

Jonathan Jones, organ and Aaron Hershey, piano

*DOXOLOGY

PROFESSION OF FAITH: APOSTLES CREED

*HYMN

"Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!"

No. 145

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

"God of Grace"

Paul Manz

**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, September 28, 2025

Welcome!

11:00am Service

Greeting and Announcements

*Praise & Worship *So So Good
Head To The Heart
Holy Forever*

Prayer & Peace

Children's Message

Beth Feiler

Sacrament of Baptism *Elena Frances Atlasik*

Scripture Ezekiel 34:1-6
Matthew 23:1-12

SERMON SERIES: MATTHEW: GOSPEL OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Sermon *"Don't Believe Everything You Hear"*

Rev. Robert K. Bronkema

Offering

*Praise & Worship *Trust In God*

*Benediction

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

Prayer Requests

Ed Bredin
Gwen Bortzfield – Abbeyville
Red Bortzfield – Abbeyville
Jim Law – Hospice

Dick Cummings
Don Black
Vesta Herr – Hospice



Comfort in Time of Loss: Please pray for the family of Linda Stoots who passed into eternal life on September 19, 2025.

September Deacons of the Month: Lynda Margerum & Deb Welk
October Deacons of the Month: Barb Groff & Heidi Zook-Payne

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



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 by Kay Straley in loving memory of her husband Ron, grandson Jordan Kiser, son-in-law Steve Harnish, in remembrance of their birthdays, and in memory of her son Douglas and brother Jim Filling.

The rose in the sanctuary today is in honor of the resurrection of Linda Stoots, who passed into eternal life on September 19, 2025.



Being baptized today is Elena Frances Atlasik, daughter of Matt and Olivia Atlasik.



COFFEE HOUR • Join us each Sunday at 9:30am for coffee and fellowship with old and new friends. Hosts for today: Theresa Rineer. **There are currently no hosts for next Sunday, October 5th.** 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!



Clubhouse Helpers • Another year of Clubhouse has begun 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.



The **Chancel Choir** *always welcomes new singers and musicians* who love to sing and enjoy sharing their musical gifts in the music ministry of the church! We enjoy providing beautiful and uplifting anthems and various types of instrumental music during the program year. 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 choir loft, for a 15-minute rehearsal before singing in worship. If you are interested or know of anyone who would be a good addition to the choir, please contact Jonathan Jones at 484-949-4514 or jjones@straspres.org. We would love to have more singers and instrumentalists join us!"



LIBRARY NEWS • The brrrrr months are here! Be inspired with inspirational reading! Cozy up with a good book, there are many to choose from in the hall in front of the library.

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. You can be a vital part of this ministry by considering donating any of the following most needed items listed below.

- Canned Soups: Beef, Chicken or Progresso Soups
- Mashed or Canned Potatoes

- Gravy
- Applesauce

Our food pantry is currently looking for a few volunteers to help us serve our neighbors in need. We are seeking volunteers to help with our weekly shopping of the perishable items which consists of milk, bread and eggs. You would check the stock of those items before we open on Tuesday afternoon and then once again before we open again on Friday afternoon. Purchase any needed items for the week and place them in the refrigerator of the pantry room. We generally distribute anywhere from 15-25 of each item. You would be reimbursed for the costs of the items!

We are also in search of volunteers to help at our pantry desk. We have been extremely busy and could use some extra hands to serve. The pantry is open on Tuesday & Friday afternoons from 2-4pm. You would greet our neighbor in need, check them in and provide any assistance they may need while they choose their items. There are always two volunteers covering the desk. You choose your time commitment, a 2 hour shift on a day that fits your schedule.

If you would like to learn more about the volunteer opportunities or are interested please see either Donna Stettler or June Stum. Thank you for considering.

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 still in need of and collecting.** Please put your items in the basket outside room 5. If you have any questions, please see Beth Feiler.



- *12 pack of colored pencils
- *Soft sided Pencil pouches

- *Hand held pencil sharpeners
- *Blunt-tip scissors

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 the following meals and there will be someone from our volunteer team serving with you.

- *October 17, Lunch
- *October 21, Dinner
- *November 14, Lunch

- *November 25, Dinner
- *December 12, Lunch
- *December 16, 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.



Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Events!



Register for **"Toddler Music, Movement & Play Classes"** KINDERMUSIK through All Together Now Studios. Join Fiona Gillespie this fall **here at FPCS**. Classes will be held **Thursday**



afternoons from 3:30-4:15pm, and will run as monthly sessions. Caregivers are required to stay present and encouraged to participate! Sign up using the link <https://www.fionagillespiemusic.com/kindermusik.html> or QR code.



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 **TODAY, September 28th at 12:15pm**. Pizza will be served. There is a sign-up sheet in the Well on the table under the TV. Any questions please see Beth Feiler.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY • Join us for Tuesday Bible Study! Classes are held at **9am and 7pm in room 4**. All are welcome! This fall we are using a study by Kelly Minter entitled "Esther" (Daring Faith for Such a Time as This). It is a 7-week study on the Biblical book of Esther. For any questions please contact Linda Bredin, Stacy Bronkema, or Sandy Wenger.



TODDLER GYM is back! Join us weekly on **Fridays from 9 – 10:30am (Sept. – May)** for playtime for ages 1 – 6 with their caregivers. This program is free and open to the public and follows the Lampeter Strasburg School Calendar. For more information, check out our [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) page, or contact Alyssa Gregory at 717-495-3939 or alyssadriedger@gmail.com.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS • Bring your pet, stuffed animal, or a picture of your beloved pet on **October 19th at 3pm** as we will have a pet blessing service. All animals are welcome! Join us outside in the grassy area of the church yard. You will receive a certificate of blessing and a time of fellowship. Donations of dry/wet cat or dog food (any brand) will be accepted for Pet Pantry of Lancaster, as well as dog treats and chews (any brand) for the Lancaster SPCA. We look forward to seeing you there!



WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, September 28

- 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)
12:15 Mandated Reporter Training – Library
5pm Confirmation Classes Begin – Room 4

***IGNITED** + Combined Youth Group: 6 – 8pm – Fellowship Hall
-

Tuesday, September 30

- 9am Women's Bible Study – Room 4
2pm Food Pantry
7pm Women's Bible Study – Room 4

Wednesday, October 1

- | | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|-----|----------------------------------|
| 1pm | Knifty Knitters – Library | 7pm | Deacon's Meeting – Room 4 |
| 3pm | Stitchin' Sisters – Room 4 | 7pm | Praise Team Practice – Sanctuary |
| 6pm | Kids Clubhouse | | |

Thursday, October 2

- 6:30am Men's Fellowship & Devotions – Library
3:30pm Kindermusik – Fellowship Hall
7pm Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

Friday, October 3

- 9am Toddler Gym – Fellowship Hall
2pm Food Pantry
6pm Our Table

NEXT WEEK ~ OCTOBER 5, 2025
~WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY~

Scripture: Matthew 23:13-22

Rev. Dr. Michael Wilson, Guest Preacher

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms 133

1. What a fel-low-ship, what a joy di-vine, lean-ing on the ev - er -
 2. O how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev - er -
 3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev - er -

last - ing arms; what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine,
 last - ing arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day,
 last - ing arms? I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near,

Refrain

lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Lean - ing,
 Lean-ing on Je - sus,

lean - ing, safe and se-cure from all a-larms; lean -
 lean-ing on Je - sus, lean-ing on

ing, lean - ing,
 Je - sus, lean-ing on Je - sus, lean-ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.