



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

GATHERING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Why have we gathered on this holy day? What has drawn us to this time and place?
People: We have been drawn to a flame burning here. We sense the glory of God in this place.
Leader: God calls us to this time of worship. The place where we are standing is holy ground.
People: Give thanks to God; sing praises. Give attention to the voice of God.
Leader: Out of a burning bush, God spoke to Moses. In the rhythms of worship, God speaks to us.
People: We will listen for God's message to us. Surely God's strength will supply our needs.
All: Let us worship God!

*HYMN "Called as Partner's in Christ's Service" No. 761

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we have wavered in our faith in the midst of suffering, and we have not persevered in prayer. We have claimed to be wiser than we are and have even tried to correct you. We make excuses for ourselves rather than listening for your direction and heeding your call. Our days are so filled with the busyness of this world that we cannot see you at work among us. We are so weighed down by our own concerns that we have no energy to serve you. Send your cleansing fire among us, forgiving God. Amen.

(The prayer continues in a time of silent, personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God is ever willing to grant us forgiveness, but we cannot receive it if we are unwilling to be changed by it. As long as we focus on preserving our own lives, protecting our advantages, we will be lost. If we want to be Christ's followers, we will deny ourselves and take up the cross, not as a burden, but as the joyous symbol of loving and giving for all the right reasons. We will overcome evil with good. Friends, believe the good news...
People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

GLORIA PATRI No. 581

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.
(Please share a sign of peace with others.)

ANTHEM

*Those who are able, please stand.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Exodus 3:1-15
Matthew 16:21-28

SERMON

"Excuses, Excuses" Rev. John Pruitt

*HYMN

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee" No. 829

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

"The Apostles' Creed"

I 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 Ghost, 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 sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

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

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN "Lift High the Cross" No. 826

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Serving Today (Sep 3)

Greeters: Kae Mattingly, Rusty Sudderth
Ushers: Norman & Lynda Self
Lay Reader: Norma Stikeleather

Serving Next Sunday (Sep 10)—Communion

Greeters: Joy Lynn Budkey, Jim Ingram
Ushers: Norman & Lynda Self
Lay Reader: Kerry Kerr
Element Prep: Kay Sudderth, Nancy Bolen
Assisting Elders: Rusty Sudderth, Bob & Donna Myers, Rich Tincher, Ellen Watts

*Those who are able, please stand.

GOOD MORNING! We welcome each of you to this service of worship and we are glad you are here. We invite you to fill out the Welcome card found in the pew rack and place the card in the offering plate, so we can welcome you further and start to get to know you better.

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Today (9/3)	9:30a 10:30a	Sunday School Worship Service
Mon (9/4)		Labor Day Church Office Closed
Tue (9/5)	9:00a 1:00p 5:00p 7:00p	Bulletin Information Due Decorative Painting Ministry Weight Watchers W&M Committee Meeting
Wed (9/6)	9:00a 9:30a 7:30p	Wt. Watchers Men's Bible Study Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thu (9/7)	11:30a 1:30p 5:30p	PGA Luncheon S&F Committee Meeting The Next 56 Days
Fri (9/8)		No Scheduled Church Activities
Sat (9/9)	8:30a	Women's Bible Study
Sun (9/10)	9:00a 9:30a 10:30a 2:00p	Café Faith Resumes Sunday School Worship Service— <i>Communion</i> Budget Meetings with Committee Chairs

Budget Meetings: Next Sunday, September 10, the Stewardship & Finance Committee will meet with the Committee Chairs regarding their proposed budget for 2018. These meetings will begin at 2:00p. For more information, please see Sam Henderson.

The Gathering: Everyone is invited to the Gathering, Sept. 13 at 6pm to share stories of our passion to be a Mission focused church. We have both members of FPC and the community sharing why they are involved with our many different ministries that outreach into our community. Dinner for this evening will be a Taco Bar. Sign up is on the bulletin board so we have a head count.

Rent-A-Youth: Don't Forget! If you need any yard work done, household repairs, odds & ends work, please contact Amy Evans and **rent our youth to do the work!**

Financial Update can be found on the bulletin board.



Please fill out prayer request cards.
This will ensure that your request is added to the prayer list and that names are spelled correctly.
Thank you for your assistance!



First Presbyterian Church

Rev. John Pruitt, Pastor

Amy Evans, Christian Education Director
Jane Johnson, Secretary

Nancy Bolen, Choir Director
Kay Sudderth, Organist