



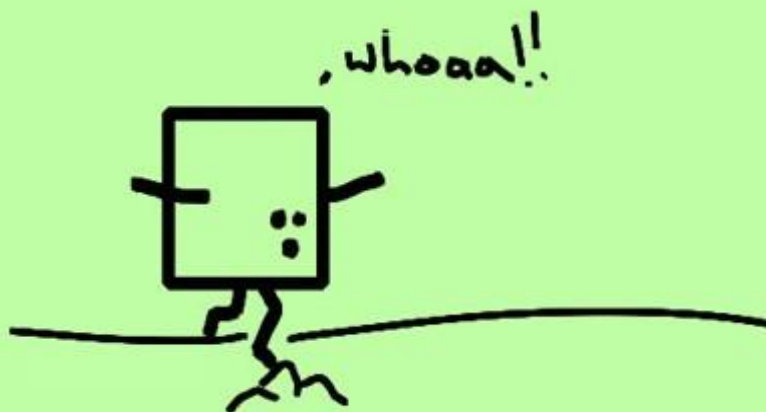
WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

508 2nd Avenue
South Charleston WV 25303
[304] 744-2333 • fpcscwv.org
September 3, 2023

~ Our Mission Statement ~

The Triune God has created our community for furthering the Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for welcoming and loving one another and for following where the Holy Spirit leads. We are called to encourage and celebrate diversity and unity as we praise and pray, love and serve, learn and teach, share and partake of God's goodness. We do this on the Lord's Day and every day to the greater glory of God. *(Adopted/Approved by Session 9/26/00)*

Stumbling Block



THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

September 3, 2023

GATHERING

(* Please stand in body or spirit. Text in **bold face type** is to be read by all.)

THE CHIMES CALL US TO WORSHIP

WELCOME – THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SPECIAL HYMN

"The Old Rugged Cross"

George Bennard

*CCLI Song #19722; Words: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain; For use solely with the SongSelect®
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Verse 1

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross
The emblem of suff'ring and shame
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain

Chorus

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down
I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown

Verse 2

O the old rugged cross so despised by the world
Has a wondrous attraction for me
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary

Verse 3

In the old rugged cross stained with blood so divine
A wondrous beauty I see
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died
To pardon and sanctify me

Verse 4

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true
Its shame and reproach gladly bear
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away
Where His glory forever I'll share

SPECIAL HYMN

“Farther Along” *Jesse Randal Baster Jr., W.B. Stevens*

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Verse 1

Tempted and tried we're oft made to wonder
Why it should be thus all the day long
While there are others living about us
Never molested tho in the wrong

Chorus

Farther along we'll know all about it
Farther along we'll understand why
Cheer up my brother live in the sunshine
We'll understand it all by and by

Verse 4

When we see Jesus coming in glory
When He comes from His home in the sky
Then we shall meet Him in that bright mansion
We'll understand it all by and by

SPECIAL HYMN

“I'll Fly Away”

Albert E. Brumley

CCLI Song #26399. Words: 1932 Hartford Music Company. Renewed 1960 Albert E. Brumley And Sons; Music:

*1932 Hartford Music Company. Renewed 1960 Albert E. Brumley And Sons. For use solely with
the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com. CCLI License #21008312*

Verse 1

Some glad morning when this life is o'er
I'll fly away
To a home on God's celestial shore
I'll fly away

Chorus

I'll fly away O glory I'll fly away
When I die hallelujah by and by
I'll fly away

Verse 2

I'll fly away O glory I'll fly away
When I die hallelujah by and by
I'll fly away

Verse 3

Just a few more weary days and then
I'll fly away
To a land where joys shall never end
I'll fly away

PRELUDE

OPENING OURSELVES TO GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

-Psalm 26

One: O Lord, try me...test my heart and mind.

All: For your steadfast love is before my eyes.

One: Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked with my integrity.

All: Singing a song of thanksgiving, I am telling of all your wonderful deeds.

One: I love the house in which you dwell, O Lord, and the place where your glory abides.

All: Let us worship God!

MORNING PRAYER

Life changing God, you have satisfied our hunger at sunset and held us close through the nights of wrestling. Deep in the night, you are with us and beside us, ever watchful in love. Keep our feet in your paths and bless us to multiply blessings in others, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer and Lord, we ask it. Amen.

* HYMN

"Jesus Calls Us"
(verses 1, 2, and 4)

No. 69

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess that our love for you and for others has not always been genuine. We have not held fast to what is good, and we have lagged in affection for our brothers and sisters. We have not been patient in suffering, nor have we persevered in prayer. Forgive us our sin, and free us from fear of the power of evil, and help us trust in the power of your everlasting goodness. It is through Jesus Christ our Lord that we ask it. Amen.

[Silence is kept for personal confession]

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Ginna Taylor, Pastor

* GLORIA PATRI

No. 581

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit!
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

PASSING THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you
And also with you
Please greet one another with the peace of Christ.

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

Ginna Taylor, Pastor

(Children ages 4 and older may leave for children's church after our Time with Children)

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Ginna Taylor, Pastor

One: For the church of Jesus Christ,

All: Merciful God, hear our prayer.

Bless the church, deliver it from evil, and make it holy in every way, that all people may see the light of your salvation through the witness of your faithful servants.

One: For our pastors, teachers, and ministers,

All: Merciful God, hear our prayer.

Help them proclaim your justice fearlessly, to embody your righteousness sincerely, and to practice your mercy selflessly.

One: For the good of the earth,

All: Merciful God, hear our prayer.

Let the earth be a gentle home for us. Subdue the violence of storm and earthquake, and heal the destruction of flood and drought, that life may flourish, and every creature rejoice in the goodness of creation.

One: For children,

All: Merciful God, hear our prayer.

Bless the children and those who care for them. Defend our children; enable them to thrive in mind and body and grow in wisdom and strength. Give them parents and guardians who are faithful in their duty to provide for their need and guard them from danger.

One: You have opened to us a place at your table of grace. In gratitude for the bread and cup you share, we will honor you by sharing our bread with others, by offering without reserve the cup you bless. Great is your faithfulness.

All: Oh God, we hope in you.

One: Now to you be all the glory, God, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

All: Amen.

LISTENING TO THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 26:1-8

Bible Page 477

SERMON SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 16:21-28

Bible Page 851

SERMON

“Stumbling Blocks”

Ginna Taylor, Pastor

RESPONDING TO GOD

* PROFESSION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed, 1.2, Book of Confessions pg. 3

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. Amen.

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

No. 609

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is good to give God thanks and praise...*(the prayer continues)*

One: Praise to you, O God, for all your works. You created the world and called it good, and made us in your image to live together in love. You made a covenant with us, and even when we turned from you, you remained ever faithful.

We thank you, God, for sending us your Son. He lived among us and told your story. He healed the sick and welcomed sinners. He shared our pain and died our death, then rose to new life that we might live, and all creation be restored. (Together we say...)

All: Lord, feed us with the gift of bread,

One: So that we can move among your people and share this plenty.

All: Feed us with your light of love.

One: So that we may surround all your children with acceptance and grace.

All: Feed us with new life and abundance.

One: So, forever your children, we can praise your name to all the earth.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever, hear us as together we pray:

All: 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF BREAD AND CUP

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION (in unison)

Holy God, we thank you for this feast of grace and life. As we have been served, help us to serve our neighbors. As we have been fed, help us to feed all who are hungry. As we have been loved, help us to love the world – because in Christ Jesus you have loved us. Amen.

* HYMN

"Give Thanks"

No. 647

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

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Our Christian Sympathy and Support to

Earl Hoskins and the Clemente Family

at the loss of Earl's fiancé, **Linda Kay Price Fair.**

(Earl is the father of Sarah Clemente)

We rejoice in the assurance of eternal life that is ours in Jesus Christ!

MISSIONS COMMITTEE REQUEST

Heart & Hand has an increased demand for food and household supplies this summer. The following list is the items we will be collecting for the month of July. Help us to help Heart & Hand and children in need – bring your donations each Sunday!

September 3rd: Canned fruit/Veggies
September 10th: Soup
September 17th: Cereal
September 24th: Toilet Paper



Today's Scripture Readings...

Psalm 26 (NRSV)

Plea for Justice and Declaration of Righteousness

¹Vindicate me, O LORD,
for I have walked in my
integrity,
and I have trusted in the LORD
without wavering.

²Prove me, O LORD, and try me;
test my heart and mind.

³For your steadfast love is before
my eyes,
and I walk in faithfulness to
you.

⁴I do not sit with the worthless,
Nor do I consort with
hypocrites;

⁵I hate the company of evildoers,
and will not sit with the
wicked.

⁶I wash my hands in innocence,
and go around your altar,
O LORD,

⁷singing aloud a song of
thanksgiving,
and telling all your wondrous
deeds.

⁸O LORD,
I love the house in
which you dwell,
and the place where your
glory abides.

Matthew 16:21-26 (NRSV)

Jesus Fortells His Death and Resurrection

²¹From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, LORD! This must never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." ²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

²⁷"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

PLEASE NOTE:

The church office will be closed on Monday, September 4th in observance of Labor Day.

South Charleston First Presbyterian Church Website:
www.fpcscwv.org makes available our Sunday morning live-stream worship services & bulletins, newsletters, Session information, and youth group videos. Also posted are Announcements for the Month, information about upcoming mission projects, and our many fellowship opportunities.

**REMEMBER IN YOUR
PRAYERS & DEEDS OF LOVE**

Church Family

<i>Nancy Alert</i>	<i>Lora Hayes</i>
<i>Sandy Bays</i>	<i>Linda Johnson</i>
<i>Nancy Bennett</i>	<i>James Logsdon</i>
<i>Ron Bryant</i>	<i>Kc Lovin</i>
<i>Mary Ann Buckner</i>	<i>Drew McIlwain</i>
<i>Terry Coleman</i>	<i>Marsha McIlwain</i>
<i>Sallie Davidson</i>	<i>Chris & Judy Mercer</i>
<i>Nadine Davis</i>	<i>Becky Parsons</i>
<i>Bella Feldhaus</i>	<i>Barbara Snyder</i>
<i>Bob Field</i>	<i>Lee Snyder</i>
<i>Amanda Fuller</i>	<i>John Stone</i>
<i>Sally Games</i>	<i>David Sutton</i>

Care Facilities

Von Carter
Bob & Barbara Cruickshank
Tee Goodman
Tom Haines
Hilda Justice

Presbyterian Connections

Child Development Center
Bluestone Camp & Retreat Center
Lineweaver Cottage, Davis-Stuart
Fort Liberté, Haiti
Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church, Elkins
Highlawn Presbyterian Church, Huntington
St. Cuthbert's Church, Rware Parish,
Kenya

First Presbyterian Church

508 Second Avenue
South Charleston, WV 25303
PHONE: 304-744-2333
FAX: 304-746-9948

Ministers:

EVERY MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION

GINNA TAYLOR, Pastor
Mary Ellen Logsdon, Director of Music Ministry
Collin Nelson, Worship Assistant
Becky Smith, Office Manager
David Smith, Opener/Closer

Pastor's Office Hours:

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM (T, W, Th)

Church Office Hours:

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM (M, T, W, Th)

E-Mail Address:

pastor.ginna.fpcscwv@gmail.com
becky@fpcscwv.org

Web Address: *fpcscwv.org*

WIFI Network: 1stPresby SC – Guest

WIFI Password: PresbyGuest

Elders on Session:

Class of 2023

Hersha Brown
Rick Smith
Owen Walker

Class of 2024

Sarah Clemente
Bill Kimmons

Class of 2025

Chuck Knurek
Bob Lilly
Mark Lovin



Sunday, September 24th

Everyone is invited!

Little Creek Park -- Shelter #12

Fun and games begin at 1:00 pm

We will eat at 2:00 pm

Hamburger, Hot Dogs with all the fixings, paper products provided.

Everyone is asked to bring a side dish or dessert.

The Presbyterian Women

Thursday, September 14

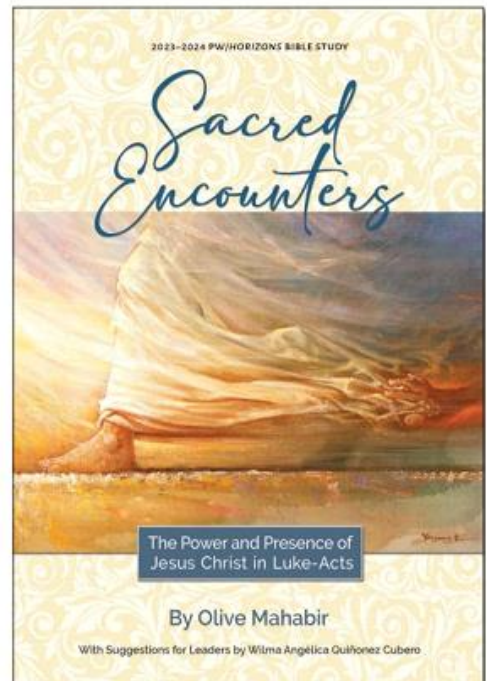
2:00 pm in the Parlor

Join us for fun, food and fellowship at our September Circle Meeting. Nancy Knurek will lead our Bible Study this month. Her study will be based on the 2023 PW/*Horizons* Bible Study, *Sacred Encounters*, authored by Olive Mahabir. *Sacred Encounters* invites us to consider Jesus and Jesus' disciples who shared the Good News through sacred encounters with everyday people.

The Gospel According to Luke and the Acts of the Apostles, or Luke-Acts "one story in two parts," demonstrate the unfolding of God's redemptive purposes in human history and present a distinctive perspective on the person and work of Jesus Christ. Written by Luke, a physician and traveling companion of Paul, the message to the early Christian community (and to us) is radical, inclusive, and hope-filled.

Further, this message invites the church to deeper, compassionate engagement with the world. "What are the potential implications for the church if we treat our interactions as sacred encounters that demonstrate the transformative love of Christ Jesus?"

Bring a friend and join us on Thursday, September 14th!





Schedule of Meetings

(Rick & Lori Smith and Amanda Fuller – Youth Leaders)

Sunday, September 24 **1:30 – 4:30 pm**

Regular Youth Group Meeting – Join us for Games, Food, and Fun!

Saturday, September 30 **1:00 – 4:00 pm**

Boat Riding (Weather Permitting). Need mom or dad to go on boat.

Friday, October 27 **7:00 pm – 8:00 am**

SLEEPOVER/MOVIE NIGHT at CHURCH with Pizza and Drinks
(Bring a sleeping cot or sleeping bag.)

Sunday, November 5 **1:30 – 4:30 pm**

Regular Youth Group Meeting – Join us for Games, Food, and Fun!

SEPTEMBER

10TH

FOLLOWING WORSHIP

PLEASE JOIN US
FOR OUR

Hot Dog FUNDRAISER

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY!



*There is no
charge for lunch!*

*Your donations will be
greatly appreciated!*

*All proceeds go to
**HABITAT
FOR HUMANITY!***

PRICE INCLUDES:
**HOT DOGS, POTATO SALAD, BAKED BEANS
DESSERT AND COFFEE, TEA, OR LEMONADE**

*Hosted by the Missions Committee
First Presbyterian Church
508 Second Avenue
South Charleston, WV 25303*

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR SUPPORT!**

**SEPTEMBER
10TH**

FOLLOWING WORSHIP