

First Presbyterian Church



512 Third Street SW

Rochester, Minnesota 55902

Phone 507-282-1618

Service for the Lord's Day
August 27, 2023
Ordinary Time

10:00 A.M.

Welcome to worship

* * * *As a courtesy to others, please silence cell phones.* * * *

Gathering

Prelude Chorale Prelude on NYLAND Aaron David Miller

Greeting and Welcome

Please sign the Opportunity for Friendship register and pass it to the person next to you.

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship

Phyllis Schmid

We give thanks to God with our whole heart.

We give thanks for God's steadfast love and faithfulness!

Though high above all things, God sees the lowly.

Even when we are in deep trouble, God makes us live again.

The love lasts forever!

Let us worship the Lord.

♦ **Hymn 49** The God of Abraham Praise LEONI

Call to Reconciliation

Brothers and sisters, with hope in the mercies of God, we confess our sins before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have conformed our lives to the ways of the world and not the ways of your kingdom.

We think of ourselves too highly and regard others as lowly.

We exalt possessions and power, when you alone are to be exalted.

We let conflicts prevail over grace and divisions over harmony.

Have mercy upon us, we pray.

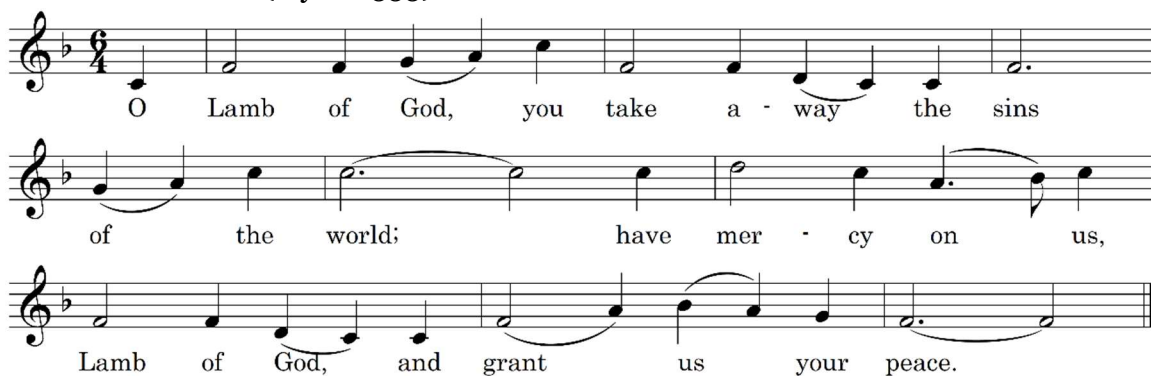
Forgive and transform us, that we may be holy and acceptable to you, discerning and doing your will. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

♦ Please rise as you are able, in body or in spirit.

Silent Confession

Lamb of God (Hymn 555)

LAND OF REST



O Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins
of the world; have mer - cy on us,
Lamb of God, and grant us your peace.


Words of Life

The steadfast love of the Lord never ends. When we call out to God, God answers.

God saves us with a strong and outstretched hand. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and helped to live in grace. Amen.

◆ Gloria Patri

Lee Afdahl



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the
Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost. As it was in the be - gin - ning, is
now and ev - er shall be. World with - out end. A - men.

Time for Young Worshipers

◆ Passing of the Peace

Please refrain from shaking hands and greet each other with a word of peace or a wave of the hand.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us share a sign of the peace of Christ with one another!

The Word

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that as the Scriptures are read
and your Word is proclaimed,
we may hear with joy
what you say to us today. Amen.

Reading from the Psalms

Psalm 124

Acclamation of Praise (Hymn 587)

CELTIC ALLELUIA

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Reading from the Old Testament

Exodus 1:8-2:10

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Message

Tools in the Hands of God

Rev. T.J. Parlette

Our Response

- ◆ Hymn 324 For All the Faithful Women NYLAND
- ◆ Affirmation of Faith *A Brief Statement of Faith, Part 2*

In life and death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.

Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

(using 'debts' and 'debtors')

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Come, Thou Fount
Jane Murl & Sarah Stender, soloists

arr. Craig Courtney

◆ **Offertory Response (Hymn 606)**

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

◆ **Unison Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious God, we thank you for the measure of faith you have given to each of us. Increase in us generosity, compassion, and prophetic courage so we may continue to be your body in and for the world. With thanksgiving, we pray in the name of Christ. Amen.

Sending

◆ **Hymn 299**

You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim

HANOVER

◆ **Benediction**

Postlude

Caprice

Aaron David Miller

Today's flowers are given for the Glory of God
in memory of Ron, Patrik and Andy Tollefson by the Tollefson family.

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Please see the *Stained Glass Window* for a full list of church activities.

Stained Glass Window

What is happening around FPC ...
Week of August 27, 2023



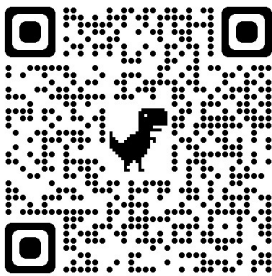
THE COUNTDOWN

In just **TWO weeks**, our fall program schedule will begin. On September 10th, we look forward to two Sunday morning worship services, and christian formation in the form of Sunday school, music rehearsals, and fellowship!



OPPORTUNITY ABOUND

With a new church calendar come new opportunities to serve. Some are repeats but others are unique to the church program year. Please use the following link to access our Sign-Up Genius links to sign yourself up. You do not have to have an account to sign up. Our [MEMBERS] page password is "members" — all lower case and plural.



This Week's Calendar

- † **Sunday, August 27**
Worship – 10am in-person & livestreamed
Message: *Tools in the Hands of God*,
Rev. T.J. Parlette
New Member Class – 11:15am
Sheldon Jackson Lounge
- † **Sunday, September 3**
Worship & Communion – 10am
in-person & livestreamed
Message: *Paul's Covenant*,
Rev. T.J. Parlette



SUNDAY, AUGUST 27 @ 11:15am

If you are looking for an opportunity to learn more about First Presbyterian Church, Rev. Parlette is offering a new members seminar TODAY. He will be covering some Presbyterian basics such as history, polity, and theology as well as things unique to this particular church. Please feel free to join if you desire.



NEWS FROM JAGUEY GRANDE



There is a new pastor at our partner church in Cuba, the Presbyterian Reformed Church in Jaguey Grande, Matanzas Presbytery. She is Lia Navarro, who with her husband was serving previously in a mission church in Havan Presbytery. She has asked for prayers for her ministry in Jaguey Grande and for her congregation.

Sylvia Swede, Mission Committee



STILL ACCEPTING CALENDAR UPDATES

It's time for a new program year, and with that transition comes

CHURCH CALENDAR UPDATES!

Thank you to everyone who has contacted Cindy with your activity schedules. Some groups have taken a hiatus during the summer and other activities will be operating under a new schedule the coming year. Please let us know if you have more calendar updates.

Church



Family

Condolences...

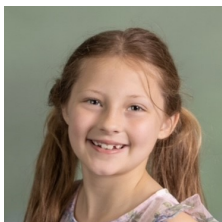
We extend our condolences to **Yamei Wang** and **Dan Wentz** on the death of Yamei's brother, Wang Chien Chung, on August 22 from complications of Alzheimer's / dementia.



With Deepest Sympathy



CHURCH FAMILY HAPPENINGS



Come out and support our very own young thespian, Savannah Boswell, in her debut appearance with the Rochester Civic Theatre in the supporting cast of *Matilda the Musical*. The show runs Thursday, September 14, through October 1, and times are at 7pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings and 2pm on Sunday afternoons. Grab a group of friends and make an evening (or afternoon) of it.



All are welcome and encouraged to provide news and information that will be included in this section highlighting *Church Family News*.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Thomas J. (T.J.) Parlette, Senior Pastor
John E. Stender, Director of Music and Organist
Lee J. Afdahl, Director of Music Emeritus
Harry E. Coleman, Facility Manager
Jesse Copley, Custodian
Than Boutelle, Custodian/Sunday Host

Cindy Kunzman, Office Manager
Sarah A. Stender, Music Associate
Janine M. Yanisch, First Players bands
Paul Herr, Security
Margie Schaaf, Sunday Host

Sunday worship in-person and livestreamed on YouTube at 10am;
Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 9am – 4pm

First Presbyterian Church / 512 Third Street SW / Rochester, MN 55902
(507) 282-1618; web@fpcrochester.org; www.fpcrochester.org

*First Presbyterian Church is an
inclusive community celebrating God with:*
†Energy †Intelligence †Imagination †Love

Member: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Birthdays...

27 August

◆ Joy Clements

28 August

◆ Ben Ellefson

29 August

◆ Ken Aalderks, Casey Clements,
Sam Decker & Annabelle Hedwall

30 August

◆ Jason Kluck & Gay Stephan

Anniversaries

27 August

♥ Warren & Mary Potter

29 August

♥ Bryan & Ingrid Neel

31 August

♥ Bob & Leslie Litwiller

03 September

♥ David & Jennifer Ellefson