



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ST. LOUIS

"Hope is definitely not the same thing as optimism. It is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out."

- Vaclav Havel

First Presbyterian Church of Saint Louis

July 13, 2025

5th Sunday after Pentecost



WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Whatever your culture or race,
Whatever your religion or background,
Whatever your age, orientation, or differing abilities,
Whatever has happened to you until now,
May this be a place of joy, peace, and healing for you.

WE GATHER AROUND THE WORD

We light the Christ Candle as a reminder that Christ's light surrounds us and fills us. Please feel free to light a candle in prayer at the candle station.

Gathering Music

*Prelude from Cello Suite No. 1, BWV 1007
J.S. Bach*

Welcome

Mary Bryant-Miller

*Please rise in body or spirit.

*Hymn #749

Come! Live in the Light!

*Opening Prayer (Unison)

Let us walk in O God, how many voices we carry within, and how hard it is to silence them! You know us—you know how fragmented our lives can be; how often we are called from the true home of your Kingdom. We are here to worship, to praise, to pray, to once again breathe in your Spirit of peace. Still all other voices within us, but your own, and prepare us to worship you with our whole being. In simple trust we pray. Amen. Light of God's love.

*Silent Prayer

*Assurance of Christ's Presence

One: In every time and place, the presence of Christ surrounds us, sustains us, and fills us.

All: May we welcome the Spirit into this place and into our hearts.

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

***Passing the Peace**

***Response of Praise (#582)**

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me
Paul M. Vasile

*Glory to God - whose goodness shines on me.
And the Son - whose grace has pardoned me.
And to the Spirit - whose love has set me free.*

*As it was in the beginning,
now and ever shall be. Amen.*

World without end - without end, Amen.

World without end - without end, Amen.

World without end - without end, Amen.

it was in the beginning, now and ever shall be. Amen.

WE LISTEN TO THE WORD PROCLAIMED

First Lesson


1 Peter 4.7-19

The end of all things is near; therefore be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen. Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, a criminal, or even as a mischief maker. Yet if any of you suffers as a Christian, do not consider it a disgrace, but glorify God because you bear this name. For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God; if it begins with us, what will be the end for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinners?" Therefore, let those suffering in accordance with God's will entrust themselves to a faithful Creator, while continuing to do good.

Second Lesson

James 1: 1-12

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings. My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing. If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you. But ask in faith, never doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind; for the doubter, being double-minded and



unstable in every way, must not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Let the believer who is lowly boast in being raised up, and the rich in being brought low, because the rich will disappear like a flower in the field. For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the field; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. It is the same way with the rich; in the midst of a busy life, they will wither away. Blessed is anyone who endures temptation. Such a one has stood the test and will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

Sermon

Debbie Frank

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

Musical Meditation

"It Is Well with My Soul"
arr. J. Abrams

***Affirmation of Faith(Unison)**

from Shaping Sanctuary

As children of God, we celebrate the beauty and individual worth of all creation.

We believe in God:

who created each of us, who breathed into us our uniqueness,
who delights in who we are, and what we can still become.

We believe in the love of God:

who laughs with us in our joy, who cries with us in our pain,
who wants all creation to seek peace, reconciliation, and love for each other.

We believe in the justice of God as revealed in our Scriptures, and through the lives of prophets of yesterday and today.

God alone created us. God sustains us. God will never leave us.

Nothing in life or in death will separate us from God's Love. Amen.

WE OFFER THE WORD TO THE WORLD

News of the Church

***Hymn #623**

I've Got Peace Like a River

***Benediction**

Postlude

"Largo" from Xerxes
G.F. Handel



WELCOME TO CHURCH

Connect with First Pres!

Please use these QR codes to connect with our church staff, to sign up for our weekly Enews letter, sign up to lead worship as a liturgist and/or welcome people as a greeter. You can also find connection cards in the pews and on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

Donate to First Pres

To make an electronic donation, please visit our website at <http://www.firstpresbyterianstl.com/give/> or scan the QR code on the right with the camera on your smart phone. There is a PayPal fee of about 3% that will be deducted from your donation. Thank you for your generosity!

Check out our Enews!

Use this QR Code to keep up on all that is happening at First Pres. You will find many opportunities for fellowship, education, and service to the church and our community.



Sign-up today to enrich our life together at First Pres.

Use these QR Codes to sign up to Lead Worship as a Liturgist, welcome people as a greeter, and or help with fellowship hour.

Greeter



Liturgist



Fellowship



NEWS OF THE CHURCH

We Welcome Debbie Frank to the Pulpit

Debbie Frank has been attending First Presbyterian with her husband, Doug Chalker, since around 2016. She works as a scientific editor in the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department at Washington University in St. Louis. She has been a member of Midwest Moon Sangha, a Buddhist group in St. Louis that follows the teachings of Thich Nhat Hanh, since 2018. Debbie enjoys playing with her cats, petting other people's dogs, cycling, running, rock climbing, backpacking, and doing pretty much anything with Doug.

Community Yoga on Summer Break

Our Tuesday Community Yoga class is taking a break for the summer. Thank you to everyone who joined us! Stay tuned for a refreshed and revamped class coming this fall!





Bill's Vacation

Our Pastor, Bill Perman, is on an extended vacation in Canada. As part of Bill's part-time status, he takes much of the summer off so he can devote more nearly full-time hours to the church the rest of the year. While Bill is away, the Operations Team, along with the Session is overseeing administration. Our Deacons are overseeing pastoral care. Several church members are filling the pulpit. In case of an emergency, please contact the church office or any member of the Session. Bill will return to First Pres in early September.

Horizon's Bible Study Returns this fall on the 2nd Wednesdays at 6:30

Join us this fall as Horizon's Bible Study returns on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM! This year, we'll explore the themes of resilience, joy, and identity in Jesus Christ. Together, we'll reflect on what it means to bounce back in times of stress and hardship, to trust deeply in God through every circumstance, and to root our identity not in what we do or have, but in who we are in Christ. Expect discussion, light refreshments, and fellowship as we grow in faith and community. All are welcome!

Summer Needs for Winger Food Pantry


With schools being out for the summer, many children are without the lunches they would normally get while in session. Winger Food Pantry is helping bridge this gap. They're asking for donations of child-appropriate foods to help fill this need. As always, thank you all for the help given to this community! Some of the items they're asking for over the summer: Peanut Butter, Mac N Cheese, Soup (Cans of condensed soup. Particularly chicken noodle, chicken with rice, and tomato.), Canned Pasta Main Dishes (Spaghettios, Chef Boyardee Ravioli, Lasagna, etc.), Fruit (Applesauce, Peaches, Pears, Mandarin Oranges, etc.),

Fall Enrollment is Open at the Early Years Center!

The EYC is now enrolling for the upcoming fall semester! If you or someone you know is looking for a warm, nurturing, play-based environment for their little one to learn and grow, we'd love to welcome them into our community. Talk to Marge or see First Pres website for more info www.firstpresbyterianstl.com

Also returning This Fall – Spirited Conversations – 1st Wednesdays of the Month at 6:30pm

Spirited Conversations will be a time of friendship, fellowship, food & drink with creative conversations about life today, faith, politics, and community. Our first fall gathering will be on September 3 at 6:30pm (New Time!) at Mi Ranchito, 887 Kingsland Ave, University City. Open to everyone! Bill Perman will be our facilitator.



Year at a Glance:

July 20, 10:30am

Salt of the Earth leads music

September 19-21

Mound Ridge Retreat - (this event is now tentative)

September 26th

Last Friday Film Series: A Place at the Table

September 27-28th

Tower Grover Pride

December 7, 10:30am

Jazz Christmas with Two Times True

December 13

Christmas Play - "Samaritan Christmas"

January 31, 2026, 5:30pm

Welcome Home Dinner



WELCOME!

First Presbyterian Church of St. Louis, a community of faith since 1817, is a More Light congregation - dedicated to our community of faith, welcoming people of every race; ethnicity; age; sex; physical, mental, or emotional condition; sexual or gender orientation; and economic, cultural, or religious background.

Church Staff

Rev. Bill Perman, Pastor
Marge Meier, Early Years Center Director
Sarah Butler, Church Office Administrator
Clay Butler, Audio Visual Technician
Hedy Rothfuss, Music Director

7200 Delmar Blvd, University City MO 63130
www.firstpresbyterianstl.com
Church Office: 314-726-6677
Bill Perman email: bill@firstpres-stl.org
Church email: office@firstpres-stl.org
Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday 9:00am - 1:00pm

Board of Deacons

Class of 2025: Katherine Chamberlain, Roger Chamberlain, Jill Schantz
Class of 2026: Rob Dodson, Nancy Kidd, Ruth Reese
Class of 2027: Mary Bryant, Jill Butler, Julie Griffin

Session

Class of 2025: Glenna Hughes, Sue Salvati, Genny Watkins
Class of 2026: Bruce Butler, Jeanne Foster, B. Terrell
Class of 2027: Jodie Burditt, Sarah Butler, Brad Schnell

Treasurer, Nancy Patten - treasurer@firstpres-stl.org
Clerk of Session, Andrew Loth - clerk@firstpres-stl.org

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