



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ST. LOUIS

**First Presbyterian Church of Saint Louis**

May 11th, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Easter



# 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.

### **Prelude**

*Two Pieces from Sketches for Organ*  
Wilbur Held

### **Welcome**

Kate Chamberlain

\*Please rise in body or spirit.

### **\*Hymn #801**

*The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want*

### **\*Opening Prayer (Unison)**

**Spirit of the living God, we need your love today to shine in the dark corners of our hearts and of our world, where loneliness and fear, war and suffering, greed and lust destroy. Come to us and shine in our lives, that we may more perfectly love you and reflect your love on earth. Amen.**

### **\*Silent Prayer**

### **\*Assurance of Christ's Peace**

One: Whatever life brings, nothing in life or death is able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

### **\*Passing the Peace**



**\*Response of Praise #582 (Refrain)** *Glory to God, Whose Goodness  
Shines on Me*

*Glory to God - whose goodness shines on me.  
And to the Son - whose grace has pardoned me.  
And to the Spirit - whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning,  
Is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

*World without end - without end, Amen.  
World without end - without end, Amen.  
World without end - without end, Amen.  
As it was in the beginning,  
Is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

## **WE LISTEN TO THE WORD PROCLAIMED**

### **First Lesson**


Revelation 7:9-17

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

### **Second Lesson**

John 10:22-30.

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice.



I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

**Sermon**

Rev. Alan Meyers

## **WE RESPOND TO THE WORD**

**Musical Meditation**     *"Improvisation"* from Sketches for Organ  
Wilbur Held

### **\*Affirmation of Faith**

One: Friends, let us declare our Easter faith together:

**All: We believe in the God of Life, whose breath is in us,  
and whose mercy encircles the creation.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, who loves us eternally.**

**Christ is with us now, even to the end of the age.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, who welcomes us into the  
household of faith, gives us gifts in abundance,  
enlivens our hearts with joy,**

**and urges us to love the world without fear.**

**Hoping against hope we labor for the promised realm of  
peace, where all peoples will celebrate at table together.**

**We will love one another while we live,**

**we will honor every creature God has made,**

**we will stand against the powers of sin and death,**

**and we will bless the earth and all that fills it.**

**Glory, thanks, and praise be yours,**

**O Living Christ, now and forever! Amen.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## **WE OFFER THE WORD TO THE WORLD**

### **News of the Church**

**\*Hymn #187**

*Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Prelude and Fugue in C Major*  
J. S. Bach



# 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 this QR Codes to sign up to Lead Worship as a Liturgist, and or welcome people as a greeter.



## Greeter



## Liturgist





# NEWS OF THE CHURCH

## ***We welcome Rev. Dr. Alan Meyers as our guest preacher today!***

The Rev. Dr. Alan Meyers is Parish Associate at Oak Hill Presbyterian Church in south St. Louis. He is Professor Emeritus of Religion at Lindenwood University. He is a member of the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy. Alan enjoys supplying preaching in St. Louis-area pulpits.

## ***Calling all Summer Preachers!***


We have a rich and unique tradition at First Pres of having members of our Church Family preach when Bill Perman is out of town. Over the last several years we have had nearly thirty people share the good news! Have you ever wanted to reflect more deeply on a passage of scripture or spiritual experience? Have you felt the call to encourage others with how you have seen Christ alive in the world? You may be our next new preacher! Bill will be out of town most of July and August this summer and there are many opportunities to preach. Once we have this summer's list, we will meet to discuss themes, scripture, sermon writing tips, and offer any support you need. If you are interested or intrigued please speak to Bill Perman.

## ***Community Yoga Class***

Join our Community Yoga class every Tuesday at 12pm in our sanctuary. This open-level Vinyasa Flow session welcomes both beginners and experienced yogis. Led by Katie LeGrand, a passionate instructor and wellness coach, these donation-based classes focus on alignment, mobility, and personal growth. Please bring a yoga mat (extras available) and enter through the main red sanctuary doors off Overhill Drive. No registration is needed—just arrive by 11:45 a.m. to settle in. For questions, contact Katie at [koparecept@gmail.com](mailto:koparecept@gmail.com).

## ***Friday Film—Will & Harper – May 30, 6:30pm***

Join us for a screening of Will & Harper, a heartfelt and powerful documentary that follows longtime friends Will Ferrell and Harper Steele on a cross-country journey of friendship, self-discovery, and affirmation after Harper comes out as transgender. After the film, stay for pizza and discussion. This is a safe and welcoming space for learning, listening, and growing together as a community committed to equity and acceptance. Everyone is welcome!



## ***We are Updating the Church Directory***

In the next couple of weeks, we are publishing a new Church Directory. There will be a print version and an online version with a password protected link on our website. If any of your information has changed in the last 6 months or if you would like to be included in the Directory, please send updates to the church office.

## ***Horizons Bible Study***

Please join us May 14th in the Lovejoy Room at 6:30 pm for lively discussion, light refreshments and fellowship as we end our current Horizons Bible Study, Patricia Tull's Let Justice Roll Down. We will come together to evaluate this past year, share what changed us, and propose what we can carry forward into the life of the church and our own lives. We will also anticipate continued fellowship in September with a preview of Rhaskell Hunter's Finding Resilience, Joy, and our Identity in Jesus Christ.

## ***Early Years Center Now Enrolling—Please spread the word!***

Our EYC has openings in all the classrooms. If you know of anyone in need of high quality early childhood education and loving care, please have them contact our Director, Marge Meier at 314-721-4866 or [eyc@firstpres-stl.org](mailto:eyc@firstpres-stl.org)

## ***We Need a Washer and Dryer***

Now that the boiler is off-line, we would like to install a washer and dryer in the boiler room. This would greatly help the Early Years Center and our various fellowship events that use table linens. If you are about to upgrade your washer and dryer or have an old set lying around, please consider donating them to the church. Cleanliness is next to Godliness!

## **Year at a Glance:**

**May 18**  
Youth Sunday

**September 19–21**  
Mound Ridge Retreat

**May 30, 6:30pm**  
Friday Film, Will & Harper

**January 31, 2026, 5:30pm**  
Welcome Home Dinner

**June 8**  
Pentecost/Confirmation  
Sunday



# 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, Interim Music Director

7200 Delmar Blvd, University City MO 63130  
[www.firstpresbyterianstl.com](http://www.firstpresbyterianstl.com)  
Church Office: 314-726-6677  
Bill Perman email: [bill@firstpres-stl.org](mailto:bill@firstpres-stl.org)  
Church email: [office@firstpres-stl.org](mailto: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](mailto:treasurer@firstpres-stl.org)  
Clerk of Session, Andrew Loth - [clerk@firstpres-stl.org](mailto:clerk@firstpres-stl.org)

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