

**THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

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Web Address:

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Tara Lewellen, Music Coordinator  
Hope Labutis, Secretary/Treasurer  
Gary Collins, Maintenance

Office hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs 9:00-2:00pm



**September 2025**

## CHURCH ELDER INFORMATION

Thank you, Session, for your faithful service to FPC.

**Clerk of Session** – Priscilla Hare

**Class of 2027:**

Karen Fish - Evangelism & Outreach  
Greg Angeletti - Property

**Class of 2026:**

Keith Hare - Finance  
Chris Rainey - Worship

**Class of 2025:**

Sarah Bowles – Church Life  
Becky Mahon – Personnel

## WORSHIP

### Pulpit Supply Pastors for September

Sept. 7 Rev. Rick Nutt  
Sept. 14 Open at this time  
Sept. 21 Open at this time  
Sept. 28 Rev. Ricci Arthur

## SCRIP

**Scrip** is fundraising while you shop!

The next Scrip order is September

**7th.** Please consider ordering gift cards from our Scrip program. Remember that the funds generated are used for church needs. Thank you to all who order on a regular basis. See Gaye Gibson to order.

## Y-HEALTHY BACKPACK PROGRAM

FPC is still actively participating in food packing and food delivery at the facility on Swans Rd. If you are interested in participating in a Community Packing Party please sign up at the link below:

<https://signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/10C084FABA922A0F9C61-50942615-ymca>

## WHAT ARE THE CHANCES?

Our very own Gideon, Linda L. Smith, met her name twin at the 2025 Gideon International Convention this year. So fun!



Thank you, Linda, for your commitment to evangelism through your work with the Gideons.

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE



### September Birthdays

Jean Holman 9/4

Kay Kittel 9/4

Rose Novell 9/8

Gaye Gibson 9/13

Jim Rodeniser 9/21

Lorraine Cox 9/22

Jo Deweese 9/24

### September Anniversaries

Steve & Kenita Keck 9/17

## MAKE ME A BLESSING

Thank you for your continued donations to the Blessings Box.

Personal care items have been popular recently. These include: all dental care, bar soap, deodorant, wet wipes, and feminine hygiene products.



Thank you for blessing our community in this practical way!

## GOOD MORNING BIBLE STUDY

THURSDAY MORNING  
BIBLE STUDY



The Good Morning Bible Study **meets Thursday mornings from 10-12** in the Gold Circle Room. Join Linda Smith and friends as they continue their study of Psalms and have prayer time together

# EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH

## MINUTE FOR MISSIONS



Mountain of Light

Empower children & families in Honduras affected by HIV/AIDS

### **Montaña de Luz: A Look Back on 25 Years**

This year marks a remarkable milestone as our nonprofit celebrates 25 years of unwavering dedication to supporting young people living with HIV in Honduras. What makes this anniversary especially meaningful is remembering where we began – as a small hospice, offering comfort and dignity to those in their final days at a time when treatment options were limited and stigma was overwhelming. Over the years, thanks to advances in care and the tireless commitment of our team and community, we've grown into a comprehensive support center focused on helping young people not only survive but thrive. This transformation would not have been possible without the steadfast support of our donors, partners, and advocates. Your compassion and commitment have empowered us to turn sorrow into strength, and transform into one of the leading resources for young people living with HIV. As we celebrate this 25-year journey, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to every one of you – your belief in our mission has made a lifetime of difference.

Wendy Nuno is the example of how your commitment has changed a life. Nuno was one of the first babies to arrive in our care in 2001 and has been with us longer than anyone. Today, she is 24 years old and will likely be in our care indefinitely. There are no other safety nets for young people like Nuno in Honduras. She has additional psychological needs, and because of your ongoing generosity, our team is able to provide her with what she needs and deserves.

As we look ahead to the future, we hope to continue counting on your support – because our children and families are worth every effort. Thank you for being a part of this life-saving mission!



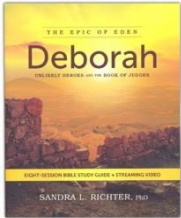
### **Wants/Needs for Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes**

- Pump/needles for inflating soccer balls
- Barbie dolls or similar—We have clothes for this size doll
- Wash cloths
- Pencil boxes
- School scissors, small pencil sharpeners
- Crayons, colored markers, colored pencils
- Rulers—folding or short to fit shoebox
- Coloring books
- Yo-yos
- Nail clippers
- Tools—hammers, screwdrivers, tape measures
- Flashlights, solar or battery
- Checkers
- Puzzles (Rubik's cubes, for example)
- Combs, especially wide tooth
- Socks for boys, all ages, 2-14 years



# ADULT BIBLE STUDY AND CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Bible Class reconvenes on Sunday, September 7 at 9:15. We will be studying Deborah: Unlikely Heroes and the Book of Judges with Sandra L Richter, Phd.



The Book of Judges narrates one of the most chaotic and morally dark eras of Israel's story. Into this morally-ambiguous time comes one of the most unlikely leaders of the biblical text—the prophet Deborah. Also a wife, mother, priest, and judge, Deborah responds to her call and transforms chaos into order by leading Israel in one of the most pivotal victories of her time.

A scholar and a professor, Dr. Richter brings the era of the Judges to life, illustrating the real people and places of the book by means of archaeology, historical geography, culture, and the hard facts of warfare in the ancient world. Prepare to be challenged, as we ask ourselves the same questions God asked Deborah and Barak:

1. What territory can you see from where you are standing that belongs to the Kingdom of God but is not in the hands of God's people?
2. Is it worth fighting for?
3. Are you willing to step out in faith and trust God for the victory?

Let's do some deep diving into the Word together. Please join us!



Children's Sunday School is on hold for now while our Christian Education team brainstorms some new ideas. Stay tuned!

## PROPERTY REPORT

### **FPC August 2025 Property Report:**

A HUGE thank you to Greg Angeletti and Rick Buehler for their work on the Brothers Masonry contract. Hopefully the work on the front facade and the bell tower will start in early fall.

The asphalt portion of the roof replacement has been completed. The final

cost of the asphalt shingles replacement is \$84,405.00. Another HUGE thanks to Robert Stokes and his crew. They worked in the heat and on the steep roof. It finally cooled off and they made great strides in getting the roof finished.

It has been determined that the flat roof where the AC units are needs recovered. New drains installed. The estimate for this work is \$14,375.00. - The Property Committee

## DID YOU KNOW?

Depending on how one counts, the church has fifteen or so separate roof sections with a variety of roofing material. The "main roof" that covers the sanctuary includes asphalt shingles that have just been replaced and metal roofing that did not need to be replaced.



## FINANCE REPORT

As of Tuesday, August 26, the account balances are:

*Checking: \$25,765.90*

The checking balance

includes \$26,374 that has been designated for capital improvements. That is, we have dipped into money designated for capital improvements to pay for regular expenses.

The replacement of the shingles on the main roof should be complete this week. To date, we have paid the contractor \$50,000 using money pulled from the investment funds. The original estimate was \$82,400 leaving a balance of \$32,400 plus some additional time and material costs for replacing damaged roof decking. To cover this cost, we are transferring another \$30,000 from the invested funds. We expect to receive and pay the bill for this roof work by the end of this week.

*Savings: \$16,318.74* – This includes \$14,800 that has been designated for capital improvements.

*SCRIP: \$2,236.45*

-Keith Hare, FPC Finance Chair



## HYMN STORY: THE DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

These 25 words, known to many around the world today as “The Doxology,” comprise what is likely the single best-known verse of all Christian hymnology and poetry.

On the surface, these lyrics are surprisingly modest and memorable. Few of us remember first hearing them, and few recall straining to learn them. Yet, as simple and accessible as these four lines are, Christians have been singing them now for more than three centuries. Because simple doesn’t mean shallow. Plain does not exclude profound. Which is one of the striking truths at the heart of our faith — and one of the great evidences for its truth — from the Gospel of John, to the early creeds, to the most widely known and enduring lyrics we share with the global church today.

The greatest realities about God and his world, when understood aright, can be captured in the humblest of terms, even as they are bottomless in their depth. And yet we find an enduring quality in “The Doxology” absent from many of our passing modern choruses. Substance hides in the brevity and singability. Though short, the hymn is a coherent progression, rather than a loosely connected attempt at memorable phrases, and turns on the profound theological truths of God’s aseity and generosity, and God as Trinity.

**Morning, Evening, Midnight** Thomas Ken (1637–1711), who crafted these plain and profound words in the late 1600s, wrote them as the final and “doxological” stanza of three hymns he published, first for students at Winchester College at Oxford University.

Ken, who was an Anglican minister, royal chaplain, and eventually bishop, first penned verses for his students at Winchester to sing upon arising in the morning, and at bedtime each evening. Later he added a third hymn, to rehearse at midnight, were students to have

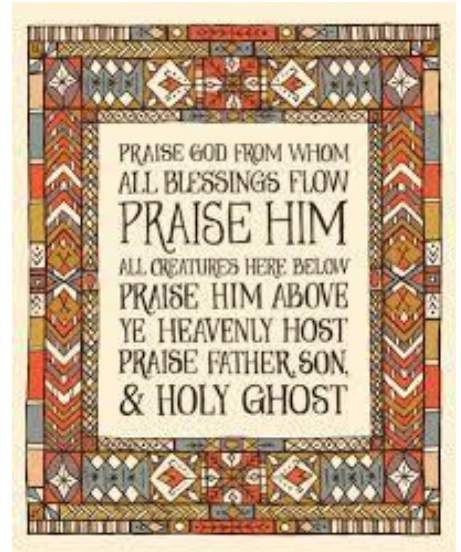
trouble sleeping. Each hymn was a confession of faith, and an invocation of divine blessing, tailored to its particular moment of the day. And each hymn ended with the same 25-word doxological verse in praise of God, three in one.

Ken’s hymns have by no means been lost today. However, it is his final verse — our beloved “Doxology” — that has endured, so well-known is it that it needs no placeholder in our hymnbooks.

Christians the world over simply know it, almost without fail — both Ken’s timeless words and the tune, which Ken did not write, but which much later began to accompany the song. The tune, called Old One-Hundredth, originally designed to accompany the singing of Psalm 134, and later Psalm 100, first appeared in the Geneva Psalter in 1551 and was written by Louis Bourgeois (1510–1561), who served as head of choirs and music, alongside famous pastor and theologian John Calvin.

**Our Joy, His Glory** *Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.* “The Doxology” has served as a ready-made form, and occasion, for Christians to connect the very purposes of God in all he does with our heart’s deepest desire. God made our hearts to ache for happiness. And he made the world, and us, to glorify him. And in this act of praise (which “The Doxology” directs and assists), our souls both rejoice and go public in expressing their delight in him.

God is glorified in our heartfelt expression of praise. God made us for praise. He made us for doxology. He made the world that he might be praised. And these simple yet profound words serve that simple yet most profound human act of devotion — and all the more when we join our voices and sing together. [Learn more:](https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-best-known-hymn-in-history)



## WHAT IS A MEMBER?

Have you ever wondered what it means to be a member of First Presbyterian Church?



**Membership of a PCUSA congregation includes baptized members, active members, and affiliate members.**

(Our congregation is not currently hosting any affiliate members, but we do have baptized members and active members. We also enjoy a number of attendees and participants we refer to as "friends of the congregation.")

A **Baptized Member** is a person who has received the Sacrament of Baptism, whether in this congregation or elsewhere, and who has been enrolled as a baptized member by the session but who has not made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Such baptized members receive the pastoral care and instruction of the church, and may participate in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. (ex. children)

An **Active Member** is a person who has made a profession of faith in Christ, has been baptized, has been received into membership of the church, has voluntarily submitted to the government of this church, and participates in the church's work and worship. In addition, active members participate in the governance of the church and may be elected to ordered ministry. Active members shall regularly, after prayerful consideration, recommit themselves to the disciplines and responsibilities of membership.\*

\*Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a joy and a privilege. It is also a commitment to participate in Christ's mission. A faithful member bears witness to God's love and grace and promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ's Church. Such involvement includes:

proclaiming the good news in word and deed, taking part in the common life and worship of the congregation, lifting one another up in prayer, mutual concern, and active support, studying Scripture and the issues of Christian faith and life, supporting the ministry of the

church through the giving of money, time, and talents, demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church, responding to God's activity in the work through service to others, living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships of life, working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment, caring for God's creation, participating in the governing responsibilities of the church, and reviewing and evaluating regularly the integrity of one's membership, and considering ways in which one's participation in the worship and service of the church may be increased and made more meaningful.

An **Affiliate Member** is a member of another congregation of this denomination or of another denomination or Christian body, who has temporarily moved from the community where the congregation of membership is situated, has presented a certificate of good standing from the appropriate council or governing body of that congregation, and has been received by the session as an affiliate member. An affiliate member may participate in the life of the congregation the same manner as an active member except that an affiliate member may not vote in congregational meetings or be elected to ordered ministry or other office in the congregation. (ex. traveling nurses, college students, military, etc.)

*(Information pulled from The Book of Order Sections G-1.03 & G-1.04)*



Over the years, many have moved on from active membership with us due to relocation, choosing to worship elsewhere or simply leaving active fellowship. All are still welcome to participate in the life and worship of our congregation. The invitation to the Lord's Supper is extended to all who have been baptized, remembering that access to the table is not a right conferred upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the underserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. We welcome any who would like to take the step to become active members or return to active membership. Our church elders are always willing to attempt to answer any questions you may have.