### Members and friends,

This "Map to Ministry" booklet is intended to help you find ways to connect to the ways that God is at work in and through the mission of our church.

As we launch into a new program year, our guiding theme will be "Fill your cup, and share your cup." Being part of a church community is a choice that both sustains us and allows us to give of ourselves to others. It's a good way to remember that God's love is big enough – not just for our sake, but for the sake of the world!

In the opportunities listed in these pages, I hope you will find at least one way to fill your cup: something that can help you connect more deeply to your faith or to fellow church members in a small group or a Bible study. I also hope you will find at least one thing that can lead you to share your cup with others: an outreach project or a place to care for other members of the congregation or community. In so doing, we will all be the church that embodies our mission statement: To reflect the love of Christ from the heart of Charlotte.

congregation or community. In so doing, we will all be the church that embodies our mission statement: To reflect the love of Christ from the heart of Charlotte. In faith, hope, and love -PEN PEERY, SENIOR PASTOR

# Worship

#### **CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE**

Sundays | September - May | 9-9:40 a.m. | Chapel

The contemplative service incorporates elements of silence, reflective prayer, music, and/or meditation. Communion is observed each week.

#### TRADITIONAL SERVICE

Sundays | 11 a.m. | Sanctuary, Livestream, WAXN-Channel 64

The traditional service lasts right around one hour each week and includes prayer, hymns, scripture reading, and a sermon.

#### **WORSHIP SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **Ushers**

Ushers greet worshipers, assist with seating, and hand out bulletins to those attending worship services on Sunday mornings and at special services.

#### **Flower Ministry**

The Flower Ministry provides flowers that are used to enhance the worship of God throughout the church year. Bringing the natural world into the church building reminds the congregation, in all seasons, of the beautiful world of nature that God created for mankind.

#### **Communion Preparation**

A Communion Coordinator solicits help from volunteers to polish silver once or twice a year; to prepare the bread and grape juice in the plates, trays, and chalices when Communion is to be observed; and to clean up after the service. Communion is normally observed seven times per year.

#### **Technology Support**

Every Sunday, the technology team ensures that all are able to hear the service. A soundboard volunteer typically serves once every six weeks.

#### LIFE EVENTS

#### **Baptisms**

At least one parent must be on the active membership roll to schedule a baptism. Parents who are presenting their children for baptism are required to attend one of our baptism classes offered throughout the year. This class will discuss what Presbyterians believe about baptism, the vows parents take on behalf of their children, and what happens during worship. To request a baptism, refer to the contact insert in the front of this booklet.

#### Weddings

To schedule a wedding, the bride or groom, or a parent or grandparent of the bride or groom must be on the active membership roll for at least six months. To schedule a wedding, refer to the contact insert in the front of this booklet.

#### **Funerals**

Just as the church embraces us throughout our lives, so too does it stand ready to embrace us in death and to support those who grieve. In the event of the death of a church member, please contact the church office at 704.332.5123. To help with such sensitive matters as end-of-life decisions, we offer a free resource, *Putting My House in Order and Preparing for My Death*, available at firstpres-charlotte.org/life-events.





Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. Psalm 95: 1-2

### Music Ministry

The Music Ministry provides opportunities for children, youth, and adults to share their talents in praise of God in music and song and to enjoy the fellowship of a community united in our love of music.

#### **CHOIRS**

For rehearsal times, visit firstpres-charlotte.org/music.

#### **Sanctuary Choir**

The sanctuary choir sings in worship weekly, at special evening services, and at our annual Singing in the Season program in December.

#### Kirk Choir (grades 2-5)

This children's choir sings in worship several times per year, participates in Singing in the Season, and presents a children's musical each spring.

#### Carol Choir (age $4\frac{1}{2}$ - grade 1)

The Carol Choir is an introduction to singing as part of a group. This choir sings in worship several times from September through April.

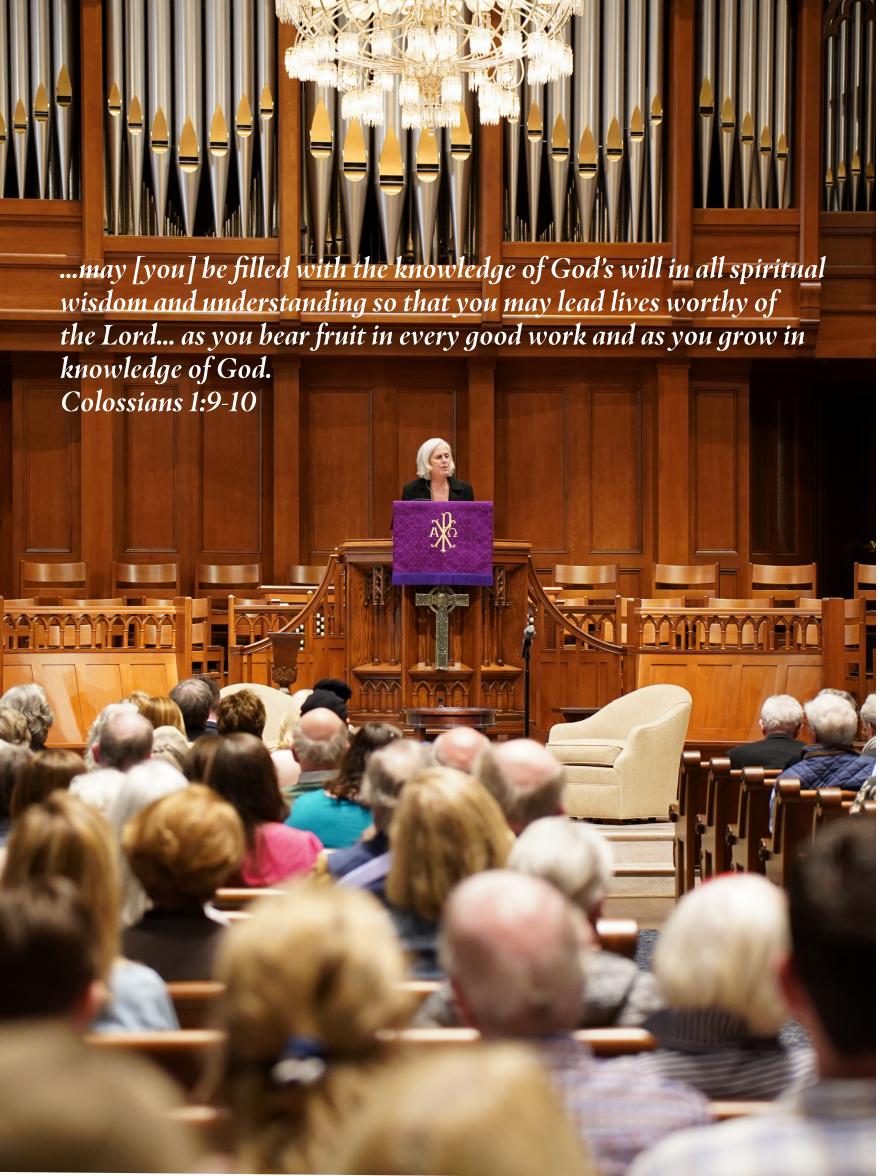
#### **HANDBELLS**

For rehearsal times, visit firstpres-charlotte.org/music.

#### Ivey Ringers (grades 9-12)

This auditioned group tours annually, participates in Singing in the Season, and presents a handbell concert preceding the 11 p.m. Communion service on Christmas Eve.

More info about Music Ministry at firstpres-charlotte.org/music



### **Adult Formation**

The mission of Adult Formation is to encourage and inspire our congregation to become lifelong and faithful followers of Christ. Classes, programs, and small groups offer spaces to learn and share new findings. As we fill ourselves through personal study and interaction, we become ready to fill others' cups through compassionate care and faithful service.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:45-10:45 a.m.

We offer two weekly classes and occasional pop-ups for shaping ourselves as disciples of Christ. Topics include biblical study, theology, and Christian life. All ages are welcome at any class.

#### PATHWAYS TO DISCIPLESHIP

fpcpathways.com

Our online tool for supplemental materials and asynchronous learning.

#### **BIBLE STUDIES**

Weekly or monthly study and fellowship give life to our scriptural reading and space to support one another. Bible study topics change throughout the year. Visit our website for a complete list of current offerings.

#### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

Throughout the year

Meeting after Sunday worship or in the evening, special events feature speakers and discussion to help build an understanding of current events and inspire advocacy for others. Topics may include community outreach, mental health awareness, and book discussions.

#### THE WILLARD

Annually in the spring

This annual event engages our faith tradition with relevant issues, including justice, human dignity, and inclusion. Keynoted by an outside speaker, The Willard aims to deepen and enrich the spiritual lives of both members and the Charlotte community.

#### **FPC TRAVELS**

Annually

Just as much of Jesus' ministry took place on roads and hillsides outside the synagogue, trips with FPC outside the church's walls provide meaningful and transformational education.

FPC travelers will visit Scotland, Israel Palestine, and domestic locations over the next few years for a first-hand look at how God is at work in the world.

# Young Adult Formation

Young Adult Formation focuses on helping people in their 20s and 30s understand God's unique call to them and their place in the Church. Our ministry meets you where you are in your life and faith. The young adults represent a wide range of denominational backgrounds, beliefs, and experiences. This is a great way to deepen your connection to God and the congregation at an important time of life.

#### YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday evenings

This Bible study meets at various locations off-campus for study and fellowship. We focus on understanding our faith as Presbyterians and how that leads our lives today.

#### THE BIBLE CLASS

This intergenerational class is a fun mix of perspectives, ages, and backgrounds. The Bible Class is scripture-based. It explores the word of God by studying specific books of the Bible or themes found in scripture. Participants will deepen their understanding of scripture and develop their skills in biblical interpretation.

#### **FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES**

Various times & locations

These opportunities are planned throughout the year to connect members across small groups. Like all our groups, social and service opportunities are always open invitations, so invite your friends. It is a great way to get started and meet people.

#### **EMERGING LEADERS**

This year-long cohort explores faith and spirituality. Participants will develop an understanding of themselves as part of the body of Christ and a member of our congregation. The group will write a faith statement, complete a self-selected project, and meet with the Session.

#### **SMALL GROUPS**

Small groups are created based on member interests. If you have a topic or group of friends that would like to meet, church Formation staff are happy to help you coordinate and resource your group with topics and materials. These can be long-running groups or meet for just a set period of time.

More info about Adult & Young Adult Formation at firstpres-charlotte.org/adults

### Youth Formation

We believe our youth should have a safe space to explore their faith and build relationships with each other and with God. We hope our youth will go into the world with a deeper understanding of their relationship with God, knowing how to live as Christ instructs us, and showing love to all they encounter.

#### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

9:45-10:45 a.m. | during the school year

Middle and high school youth meet before worship. During this time, they will engage in Bible study, fellowship with other youth peers, and occasionally enjoy breakfast together.

#### PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH CONNECTION (PYC)

6-7:45 p.m. | first & third Sundays

Middle and high school youth meet to share a meal, play games, engage in Bible study, participate in mission opportunities, and more.

#### MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Mission trips are other ways we worship God and grow in faith and life. Each summer, high school youth go domestically or abroad to engage in hands-on service work in other communities. Middle school youth participate in local ministries specific to Charlotte and North Carolina. Youth may also engage in service and mission work during the school year.

#### YOUTH CONFERENCES

Annually in the summer

All youth are invited to participate each summer in a safe space for them to be heard by modeling a loving, nurturing, and supportive community as the body of Christ where all feel affirmed and included. Middle school youth are invited to Massanetta Springs, and high school youth are invited to Montreat Youth Conference.

#### YOUTH COUNCIL

Youth Council members help plan programming and serve as leaders amongst their grade levels and peers during the school year. Youth Council members develop leadership skills to carry with them outside church walls.

#### CONFIRMATION

Annually | January-April

Confirmation is a time for eighth graders to confirm their baptismal vows, explore their faith and claim it as their own, deepen their relationships with God, and discover what it means to be a disciple of lesus Christ and part of the Presbyterian tradition. Each youth is partnered with a confirmation sponsor, an adult church member outside their family, with whom they can share their faith and questions.

#### YOUTH SUNDAY

Annually in April

Youth plan, write, and facilitate a worship service for our congregation. Seniors provide personal reflections on their life and scripture for the congregation. Youth Sunday also marks the recognition of the eighth-grade confirmation class.

#### **OVERNIGHT RETREATS**

Middle and high school youth will have the opportunity to experience Sabbath in a whole new way as they enrich our church community and focus on faith. Middle and high school will have separate retreats in the fall and spring.



YOUTH BASKETBALL

Annually in winter

Middle and high school youth can join the FPC Basketball Team. Practices typically begin in November, and the season runs from December - March. It's a great way to be part of a team and have fun playing basketball!



More info about Youth at firstpres-charlotte.org/youth

# Our Mission

The mission of First Presbyterian Church of Charlotte is to reflect the love of Christ from the center of our city.

Strengthened by our connection to God and one another through worship, study, and service we seek to

glorify God;

humbly trust God to work through us;

continually learn;

support and equip one another to know and love our neighbors;

create a space of love and welcome for all;

serve the Charlotte community and beyond;

work for justice; and

celebrate our calling to be for Christ in the heart of Charlotte.



### Children & Families Formation

The Children and Families Ministry works with families to strengthen Christian formation at church and home. Our vibrant children's program includes extensive fellowship opportunities and is anchored in mission. Beginning in the spring, older elementary students take special classes designed to bolster their knowledge, understanding, and life as followers of Jesus Christ.

#### **SUNDAY SCHOOL (BIRTH-GRADE 5)**

9:45 a.m. | September - May

Children's Sunday School takes place during the formation hour. All ages meet in the gym and then go to their respective classes with their teachers.

**3rd Grade Sunday School topic:** How to use your Bible

**4th Grade Sunday School topic:** Catechism **5th Grade Sunday School topic:** Matthew 25

#### **NURSERY**

10:30 a.m. drop off

Each Sunday, we offer a nursery for children ages birth to two years old. When you arrive at the nursery, you'll be met by a greeter or officer who will help you check-in. Children three and up are encouraged to participate in worship with their families.

#### **FAMILY FAITH FORMATION**

Children and families have several opportunities throughout the year to grow in their faith as a whole family. Parenting classes, summer worship, Advent workshop, "Welcome to Worship," and more guide our families in formation driven from home and supported by your church family.

#### **FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

Seasonal fellowship opportunities offer family-centered fun. Stay connected with dates in the churchwide weekly newsletter, This Week @ First.

#### **FIRST CHURCH**

During worship | September - May

First Church is offered during worship services for children aged three through first grade. Children leave after the Children's Time to participate in a simplified worship service. Children rejoin their families in the sanctuary during the last hymn.

#### **SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES**

Service opportunities are offered throughout the year, including food drives, Rise Against Hunger, and VBS summer camp.

#### **NATIVITY PLAY**

Children from birth to fifth grade join together to tell of Christ's birth. Adults may also help in many ways. The play debuts during Sunday School, and all are welcome to attend.

More info about Children & Families at firstpres-charlotte.org/children

# Child Development Center

Year-round | full day

The Child Development Center (CDC) is a 5-star, licensed program serving children ages eight weeks to five years old. Our goal is to nurture children and provide them with the foundation they need to grow and develop socially, emotionally, academically, and spiritually. The CDC teachers strive to connect with the children in their care by building a relationship of respect that honors each child's unique personality and learning style. The program is created around each child's developmental stage, and teaching strategies are modified to ensure optimal growth and development.

**Christian Education** The CDC partners with the Formation team to offer weekly Christian education classes, monthly chapel with our pastors, and Vacation Bible School.

**Outreach** The CDC offers various partnerships for children and families to experience God's love. For example, the CDC participates in food collections for our on-site Loaves and Fishes pantry.

#### **TOURS, TUITION, & REGISTRATION**

More information is available at fpcschools.org.

# Weekday School

September – May | 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

The Weekday School (WDS) is a half-day program for children ages one to five. We are committed to supporting the development of the whole child through opportunities for children to learn about and experience God's love. Children experience a learn-through-play approach to learning, enrichment activities, classrooms equipped for dramatic play, and daily outdoor play and exercise.

**Christian Education** The WDS partners with the Formation team to offer weekly Christian education classes and monthly chapel with our pastors.

**Outreach** The WDS teams up with the Care and Outreach teams to support important ministries, such as bringing groceries for Loaves and Fishes and making cards for members at Sharon Towers.

#### **TOURS, TUITION, & REGISTRATION**

More information is available at fpcschools.org.



### **Global Missions**

The regional and global ministries of First Presbyterian span continents and concerns, with our mission teams supporting ministries ranging from Eastern North Carolina to Haiti, Russia, Cuba, and the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico. These ministries develop churches, schools, pastors, and medical clinics. They also equip Presbyterian missionaries and help our members build powerful relationships with fellow followers of Christ around the globe.



**CUBA** In Cuba, we support the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Matanzas. The ecumenical seminary educates ministers and lay people in Cuba, where a generation of citizens have not experienced open worship

opportunities and is now freely sharing their faith in God, their support of the church, and their love of their neighbors. Our members participate in mission trips once or twice a year.



**MEXICO** In Mexico, we partner with Accion Ministries, whose primary mission is to provide housing that supports educational opportunities for the Mayan people living in the Yucatan. There are

programs for middle and high school youth and attendees at both universities and seminaries. Youth and adults participate in mission trips to Mexico annually.



**HAITI** In Haiti, our partner Outreach for Christ in Bayonnais (OFCB) serves a remote mountain valley, working with

four schools, a clinic, and the local church. While we cannot visit due to unrest, we support them from afar. Friends Empowering Haiti and Ewo are two of the nonprofits that support OFCB that FPC is involved with.

### **Local Missions**

ROOF ABOVE As a founding member of the Urban Ministry Center in 1994, we continue to grow this interfaith partnership that addresses our unsheltered neighbors' needs. Once a month, FPC volunteers assemble up to 600 sandwiches to support the Operation Sandwich program, which provides daily lunches at the shelters. Every second Sunday of the month, our volunteers make soup and serve lunch at the College Street campus as part of the Soup Kitchen ministry. Throughout the year, FPC volunteers also help provide counseling, lead a lunchtime devotion, serve dinners at the Men's Shelter, and assist in the creative activities offered to residents, such as gardening, soccer, choir, and yoga.

**ROOM IN THE INN** One night per week from December through March, we provide a warm and safe shelter for our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness. This program is one of our largest service opportunities, with over 250 volunteers welcoming guests into our church for an overnight stay. Our volunteers cook and serve a home-cooked dinner, provide fellowship and showers, and offer the guests breakfast and a bag lunch to take the following day.

**WESTERLY HILLS ACADEMY** Since 2000, we have partnered with Westerly Hills Academy, a high-poverty elementary school in Charlotte. Volunteers tutor students, support school events, provide staff appreciation, and assist with our summer programs, Bellxcel and Above and Beyond Students camps (rising K-5) and Camp Grier (rising 2nd-12th). Most recently, we established a food pantry at the school where families can easily access food in times of need.

More info about Global Missions at firstpres-charlotte.org/global-outreach

#### LAKEVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIANCE

Lakeview Neighborhood Alliance (LNA) serves the Lakeview neighborhood where we have served for many years. The Alliance, which residents lead, engages with residents to educate them on opportunities and connect them with resources while advocating for the neighborhood's growth and empowerment.

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY CHARLOTTE** We built our first Habitat house in 1997. Each fall, FPC staffs a "build" with volunteers who raise the walls, lead devotions, provide snacks, and furnish the new home.

#### LOAVES AND FISHES/FRIENDSHIP TRAYS

Since 1984, we have operated an on-site pantry that provides a week's worth of groceries to neighbors in need several days a week. In addition, volunteer drivers deliver meals and groceries directly to the doorstep of elderly and homebound individuals several days per week.

**CORE CHURCH** A relatively new partnership, The Core Church is located less than one mile from Westerly Hills Academy and has established a much-needed after-school program for the community. Volunteers can support this program as tutors, homework helpers, and by providing snacks.

More info about Local Missions at firstpres-charlotte.org/local-outreach



# Advocacy

The Advocacy Committee helps First Presbyterian learn about the challenges facing our neighbors in Charlotte and informs the congregation about opportunities to address those challenges, both individually and as a church. There are several ways to get involved:

#### HOUSING/HOMELESSNESS SUBCOMMITTEE

Housing/homelessness subcommittee addresses systems, economies, and injustices to work together to ensure access to affordable housing for all our neighbors in the future.

#### **EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Equitable education means giving every student access to the resources and educational rigor they need regardless of race, gender, language, disability, family background, or family income. This subcommittee works closely with our partner school, Westerly Hills Academy.

#### **GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

The Gun Violence Prevention subcommittee seeks to understand the impacts of gun violence on our neighbors and discern ways we, as followers of Christ, can support initiatives to reduce gun violence and lessen its impact on our neighbors in Charlotte.

#### **PLOWSHARES BOOK CLUB**

Meets three to four times per year

Plowshares reads and discusses challenging books to learn more about issues facing our community.

#### **ANTI-RACISM SUBCOMMITTEE**

This subcommittee works to encourage, educate, and support the FPC Session, other committees, and interested individuals in leading our church toward becoming anti-racist.

#### **CLIMATE CHANGE**

This subcommittee seeks to provide understandable information and education about the science of climate change, and lead prayerful responses to mitigate its effect by addressing the root cause of climate change for members of First Presbyterian and in the greater Charlotte area.

#### **RESOURCES**

firstpres-charlotte.org/advocacy

Continue to learn with our library of resources related to housing and homelessness, equity in education, anti-racism, climate change, gun violence prevention, and select topics covered by Plowshares.

More info about Advocacy at firstpres-charlotte.org/advocacy

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 1 John 4:7

### Care

As a church family, we seek to share Christ's compassion with one another by celebrating our joys and shouldering our burdens together. Our pastoral staff is available to make home and hospital visits and to meet with you on a short-term basis to discuss what you're going through. We have therapists and counselors we can refer you to for long-term care.

#### **PASTORAL EMERGENCY**

If you have a pastoral emergency outside of regular church hours (M-F, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.), call 704.927.0256 for the on-call voicemail. Your call will be returned promptly.

#### **CARE MINISTRIES**

We stand ready to help through our prayer ministry team, funeral guild, flower ministry, meal ministry, and support groups. Current support groups include meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous on Tuesdays and Fridays and Al-Anon meetings on Wednesdays.

#### **HEALTH AND WELLNESS**

Our faith community nurse supports members facing medical challenges and offers knowledge about local community resources. She also provides wellness programming throughout the year. Additionally, we partner with local mental health counselors who provide sliding-scale therapy in the Fresco Lobby offices.

#### STEPHEN MINISTRY

Our Stephen Ministers are laymen and women trained to engage in confidential, structured, and caring relationships with people going through a difficult period. To request a Stephen Minister, refer to the contact insert in the front of this booklet.

More info about Care at firstpres-charlotte.org/care



# Counseling Center

Two Sun Counseling and Wellness therapists see clients at First Presbyterian Church in the Fresco Lobby offices. These services are available to all who need them, regardless of church membership status. Church members are encouraged to take advantage of their proximity to these skilled therapists. Scholarships are available for those who qualify. Sun Counseling therapists do not currently accept insurance. However, for those who are paying full-fee and not receiving a scholarship, the therapists can provide clients a "super bill" to file with their insurance company for reimbursement.

More info about the Counseling Center at firstpres-charlotte.org/counseling

### Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women is one of our most active and vibrant leadership groups. All women members of First Presbyterian Church are automatically members of PW, which offers opportunities for them to enjoy fellowship, study, and service together.

#### **CIRCLES**

Women can join one or more small groups called "Circles" that meet monthly. There are many circles to choose from based on where you live, whether you want to meet during the day or in the evening, if you wish to meet at church or members' homes, whether you want to be with others close to your age or with a mix of ages, and whether you are looking for Bible study and fellowship, or just fellowship. Circle membership offers a wonderful way for women to make new friends and stay connected through the years. A list of Circle offerings is available on the church's website.

#### ANNUAL EVENTS

Events include the Fall Gathering, the Advent Communion Service and Lunch, the Valentine Cookie Event, the Women's Retreat, and the Birthday Dinner. Dates vary each year and will be publicized through a variety of church channels.

#### **SERVICE**

Throughout the year, PW circles and committees provide much-needed support to the students and staff of Westerly Hills Academy, our church's partner school, for over 20 years. They are also actively involved in supporting Congregational Care within the church.

More info about Presbyterian Women at firstpres-charlotte.org/pw

# Getting Connected

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

The membership process is exciting and easy. Our new member class will teach you what it means to be Presbyterian and more about First Presbyterian Church. After future new members attend the class, they go before the Session (our ruling Elder leadership group) to complete the joining process.

#### **GETTING INVOLVED**

When new members join the church, they are asked to complete an engagement survey that lets the church know what they want to know more about or may be interested in. The staff, pastors, and other church members will help new members find opportunities for engagement, service, learning, and fellowship for themselves and their families.

#### **REALM**

We use this online system for communication, small group management, giving, and events. Realm has two interfaces: onrealm. org/firstprescharlotte and a phone app called Realm Connect. If you have questions about Realm or creating your account, email realmsupport@firstpres-charlotte.org.

More info about membership at firstpres-charlotte.org/new



### Stewardship

#### **WAYS TO GIVE**

#### **Sundays**

There is an opportunity to give each Sunday during the offertory anthem in worship. Place your gift into the offering plates presented by the ushers.

#### **Online**

firstpres-charlotte.org/give

You can securely give online by using our Realm giving portal. Sign in to Realm to track your giving over time, or give once without signing in.

#### **Text to Give**

Texting is a fast, convenient, and safe way to give. Text givetofpc to 73256 and follow the prompts.

#### **Recurring Gifts**

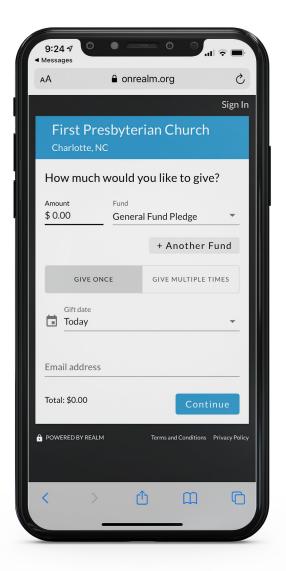
You can set up your giving as a recurring gift so it can be deducted from your credit card or bank account automatically. Set up recurring gifts through your Realm account.

#### ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

During the year-round campaign, members prayerfully consider an amount to pledge, then contribute to this pledge throughout the year.

#### YEAR END GIVING

Many choose to make an additional gift as the end of the year approaches. Year-end gifts may be cash or check, qualified IRA distribution, foundation gift, or stock.



More info about Stewardship at firstpres-charlotte.org/give

### Communications

**WEBSITE** firstpres-charlotte.org

**EMAIL** communications@firstpres-charlotte.org

FACEBOOK facebook.com/firstprescharlotte

**INSTAGRAM** instagram.com/firstprescharlotte

YOUTUBE youtube.com/@firstprescharlotte

PODCAST fpcclt.libsyn.com

**NEWSLETTER SIGN UP** We send a weekly newsletter of events and happenings every Wednesday at 2 p.m. You can subscribe to our emails or change your content preferences at fpc.tiny.us/news

**STAFF INFORMATION** A complete listing of staff with photos, bios, and contact information is available at firstpres-charlotte.org/staff

