



First Presbyterian Church

meets at

292 West Main Street · Newark, DE 19711
302-731-5644 · firstpresnewark.org



July 19, 2026

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Wheat and Tares

*Those who are able may stand

PRELUDE *Pièces de clavecin: “La Joyeuse”* by Jean-Philippe Rameau

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS AND MINDS

“Not judgment and condemnation of others – But humility and distrust of self –
Is the teaching of Christ” Ellen G. White

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)**

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars
that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?

**Yet you have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with
glory and honor. Amen.**

***Hymn #713** *“Touch the Earth Lightly”*

Prayer of the Day (unison)

**Sower of the Field, continue to be gracious with us that we may ripen into
the children of God’s realm and live with you forever, shining like the sun
in God’s heavenly home. Amen.**

***HYMN #582** *“Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me”* (unison)

**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.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Abba, Father, where we are in bondage to sin, set us free; restore us as your children and joint heirs with Christ. You are our hope. Lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASSING THE PEACE

ANTHEM *“Who You Say I Am”* by Reuben Morgan and Ben Fielding

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Holy One, you love with a father’s tenderness, a mother’s zeal. Move now in our hearts. Breathe through the words we hear, the songs we share, the burdens we carry, until we discover our purpose in your liberating love, for we long to join creation’s praise and to shine with the mercy of the Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

1ST SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 44: 6-8 (p.587)

Response after reading: This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

2ND SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 13: 24-30 (p.794)

Response after reading: This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MESSAGE:

SERMON *“Please Don’t Weed Whack the Kingdom!”*

***Hymn #367** *“Come, Ye Thankful People Come”*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – (unison)**

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God’s purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”*

arr. by Becki Slagle Mayo

***Song of Dedication** #710 *“We Lift Our Voices”*

We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our lives; they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering; we are an offering.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

PRAYER CONCERNS

*As each group is prayed for, the minister will say: Lord in Your Mercy, and the people will respond: **Hear our prayer.***

THE LORD’S PRAYER (unison)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

***Hymn #834 – “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”**

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Seasons: July “Song of the Reaper”

by P.I. Tchaikovsky

About the Music

Up and down, down and up they traverse, messengers carrying God's word to mankind—do they carry something back up? The unceasing movement creates a bridge (well, ladder or staircase) between heaven and earth, and God promises Jacob he will be with him and his progeny until his promise has been fulfilled. This makes Jacob “la joyeuse,” or the joyful one.

Rameau's work “La Joyeuse,” with its scales mirroring the ascent and descent of these angels, comes from the second of his three sets of *Pieces for Harpsichord*, an instrument for which he wrote many works that were highly regarded in his day (and now ours). Very little is known about Rameau's first few decades of life, having been a very private man. While his first set of *Pièces de clavecin* in 1706 gained him some notice, it was his incredible *Treatise on Harmony* which solidified his reputation as a music theorist. Many of its concepts, such as providing a rationale for why some harmonic progressions sound stronger than others, are still taught today. After taking up French opera in his 50s, he came to be counted amongst the great French Baroque composers.

While he was at work on his first piano concerto and *Swan Lake*, Tchaikovsky received a commission to write a piano piece representing each month of the year in Russia, each to be printed as each month appeared. The commissioner gave him the subtitles for each month, and Tchaikovsky set to work. For July, our current month, comes “The Reaping,” a fitting analogue to today's gospel reading, the parable of the weeds.

Memorial Service



Saturday. July 25, 2026, at 11:00 AM – 12 Noon in the Sanctuary

Celebrate the Life and Legacy of

KEN LEWIS

Luncheon and reception to follow in Memorial Hall



Ordination and installation of our new elders and deacons will take place during our worship service on August 9th. This is a joyous and happy occasion for the church!

Please plan to join us!

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS FOR THIS WEEK WERE DONATED BY

GLORY OF GOD

This Week's Worship – July 19, 2026

Ushers: Vickie Pierson-Perry, Phyllis Biddle, Sarah Huckleberry, Paul Biddle

Liturgist: Nancy Lewis

Closer: Paul Biddle

Counters: Harvey Conner, Joe Huggins

Next Week's Worship – July 26, 2026

Ushers: Wade Catts, Bob Wunder, Mimi Lovelace, Pam Wunder

Liturgist: Nancy Black

Closer: Wade Catts

Counters: Matt Reyne, Stan Blair



Flowers can be dedicated **in honor** or **memory** of a family member, friend or loved one. You may keep or donate them. Sign up on the form located in the Narthex.

Checks *clearly identified for chancel flowers* may be placed into the offering plate or brought to the church office.

Chancel Flowers \$31.00

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who has responded to our “Help Tell Our Story” Invitation. We are grateful for the enthusiasm and willingness of so many members to share their gifts as we begin this exciting journey.

Our Digital Communications Team is starting to take shape, and we are excited about the talent and perspectives that are coming together to help create a website and communications presence that truly reflects the warmth, faith, ministries, and mission of First Presbyterian Church.

As many of us know, summer schedules can be challenging with vacations, family commitments, and other activities. Rather than rush the process, we will be taking a little time to let everyone’s calendars settle before bringing the team together. Watch for more information in the coming weeks as we begin the next phase of this exciting project.

If you have been thinking about getting involved but have not reached out yet, there is still time! We continue to welcome people with a variety of interests and talents—from photography, writing, and social media to simply sharing ideas and offering a fresh perspective. Whether you can serve throughout the project, help with a single photo session, review content, or contribute your unique perspective, we would love to have you.

If you would like to learn more or become involved, please contact Patti Kelly (PattiLynnKelly@gmail.com).

Thank you for helping us tell the story of First Presbyterian Church.

HAPPY 106TH BIRTHDAY TOM BROCKENBROUGH

Marian Bowen, Sandy and Bob Wenner and Kim Raff celebrated Tom's 106th birthday today, July 14, 2026. We sang Happy Birthday and presented Tom with over 20 cards! He is in good spirits and was happy for the visit! Tom says the key to his longevity is good genes and exercise. God Bless Tom Brockenbrough.





August 1st —Chancel Choir & Praise Team

September 5th —Presbyterian Woman

October 3rd —Session

November 7th —UD / Community Engagement Committee

December 5th —Hope Dining Room

Looking for a Drummer!!

The praise team is seeking a drummer to join us on Sunday mornings. We gather at 8:45 AM for rehearsal. The church has a digital drum set that we use during services and for our weekly YouTube videos. If you are interested in sharing your talents, please contact Larry Benson at praiseleader@firstpresnewark.org. Peace, Larry

Looking for Liturgists!!



Help proclaim God's Word by volunteering to be a Sunday worship liturgist! Everyone is invited to help lead our worship service! No prior training or experience is required, and Pastor Dan will answer any questions you may have. Helping to lead worship is a wonderfully fulfilling experience and a wonderful way to deepen your relationship with the congregation and our Lord. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex, and you can also call or text Pastor Dan.

Looking for work!!

An Afghani man who STAR Foundation has been assisting needs employment. This gentleman has applied for but has not received his Green Card. He is handy and is happy to do work around the house such as yard work, helping to move furniture, do simple repairs, etc. The suggested rate of pay is \$20.00 per hour. If you need work done around your home and are interested, please contact Nancy Lewis or the church office. Thank you.

Come and join us!!

Our Adult Discipleship Group meets after worship in the Parlor on most Sundays. On April 26 we began a new study entitled "Praying the Psalms" by Juanita Ryan. Each independent session focuses on one Psalm with a theme such as gratitude, grief, or distress. These discussions are enjoyable and thought-provoking. Everyone is invited to join us.



Volunteering is good for you - providing benefits to both mental and physical health!

Help our *Food for Success* food pantry provide supplemental food for community members in need of nourishing meals.

We do on the job training!



Scan the QR code to access the Food for Success Signup Genius app

Food for Success Volunteer Coordinator - Nancy Lewis - nancylewis2011@gmail.com



Food for Success Open Dates for 2026

Dates circled in Green are holidays—Food for Success pantry is closed

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The Food for Success volunteers celebrated an early 4th of July as well as the 250th birthday of the United States and “Go USA soccer team”.

Clients visiting the pantry on Monday, June 22nd and Friday June 28th were given a flag and children received some “extra” goodies. A good time was had by all.

Want to volunteer? Scan the QR code to access our Signup Genius and sign up on a day that’s convenient for you. No experience necessary!





Birthdays

Ed Gliwa – 07/01

Carol Olson – 07/02

Karen Baker – 07/04

Ann Ferreira – 07/07

Tom Brockenbrough 07/14

Faithe Koser – 07/14

Rhetta Brighton – 07/15

Judy Macharia – 07/24

Robert Tuttle – 07/26

Phyllis Biddle – 07/26

Donald Coughenour – 7/29

Joan Hourigan – 07/31

James McNeely – 07/31

Anniversaries

Theodore and Faithe Koser – 07/06

Michael and Christi Fox – 07/09

Robert and Pam Wunder – 07/22

July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 10:00am - 11:00am Worship - Sanctuary 11:30am - 12:30pm Adult Spiritual Development	29	30	1 9:00am - 10:00am Prayer Group- Zoom 12:00pm - 1:00pm Band of Brothers- Library	2	3 Office Closed - 4th of July Observance	4
5 Sacrament of Communion 10:00am - 11:00am Worship - Sanctuary 11:30am - 12:30pm Adult Spiritual Development	6	7	8 9:00am - 10:00am Prayer Group- Zoom 12:00pm - 1:00pm Band of Brothers- Library	9 12:00pm - 1:00pm Ladies Lunch Bunch 3:00pm - 4:00pm HR Team- MH Library	10	11 8:00am - 9:00am First Breakfast - Band of Brothers
12 10:00am - 11:00am Worship - Sanctuary 11:30am - 12:30pm Listening Session	13 12:00pm - 1:00pm Hope Dining Room 4:00pm - 6:00pm Food for Success	14 7:00pm - 9:00pm Deacon's - Library - Zoom 7:00pm - 9:30pm Finance Mtg.- Zoom	15 9:00am - 10:00am Prayer Group- Zoom 12:00pm - 1:00pm Band of Brothers- Library	16	17 4:00pm - 6:00pm Food for Success	18
19 10:00am - 11:00am Worship - Sanctuary 11:30am - 12:30pm Adult Spiritual Development	20 7pm - 9pm Session Mtg	21	22 9:00am - 10:00am Prayer Group- Zoom 12:00pm - 1:00pm Band of Brothers- Library	23 10:00am - 11:00am Administrative Mtg - Library	24 12:00pm - 1:00pm Ladies Lunch Bunch	25 11:00am - 12:00pm Celebration of Life for Ken Lewis -Sanctuary 12:00pm - 2:00pm Luncheon & Reception - MWH
26 10:00am - 11:00am Worship - Sanctuary 11:30am - 12:30pm Adult Spiritual Development	27 4:00pm - 6:00pm Food for Success	28	29 9:00am - 10:00am Prayer Group- Zoom 12:00pm - 1:00pm Band of Brothers- Library	30	31 4:00pm - 6:00pm Food for Success	1 8:00am - 9:00am First Breakfast - Chancel choir & Praise Team

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Email: officemanager@firstpresnewark.org

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR: Helen Shores Jones

Email: officeadmin@firstpresnewark.org

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Harvey Conner

Email: finansec@firstpresnewark.org

TREASURER: Allen Sievert

Email: treasurer@firstpresnewark.org

CHOIR DIRECTOR: Christian Hendricks

Email: musicdirector@firstpresnewark.org

PRAISE TEAM LEADER: Larry Benson

Email: praiseleader@firstpresnewark.org

AV TEAM: Andre Corbitt, Dave Evers, Jim Pierson-Perry, and Kerry Slinkard

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PRAYER EMAIL: prayers@firstpresnewark.org

ONLINE GIVING: <https://firstpresnewark.org/giving-at-fpc-n/>

(Copy link to your web browser)

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK: First Presbyterian Church of Newark

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday-Friday 9:00 am- 1:00 pm

LIST OF OFFICERS BY CLASS

Session Clerk—Jim Pierson Perry

Class of 2027: Stan Blair, Melody Bock, Pat Nelson, Bob Wunder

Class of 2028: Carolyn Morton, Kern Piser, Mark Sisk

Class of 2029: Lois Huggins, Nancy Lewis, Jim Pierson-Perry

Deacons Moderator—Greg Hills

Class of 2027: Kaitlin Douglas, Greg Hills, Melanie Sipko, Fe Wright

Class of 2028: Judy Agnello, Kim Raff, Ann Roybal, Pam Wunder

Class of 2029: Julia Blair, Jennifer Dube, Sarah Huckleberry

**THE MORE THE MERRIER -
COME AND BE A PART OF OUR
CONGREGATION!!**

If you are thinking of joining
our church, we would love to
have you!

Please contact Pastor Dan at
302-731-5644 or 484-557-9983

