FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Stockton, CA

November 15, 2026 - 10:30 a.m.



OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

As God's family through Jesus Christ, we seek:

- *to know God through prayer, worship, and Bible study*
- *to be open to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit*
- *to share God's love with each other, our community, and the world*

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time **November 15, 2026**

~Gathering the Family of God~

Prelude Robert Schumann: Träumerei **Diego Bustamante**

(All are invited to enjoy the Prelude as part of our worship service. We request that voices are kept to a whisper to allow for a meditative atmosphere.)

Choral introit

Welcome/Call to Worship **Rev. Ashley Love Skrabec**

Call to Worship from Psalm 46:1-3
One: God is our refuge and strength
All: A present help in trouble
One: Therefore we will not fear
All: Though the earth should change
One: Thought mountains shake in the heart of the sea
All: Thought the waters roar and foam
One: Though the mountains tremble with its tumult
All: God's love endures forever.

Opening Hymn

Will You Come and Follow Me #726 vs. 1,2,4

Verse 1

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known?
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Verse 2

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Verse 4

Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

~Bringing our Whole Selves in Worship~

Call to Reconciliation: **Craig Holmes**

One: In humility and faith, knowing that none other than God is perfect, let us open ourselves to transformation and new life through this moment of honest reflection.
All: Loving God, through Jesus Christ you taught us, "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Yet we continue to put our faith in earthly

treasures, hoarding up possessions that moth and rust will destroy, clinging to power and privilege whenever we can. Set us free from greed and fear. Forgive our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Give us joy for what brings you joy, and help us let go of what is harmful or unnecessary. Teach us to trust in with our needs and our dreams. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness: Craig Holmes
One: Friends, let us claim the hope that Christ has won for us on the cross.
All: We are forgiven and claimed by God's love and grace. Amen!

Passing of the Peace Craig Holmes
One: The Spirit of God binds us together as a community of faith, to share the love and peace that God so generously bestows on us. May the peace of Christ be with you all.
All: And also with you
One: Amen. Let us greet each other with God's love.

Stewardship Dedication

Children's Message and Blessing Rev. Ashley Love Skrabec
One: As our children head off to Sunday school, we send them with this blessing:
All: May God be with you there.
One: And our children say: Kids: May God Be with you here.

~Listening to Scripture~

Song of Preparation

We Are an Offering #710

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 hands; we lift our lives up to you:
we are offering; we are an offering.

~Prayer for Understanding God's Word~

One: Holy Spirit, we offer this reading of scripture to you. Open our hearts and minds to hear what you are saying to us today.

Reading from the Old Testament Judges 4:1-7 pg 376 **Craig Holmes**

One: The word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God.**

Reading from the Gospels Matthew 25:14-30 pg 1541

Rev. Ashley Love Skrabec

One: The word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Vision in Action: Reach for the Stars Rev. Ashley Love Skrabec

Prayer Song

Spirit, Open My Heart #692 vs. 1,2

Refrain

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love, may I love. In receiving and giving.
Spirit, open my heart

Verse 1

God, replace my stony heart
with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear
to your grace I now surrender.
Repeat Refrain

Verse 2

Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed,
may my living bring you glory.
Repeat Refrain

Joys and Concerns
Prayer for Veterans Day

Holy and Loving God, we give you thanks for the veterans among us, those living and the saints who have gone before. Thank you for their service and sacrifice. Guide us, Lord, as we seek to love our veteran neighbors and

render them honor. We lift up those who live with injuries from their time of service, and those who are still healing from physical or psychological wounds. We pray for those who have witnessed devastation and death and for those who live with painful memories of losing friends and family. We pray for veterans who are adjusting back to civilian life, finding work and their place in their families and communities after having experienced so much. May we support and comfort them as beloved and important parts of our society. Fold these children of yours into your arms and into your church.
Jesus our present help in times of trouble, we pray for those currently serving, asking that you would protect them and their families. Sustain loved ones through the ache of missing each other and the concern of danger. Heal the hurts of the world and bring us together as your people. Lead us, God, to work together toward the pursuit of your promised reign when nation shall not lift sword against nation, and neither shall we learn war anymore.

The Lord's Prayer
(Please feel free to pray the words below or use the language of your heart.)
Our Parent(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; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering
Doxology
Offertory
Prayer of Dedication

Community Life and Announcements

~Going Forth to Love and Serve the Lord~

Sending Hymn

Lord, You Give the Great Commission #298 vs. 1,2,5

Verse 1

Lord, you give the great commission: “Heal the sick and preach the word.”
Lest the church neglect its mission, and the gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity,
with the Spirit’s gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

Verse 2

Lord, you call us to your service: “In my name baptize and teach.”
That the world may trust your promise, life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervor, draw us closer in community.
with the Spirit’s gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

Verse 5

Lord, you bless with words assuring: “I am with you to the end.”
Faith and hope and love restoring, may we serve as you intend
and, amid the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity.
with the Spirit’s gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

Benediction **Rev. Ashley Love Skrabec**

Go Now in Peace By Natalie Sleeth

Go now in peace, go now in peace
May the love of God surround you
Everywhere, everywhere you may go

Choral Amen

Postlude Scott Joplin: Gladiolus Rag **Diego Bustamante**

(All are invited to enjoy the Postlude as part of our worship service. If you choose to leave during the Postlude, please do so quietly.)

Announcements

Meetings This Month:
Nov. 15 Pledge Card Dedication
Nov. 17 Hospitality 10:30am
Nov. 26 Thanksgiving!
Nov. 30 Session 10am

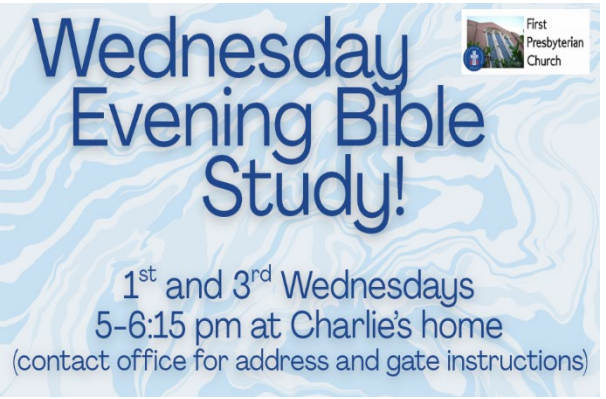
Weekly:
Bible Study at 10 am Thursdays
Evening Bible Study Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 5 pm

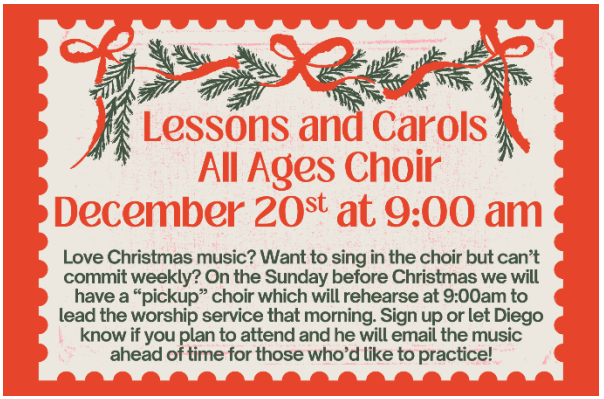
Hospitality after Worship Setup/Cleanup
November 15 – Jane Knoop
November 22 – Sylvia Cavanaugh
November 29 – Jane Knoop

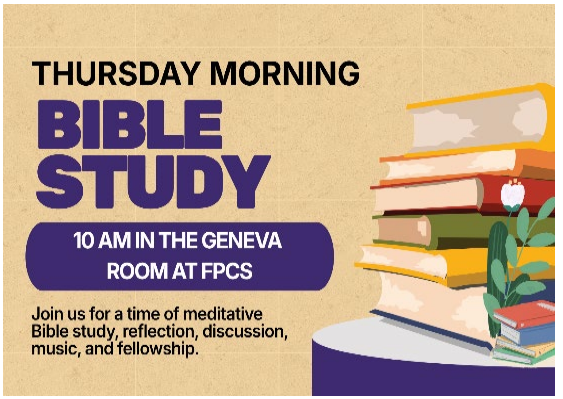
Worship Assistants
November 15 – Craig Holmes
November 22 – Bill Alessio
November 29 – Carol Dietrich

Sunday School Volunteers
November 15 –
November 22 –
November 29 --
If you are interested in serving with Hospitality, as a Worship Assistant, or as a Sunday School Volunteer, please contact the Office.









Prayer Requests

The Church Office and members of the church receive several prayer requests each week. Please pray for:

- Charlie asks for prayers of joy for the upcoming wedding of his two friends Indyia and her partner Moneisha.
- Prayers for Casey as she had unexpected surgery this week. We ask for prayers for relief of pain, ease of recovery and comfort during this time while she heals.
- Shalise asks for prayers for her finances and for her daughter. She also asked for prayers for her friend who fell and was in a coma.

If you have a prayer request, please contact the Church Office or Pastor Ashley. Joys and concerns are added to the prayer list of the people who have signed up to be members of the WE CARE PRAYER TEAM. If you would like to be a part of the WE CARE PRAYER TEAM, contact Cheryl Hunt or call the Church Office.



31 E. Vine St.
Stockton, CA 95202
209-465-2653
Email: office@fpcstockton.org
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9am -12 pm
www.fpcstockton.org

Board of Elders (Session)

Sylvia Cavanaugh, Cheryl Hunt, Jane Knoop, Gretchen Louden and Janet Sepiol

Committee Chairs

Gretchen Louden - Spiritual Growth Co-Chair
Doug Hunt - Finance, Buildings & Grounds
Janet Sepiol - Personnel and Support & Endowment Co-Chair
Cheryl Hunt & Sylvia Cavanaugh - Hospitality Co-Chair
Jane Knoop - Nominating and Support & Endowment Co-Chair
Janet Sepiol - Clerk of Session
Rev. Ashley Love Skrabec - Pastor
Ministers—all the members of the church

First Presbyterian Church is committed to loving and serving all people, including those from diverse generations, cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds, gender identities, sexual orientations, and life experiences. Whatever your story, you are welcomed by Jesus Christ and by this church family.