

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Stockton, California

September 7, 2025 - 11:00 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*

~GATHERING THE FAMILY OF GOD~

PRELUDE J.S. Bach: Prelude in C Major, WTC Book I 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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Ashley L. Skrabec

One: Jesus said "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

All: God, we hear your words of comfort and yet the truth is that we do struggle with hearts that are troubled and afraid. We long for your steadfast peace which anchors and guides us.

One: In this time of worship together, quiet our busy minds as we surrender anew to your great justice and grace.

All: May hearty, enduring peace blossom in our inner life, as well as our words and actions. May transformative peace bring wholeness in our homes, church, city, country, and world.

One: Jesus never commanded us to have all the answers. He invites us to come and follow, learning and healing as we go. Join me as we lift our voices in prayer and praise.

Opening Hymn

Let Us Build a House

#301 vs. 1,3,5

(All are invited to stand in body or spirit)

V1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live, a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here love of Christ shall end division;
all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

V3. Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine, and wheat; a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet. Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space; as we share in Christ the feast that frees us;
all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

V5. Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word. Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/INTRODUCTION TO SEASON OF PEACE

Song of Peace

Sanctuary

#701

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.

With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you. **(Repeat)**

Call to Reconciliation

JANET SEPIOL

One: Peace can sometimes seem like an abundant spring of life, and can sometimes feel like water in a desert. We know that God is the giver of peace and so in hope, let us lay our hearts before our Maker.

All: God, we long for peace. We long for peace in our minds and hearts and bodies and spirits. We long for peace in our families and church, in our city and country, and in all of the places that are on our hearts. You made us for shalom and we are disoriented by the hatred, fear, violence, and tension. And yet, we so often turn away from what makes for peace. When we have worked against peace in what we have done and not done, please forgive us and show us a better way. When we have chosen to dismiss our neighbor or seek control rather than mutual care, forgive us. When we have settled for being peace keepers rather than peace makers, forgive us. Jesus who leads us in service, sacrifice, truth, and mercy, give us courage and direction that we may be agents of your healing and hope. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.

Moment for Contemplation

(This single minute of quiet is offered to encourage you to share your personal thoughts with God as well as listen to God through the presence of the Holy Spirit.)

Assurance of Forgiveness

JANET SEPIOL

One: God sent Christ not to condemn us, but to save us. Let those who have been set free by the mercy of Jesus proclaim with joy that we are free indeed!

All: In Jesus Christ we are liberated from sin and rooted in heaven's justice and peace, no matter what storms we face. Hallelujah!

RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Sanctuary

#701

(All are invited to stand in body or spirit.)

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.

With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you. **(Repeat)**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

JANET SEPIOL

One: The peace of Christ strengthens us to live each day in hope and compassion, knowing that the well of God's love will never run dry. It is this peace that we seek to share in this moment, through our words and heartfelt welcome of each other. May the peace of Christ be with you all!

All: And also with you

One: Amen. Let us turn to greet each other with Christ's peace.

Children's Message and Blessing

Rev. Ashley L. Skrabec

Sunday School is provided for children in preschool through 5th grade. All kids in this age range are invited to come up for the Children's Message and to follow Miss Melanie after the blessing.

~ Hearing God's Word ~

Prayer for Understanding God's Word

JANET SEPIOL

(a moment is given before each scripture reading to invite all to find the passage in the pew Bibles)

One: Holy Spirit, thank you for your word. Open our hearts and minds to hear what you are saying to us today.

Reading from the Early Church Romans 14

JANET SEPIOL

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

Song of Reflection

Servant Song

#727 vs. 1-5

- V1. Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.
- V2. We are pilgrims on a journey; we're together on the road. We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.
- V3. I will hold the Christ-light for you in the nighttime of your fear. I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
- V4. I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you. I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.
- V5. When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony, born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

Joys and Concerns

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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; 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.

Communion Song Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken #498 vs. 1,3,4

(see inserts)

Invitation to the Table

Sharing of Bread and Cup

Invitation to the Offering

Doxology

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication

~GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD~

Sending Hymn I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me #700 vs. 1-4

- V1. I'm gonna live so (live so) God can use me anywhere, Lord, any time!
 (any time!) I'm gonna live so (live so) God can use me any where, Lord,
 any time! (any time!)
- V2. I'm gonna word so (work so) God can use me anywhere, Lord, any time!
 (any time!) I'm gonna work so (work so) God can use me anywhere,
 Lord, any time! (any time!)
- V3. I'm gonna pray so (pray so) God can use me anywhere, Lord, any time!
 (any time!) I'm gonna pray so (pray so) God can use me anywhere, Lord,
 any time! (any time!)
- V4. I'm gonna sing so (sing so) God can use me anywhere, Lord, any time!
 (any time!) I'm gonna sing so (sing so) God can use me anywhere, Lord,
 any time! (any time!)

BENEDICTION

Rev. Ashley L. Skrabec

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE Robert Schumann: Träumerei 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 silently.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be No Zoom Coffee Hour today.

This Week

Monday - September 8, 2025

7:00 pm Prayer Meeting - (Zoom)

Tuesday - September 9, 2025

2:00 pm FBG (Geneva)

Wednesday, September 10

2:00 to 3:00 - Food Pantry (Gym)

Thursday - September 11, 2025

10:00 am Bible Study (Geneva Room)

Friday-Sunday September 12-14

Women's retreat (Zephyr Point)

Saturday, September 13

Horizons Bible Study Day

(Grace Presbyterian Church, Walnut Creek)

This Month

Monday - September 15, 2025

4:30 pm - Spiritual Growth (Zoom)

Wednesday - September 16, 2025

10:00am Hospitality Meeting (Geneva Room)

Sunday - September 21, 2025

Session Meeting following worship

Sunday - September 28, 2025

Potluck - "Open Theme- Bring a Favorite Dish!"

Team Trivia

REQUESTED PRAYERS

The Church Office and members of the church receive several prayer requests each week.

Please pray for:

- We give thanks for a wonderful Family Promise week and pray for the families as they continue their time in the program and work towards their goals.
- Pastor announced that she and Sylvia visited Frances McPherson in the hospital and asked for prayers of healing from the surgery and infection she had. Frances is now back at Noble Care facility on California street and would welcome visits or cards.
- Mara asked for prayers for her daughter-in-law who is in her 9th month of pregnancy and is anxious, so prayers for Gods peace and comfort and that all goes well
- Kim gives thanks that her daughter-in-law Gabby (who is a surrogate mother) gave birth to a 9 lb. 5 oz. healthy baby. She asks God to watch over and protect the baby and the new family.
- Charleen Muller, Cecilia's daughter-in-law, request prayer for Cecilia as she had a small stroke and was admitted in the hospital for observation. She may be release in a few days.
- Mary Lou Hover request prayer as she deals with rough moments due to her pain of arthritis. Praying for healing and comfort.
- Prayers for Gretchen's family as they grieve the loss of her brother-in-law who passed suddenly.
- Prayers of healing and comfort for Charlie as he recovers from an infection.
- We pray for all affected by the shooting in Minneapolis– parents, families, teachers, faith leaders, and students.
- Cheryl Hunt request prayers for the following:
 - For our friends in Wadi Foquin who live with constant anxiety, fear, ongoing trauma, and feelings of hopelessness.
 - For their mental health, their stamina, their safety, and their well-being.
 - For the young people of Wadi Foquin (and across Palestine) who see no hope or future possibilities before them, and desperately desire a better life.
 - For the continued uptick in settler and military violence across the West Bank.
 - For a permanent ceasefire in Gaza and the flow of aid to reach the people.
 - For people everywhere who are working towards Palestinian liberation to keep the faith and strength to continue their critical work.
- Pastor also asked for prayers for our country and it's leaders, asking for peace and justice for all during this turbulent and difficult time in our country and our world.
- Pastor Ashley requests prayer for all asylum-seekers and immigrants who are living in fear and for all who have been detained or deported without due process.

To keep the list of prayer requested current, would you please update your requests as the subject of your request improves or transitions. Of the requests that remain static they will be moved off the list after a month until further information on them is available. Please contact the Church Office or Pastor Ashley, if you have any questions or concerns.

First Presbyterian Church of Stockton

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Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9am-12pm

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Board of Elders (Session) - Committee Chair

Charlie Briggs -	Spiritual Growth Co-Chair
Carol Dietrich -	Finance, Buildings & Grounds
Cheryl Hunt -	Hospitality Co-Chair
Jane Knoop -	Nominating and Support & Endowment Co-Chair
Gretchen Louden -	Hospitality Co-Chair
Kim Roider -	Spiritual Growth Co-Chair
Janet Sepiol -	Personnel and Support & Endowment Co-Chair
Clerk of Session -	Janet Sepiol
Pastor -	Rev. Ashley Love Skrabec

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.

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