

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Stockton, CA

July 19, 2026 - 11:00 a.m.



"The Sower" by Vincent Van Gogh, 1888

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 Tommaso Giordani: Caro mio ben **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

One: God our loving parent, who gathers us up in the sturdy and tender arms of unconditional love,

All: Some of us come weeping with loss, and some come laughing with joy. We come with both broken and grateful hearts, clear and cluttered minds

One: With wonder we find that there is space for all that we bring and all that we are here at the foot of the cross.

All: In faith, we come to worship, drawing near to Jesus Christ, seeking rest and renewal for our souls

One: Amen, let us wake up our spirits to sing!

Opening Hymn

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing #475

Verse 1

Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!

Verse 2

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

Verse 3

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

~Bringing our Whole Selves in Worship~

Call to Reconciliation:

Bill Alessio

One: We do not worship a God who turns away from us when we find ourselves far from love, but instead invites us to come and be forgiven, healed, and led in paths of righteousness. Let us bring our burdens to Christ together.

All: Lord, have mercy on us. Too often we talk about love but neglect to put it into action. We demand love from others, but don't offer it to those most in need of compassion. We love the beauty and resources of your creation, but the scars and destruction of the natural world bear witness to our carelessness and greed. You shower us with welcome and forgiveness in Jesus Christ and yet we often find ourselves turning inward, away from our neighbors. Fear and resentment can cause us to live as if our relationships with people, nature, and even our God are only about what we can acquire. Teach us again what it means to live in love. Heal our hearts and show us a better way, we pray through Jesus Christ who makes all things new.

(Moment of silent reflection)

One: Scripture assures us that nothing in all of creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Hear and believe the good news of the gospel.

All: If anyone is in Christ they are a new creation. Let us take hold of this promise and affirm together that we are forgiven and freed.

Passing of the Peace

Bill Alessio

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.

.

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

Be Still and Know That I Am God #414

Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.

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 Early Church Romans 8:12-25 pg.1757 **Bill Alessio**

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

Reading from the Gospels Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 pg. 1518 **Rev. Ashley**

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

Sermon Wheat Among Weeds **Rev. Ashley Love Skrabec**

~Responding in Faith~

Prayer Song A Farmer in a Field Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
(To the tune of I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord #310)

A farmer in a field sowed good and healthy seeds.
But in the cover of the night, somebody planted weeds.

The wheat grew tall and strong, but thistles flourished, too.
The workers saw the mix of them and wondered what to do.

The farmer wisely said, "They'll grow as one today,
But when we harvest all the wheat, we'll throw the weeds away

O Lord, we want to know why evil prospers here-
Why, next to love and justice, grow such hatred, pride and fear

God, may we humbly see the harvest still is yours;
And one day we'll be blessed to find that love is what endures.

Joys and Concerns

Rev. Ashley Love Skrabec

One: God of grace **All: Hear our prayer.**

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

~Going Forth to Love and Serve the Lord~

Sending Hymn

Heaven Shall Not Wait

#773

Heaven shall not wait for the poor to lose their patience,
the scorned to smile, the despised to find a friend:
Jesus is Lord; he has championed the unwanted;
in him injustice confronts its timely end.

Heaven shall not wait for the rich to share their fortunes,
the proud to fall, the elite to tend the least:
Jesus is Lord; he has shown the master's privilege:
to kneel and wash servants' feet before they feast.

Heaven shall not wait for the dawn of great ideas,
thoughts of compassion divorced from cries of pain:
Jesus is Lord; he has married word and action;
his cross and company make his purpose plain.

Heaven shall not wait for triumphant Hallelujahs,
when earth has passed and we reach another shore:
Jesus is Lord; in our present imperfection;
his power and love are for now and then for evermore.

Benediction
Choral Amen

Postlude Ludwig van Beethoven: Sonata in E Major, Op. 109 (1st movement)
Diego Bustamante

Rev. Ashley Love Skrabec

(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

Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers!

Setup/Cleanup

July 19: Jane

July 26: Jane, Gretchen

Worship Assistants

July 19: Bill Alessio

July 26: Gretchen Loudon

Sunday School Volunteers

July 19: Cynthia Allison

July 26: Sylvia Cavanaugh

Meetings This Month:

July 18 Family Promise Family Fun Festival 11 am to 2 pm at CUMC

July 21 Hospitality Committee at 10 am

July 22 Food Pantry Distribution at 2 pm

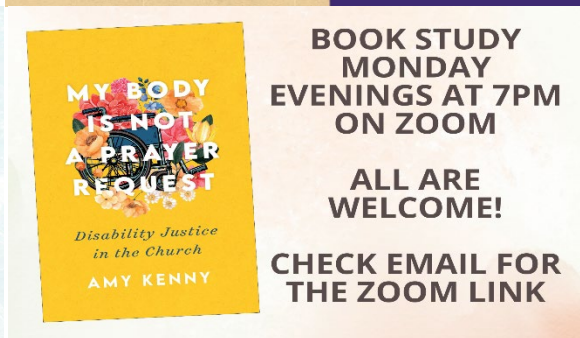
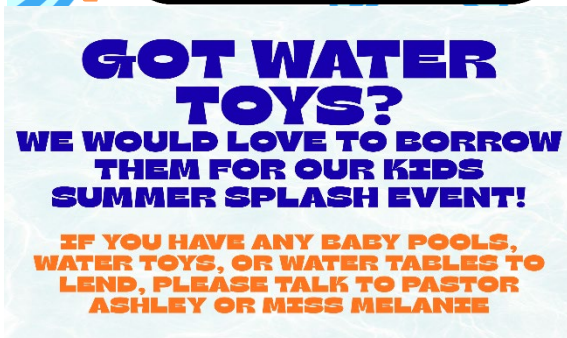
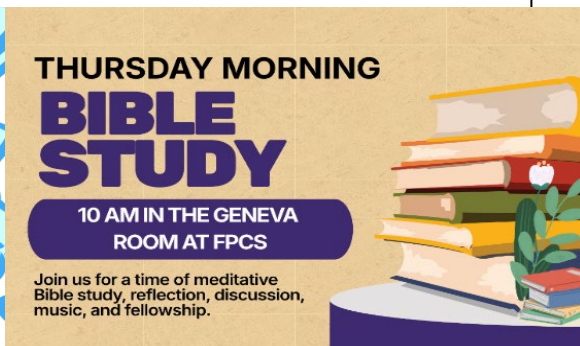
July 26 Kids Water Event 1 pm

July 27 Session Meeting 10:30 am

Weekly Meetings:

Monday Book Study at 7pm on Zoom

Bible Study at 10am on Thursdays



Scholarships Announced By Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that 5 scholarships have been awarded this year.

- Matt Boga, who is a member of Reality Church, is attending Phoenix Seminary in pursuit of a Doctor of Ministry.
- Chase Hanker, Tola Eloy's grandson, is attending the University of Nevada – Reno and majoring in Criminal Justice.
- Ryan Hanker, Tola Eloy's grandson, is Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and majoring in Recreation and Tourism.
- William Buckley, Helen Mar's grandson and Bill and Tamara Buckley's son, is attending Stanislaus State and majoring in Business Administration.
- Jayden Roider, Earl and Kim Roider's grandson, is attending CSU Long Beach and majoring in Cinematic Arts.

Prayer Requests

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

- Prayers of encouragement, strength, and healing for Marilyn's cousin Bill as he undergoes treatment for prostate cancer.
- Pastor Ashley asked for prayers for the victims of the Venezuela earthquakes and the miracles of still finding people alive. Pray for people who lost loved ones, homes, jobs, everything, and also prayers for the volunteers who are still providing food, shelter and assistance for this great tragedy. The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is raising funds to help those who have suffered such great loss. Contact the office see how to help.
- Prayers for Cheryl and Doug as they travel to Columbia this weekend.
- Charlie asked for prayers for Shane Humphrey, his dear friend who lost his father this last week and is traveling to Louisiana this weekend to attend his funeral. Prayers for comfort and peace during this time of grieving and prayers for safe travel to and from Louisiana

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.



First Presbyterian Church

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 Loudon and Janet Sepiol

Committee Chairs

Gretchen Loudon - 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.

Copyright permission is granted through CCLI 477436