



“Be thankful for the thorns and thistles  
which keep you from  
being in love with this world”  
— CHARLES SPURGEON  
September 14, 2025

Stewardship Commitment Sunday

WE GATHER IN HIS PRESENCE

GATHERING MUSIC

Allison Thorp

“He is Exalted”

Twila Paris

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high:  
I will praise him.  
He is exalted, forever exalted,  
And I will praise his name.

He is the Lord,  
Forever his truth shall reign;  
Heaven and earth rejoice in his holy name.  
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.  
(x2)

“In His Time”

Diane Ball

In his time, in his time,  
He makes all things beautiful in his time.  
Lord, please show me every day  
As you're teaching me your way,  
That you do just what you say in your time.

In your time, in your time,  
You make all things beautiful in your time,  
Lord, my life to you I bring;  
May each song I have to sing  
Be to you a lovely thing in your time.

“Something Beautiful”

Bill Gaither

Something beautiful, something good,  
All my confusion he understood.  
All I had to offer him was brokenness and strife,  
But he made something beautiful of my life.  
(x3)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIMING THE TRINITY

PRELUDE “I Surrender All” arr. David Schwoebel  
Diane Combs

\*CALL TO WORSHIP, in unison

Almighty God, we come into your presence  
with confidence knowing you will meet us here.  
Where there is sadness, bring joy;  
where there is tiredness, bring refreshment;  
where there is despair, bring a renewed sense of hope.  
Let this place be a sanctuary, a safe haven,  
a home for sacred words and songs and prayers  
as we commit ourselves to you.  
We pray this in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

\*OPENING HYMN “God is Here!” #409 vs. 1,2,4

1. God is here! As we your people  
meet to offer praise and prayer,  
may we find in fuller measure  
what it is in Christ we share.  
Here, as in the world around us,  
all our varied skills and arts,  
wait the coming of the Spirit,  
into open minds and hearts.

2. Here are symbols to remind us  
of our lifelong need of grace;  
here are table, font, and pulpit;  
here the cross has central place.  
Here in honesty of preaching,  
here in silence, as in speech,  
here in newness and renewal,  
God the Spirit comes to each.

4. Lord, of all, of church and kingdom,  
in an age of change and doubt  
keep us faithful to the gospel;  
help us work your purpose out.  
Here in this day’s dedication,  
all we have to give, receive;  
we, who cannot live without you,  
we adore you! We believe!

\*PRAYER OF ADORATION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we acknowledge you as Creator of all and  
we know you have called us to be stewards of all you have  
made. But we have failed. We are devoted to our own needs  
and comfort. We go to great lengths to avoid discomfort,  
pain and suffering. Forgive us, O Lord. In your mercy teach  
us to honor you and care for the needs of others. We pray in  
the power of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

— A MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION—

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*GLORIA PATRI  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
And to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen.

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH, Heidelberg Catechism, Q. 1  
What is your only comfort in life and in death?  
That I belong – body and soul, in life and in death – not  
to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ, who at the  
cost of his own blood has fully paid for all my sins and has  
completely freed me from the dominion of the devil; that he  
protects me so well that without the will of my Father in  
heaven not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that  
everything must fit his purpose for my salvation. Therefore,  
by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life, and  
makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on  
to live for him.

:: PASSING THE PEACE ::

And now, as people who are loved and forgiven by the grace of God,  
we pass the peace of Christ, remembering God’s command to love  
and forgive one another.

ANTHEM “The Gift of Love” Hal Hopson  
Chancel Choir

WE LISTEN TO GOD’S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE Lamentations 3:19-26 Sylvia Lonnee  
SECOND SCRIPTURE 2 Corinthians 12:1-10  
SERMON “Thorns”

Rev. Holly K. Davis

:: PRAYERS of the PEOPLE ::

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.



## WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

### HYMN OF RESPONSE

“God Whose Giving Knows No Ending” #716

1. God whose giving knows no ending,  
from your rich and endless store,  
nature’s wonder, Jesus’ wisdom,  
costly cross, grave’s shattered door:  
gifted by you, we turn to you,  
offering up ourselves in praise;  
thankful song shall rise forever,  
gracious donor of our days.

2. Skills and time are ours for pressing  
toward the goals of Christ, your Son:  
all at peace in health and freedom,  
races joined, the church made one.  
Now direct our daily labor,  
lest we strive for self alone.  
Born with talents, make us servants  
fit to answer at your throne.

3. Treasure, too, you have entrusted,  
gain through powers your grace conferred:  
ours to use for home and kindred,  
and to spread the gospel word.  
Open wide our hands in sharing,  
as we heed Christ’s ageless call,  
healing, teaching, and reclaiming,  
serving you by loving all.

### GOD’S TITHES & OUR OFFERINGS

- *MOMENT OF COMMITMENT* -

OFFERTORY “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” arr. Jason Krug

### \*DOXOLOGY

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### \*CLOSING HYMN

“What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine” #837

1. What a fellowship, what a joy divine,  
leaning on the everlasting arms;  
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;  
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

2. O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,  
leaning on the everlasting arms;  
O how bright the path grows from day to day,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;  
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms?  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;  
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

### \*BENEDICTION

### \*POSTLUDE

“Allegro Energico”  
Diane Combs

Christian Cappelen

\* Please stand as you are able for these portions of the service.

#### Church Staff

Rev. Holly K. Davis, Pastor  
Dr. Allison Thorp, Music Co-Director  
Diane Combs, Music Co-Director  
Jenny Price, Accountant  
Anthony (“Tony”) Caldwell, Sexton  
Kristi Siplon, Office Manager  
Morgan McNeil, A/V Tech



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## First Presbyterian Church

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church, USA

### Stewardship Commitment Sunday

# 1875-2025

# 150



YEARS OF  
GOD’S  
FAITHFULNESS

September 14, 2025



Waynesville, North Carolina