



The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 31, 2025
11 a.m. worship, Sanctuary

First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa

Called to make fully-devoted followers of Christ, inwardly strong and outwardly focused.



Celebration

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

The Words of Preparation

What does “in Him” mean? It means that all things by a wonderful kind of longing and unspeakable love look on the author of their life and the giver of their abilities and functions according to that which is written: “The eyes of all look to you.” and “You open your hand and fill every living creature with your good pleasure.”
St. Ambrose of Milan

THE WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO NEW MEMBERS

Rev. James Estes and Emma Myatt

Please sign, pass, and return the blue friendship register. Visitors, please fill out a welcome guest card from the pew back and drop it in the offering plate to receive our E-News updates, and fellowship opportunities.

THE INTROIT

The Goodness of God

C. P. E. Bach

Gretchen Bashforth, soloist

How great is the goodness of God Almighty! Is there anyone who has not known His goodness? For all gifts come from God Almighty, all praise and honor belongeth to Him. Let all consider what He hath given. All that we have are gifts from God above. The Lord hath not forgotten us, and we should not forget this love. O God, let Thy goodness and love be boundless and always remain before our eyes. O strengthen us with Thy great power, let all our lives be given to Thee. O grant us comfort in time of trouble. Be Thou our guide through joyful days, for we would not forget Thy goodness. With thankful hearts we sing Thy praise.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat. (Isaiah 55:1)

Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb. (Revelation 19:9)

Though you do not now see Him, you believe in Him and rejoice with joy inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

(1 Peter 1:8–9)

So we do not lose heart...for this light momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.

(2 Corinthians 4:16–17)

Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory!

(Revelation 19:7)

◆ THE OPENING HYMN 151

Crown Him With Many Crowns

DIADEMATA

◆ THE PRAYER OF ADORATION

THE FIRST READING

2 Corinthians 4:16, 5:5

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, You have set before us treasures that do not fade: a glory beyond comparison, a kingdom that cannot be shaken, a home eternal in the heavens. Yet we confess that our

eyes grow dim with distraction. We chase what is passing and ignore what is lasting. We cling to what is seen, and lose heart when it returns to dust. And though You have given us the invitation to true joy, we have lost the plot—living lesser stories, serving lesser gods, feasting on the miserly rations of comfort and convenience instead of bearing an eternal weight of glory. Forgive us, Lord. Renew our sight. Lift our hearts again to what is unseen—to Christ, who is our joy, our righteousness, and our hope for resurrection life. Through Christ, and in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit we pray...(in silence)

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel, that in Jesus Christ, there is indeed forgiveness for everyone who calls upon His name. **Alleluia! Amen!**

◆ THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

◆ THE RESPONSE OF GRATITUDE 384 O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

ST. MARGARET

◆ THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE BLESSING OF THE YOUNG DISCIPLES

THE HYMN OF PREPARATION 172 My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

RESIGNATION

THE SECOND READING

Psalm 145:7

THE SERMON

Celebration

Rev. James Estes

THE OFFERING

With High Delight Sing Praise

G. F. Handel

With high delight sing praise to the Lord. The God of Jacob praise. Come sing to God, the Lord.
With trumpet loud come sound your praise. O praise the Lord! (Psalm 81:1,3)

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

◆ THE CLOSING HYMN 288

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

ELLACOMBE

◆ THE CHARGE AND THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

Improvisation on the tune ELLACOMBE

◆ *Please stand*

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Greetings in Christ!

We are glad to welcome you to worship! We are a community that seeks to lift high the name of Jesus and to serve the common good. If you are here for the first time, we pray that you will sense the presence of Christ and the warmth of this congregation. If you do not have a church home, we would love to welcome you; if this is your first time worshipping with us, please fill out a *Welcome Guest Card*, or contact Emma Myatt at 918-857-5652 or emyatt@firstchurchtulsa.org.

PARISH REGISTER

Prayers for Healing: Lisa Angleton, Jane Azlin, Joy Brewer, Steve Brill, Pat Brown, Roy Cail, Beth Campbell, Gary Casteel, Randy Corelli, Teresa Corelli, B. J. Dollahon, Debi Foster, Jim Goodwin, Gaye Graeler, Rita Graeler, Cynthia Hill-Meriwether, Brenda Johnson, Don Johnson, Joyce Kunkel, Amy Lesh, Barbara Mace, Margaret Martinson, Ann McKellar, Jon Mercer, David Osterholt, David Perkins, Penny Steinkuehler-Perkins, Carolyn Perryman, Joe Robson, Mary Ruddle, Kathy Sengel, Bob Shipman, Alex Smith, Andrea Smith, Jane Sneed, Sally Stewart, Ginny Talley, Marcia Tromp, Ralph Veatch, Gretchen Wagner, Susan Waldie, Norma Wallace, Barbara Wiedenmann and Margo Williams.

Sympathy and Prayers to: Arthur Pearson and Athena Mangus on the death of Arthur's mother, Alice Patterson.

WORSHIP NOTES

Services are broadcast on Cox channel 3 (each Sunday) at 11:00 a.m., 5:00 and 10:00 p.m., on the FPC Facebook page, or FirstChurchTulsa.org/YouTube.

For those who need hearing assistance in the Sanctuary or Stephenson Hall, audio headsets are available from the ushers. Also available are large-print hymnals and Bibles.

Our Letters of Blessing today go to Steve McCormack and Annunciation Catholic School.

The flowers that adorn the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in honor of Denise Rounds, by Phil Rounds.

Please notify the church if you have a pastoral need, change of address, phone number or other important family news. Contact Kathy Wilson at 918-301-1029 or kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Thank you for your faithful support: Weekly tithes and offerings to the Lord may be given electronically at firstchurchtulsa.org, text 405-276-4141 or by using the QR code.



FIRST CHURCH UPDATES

Pastoral Prayer: Join us as we pray for the pastoral transition. To receive a weekly prayer prompt, please text @pastorfpc to "81010".

Prayer in the Chapel: Join together from 10:40 - 10:55 a.m. on the second Sunday of each month for prayer during this time of pastoral transition.

Young Adults: First Church is committed to cultivating faith within the next generation, providing a place for young adults to connect with one another and with the larger church. Find us on Instagram at @fpcyoungadults or contact Rev. Julia Metcalf at 918-301-1030.

Need a Pastoral Visit? If you or someone whom you know is in the hospital or in need of a pastoral visit, please contact Kathy Wilson at kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org or 918-201-1029. We no longer receive information from hospitals, so we rely on you to let us know.

HAPPENING TODAY

First Friends in the Pews: Meet at the Atrium coffee bar 15 minutes before each worship service.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Life in the Spirit: *Midweek Meetup* meets on Wednesdays through August 31 at noon in the Kerr Chapel. Come for a midweek meetup as pastors and various lay leaders lead group practices of spiritual disciplines.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Breakfast on Boston: Mark your calendars for next Sunday, September 7 at 9:15 a.m. There will be good food, fellowship, live music, pony rides, and more! You can pre-pay for breakfast at the table in the atrium today and on August 31 or by clicking the QR code. There will be no Sunday School on this day.



Lunch and Learn: Join this group of retirement age people on Monday, September 8 at noon in room E104. Joanne Pearson will be giving an overview of the church's Helping Hand Ministry. To reserve lunch (\$7.00), please contact Kathy Wilson at 918-301-1029 or kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org or use the QR code.



Upcoming Fall Sermons Series: Our new series, *Christ the True and Better*, will look at the lives of Old Testament figures, the events and action of God in their lives, and how each of these individuals point us to Christ and find fulfillment in His life and work.

Upcoming Fall Classes: Beginning the week of September 8: (for more information contact Elizabeth Devore at edevore@firstchurchtulsa.org.)

Men's Monday Bible Study: 12:00 – 1:00 p.m., E103, an informal fellowship of men who want to grow in their understanding and application of God's word. Over lunch they will read a book of the Bible and follow with a Bible study.

Precept Bible Study: Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m., E100, led by Denise Rounds; what does it mean to be holy and to know and love God deeply? They will study 1, 2 and 3 John and explore answers to these questions as they consider the fundamentals of Christian beliefs.

Hearts for the Lord: Thursdays, 10:00 a.m., E313, this class will be studying *None Like Him. 10 Ways We are Different From God* by Jen Wilkins. The study teaches how to become articulate and committed followers of Christ, with a clear understanding of why they believe what they believe, grounded in the Word of God.

Awana 2025 -2026: Wednesdays beginning September 10, dinner at 5:15 and Awana at 6:00 p.m.:

Kids ages 2 years old through 4th grade are invited to be part of AWANA — a fun, Bible-centered program where children learn God's Word, build lasting friendships, and enjoy games and activities each week. AWANA helps kids hide God's truth in their hearts while growing in faith and love for Jesus. To register use the QR code.



Celebration Singers Youth Choir: Join us at our new day, time and location beginning September 10. We will meet every Wednesday from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m., for dinner and rehearsals in the Powerhouse. The choir is open to all middle and high school students who have a heart for singing praise to God! We will collaborate with the Youth Praise Band and will sing in worship several times throughout the school year, including presenting the Christmas Eve Nativity. Register by clicking on the QR code by September 30; please register before attending your first rehearsal.



Presbyterian Women's Dedication Luncheon: All women of the Church are invited to join the PW ladies on Thursday, September 11 in the Miller Library at noon. The cost for lunch is \$10 and is paid at the door. Reservations should be made by September 8 by contacting Kathy Wilson at 918-301-1029 or kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Wednesday Night Downtown

Begins Sept. 10 at 5:15 p.m. (dinner) in Stephenson Hall
Children and Youth Classes start at 6:00 p.m. and Adults at 6:15 p.m.

Stealing Past the Watchful Dragons: Lessons from Lewis, Miller Library - Join Rev. Dan Hutchinson as we explore the literary works of C. S. Lewis, beginning with the Chronicles of Narnia. Stories have a unique ability to shape our hearts and minds, and perhaps nowhere do we see this more profoundly than in the works of Lewis. Together, we will explore the thought and theology of Lewis and the power of stories to convey these great truths. No prior knowledge of his books required!

Seekers Bible Study: room E104, Where is God in Esther?, Rev. Wambugu leads us through the remarkable book of Esther, a Jewish woman who courageously saves her people from annihilation of the Persian empire by relying on God's divine providence.

Courage, Dear Heart...Stories of Heroic Sacrifice and Surrender to Jesus: room E103, led by James Estes, this class will journey through the stories of men and women who cried out to God – and followed Him when He answered. Their lives, drawn from the *Christian Heroes Then and Now* series, are testimonies of contagious courage and sacred surrender.

Planning for the Inevitable: room E100, Legal, Healthcare, and Pastoral Care professionals, this five-week course will guide participants through the decisions that can be made now to place less stress on family members when death occurs. Topics include: health care choices, wills, trusts, advanced directives, death benefits, memorial/funeral service planning, and eternal life with Jesus. The course will also include tips for managing the care needs of loved ones and suggestions for maintaining the health and vitality of caregivers. Speakers include Bob Farris, Dr. John Frame, Kathy Wilson, James Munuhe, Denise Rounds, and one of the pastors.

Presbyterian Women's Dedication Luncheon: All women of the Church are invited to join the PW ladies on Thursday, September 11 in the Miller Library at noon. The cost for lunch is \$10 and is paid at the door. Reservations should be made by September 8 by contacting Kathy Wilson at 918-301-1029 or kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Pastor's Study (Foundations): Sunday mornings starting September 14, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. in room E104. The Bible is a unified whole drawing us to Jesus Christ, and Genesis is where the story begins. This fall, Rev. Dan Hutchinson will lead an in-depth study on Genesis, walking through the text and drawing out the central themes that weave through Scripture and that ultimately find their fulfillment in Christ. We will discuss the historical, theological, and literary nature of Genesis and how this first book of the Bible sets the stage for everything to come. All are welcome!

Presbyterian Women's Circles meetings will begin in September. They gather for Bible study, fellowship, and community service projects monthly at various times. The 2025-26 Bible study is *Finding Resilience, Joy and our Identity in Jesus Christ*. The workbook cost is \$14. If you would like to join a circle or for more information, contact Norma Wallace at 918-508-4257.

Interested in joining a Sunday School class? All classes will resume on Sunday, September 14. For more information contact Elizabeth DeVore at edevore@firstchurchtulsa.org or click the QR code.



First Church Choristers children's choir: Beginning on September 14, we will meet every Sunday from 9:15 – 9:45 a.m., in the children's choir room of the 3rd floor music suite. The choir is open to children in kindergarten through 4th grade. We sing in worship several times throughout the school year, including presenting the Christmas Eve Nativity. (Participation in choir is required to be in the nativity.) Register by clicking on the QR code by September 30; please register before attending your first rehearsal.



Rejoice Ringers Junior Bell Choir: Beginning on September 14, we will meet every Sunday from 8:45 – 9:15 a.m., in the bell room of the 3rd floor music suite. The bell choir is open to students in 3rd through 8th grade. We ring in worship periodically throughout the school year, including ringing alongside the Overtones adult bell choir! Register by clicking the QR code through September 30; please register before attending your first rehearsal.



Matson Cup Golf Tournament: Monday, September 15, 7:30 a.m. at the Meadowbrook Country Club. Monies raised from this tournament are devoted to the most impoverished of Tulsans –through the efforts of our *Helping Hand Ministry*. Scan the QR code to register yourself and/or your team.



Save the Date! Ron Pearson's 52nd Annual Organ Concert; Sunday, October 5, 4:00 p.m. The program includes Symphony no. 1 for Organ and Orchestra by French composer Alexandre Guilmant; The University of Tulsa Orchestra will be our guest musicians.

USE YOUR TALENTS

Join our TV Ministry Team: Gain valuable video and broadcast experience while helping us reach thousands of TV and internet viewers each week. We're looking for students and adults to volunteer in this ministry. For more information, contact Alex Pennell, TV/Video Manager, at 314-607-1032.

Greeters: Do you have the gift of hospitality, or enjoy meeting new people? Whether you are able to dedicate one Sunday per month, or every Sunday, we need you. To sign up to be a Greeter or for more information, please contact Emma Myatt at emyatt@firstchurchtulsa.org.

Become a Mentor to First Church Members: Would you like to make a big impact on our newest members, help them feel welcomed and connect to First Church? We are launching a mentorship program, pairing each member with someone to walk alongside them for six months. Scan the QR code for more information.



Book Table: Check out the new books related to our sermon series on spiritual disciplines at our book table at the north side of the atrium.

The Presbyterian Women's September Mission is the Helping Hand Ministry. They are collecting full-sized toiletries, small bottles of laundry detergent, toilet paper and canned goods. Items may be placed in the PW mission container located in the atrium on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings throughout the month of September.

*With gratitude for those whom the Lord has added to our numbers,
we offer a warm and heartfelt welcome!*

Affiliation

Tobias Muriithi

Reaffirmation of Faith

Alan, Piper, Georgia and Lola Bain

Taylor and Emily Collins

Stephen and Amber Gent

Lydia Gray

Cornelius Kiprotich

Jeyepрадhe Marisamy

Gad Muchai

Richard and Beverly Schafer

Samuel and Elizabeth "Lizzi" Wright

Thomas York

Profession of Faith

Andrea Morgan

(Pending baptism)

Come, Grow Your Faith!

TODAY 8/31

8:00 a.m.	Worship: Kerr Chapel
8:30 a.m.	Worship: Stephenson Hall
9:30 a.m.	Sunday School Classes
11:00 a.m.	Worship: Sanctuary and Great Hall
1:30 p.m.	First Family Swim, Camp Loughridge

Monday 9/1

Labor Day – Church Offices Closed

Tuesday 9/2

9:30 a.m.	Precept Summer Bible Study, E100
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Wednesday 9/3

12:00 p.m.	Life in the Spirit: Midweek Meetup, Kerr Chapel
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Saturday 9/6

8:45 a.m.	Before the Rooster Crows
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There will be no Sunday School Classes on September 7
Join us for Breakfast on Boston at 9:15

