

# THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEW VERNON



MORNING WORSHIP — AUGUST 3, 2025

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“All great spirituality teaches about letting go of what you don’t need and who you are not. Then, when you can get little enough and naked enough and poor enough, you’ll find that the little place where you really are is ironically more than enough and is all that you need. At that place, you will have nothing to prove to anybody and nothing to protect. That place is called freedom. It’s the freedom of the children of God. Such people can connect with everybody. They don’t feel the need to eliminate anybody . . .”

--Richard Rohr *Healing Our Violence*

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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GATHERING

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**Prelude** “Come Follow Me”  
Samuel McBurney  
“Victory in Jesus”  
arr. by Rob Deas

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship\***

Leader: Gathered in from many lands,

**All: we come from east and west,  
from north and south.**

Leader: Some of us have wandered through deserts.  
Some of us are hungry and thirsty.

**All: But the Holy One heard our pleas  
and has delivered us from our distress.**

Leader: So we come with prayers of thanksgiving,

**All: for God’s steadfast love endures forever.**

**Opening Hymn 649\*** “*Amazing Grace*”

\*INDICATES PLEASE STAND IN BODY OR SPIRIT

## Call to Confession

Leader: Praise is on our lips,  
but in our hearts we know  
how far we have fallen  
from the glory of God.

Yet God meets us in our sin,  
picks us up,  
and promises forgiveness.

Let us make our confession  
and open ourselves to God's mercy.

## Prayer of Confession

Faithful God,  
we confess our faithlessness.

Our hearts are fickle,  
our eyes wander,  
and we trick ourselves  
into serving other gods.

We speak lies, accept lies, live lies,  
destroying others  
and ourselves along the way.

Forgive us our waywardness  
and lead us back to you.

Embolden our trust in your faithfulness  
and settle your truth in our hearts.

## Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: Listen to these words of Jesus,  
words that we can trust:

“Don’t be afraid.”

“I love you.”

“Your sins are forgiven.”

“I will be with you always.”

All: Write these words in our hearts, loving God,  
let them take root in our living.

## Hymn 582\* “*Glory to God*”

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning,  
is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.  
World without end, without end. Amen.  
World without end, without end. Amen.  
As it was in the beginning,  
is now and ever shall be. Amen.

## Passing the Peace\*

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you

All: And also with you

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HEARING THE WORD

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## Chat with the Children

# **The Baptism of Ginny Michelle Willis**

## **Sung Baptismal Blessing**

God to unfold you  
Christ to uphold you  
Spirit to keep you in heaven's sight  
So may God grace you  
Heal and embrace you  
Lead you through darkness into the light

## **Prayer for Illumination**

Leader: For the word of God in Scripture,  
For the word of God among us,  
For the word of God within us,

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **The First Scripture Lesson: *Hosea 11:1-11***

Leader: This is the word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

## **The Second Scripture Lesson: *Luke 12:13 - 21***

Leader: This is the word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

## **Hymn 440\* “*Jesus, Lover of My Soul*”**

## **Sermon**

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RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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## **Offertory Anthem “Soliloquy”**

John W. Work

Theron Cromer, soloist

## **Hymn 606\* Doxology**

### **The Sacrament of Communion**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **SANCTUS**

Holy, holy, holy God of power and might

Heaven and Earth are full of your glory

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest

## **Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer**

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SENDING

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## **Closing Hymn 43\* “On Eagles Wings”**

## **Benediction\***

**Congregational Amen — John L. Bell**

## **Postlude “Shine Jesus, Shine”**

Graham Kendrick

**Children’s Ministry**

Our nursery, for children ages 2 and under, is located in Fellowship Hall and is staffed. Children can be dropped off before worship or at any point during the service.

After the “Chat with Children” during worship, children move to the Fellowship Hall for Sunday School.

**We have 3 classes available:**

Pre-K; ages 3-5                      K-2nd grade   3rd grade and up

Children can be picked up from Sunday School after worship in Fellowship Hall (during coffee hour). If you have any questions please talk to Pastor Hayley.

**LAST WEEK**

Attendance: 56

	Last Week	Year to Date	Commitments for 2025
Annual Giving	\$2,200	\$287,240	\$425,474
Plate	\$436	\$14,260	\$32,000



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# OUR VOLUNTEER TEAM THIS SUNDAY

**Liturgist**  
Sam LaNasa

**Ushers**  
Carifa - Conine Family

**Coffee Hour**  
Don and Meg Richardson

## CHURCH STAFF

Rev. William Stone III, Pastor  
Rev. Hayley O'Connor, Associate for Youth and Family Ministry  
Stephen Fox, Director of Music Ministry  
Rachael Gareau, Director of Children's Choirs  
Fraser Miller, Operations Coordinator  
Diego (Tony) Rodriguez, Church Custodian

## CHURCH LEADERS

Session	Deacons
Donna Miller, Clerk	Meg Richardson, Moderator
Sarah Conine	Nancy Burrows
Susan Fischer	Elizabeth Califano
Sam LaNasa	Barbara Coe
Robert Lecky	Carol Conger
Hunter Lostan	Craig Grant
Don Richardson	Susie Morris
Kreamer Rooke	Melissa Ramsey
Matt Taranto	Randy Stodard
Ben Thompson	Christine Taranto
Michelle Vince	Twinkle Tong
Candace Weeks	