

Programs

Church School: F.L.Y. (Faith, Learning & You) is a creative Christian learning opportunity for children pre-school through 6th grade.

Explorers' Forum: adult Christian education provoking thought and response on current topics challenging the faith community.

Youth Group: on alternate Sunday afternoons, youth gather for fun and fellowship, spiritual nurture, and service activities.

The Nest: during most Sunday worship services, after the Children's Greeting, children ages 4 years through 2nd grade leave the service for activities and refreshments.

Bible Study: groups gather during the week for an in-depth and vigorous engagement of the Bible using various teaching methods.

Prayer Shawls: knitted with love and given to those in need of the comfort of prayer.

Speaker Series: nationally known speakers such as Bishop Shelby Spong, Dr. Marcus Borg, the Rev. Jim Wallis, and Dr. Diana Butler Bass have been recent invited speakers.

It Takes Two: a group of couples in committed relationships who gather for a time of fellowship, learning, sharing, and fun.

Women's and Men's Spirituality Gatherings: women and men gather each month for sharing, prayer, and spiritual reflection.

Seasonal Events: throughout the year the church joins in fellowship with Christmas pageants, Lenten devotions, Easter programs, summer picnics, and more.

Outreach

After School Tutoring Program: volunteers help local East Side Charter School students with reading and learning skills.

Winter Sanctuary: the church is open Saturday mornings from November through March for use by Wilmington's Friendship House, offering hospitality to those in need.

Meals On Wheels: delivering hot meals to the homebound.

Giving Tree: during Advent, the congregation collects non-perishable food, warm clothing, books, and toys for those both near and far.

Mission Trips: members and friends travel to those in need, partnering with groups like Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) and Rebuilding Hope In New Orleans (RHINO).

Andrew's Place and Epiphany House: provide dinner on a monthly basis for those in transitional housing facilities.

In addition, financial, material, and/or volunteer support are provided to:

- AIDS Walk / AIDS Delaware
- Brandywine Pastoral Institute
- Covenant Network
- Delaware Clothing Bank
- Friendship House
- Hanover Food Closet
- Linked Hearts Bible Fellowship
- Meeting Ground
- Narcotics Anonymous
- Presbyterian Disaster Relief / PC(USA)
- Rainbow Chorale of Delaware
- Rodney Street Tennis and Tutoring
- Sojourner's Place
- Wilmington Children's Chorus

Worship and Music

First & Central offers vibrant spirit-filled music for worship, spiritual growth, and enjoyment. The music ministry nourishes the hearts and souls of the congregation and community alike through diverse programs that are energetic and meditative, vocal and instrumental, classical and popular, performed by practiced professionals and talented amateurs.

The Chancel Choir: twenty-four members and friends provide worship leadership on Sunday mornings.

Children's Music Program: every Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m., with musical presentations during worship and holiday celebrations.

Center City Chorale: a Community Choir of downtown workers that rehearses Tuesdays at noon, September to May, and performs during Thursday Noontime Concerts. Open to all city residents and workers.

Thursday Noontime Concerts: 12:30–1:00 p.m. every Thursday from October to December and from March through May, featuring jazz and classical music from around the world.

Festival Concerts: a weekend series featuring our resident chorus, Mastersingers of Wilmington, instrumental soloists and ensembles, and other special musical events.

CD recordings of the Sunday Worship Service are available every week. Sermons are provided on-line or in print.

Labyrinth Walks: the Labyrinth, a spiritual exercise for prayer and meditation, is open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesdays, and on other special dates.

Staff

The Rev. Dr. Douglas D. Gerdts,
Pastor/Head of Staff
The Rev. Jennifer P. Warren, Parish Associate
The Rev. Dr. Randall T. Clayton, Parish Assoc.
The Rev. Timothy D. Rodden, Parish Associate
David Schelat, Minister of Music
Shannon Hanson, Seminary Intern/Youth
Katie Martinenza, Children's Music and
Childcare Provider
Joanne Reinbold, Office Manager
Patricia Brock, Financial Secretary
Gerard Coleman, Building Manager
George Russell, Building Care Assistant
Ella Maddux, Building Care Assistant
Lauren Coleman, Childcare Assistant

Helpful Information

Parking is available on Sunday mornings in Lot B of the Hotel DuPont on Orange St. near 12th. Parking is also permitted at the Wilmington Club, but please do not park along the guardrail.

The Church Office is open weekdays,
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Phone: 302-654-5371
www.fandc.org

The Presbyterian Church (USA)

The members of the PCUSA are a people of God, called together by faith in Jesus Christ as part of the whole body of Christ to worship, study, and serve.

The denomination has approximately 2.5 million members, 11,200 congregations, and 21,000 ordained ministers. Presbyterians trace their history to the 16th century and the Protestant Reformation. Our heritage, and much of what we believe, began with French lawyer John Calvin (1509–1564), whose writings crystallized much of the Reformed thinking.

Mission Statement

First & Central Presbyterian Church is a diverse, accepting, and open-minded Christian community making a difference to one another and in the city. We are Presbyterian, but ecumenical, taking people as they are; celebrating the leadership of all (women, men, and our young people); embracing people of all lifestyles; and growing to meet the challenges of our urban community.

The Mission of First & Central Presbyterian Church is to proclaim the Word of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ by:

- **Ministering enthusiastically and compassionately to individual, congregational, and community needs;**
- **Encouraging spiritual, ecumenical, and intellectual growth;**
- **Being responsible stewards in our Church, community, and the world.**

First & Central is a member of *The Covenant Network*

The Covenant Network of Presbyterians, of which First & Central is a founding congregation, is a broad-based, national group of clergy and lay leaders working for a church that is simultaneously faithful, just, and whole. It seeks to support the mission and unity of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in a time of potentially divisive controversy. It intends to articulate and act on the church's historic, progressive vision, and to work for a fully inclusive church. For more information: www.covenantnetwork.org

Vision Statement

At First & Central Presbyterian Church, we continually strive to become a church that:

- Welcomes without limits
- Supports, affirms, and loves all people
- Uses our resources in service to the community
- Demonstrates our commitment to compassion and justice
- Nurtures growth and development of children, youth, and adults
- Provides a sanctuary from life's trials and tribulations for the renewal of our spirits, and;
- Offers an oasis in the city that emphasizes service and ministry to city dwellers and downtown workers

Using Christ as our guide, our worship, music, and other programs provide us with the faith and inspiration to reach out and help others in need. We are committed to continual spiritual growth and ever deepening understanding of God's will for ourselves, our church, and our community service. We work and pray daily to make our vision a reality.



The Witness on Market Street

First & Central Presbyterian Church was formed in 1920 as the result of the merger of First Presbyterian Church (*founded in 1737*) and Central Presbyterian Church (*founded in 1855*). First & Central's centuries of history have seen times of flourishing ministry, as well as times of near extinction. The congregation's heritage includes stories from significant periods:

- In our nation's history, the British used Old First Church as a hospital during the Revolutionary War.
- In American Presbyterian history, First & Central experienced a major split as part of the schism in our denomination in 1936.
- In local ecumenical history, for 20 years, First & Central hosted daily Roman Catholic masses sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Wilmington, as well as interfaith worship and activities.
- In Wilmington's history, First & Central played a major role in reconciliation efforts following the city's race riots in 1968.

While many churches left the city for the suburbs in the 1960s and 1970s, First & Central elected to stay and remain committed to being a church of the city

A dynamic and exciting congregation, the church is continuing its heritage of centuries of mission and faithful witness, taking seriously the present and future challenges of ministry in the midst of the downtown community.



**First & Central
Presbyterian Church**

A welcoming congregation with a long and rich tradition of making a difference through excellence in worship, education, music, and caring outreach.

**1101 N. Market Street
Wilmington, DE 19801
302-654-5371
www.fandc.org**

Sunday Schedule
Church School (all ages) at 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service at 11 a.m.
(Summers at 10:00 a.m.)

Pastor/Head of Staff
Douglas D. Gerdt
gerdts@fandc.org

Parish Associate
Jennifer P. Warren
warren@fandc.org

Minister of Music
David Schelat
[schelat@fandc.org](mailto:schelata@fandc.org)