

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Email: info@fpcmankato.org | Web: fpcmankato.org | Facebook: facebook.com/FPCmankato

14th Sunday After Pentecost

September 14, 2025

**This service is being livestreamed Prelude through Postlude, and is available for public viewing.*

Meditation

"A good relationship has a pattern like a dance and is built on some of the same rules."

~ Anne Morrow Lindbergh

PRELUDE

Ben Marti

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Eric Garner

CHORAL INTROIT

Praise His Holy Name

Ben Marti and Dr. Andrew Kendall

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 91:1-4, 9-10, 14

Pastor Eric Garner

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say of the Lord, "God is my refuge and my fortress, the one in whom I trust."

Surely God will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence.

The Lord will cover you in God's feathers, and under God's wings you will find refuge.

If you say, "The Lord is my refuge," and you make the Most High your dwelling,

No harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent.

Because of God's love for us, we will be rescued.

Let us acknowledge the protection found in the Lord's name.

HYMN

Lord, to You My Soul Is Lifted

GTG 420

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Eric Garner

Day or night, it is always the right time to come before God,

For God already knows what lies in our hearts.

Let us offer up our hopes yet unmet:

For peace, for reconciliation, for grace.

Let us offer up the wrongs we have done:

Our greed, our apathy, our meanness.

Let us offer up the good we have left undone:

Forgiving others, offering mercy, choosing compassion.

Christ, bring us to life in you.

Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor Eric Garner

The good news is that Christ calls us to new life. In Christ we are freed to begin again and again, and to live in joy. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

In the name of Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

GLORIA

Gloria

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -
gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor Eric Garner

CHILDREN'S TIME

Backpack Blessing

Lizz Kendall

SUNG PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

SCRIPTURE READING

Ruth 3:1-18

Peter Steiner

1 Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, I need to seek some security for you, so that it may be well with you. **2** Now here is our kinsman Boaz, with whose young women you have been working. See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. **3** Now wash and anoint yourself and put on your best clothes and go down to the threshing floor, but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. **4** When he lies down, observe the place where he lies; then go and uncover his feet and lie down, and he will tell you what to do." **5** She said to her, "All that you say I will do."

6 So she went down to the threshing floor and did just as her mother-in-law had instructed her. **7** When Boaz had eaten and drunk and was in a contented mood, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of

grain. Then she came stealthily and uncovered his feet and lay down. **8** At midnight the man was startled and turned over, and there, lying at his feet, was a woman! **9** He said, "Who are you?" And she answered, "I am Ruth, your servant; spread your cloak over your servant, for you are next-of-kin." **10** He said, "May you be blessed by the LORD, my daughter; this last instance of your loyalty is better than the first; you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich. **11** And now, my daughter, do not be afraid, I will do for you all that you ask, for all the assembly of my people know that you are a worthy woman. **12** But now, though it is true that I am a near kinsman, there is another kinsman more closely related than I. **13** Remain this night, and in the morning, if he will act as next-of-kin for you, good; let him do it. But if he is not willing to act as next-of-kin for you, then, as the LORD lives, I will act as next-of-kin for you. Lie down until the morning." **14** So she lay at his feet until morning but got up before one person could recognize another, for he said, "It must not be known that the woman came to the threshing floor." **15** Then he said, "Bring the cloak you are wearing and hold it out." So she held it, and he measured out six measures of barley and put it on her back; then he went into the town. **16** She came to her mother-in-law, who said, "How did things go with you, my daughter?" Then she told her all that the man had done for her, **17** saying, "He gave me these six measures of barley, for he said, 'Do not go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed.'" **18** She replied, "Wait, my daughter, until you learn how the matter turns out, for the man will not rest but will settle the matter today."

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON	<i>A Benighted Plan</i>	Pastor Eric Garner
HYMN	<i>O God, Who Gives Us Life</i>	GTG 53
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER		Pastor Eric Garner

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.

CALL FOR OFFERING AND DOXOLOGY



Thank you, FPC Deacons, for sponsoring this Sunday's worship flowers!

If you are interested in sponsoring the Sunday worship flowers, please sign up on the FPC website, or call the church office and we'd be glad to help get you signed up!

CALENDAR

- Sunday, September 14:** 11:00 a.m.
Coffee Hour
FPC Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, September 14:** 11:15 a.m.
Rally Sunday ~ Lunch and Carnival!
FPC Parking Lot
- Wednesday, September 17:** 6:00 p.m.
Session Meeting
FPC Multipurpose Room
- Thursday, September 18:** 6:00 p.m.
Community and Conversation ~ Theology on Tap
Jake's Stadium Pizza
330 Stadium Road, Mankato
- Friday, September 19:** 2:30 p.m.
PW's September Birthday Treats
Pathstone Assisted Living

Eric Garner, Pastor and Head of Staff

FPC Session ~ Elders

Jim Connors, President | Brad Leiding, Treasurer | Joyce Prahm, Clerk of Session
April Austin, Worship | Theo Black, Budget | Sophie Hoiseth, Stewardship and Faith Formation
Lynn Kuechle, Community Engagement | Kelly McBride, Properties | Paul Peterson, Personnel

FPC Board of Deacons

Mark Taylor, Moderator | Derek Fette, Treasurer | Chris Renne, Secretary
Karen Anderson | Nancy Black | Amily Crowell | Deb Kienholz | Mari Lopez | Annette McGinness
Mary Jane Petersen | Marcia Richards | Jeanne Steiner

FPC Staff

Ben Marti, Organist | Andrew Kendall, DMA, Choir Director | Lizz Kendall, Director of Outreach and Faith Formation
Mark Zallek, Building Manager | Lori Olson, Administrative Assistant | Katelyn Prahm, Custodial Assistant