



**43** “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ **44** But I say to you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you”  
Matthew 5:43-44

**Sunday, September 14, 2025**

*Please be seated, silence all devices, and prepare yourself for worship.  
All are welcome in this sacred space, including the wiggles and giggles!*

◆ PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR SPIRIT

PRELUDE		
PRELUDE HYMN 404	<i>What Is This Place</i>	Congregation
	~~~ GATHERING IN GOD’S PRESENCE ~~~	
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS		Pastor Murray
◆ SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST		
<i>The Peace of Christ be with you!</i>	<b>And also with you!</b>	
◆ CALL TO WORSHIP		Alexandra H
<i>Let love be genuine.</i>		
<b>We come to worship the God who calls us to love beyond boundaries.</b>		
<i>Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.</i>		
<b>In joy and in sorrow, we gather as one body.</b>		
<i>Do not be overcome by evil.</i>		
<b>But overcome evil with good.</b>		
<i>Come, let us worship the God of love.</i>		
<b>We come with open hearts, ready to live love in action.</b>		

◆ HYMN 389	Come and Sing the Praise of the Lord <i>Children are invited forward as we sing the final verse</i>	Congregation
CHILDREN’S SERMON		Pastor Murray
	~~~ LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD ~~~	
MINISTRY OF MUSIC		Chancel Choir
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION		Alexandra H
SCRIPTURE Romans 5:1-8 (NRSVUE)		Alexandra H
	<i>This is the Word of the Lord.</i> <b>Thanks be to God.</b>	
PRAYER OF CONFESSION	( <i>we begin in silent confession and then pray together</i> )	
	<b>Merciful God, we confess that we often choose comfort over compassion, retaliation over reconciliation, indifference over engagement. We love selectively, forgive conditionally, and act only when it serves us. Lord, have mercy on us.</b>	
	<b>Teach us to love like Jesus loves — with mercy, truth, and fearless grace. Renew us in your Spirit, that our love may be sincere and active, even toward those we struggle to embrace. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.</b>	
HYMN 551	LORD, HAVE MERCY <i>Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.</i>	Congregation
SHARING GOD’S LOVE AND FORGIVENESS		Alexandra H
	<i>...Believe the Good News: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and freed to love boldly.</i> <b>Thanks be to God! Amen.</b>	
◆ HYMN 581	GLORY BE TO THE FATHER <i>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. Amen.</i>	Congregation
	~~~ PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD ~~~	
◆ GOSPEL Matthew 5:43-48 (NRSVUE)		Pastor Murray
	<i>This is the Word of the Lord.</i> <b>God is still speaking.</b>	
MESSAGE	Love Beyond Limits Sermon Series: Love In Action	Pastor Murray
HYMN 203 (vs. 1, 3,4)	Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love	Congregation
	~~~ RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD ~~~	
CALL OF THE OFFERING		Pastor Murray
OFFERTORY		
◆ HYMN 606	DOXOLOGY <i>Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.</i>	Congregation
◆ PRAYER OF DEDICATION		Pastor Murray

◆ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe the mysteries of God's kingdom:

- that those who lose their life for Christ's sake will save it;
- that some are last who will be first;
- that we should love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us;
- that Christ's power is made perfect in our weakness.

We believe that God has made foolish the wisdom of the world. For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. We believe that God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYERS AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (page 35) Pastor Murray

◆ HYMN 14 (vs. 1,2,5) For the Beauty of the Earth Congregation

~~~ CARRYING GOD’S GOOD NEWS INTO GOD’S WORLD ~~~

◆ BENEDICTION Pastor Murray

POSTLUDE

Question: *When have you experienced or witnessed love in action that went beyond what was expected — or even deserved?*

Today’s Service

|           |             |
|-----------|-------------|
| Music     | Mary Dailey |
| Liturgist | Alexandra H |
| Trustee   | Beth O      |
| Ushers    | Diane C     |
| Image     | Bible.com   |

*\*Prayer cards may be placed on the offering plate or in the box in Chandler Hall.*



Second Thursday of each month at 1pm in Ayers’ Parlor or Zoom in with us if you can’t make it to church. Contact Janice F if you have any questions or want to join us. Here’s what we are reading next:

For October 9  
*A Calamity of Souls*, by David Baldacci

Sunday Bible Study **September 21**

Bible Study is on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays, following worship. Bring a 'brown bag' lunch and join us as we discuss God's Word to us. Both children and Adult Sunday Bible Study will meet, starting in Ficklin Hall for lunch.

## *September's RightNow Media picks*

All content from RightNow Media is accessible for you to conveniently enjoy from your computer or mobile device. Your account is already paid for through FPCL, so all you have to do is sign up here: <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/fpcl>

If you have any trouble creating your account, or accessing content, please contact Pastor Blakeley for assistance!

**For youth: “Not a fan—teen edition”:** This study, based on Pastor Kyle Idleman’s best-selling book, will challenge teens to re-think the reality of their relationship to Jesus, and consider whether they are a committed follower of Christ, or just a “fan”.

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/187042>

**General audience: “40 verses to ignite your faith”:** Following from our recent “Scripture shapes us” sermon series, this is an opportunity to discover a number of lesser-known Bible verses, which can help you to navigate through all the different seasons of life. Led by Laurie Short. <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/338075>

**For grandparents: “Shepherding your grandchildren”:** Take this study to learn more about how you can be a godly influence on your grandchildren, and help in the creation of a spiritual legacy that will bless their entire lives”

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/914654>



North Littleton Promise is one of our key partner ministries in the area, focusing on outreach to the local Hispanic Community, including co-hosting a Conversational English class with us! Their annual Fiesta fundraising event is coming up on **Friday, September 19th at 6pm**, at South Fellowship Church (6560 S. Broadway, 80121). FPCL is sponsoring a table at this event for 8-10 attendees from our church! Come to enjoy delicious homemade Mexican food, meet some of the families that NLP works with, and learn more about how this special ministry is making a difference for Christ in the heart of Littleton’s vibrant Hispanic community. To register your spot, please contact Pastor Blakeley.



**To our friends and neighbors, FPCL will be offering community assistance on Tuesdays only, from 10am to 1pm. We are doing this in an effort to ensure that we can maintain enough supplies to help as many people as possible. Thank you for your understanding!**

**Volunteers:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0449A9AF2EAAFC1-55790041-welcome#/>



**The Chancel Choir.** All members are welcome and encouraged to share their voices for worship services at FPCL. The choir rehearses on Sunday mornings at 8:30 am on the fourth floor of the church and sings at the 10 am service. Choir sings 2-3 weekends per month with special choral performance services during Advent and Lent. Please join us on Sunday, September 7th for our first rehearsal and contact me on Sundays at church if you have any questions.

Mary Dailey, Director of Worship Arts

I would also like to share a special thank you to all the singers and musicians who joined us during the summer to enhance our worship services with their musical talents.



**Tuesday Evening Women’s Bible Study Starting Tuesday, September 23 from 7-8:15**

Please contact co-leaders Sue C and Janice F for more information.

**Wednesday Morning Women’s Bible Study Starting September 24<sup>th</sup> from 10-11:30**

Please contact co-leaders Joy C or Karla F with questions or to RSVP



**Open Door Circle** will be meeting Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:30. All women are welcome.  
Please call Hedy L with any questions.

**Church Office:** 303-798-1389; [fpcl@fpcl.org](mailto:fpcl@fpcl.org)  
**Pastoral Care Emergency Line:** 720-662-7277  
**Staff Schedule:**  
**Pastor Jonathan Murray**, Minister of Word and Sacrament -----Tue. & Thu. 9-2, or by appt.  
**Pastor Blakeley Winslow**, Pastor of Christian Discipleship-----Mon. 9:30-2:30; Tue. 1- 4:30;  
Wed. 10-3:30 or by appt.  
**Lydia Cooper**, Office Manager-----Tue.-Thu. 9-2  
**Mary Dailey**, Director of Worship Arts  
**Karen A. Meersman**, Director of Handbells & Children/Youth Music  
**Joan Lund**, Financial Secretary  
**Tracy Eidson**, Child Care

**We are in need of tutors for  
Our Whiz Kids Tutoring Program at FPCL.**

Students are in grades 1 through 5 and need one-to-one help with homework, math, and reading.  
**We meet once a week on Thursdays from 4:00-5:30 October through April.**  
Please contact Loretta D with questions or to volunteer.  
On behalf of the kids, **thank you!**

*Worship Focus*  
*September 14<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>*  
*Love In Action*  
*September 21- Crossing the Road for a Stranger Luke 10:25-37*  
*Music Dedication- Choir and Bells*  
*September 28- To Love a Neighbor Mark 12:28-34*

**Mission Statement:**  
**We Believe the Good News that all of Littleton is called Beloved by Jesus Christ and  
together we Belong to God’s Kingdom.**