

First Presbyterian Church



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Inspired by Scripture, guided by Spirit, and nourished by our life together, we seek to be a reflection of God's radical grace. We believe God's love models a world without walls; therefore, we provide a safe and affirming home where you are welcomed exactly as you are. No matter the color or your skin, who you love, your gender, or the unique ways your mind and body work, you have a place here. Following the way of Jesus and empowering one another to grow in faith, we commit to feeding the hungry, caring for those in need, and working for justice and peace in our community and the world—living out our confidence in the promises of God.

August 30, 2026
14th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

He Who Will Suffer God to Guide Him

J. S. Bach

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made.

Congregation: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

CHORAL INTROIT

I, the Lord of sea and sky

GTG #69, vs. 1

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, let us worship the God who calls us to follow the way of Jesus.

Congregation: We come, leaving behind our fears, our pride, and our need to have everything our way.

Leader: Come, open your hearts to the grace that makes us new and the love that makes us one.

Congregation: We come, ready to serve, to forgive, to welcome, and to give ourselves away in love.

Leader: Come, trusting that the way of the cross is also the way to true and abundant life.

Congregation: Let us worship God, who calls us, loves us, and leads us into life.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, gather our scattered hearts and turn our attention toward you. Prepare us to hear your Word, receive your grace, and be formed anew by your Spirit. In this hour, make us ready to worship you in spirit and in truth. Amen.

***HYMN 25**

O Lord, Our God, How Excellent

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we often choose the easier road rather than the way of Jesus. We cling to our comfort, our pride, and our certainty, forgetting that you call us to give ourselves away in love. Forgive us when we make our differences into divisions and our convictions into weapons. Forgive us when we protect what is familiar instead of welcoming those whom you place before us. Turn our hearts again toward Christ, that we may follow him with courage, humility, mercy, and joy. Make us a people fully alive in your grace, ready to love, serve, forgive, and follow wherever you lead.

CHORAL RESPONSE

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Hear the good news: In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven, our burdens are lifted, and we are made new. God's grace is greater than our failures, and God's mercy is wider than our mistakes. Nothing can

separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
Congregation: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

***GLORIA PATRI**

(Hymnal pg. 581)

***Glory be to the Creator, and to the Christ and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end!
Amen, amen.***

***THE PEACE**

Leader: The Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

**At this time young children may depart for the nursery.*

HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

ANTHEM

Nearer, My God, to Thee

Georgiann H. Toole

*Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!
E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me,
still all my song shall be,
nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

Though like the wanderer, the sun gone down,
darkness be over me, my rest a stone;
yet in my dreams I'd be
nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

Now on joyful wing cleaving the sky,
sun, moon, and stars forgot, upward I fly,
still all my song shall be,
nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!*

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

PSALTER LESSON: Psalm 26

OT 503

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 16:21-28

NT 18

SERMON

The Road Forward

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Confession of Belhar 10.5

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells; that God's life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God's life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.

***HYMN 543**

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Hymnal pg. 35)

INVITATION TO OFFERING



You may present your offering at the front of the sanctuary, or if you prefer to contribute electronically, you can do so using the PayPal QR code in your bulletin or visit our website at fpcmilledgeville.org.



OFFERTORY

I Call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ

J. S. Bach

*DOXOLOGY

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, all that we have comes from your hand. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and trust. Use them to bring hope where there is despair and justice where there is need. Use us, too, as servants of your love and care for the world. Through Christ, we pray. Amen.

BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 69

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Leader: Go now into the world, trusting the grace of God more than your own strength.

Congregation: We will go in faith, seeking Christ in all we meet.

Leader: Love your neighbors, welcome the stranger, and choose mercy over judgment.

Congregation: We will go in hope, becoming signs of God's reconciling love.

Leader: And may the grace of Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Congregation: We go in peace, to love and serve the Lord. Amen.

*CHORAL BENEDICTION *I, the Lord of wind and flame*

GTG #69, vs. 3

*POSTLUDE

Toccata in C Minor

Johann Gottfried Walther

****At these times the congregation is invited to rise in body or in spirit.***

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Session has called a Congregational Meeting after worship in the Sanctuary for Sunday, September 13 to approve changes to the By-Laws to reflect that the Treasurer for the Corporation and the Treasurer for the Church should be the same person; and to approve the following list of officer candidates for the Class of 2030: Carrie Cook, Holley Cowan, and Laurie Peebles, and Youth Elders (Class of 2028): Teri Anne Bradley and Nathan Tchamna. Thank you to the candidates for their willingness to serve and to the Nominating Committee for their time and effort.
- Save the date for our fall Sunday School Kickoff! Join us at 9:45 on Sunday, September 13 to celebrate the new year and new class offerings.

WORSHIP
with us

**Join us for worship in-person or online
on Facebook Live every week.**

9:45 AM Sunday School Class (meets in the Betty Newton Campbell parlor), doing an intensive study of the Book of Jeremiah. Please contact Joel Burns joeldburns@gmail.com if you are interested in attending via Zoom.

Sunday: 9:45 AM Fellowship Sunday School Class (meets in small room next to office at end of hall), studying *God In Pain* by Barbara Brown Taylor.

Sunday: 10:15AM Children's Sunday School Class, singing, crafts and stories, (meeting in the Craft Room upstairs)

Sunday: 12:00PM Youth Group (Youth Room)

Wednesday: 6:30PM Wednesday Night Potluck and Bible Study, we are studying *Poverty in the Promised Land* by Walter Bruggemann (meeting in the Fellowship Hall).

Church Staff

Pastor, Rev. Mari Turner (in office every Wednesday)

revmariturner@gmail.com

Children & Youth, vacant

Administrative Assistant, Jessica McQuain

Music Director, Dr. Jennifer Flory, jennifer.flory@gcsu.edu

Organist, Kate Phillips

Treasurer, Joel Burns

Church Phone (478) 452-9394, Cell (478) 443-5203

Email: milledgevillepcusa@gmail.com



OFFICE HOURS

9am ~ 1pm Mon-Thur.



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS



Prayer List

CONDOLENCES

Rev. Mari Turner and family on the loss of her father, Bob Bishop

CHURCH FAMILY:

Harry Beck, recovering from surgery

Debbie Lamsma, dealing with Parkinson's

Bob Smart, Anne Smart's husband, ongoing health concerns

Louise Sallstrom, ongoing health concerns

Ellen Thompson, waiting on two hip replacements

EXTENDED FAMILY:

Don Lucik, Mary Lucik's son, in the hospital

Oscar Jude Hall, Gini Wilkerson's nephew, born prematurely

Ron Bracewell, Joy Bracewell's father, dealing with health issues

Darryl Allen, Andrew Allen's father, ongoing health concerns

Nannette Green Allen, childhood friend of Margaret Foster with serious health issues

Kathie Bishop, Mari Turner's mother, in memory care

Kandace Allen Bivins, friend of Margaret Foster, heart attack

Elizabeth Knobel, Carolyn Morgan's daughter, ongoing health concerns

Charles Morgan, Jennifer Flory's father, ongoing health concerns

Joanne Murphy, Kathy Carroll's mother, health issues—at Carlyle House in Macon

John J. Murphy, Kathy Carroll's father, recovering from kidney operation

Renee Pearson, Sunda Coleman's daughter-in-law, at home with health concerns

Randy Stewart, Haywood Edwards' son-in-law, ongoing health concerns

Ike Thomas, ongoing cancer treatments

Dudley Weathers, Anne Weathers' husband, at home in hospice care

Wayne Woodward, Ruby Werts' brother, diagnosed with Parkinson's

IN ASSISTED LIVING:

Jude Hirsch, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place

Laura King, The Cottages of Milledgeville, 1010 Fernwood Drive

Maryanne Morris, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place

Runette Pounds, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place

Louise Sallstrom, The Cottages of Milledgeville, 1010 Fernwood Drive

Suzy Smith, The Oaks Peake, 400 Foster Rd., A2, Macon, GA 31210

Greeters

Aug. 30: Nancy Miller & Millie
Murphy

♥ Thank you ♥
VOLUNTEERS!

Nursery Volunteers

Aug. 30: Laurie Peebles/Joel
Burns
Sept. 6: Anne Smart/Susan McGill

Communion

Sept. 6: Laurie Peebles, Becky
Humphrey, Gloria Burns, Frida
Ituka

Liturgists

Aug. 30: Andrew Allen
Sept. 6: Andrew Allen



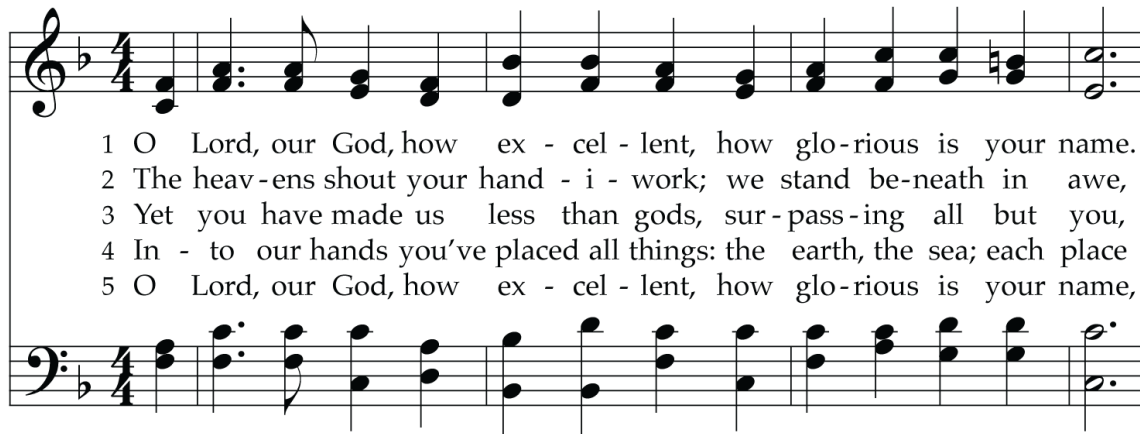
Offerings in August \$ 18,438
Anticipated August expenses: \$ 19,718
(Monthly expenditures may exceed anticipated amounts)

**THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH: August 30-September 6**

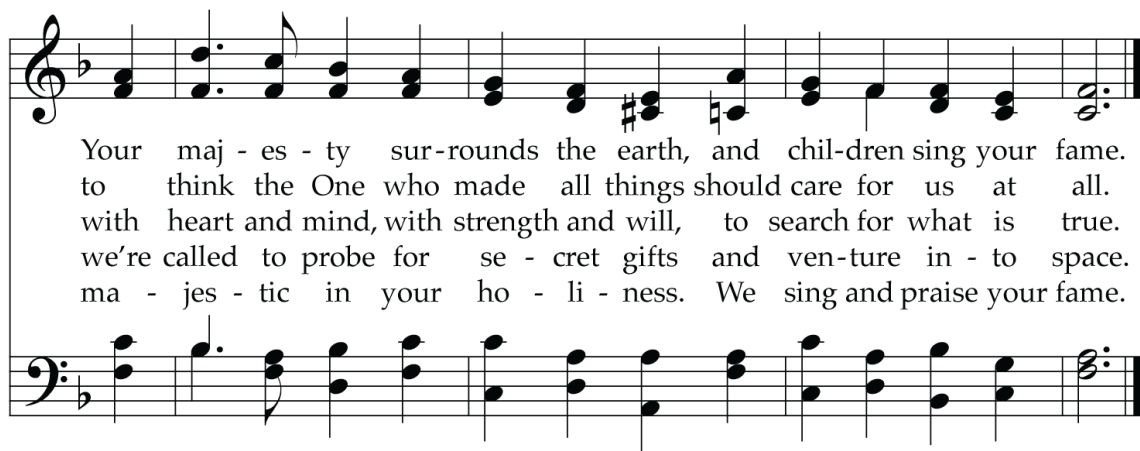
Today	9:45	Adult Sunday School
	10:15	Children's Sunday School
	11:00	Worship
	12:00	Youth group/Sandwich squad
	7:00	PATH/Oconee Recovery Coalition Overdose Awareness Day Memory Walk
Monday	9:30	Food Pantry
	12:00	Kiwanis
Tuesday	7:30	NA Meeting
	6:30	Potluck & Study
Wednesday	7:30	NA Meeting
Thursday	7:30	NA Meeting
Saturday	7:30	NA Meeting
	9:45	Adult Sunday School
	10:15	Children's Sunday School
	11:00	Worship
Sunday	12:00	Youth group

O Lord, Our God, How Excellent 25

(Psalm 8)



1 O Lord, our God, how ex - cel - lent, how glo - rious is your name.
2 The heav - ens shout your hand - i - work; we stand be - neath in awe,
3 Yet you have made us less than gods, sur - pass - ing all but you,
4 In - to our hands you've placed all things: the earth, the sea; each place
5 O Lord, our God, how ex - cel - lent, how glo - rious is your name,



Your maj - es - ty sur - rounds the earth, and chil - dren sing your fame.
to think the One who made all things should care for us at all.
with heart and mind, with strength and will, to search for what is true.
we're called to probe for se - cret gifts and ven - ture in - to space.
ma - jes - tic in your ho - li - ness. We sing and praise your fame.

The middle stanzas of this paraphrase of Psalm 8 probe the ancient but enduring paradox of declaring the grandeur of God's creation while realizing how small mortals are in the midst of it all. These words are set to one of the most durable 18th-century English psalm tunes.

TEXT: Fred R. Anderson, 1986
MUSIC: Este's *Psalmes*, 1592; harm. George Kirbye, 1592
Text © 1986 Fred R. Anderson

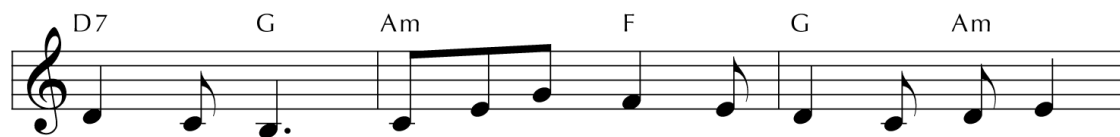
WINCHESTER OLD
CM

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

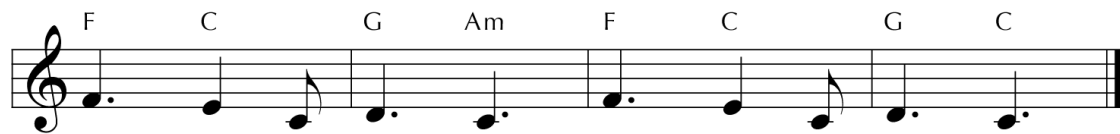
O Christ, Surround Me



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
2 Bind to my-self the Name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light-ning,
4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me.

This hymn is a 21st-century adaptation of the traditional Celtic prayer style known as a *lorica* (Latin for "armor" or "breastplate"). Many such petitions for God's presence and protection were never written down, but this one is based on an example attributed to St. Patrick.