

First Presbyterian Church



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www.fpcmilledgeville.org

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.

July 19, 2026
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

O For a Heart to Praise My God

Betty Roe

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come to the Lord, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens.

Congregation: We come to find rest for our souls.

Leader: Take Christ's yoke upon you and learn from the one who is gentle and humble in heart.

Congregation: We are invited into the peace and grace of God's holy presence.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth, we gather today carrying the heavy burdens of our own shortcomings and failures. We desire to do what is right, yet we find ourselves captured by choices that lead away from your path. Open our minds and hearts to the gentle wisdom of Christ, that we may lay down our self-reliance and bind our lives to the Savior who offers us true rest and ultimate transformation. Amen.

***HYMN 30**

O God, in a Mysterious Way

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we do not understand our own actions. The good we want to do, we do not achieve, and the very things we despise are what we choose. We admit that we have tried to blame our failings on our circumstances, our past, or the people around us rather than accepting personal responsibility. We have trivialized sin by counting our small acts of law-keeping while rejecting the total life of grace you offer. Forgive us, and free us from this body of death. Yoke us to Christ, our gentle guide, so that your will may be done through us. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Who will deliver us from this body of death and the power of sin?

Congregation: Our rescue and our hope are found in Jesus Christ.

Leader: Hear the good news: in Jesus Christ, you are completely forgiven and set free.

**Congregation: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, loved, and made new.
Thanks be to God!**

***GLORIA PATRI**

(Hymnal pg. 579)

***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

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Romans 7:15-25

NT 157

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:25-30

NT 12

SERMON

The Good That I Will

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *A Brief Statement of Faith (10.1-10.3)*

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Father, sovereign Lord, who created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

***HYMN 182**

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

MOMENT FOR CHURCH LIFE *Presbyterian Polity: The Presbytery*

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

What a Friend

Andrew Fletcher

***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, we dedicate these gifts to your service, recognizing that everything we have comes from your grace. Receive these offerings as a sign that we desire to be yoked to Christ, pulling together with you to bring healing, relief, and rest to a weary world. Amen.

BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 432**

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Festive Recessional

Edward Broughton

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

Acknowledgments: All liturgy is written by the Rev. Marianne B. Turner. All music used by permission. CCLI License # 2910879 and streaming license # 23024105.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- We need more nursery volunteers. Speak with Anne Smart if you're interested in serving in this role on Sundays.
- Next Sunday is sandwich squad day! Stay after service to help make sandwiches for the community fridge. Donations of sandwich items, fruit, and snacks can be dropped off for sandwich squad.
- No mug with Mari next week due to Rev. Mari being on the summer retreat with the youth. Pray for a safe and fruitful journey for our youth and chaperones!
- Save the date for the Blessing of the Backpacks and Briefcases August 2nd. Bring your backpacks and briefcases to be blessed for the start of the school year.

30 O God, in a Mysterious Way

1 O God, in a mys - te - rious way great won - ders you per - form.
 2 Deep in un - fath - om - a - ble mines of nev - er - fail - ing skill,
 3 O fear - ful saints, fresh cour - age take. The clouds you so much dread
 4 Our un - be - lief is sure to err and scan your work in vain.

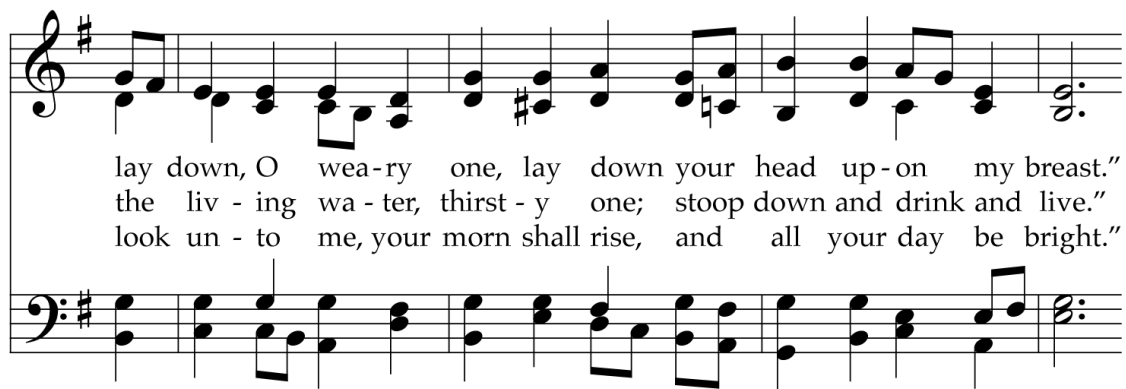
You plant your foot-steps in the sea and ride up - on the storm.
 you trea - sure up your bright de - signs and work your sov - ereign will.
 are big with mer - cy and shall break in bless - ings on your head.
 You are your own in - ter - pret - er, and you will make it plain.

This classic text gains renewed energy and focus from its recasting here: despite our fear and confusion, we can trust that God's providential purposes will eventually be revealed. In its original source the tune printed here is one of twelve not assigned to a specific hymn.

182 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



1 I heard the voice of Je-sus say, "Come un-to me and rest;
 2 I heard the voice of Je-sus say, "Be-hold, I free-ly give
 3 I heard the voice of Je-sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea-ry one, lay down your head up-on my breast."
 the liv-ing wa-ter, thirst-y one; stoop down and drink and live."
 look un-to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."

I came to Je-sus as I was, so wea-ry, worn, and sad; I
 I came to Je-sus, and I drank of that life-giv-ing stream; my
 I looked to Je-sus, and I found in him my star, my sun; and



found in him a rest-ing place, and he has made me glad.
 thirst was quenched, my soul re-vived, and now I live in him.
 in that light of life I'll walk till trav-eling days are done."

Each stanza here pairs an invitation from Jesus with a response from the narrator. These three invitations recall how Jesus welcomed those who were heavy laden (Matthew 11:28), offered living water (John 4:10-14), and identified himself as the light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5).

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord 432

Capo 1: (D) (A) (Bm) (G) (D) (A)(D)
 E^b B^b Cm A^b E^b B^b E^b

1 How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord, when once we heed your call
 2 But if, for-get - ful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;
 3 We mar - vel how your saints be-came in hin-dranc-es more sure:
 4 In what you give us, Lord, to do, to - geth - er or a - lone,

(G) (Em) (A) (F[#]m) (Bm) (G) (Em)
 A^b Fm B^b Gm Cm A^b Fm

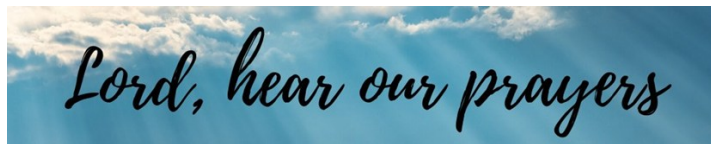
to live ac-cord-ing to your word and dai - ly learn, re-freshed, re -
 if world-ly pres-sures fray the mind and love it - self can - not un -
 whose joy - ful vir-tues put to shame the ca-sual way we wear your
 in old rou-tines or ven-tures new, may we not cease to look to

(A7) (D) (A7)(B) (Em) (G)(A7) (D)
 B^b7 E^b B^b7 C Fm A^b B^b7 E^b

stored, that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.
 wind its tan-gled skein of care: our in-ward life re - pair.
 name, and by our faults ob - scure your power to cleanse and cure.
 you: the cross you hung up - on, all you en - deav-ored, done.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This reflection on Christian vocation was written to provide a new text for a pre-existing tune, and the poet has crafted his words so well that the two parts mesh smoothly. The tune is named for a noted British boarding school, whose music director was a friend of the composer.

**CHURCH FAMILY:**

Runette Pounds, recovering at Fellowship Home
Gini Wilkerson, recovering from surgery
Kym Thomas, recovering from surgery
Min Lindsay, recovering from surgery
Sherry Henry, recovering from surgery
Harry Beck, ongoing health concerns
Louise Sallstrom, ongoing health concerns
Ellen Thompson, waiting on two hip replacements

EXTENDED FAMILY:

Ron Bracewell, Joy Bracewell's father, dealing with a cancer diagnosis
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
Bob Smart, Anne Smart's husband, ankylosing spondylitis
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

Thank you VOLUNTEERS!

Greeters

July 19: Susan McGill & Becky
Humphrey
July 26: Charles Burrell & Anne

Nursery Volunteers

July 19: Susan McGill/Laurie
Peebles
July 26: Joel Burns/Anne Smart

Bell Ringer

Jakob Freeman

Liturgists

July 19: Melba Burrell
July 26: Melba Burrell



Offerings in July \$ 10,703
Anticipated July expenses: \$ 13,423
(Monthly expenditures may exceed anticipated amounts)



THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH: July 19-26

Today	9:45	Adult Sunday School
	10:15	Children's Sunday School
	11:00	Worship
Monday	7:00	PATH/Oconee Recovery Coalition
Tuesday	9:00	Samaritan's Ministry
	9:30	Food Pantry
	12:00	Kiwanis
	7:30	NA Meeting
Wednesday	6:30	Potluck & Study
Thursday	7:30	NA Meeting
Saturday	7:30	NA Meeting
Sunday	9:45	Adult Sunday School
	10:15	Children's Sunday School
	11:00	Worship
	12:00	Sandwich Squad

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).



**New Number?
New Address?
New Haircut?
Let Us Know!**



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS

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

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Email: milledgevillepcusa@gmail.com

OFFICE HOURS

9am ~ 1pm Mon-Thur.



PERSEVERING *toward* WHOLENESS

The 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, addressed constitutional governance, racial justice, gender justice, denominational finances and the direction of the church, laying groundwork for work continuing through the next assembly.

Co-moderators elected, GA228 to be held in Puerto Rico

Commissioners elected the Rev. **Marta Pumroy-Cordero**, border ministry coordinator for the Tres Rios Border Foundation in Tres Rios Presbytery, and the Rev. **Dr. Kristopher D. Schondelmeyer**, pastor and head of staff at First Presbyterian Church in Davenport, Iowa, as co-moderators. They will preside at GA228, June 11-22, 2028, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Commissioners also **approved full, in-person assemblies**, including an exhibit hall, beginning in 2030.

Budget and per capita

Commissioners approved a **balanced \$188.4 million unified budget** for Presbyterian Life & Witness (PL &W) and the A Corporation for the 2027-2028 biennium, about \$5.8 million more than the previous budget: \$90.45 million for 2027 and \$97.92 million for 2028. Per capita rates were set at \$13.04 in 2027 and \$12.72 in 2028.

General Assembly Relationships

The GAR Committee approved the new Organization for Mission, the structure for the General Assembly as the denomination's highest council, and **established PL&W** and its governing board.

Israel/Palestine

Commissioners approved RIW-04, declaring that the **Israeli government has violated international law** prohibiting genocide in its war in Gaza. As amended, RIW-04 directs the denomination's Office of Public

Witness to advocate against U.S. military sales to Israel and purchases from Israel. It also encourages members to avoid products from Israeli companies linked to violations of international law.

Constitutional interpretation, missiology, and mission co-worker dismissals

Following testimony on staff dismissals during **World Mission's closure**, the assembly approved CON-02, directing PL&W and the A Corporation to revise employment policies to prohibit nondisclosure covenants for employees, with a report due to the 2028 assembly. RIW-01 calls for review of the processes that terminated mission co-worker positions and World Mission. RIW-02 directs the development of a new missiological statement for global engagement.

Pastors will now be required to complete **boundary and abuse-prevention training** at least every three years. An overture to remove the Board of Pensions' medical coverage requirements was rejected.

Commissioners referred CON-10, which seeks an authoritative interpretation of monogamy, for discussion within the theological framework proposed in GEN-09, "Beyond Changing Families."

Gender and Sexuality Justice

The Constitutional Interpretation Committee **rejected a call for a special study of the Olympia Overture amendments**, citing related proposals GEN-06 and GEN-09. GEN-06 directs the development



of a mechanism that would allow congregations to indicate their openness and readiness to call an LGBTQIA+ candidate on their Ministry Discernment Profiles. Candidates would be allowed to view congregational responses. GEN-09, "Beyond Changing Families: Flourishing Relationships and Belonging," seeks a theological framework and a study guide on human sexuality and gender that reflect the PC(USA)'s commitment to full inclusion.

The assembly reaffirmed support for **access to medically necessary gender-affirming healthcare** and approved development of a survey collecting non-identifying information about sexual misconduct in church settings.

Climate and Environmental Justice

The Climate Justice Committee approved CLJ-02, "Changing Course for a Green Future," directing **divestment from more than 50 companies** by 2030 and barring new investments in them. All CLJ items were placed on the consent agenda, including a call for education on regenerative farming and prioritizing responses to the climate crisis.

White Christian nationalism

Commissioners voted overwhelmingly to declare White Christian nationalism and similar ideologies "**a theological error**" incompatible with the teachings of Jesus Christ; language changes in the *Book of Order* require presbytery ratification. Commissioners rejected an amendment that would have removed references to White Christian nationalism from the Special Committee on the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Race report.

Racial justice

The Racial Justice Committee advanced several recommendations **strengthening the denomination's**

anti-racism work, including RAC-04, "The Report from the Special Committee on the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) on Race," directing "PL&W to create a tracking system that displays the progress/ completion of all GA business... related to race, racism, and White supremacy ..."

RAC-01 calls for PC(USA) entities to report to the 228th GA on implementation of RGJ-13, the 2022 Report from the Disparities Experienced by Black Women and Girls Task Force. RAC-03, the "Resolution on Liberia Project 180," explores establishing theological learning and repair, and developing **acknowledgment and apology for Presbyterian involvement** in and support of the American Colonization Society and its lasting effects on Indigenous Liberians.

Ordered ministry

The Theological Education and Ordination Committee approved changes **modernizing preparation for ministry** while preserving Presbyterian ordination standards. ORD-02 clarifies that ministry preparation in G-2.06 and G-2.07 of the *Book of Order* applies to those training for the ministry of Word and Sacrament; it requires a two-thirds presbytery vote. ORD-03, addressing collaborative ministry teams, was approved; ORD-04, seeking removal of the time-of-service requirement for ruling elders in mid council roles, was not.

A new confession

A newly appointed special committee will continue **considering a new confession**. The draft seeks to articulate Christian faith in response to contemporary challenges including racism, economic inequality, environmental degradation, violence and political polarization.

For full stories about General Assembly or other news from the PC(USA):

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