

# 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 23, 2026**  
**13th Sunday after Pentecost**

**PRELUDE**

*Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spoke*

Richard Lloyd

**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'm gonna live so God can use me*     GTG #700, vs. 1

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Hear O Israel! I am calling! Are you listening?

**Congregation: We are here and we are ready.**

Leader: Beloved Children, who do you say that I am?

**Congregation: You are our rock and our redeemer. Our trust is in you.**

**Our hearts, minds and souls belong to you!**

Leader: I created you, named you and have a calling for your life.

**Congregation: We give thanks with our whole hearts for your steadfast love!**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Ever-present God, who is at the side of every creature in creation, renew our lives so that we may discern and do your will, what is good and acceptable and perfect. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**\*HYMN 81**

*Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Forgiving God, we confess we are conformed to this world. We conform to this world's frantic pace, too hectic to notice all the blessings you provide. We conform to this world's reckless waste, exploiting what you entrusted to our care. We conform to this world's shallow values, oblivious to the giftedness of people different from us. We conform to this world's impatient attitudes, preferring the latest instead of the lasting. Forgive our conformity and transform us, O God. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**CHORAL RESPONSE** *I'm gonna pray so God can use me*

GTG #700, vs. 2

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Leader: The prophet Isaiah wrote, "Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me." Jesus promised, "I will give you the keys to the kingdom."

**Congregation: We know love and forgiveness because God first loved us and has been calling out to us forever, "You are my beloved!" May we respond to such abundant grace with deep gratitude for God's unending forgiveness.**

Leader: God loves us, heals us, strengthens us and calls us by name.

Through Jesus we are made whole!

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

**\*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**

*The Best of Rooms*

Robert Lehman

*Christ, He requires still, wheresoe'er He comes  
To feed or lodge, to have the best of rooms:  
Give Him the choice; grant Him the nobler part  
Of all the house: the best of all's the heart.*

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Exodus 1:8 – 2:10

OT 48

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Romans 12:1-2

NT 161

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 16:13-20

NT 18

**SERMON**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*The Confession of 1967 (9.24, 9.25, 9.26), inclusive language ed.*

**The new life finds its direction in the life of Jesus, his deeds and words, his struggles against temptation, his compassion, his anger, and his willingness to suffer death. The teaching of apostles and prophets guides men and women in living this life, and the Christian community nurtures and equips them for their ministries.**

**The members of the church are emissaries of peace and seek the good of all in cooperation with powers and authorities in politics, culture, and economics. But they have to fight against pretensions and injustices when these same powers endanger human welfare. Their strength is in their confidence that God's purpose rather than human schemes will finally prevail.**

**Life in Christ is life eternal. The resurrection of Jesus is the sign that God will consummate the work of creation and reconciliation beyond death and bring to fulfillment the new life begun in Christ.**

**\*HYMN 697**

*Take My Life*

**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](http://fpcmilledgeville.org).



**OFFERTORY***Andante*

Edouard Batiste, arr. David Paxton

**\*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**

God of Abundance, we have received blessings from you and today we hear your call to share our time, our talent and our treasure with your beloved community. May these gifts bring your light, love and hope to all who need them. Amen.

**BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD****\*HYMN 321***The Church's One Foundation***\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL BENEDICTION** *I'm gonna sing so God can use me* GTG #700, vs. 4

**\*POSTLUDE***Doing God's Will*

Christopher Tambling

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

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 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.
- All ladies of the church are invited to the PW Fall Workshops on Saturday, August 29. Contact the office or speak with Nancy Miller for more information.
- Sign up to provide meals for the youth group using this link [bit.ly/FeedYouth](https://bit.ly/FeedYouth) or by calling the church office.

**Greeters**

Aug. 23: John & Emily Bradley  
 Aug. 30: Nancy Miller & Millie  
 Murphy

**Nursery Volunteers**

Aug. 23: Joel Burns/Anne Smart  
 Aug. 30: Laurie Peebles/Susan  
 McGill

**Bell Ringer**

Jakob Freeman

**Liturgists**

Aug. 23: Jan Hoffman  
 Aug. 30: Andrew Allen



Offerings in August \$ 11,331  
 Anticipated August expenses: \$ 19,718  
*(Monthly expenditures may exceed anticipated amounts)*

**THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH: August 23-30**

|           |       |                                |
|-----------|-------|--------------------------------|
| Today     | 9:45  | Adult Sunday School            |
|           | 10:15 | Children's Sunday School       |
|           | 11:00 | Worship                        |
|           | 12:00 | Youth group                    |
| Monday    | 7:00  | PATH/Oconee Recovery Coalition |
| Tuesday   | 9:30  | Food Pantry                    |
|           | 12:00 | Kiwanis                        |
|           | 6:30  | Session meeting (via Zoom)     |
|           | 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 | Youth group                    |

## 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](mailto: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).



MORE LIGHT  
PRESBYTERIANS

Church Staff

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

[revmariturner@gmail.com](mailto:revmariturner@gmail.com)

**Children & Youth**, vacant

**Administrative Assistant**, Jessica McQuain

**Music Director**, Dr. Jennifer Flory, [jennifer.flory@gcsu.edu](mailto:jennifer.flory@gcsu.edu)

**Organist**, Kate Phillips

**Treasurer**, Joel Burns

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### OFFICE HOURS

9am ~ 1pm Mon-Thur.



# 81 Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken



1 Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y of our God.  
2 Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - ering, see the cloud and fire ap - pear  
3 See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e - ter - nal love,



God, whose word can - not be bro - ken, formed thee for a blest a - bode.  
for a glo - ry and a cov - ering, show - ing that the Lord is near.  
well sup - ply thy sons and daugh - ters and all fear of want re - move.



On the rock of a - ges found - ed, what can shake thy sure re - pose?  
Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner light by night and shade by day,  
Who can faint while such a riv - er ev - er flows, their thirst to as - suage?



With sal - va - tion's walls sur - round - ed, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.  
safe they feed up - on the man - na which God gives them when they pray.  
Grace, so like the Lord the giv - er, nev - er fails from age to age.



The Nazi appropriation of this tune for propaganda purposes has clouded a noble piece of music first associated with this text in 1889. In a 1779 collection, the author indicated that this hymn is primarily based on Isaiah 33:20–21 with allusions to several other passages.

## Take My Life

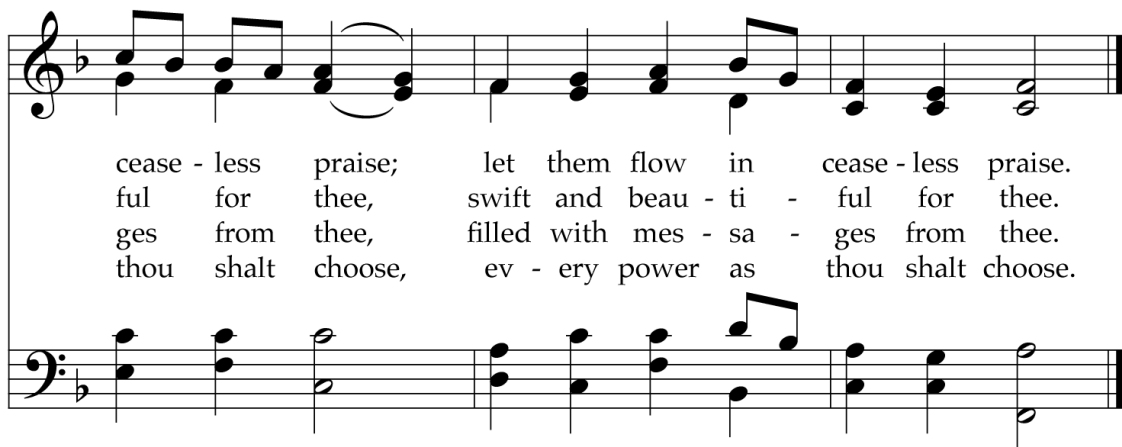
697



1 Take my life and let it be con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;  
 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;  
 3 Take my voice and let me sing al-ways, on - ly, for my King;  
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold; not a mite would I with-hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in  
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti -  
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sa -  
 take my in - tel - lect and use ev - ery power as



cease - less praise; let them flow in cease - less praise.  
 ful for thee, swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.  
 ges from thee, filled with mes - sa - ges from thee.  
 thou shalt choose, ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;  
 it shall be no longer mine.  
 Take my heart, it is thine own;  
 it shall be thy royal throne,  
 it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
 at thy feet its treasure store;  
 take myself and I will be  
 ever, only, all for thee,  
 ever, only, all for thee.

This hymn of consecration radiates from the repeated word "take," resulting in a remarkably full survey of a person's attributes and possessions and giving weight to the "all" at the end. The composer of the tune was influential in the renewal of Reformed hymnody in French.

# The Church's One Foundation 321

1 The chur-ch's one foun-da-tion is Je-sus Christ her Lord.  
 2 E-lect from ev-ery na-tion, yet one o'er all the earth,  
 3 Though with a scorn-ful won-der this world sees her op-pressed,  
 4 Mid toil and trib-u-la-tion, and tu-mult of her war,  
 5 Yet she on earth has un-ion with God, the Three in One,

She is his new cre-a-tion by wa-ter and the word.  
 her char-ter of sal-va-tion: one Lord, one faith, one birth.  
 by schis-ms rent a-sun-der, by her-e-sies dis-tressed,  
 she waits the con-sum-ma-tion of peace for-ev-er-more:  
 and mys-tic sweet com-mu-nion with those whose rest is won:

From heaven he came and sought her to be his ho-ly bride.  
 One ho-ly name she bless-es, par-takes one ho-ly food,  
 yet saints their watch are keep-ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"  
 till with the vi-sion glo-rious her long-ing eyes are blest,  
 O hap-py ones and ho-ly! Lord, give us grace that we,

With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
 and to one hope she press-es, with ev-ery grace en-dued.  
 And soon the night of weep-ing shall be the morn of song.  
 and the great church vic-to-rious shall be the church at rest.  
 like them, the meek and low-ly, may live e-ter-nal-ly.

This hymn was one of twelve written by an English curate to affirm the articles of the Apostles' Creed with biblical allusions such as 1 Corinthians 3:11 here. Though not created for this text, the tune was joined to it in 1868, and the two have been inseparable ever since.

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

## **EXTENDED FAMILY:**

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