

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 16, 2026
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

Holy Spirit, Truth Divine

Martin Setchell

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

In Christ there is no east or west

GTG #317, vs. 1

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Isaiah chapter 56 verse 7 reminds us,

"My House shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples, says the Lord."

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, whose compassion embraces everyone, gather the outcast and the lost, heal the wounds of fear and distrust, make us a community of reconciliation that we may embody your merciful love and rejoice in your astounding grace in Jesus Christ. Amen.

***HYMN 408**

There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess we have not been obedient to your will for us. We have sought justice for ourselves but neglected justice for others. We have insisted on our rights but have not lived rightly in our relationships. We have desired mercy for our sins, but we have not offered mercy to those who have sinned against us. By the power of your Holy Spirit free us from the prison of our disobedience. Help us to love as you have loved us that our lives may testify to your abounding grace through Jesus Christ. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere

GTG #317, vs. 2

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Friends, the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable.

Congregation: God's mercy is poured out on all.

Leader: Receive the gift of forgiveness and share that gift with others, in the name of Jesus Christ.

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

How very good and pleasant

Arlen Clarke

Vs. 1&3

How very good and pleasant,

How very good to see,

When kindred live together,

together in unity.

It is like the dew of Hermon,

Which falls upon the hills,

For there the Lord gives blessing,

And there our spirit fills.

Vs. 2

For peace shall come upon you,

Anointing ev'ry race,

The precious oil of Aaron,

The precious gift of grace.

The poor shall be uplifted,

The scornful be made low,

The Lord ordains his blessing,

And life, forever more.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Genesis 45:1-15

OT 42

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Romans 1:1-2a, 29-32

NT 152

SERMON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Confession of 1967, inclusive language ed.*

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men and women. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love. Amen.

***HYMN 250**

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

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

Spirit of God

arr. Brian Glyncannon

*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

Holy God, you tell us that “offerings will be accepted on your altar, for your house shall be called a house of prayer.” Thank you for all that you have given us. Continue to guide us as we dedicate these offerings and our lives to you. Amen.

BEARING GOD’S WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 686

God of Our Life

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

***CHORAL BENEDICTION** *In Christ now meet both east and west* GTG #317, vs. 4

*POSTLUDE

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty

Thomas Canning

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

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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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- We need more nursery volunteers! Speak with Anne Smart if you're interested in serving in this role on Sundays.
- Sign up to provide meals for the youth group using this link bit.ly/FeedYouth or by calling the church office.



Flowers on the communion table today are in thanksgiving for the birth of Oscar Jude Hall, Gini Wilkerson's nephew.



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

Call the church office to share updates or make sure your family's birthdays and anniversaries are correct! You can also get help accessing or updating the church directory if needed.

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

Greeters

Aug 16: Margaret Ivester & Susan McGill

Aug. 23: John & Emily Bradley

Nursery Volunteers

Aug 16: Susan McGill/Melba Burrell

Aug. 23: Joel Burns/Anne Smart

♥ Thank you ♥
VOLUNTEERS!

Bell Ringer

Jakob Freeman

Liturgists

Aug 16: Jan Hoffman

Aug. 23: Jan Hoffman



Offerings in August \$ 9,401
Anticipated August expenses: \$ 19,718
(Monthly expenditures may exceed anticipated amounts)



THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH: August 16-23

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	9:00	Samaritan's Ministry
	9:30	Food Pantry
	12:00	Kiwanis
	6:30	Session meeting
	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

Please note the office is typically unable to assist with regular inquiries during Samaritan Ministry hours, 8:30-11am on the third Tuesday of the month.

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

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OFFICE HOURS

9am ~ 1pm Mon-Thur.



408 There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit



1 There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, and I
2 There are bless - ings you can-not re - ceive till you

know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; there are
know him in his full - ness and be - lieve; you're the

sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, and I
one to prof - it when you say, "I am

know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord.
going to walk with Je - sus all the way."

This gospel hymn grew out of this African American author and composer's intense experience of prayer with her interracial choir in Los Angeles one Sunday morning before worship. She recalled that sense of "a sweet, sweet Spirit" when she sat down at her piano the next day.

Refrain

Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, sweet heav-en-ly Dove, stay right here

with us, fill-ing us with your love; and for these bless-ings we

lift our hearts in praise; with-out a doubt we'll know that we have

been re - vived when we shall leave this place.

In the Bulb There Is a Flower 250

Hymn of Promise

Capo 3: (D) F (Em) Gm



1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

(A7) C7 (D) F



in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

(D7) (G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (F#) (Bm)
 F7 Bb Gm F Dm Gm A Dm



In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

(G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (A7) (D)
 Bb Gm F Dm Gm C7 F



un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

The writing of this hymn was spurred by a line from the poet T. S. Eliot: "In my end is my beginning."
 Shortly after this piece was completed, the author/composer's husband was diagnosed with what proved to be a terminal malignancy, and the original anthem version of this hymn was sung at his funeral.

God of Our Life

686

1 God of our life, through all the cir-cling years, we trust in thee.
 2 God of the past, our times are in thy hand. With us a - bide.
 3 God of the com - ing years, through paths un-known we fol-low thee.

In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, thy hand we see.
 Lead us by faith to hope's true prom-ised land. Be thou our guide.
 When we are strong, Lord, leave us not a - lone. Our ref-uge be.

With each new day, when morn - ing lifts the veil,
 With thee to bless, the dark - ness shines as light,
 Be thou for us in life our dai - ly bread,

we own thy mer - cies, Lord, which nev - er fail.
 and faith's fair vi - sion chang - es in - to sight.
 our heart's true home when all our years have sped.

This text was created for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, by its pastor. He wrote these words especially for this tune, originally composed for John Henry Newman's text "Lead, Kindly Light."

TEXT: Hugh Thomson Kerr, 1916, alt.

MUSIC: Charles Henry Purday, 1860; harm. John Weaver, 1986

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(admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

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