

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.

16th Sunday after Pentecost

J. S. Bach

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

Wilt Thou Forgive?

Arlen Clarke

*Wilt thou forgive that sin where I begun,
Which was my sin, though it were done before?
Wilt Thou forgive that sin through which I run,
And do run still, though still I do deplore?
When Thou hast done, Thou hast not done;
For I have more.*

*Wilt Thou forgive that sin which I have won
Others to sin, and made my sins their door?
Wilt Thou forgive that sin which I did shun
A year or two, but wallow'd in a score?
When Thou hast done, Thou hast not done;
For I have more.*

*I have a sin of fear, that when I've spun
My last thread, I shall perish on the shore;
But swear by Thyself that at my death Thy Son
Shall shine as He shines now and heretofore:
And having done that, Thou hast done;
I fear no more.*

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

PSALTER LESSON:

Psalm 119:105–112

OT 569

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON:

Colossians 1:9–14

NT 199

SERMON

Growing in Faith and Knowledge

***HYMN 722**

Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

MOMENT FOR CHURCH LIFE *Commissioning of Christian Education Volunteers*

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

Our Father in the Heaven Who Art

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, we dedicate these tithes and offerings, along with the commitment of our daily lives, to your service. Use these gifts to nourish our ministries of education, to extend Christ's justice and mercy in our neighborhood, and to reveal the light of your love to a waiting world. Amen.

BEARING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 450** *Be Thou My Vision*

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION** *Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls*
GTG #444, vs. 4

***POSTLUDE** *Salvation Now is Come to Earth* J. S. Bach

Church members are asked to remain in the sanctuary for the Congregational Meeting.

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- This morning we Commission our Christian Education Volunteers who teach Sunday School and Lead the Youth Group:
Teachers: Gloria Burns and Anne Smart (Children); Rev. Mari Turner (Youth); Joel Burns, John Bradley, Melba Burrell, Carrie Cook, and Bill Werts (Adults)
Youth Leaders: Laurie Peebles and Rev. Mari Turner
- 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.

Class Offerings for Children & Youth

Children's Sunday School

Location: Upstairs Craft Room **Teachers:** Anne Smart & Gloria Burns

A fun, creative space where our youngest disciples encounter scripture through engaging stories, crafts, and foundational faith lessons.

Youth Sunday School

Location: Youth Room **Leader:** Rev. Mari

Using the PC(USA) *Faith Questions* curriculum, our youth dive into the real, pressing questions of faith, doubt, and identity, exploring honest answers together in a supportive community.

Class Offerings for Adults

Bible Study Class

Location: Betty Newton Campbell Parlor **Leader:** Joel Burns

For those seeking a deep, rich exploration of scripture. The class is currently walking through an in-depth study of the prophetic wisdom in the Book of Jeremiah.

The Fellowship Class *(Note the new location!)*

Location: Church Library **Leader:** Bill Werts

Focused on practical discipleship, this group reads and discusses contemporary Christian works that offer insight, encouragement, and challenge for daily faithful living.

The Engage Class *(New Offering!)*

Location: Upstairs Classroom (to the right of the stairs near Fellowship Hall)

Leaders: John Bradley, Carrie Cook, & Melba Burrell

Using the PC(USA) *Engage* curriculum, this interactive group journeys through prayer, spiritual practices, and open faith-sharing—discovering practical ways to live out our faith boldly and connect the church with our wider community.

Prayer List

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:

Jay Bastow, dealing with child cancer round 2, and parents Catherine & Jason Bastow, family friends of Pat & Sherry Henry
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
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

Sept. 13: Charles Burrell & Anne Smart

Sept. 20: Becky Humphrey & Nancy Miller

Nursery Volunteers

Sept. 13: Gloria Burns/Laurie Peebles

Sept. 20: Charles Burrell/Nancy Miller

Thank you
VOLUNTEERS!

Liturgists

Sept. 13: Frida Ituka

Sept. 20: Frida Ituka



Offerings in September \$ 6,703
 Anticipated September expenses: \$ 18,242
(Monthly expenditures may exceed anticipated amounts)

**THIS WEEK AT OUR CHURCH: September 13-20**

Today	9:45	Sunday School
	10:40	Fellowship
	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
Wednesday	7:30	NA Meeting
	6:30	Potluck & Study
Thursday	7:30	NA Meeting
Saturday	7:30	NA Meeting
Sunday	9:45	Sunday School
	10:40	Fellowship
	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 Engage Sunday School Class (meets in upstairs classroom), studying PC(USA) Engage Discipleship curriculum.

9:45 AM Bible 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.

9:45 AM Fellowship Sunday School Class (meets in the library) studying *God In Pain* by Barbara Brown Taylor.

9:45 AM Children's Sunday School Class, (meets in the Craft Room upstairs) singing, crafts and stories, & **Youth Sunday School Class** (meets in youth room upstairs)

12:00PM Youth Group (Youth Room)

Wednesday: 6:30PM Wednesday Night Potluck and Bible Study, (meeting in the Fellowship Hall). Potluck at 6:30 and study at 7:00.



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

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

Email: milledgevillepcusa@gmail.com

OFFICE HOURS

9am ~ 1pm Mon-Thur.



694 Great God of Every Blessing

1 Great God of ev - ery bless - ing, of faith - ful, lov - ing care,
 2 Your Word is our sal - va - tion, the source of end - less grace,
 3 Your Spir - it is our teach - er, the light that guides our search,

you are the fount of good - ness, the dai - ly bread we share.
 in death and life ex - tend - ing your cov - e - nant em - brace.
 trans - form - ing bro - ken peo - ple in - to the ho - ly church.

How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:
 In Christ we are one bod - y; each mem - ber has a part:
 For feed - ing us with mer - cy, for wis - dom you im - part:

sin - cere - ly and com - plete - ly I of - fer you my heart.

Written for the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's birth, this text sums up his liturgical theology, ending each stanza with his motto: *Cor meum tibi offero, Domine, prompte et sincere*. By moving from plural to singular the stanzas show how corporate faith becomes personal piety.

722 Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak

1 Lord, speak to me that I may speak in liv - ing
 2 O lead me, Lord, that I may lead the wan - dering
 3 O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the pre - cious
 4 O fill me with your full - ness, Lord, un - til my
 5 O use me, Lord, use e - ven me, just as you

ech - oes of your tone. As you have sought, so
 and the wa - vering feet. O feed me, Lord, that
 truths which you im - part. And wing my words that
 ver - y heart o'er - flow in kin - dling thought and
 will, and when, and where un - til your bless - ed

let me seek your err - ing chil - dren, lost and lone.
 I may feed your hun - gery ones with man - na sweet.
 they may reach the hid - den depths of man - y a heart.
 glow - ing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.
 face I see, your rest, your joy, your glo - ry share.

Two great truths inform this text: first, that the testimony of experience is powerful and persuasive; and second, that no one should venture to minister on one's own strength rather than God's. The tune reflects a 19th-century practice of adapting piano pieces as hymn tunes.

Be Thou My Vision

Capo 1: (D) E^b (G) A^b (D/F#) E^b/G (A7) B^b7 (D) E^b

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;
 4 High King of Heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

(A) B^b (D) E^b (G) A^b (A) B^b

naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

(G) A^b (D) E^b (F#m7) Gm7 (G) A^b (A) B^b

thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tower;
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

(Bm) Cm (D/F#) E^b/G (G) A^b (D) E^b

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heaven - ward, O Power of my power.
 High King of Heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

These stanzas are selected from a 20th-century English poetic version of an Irish monastic prayer dating to the 10th century or before. They are set to an Irish folk melody that has proved popular and easily sung despite its lack of repetition and its wide range.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

SCHEDULE



9:45

ALL SUNDAY
SCHOOL
CLASSES

10:40

FELLOWSHIP &
COFFEE

11:00

WORSHIP
SERVICE

12:00

YOUTH GROUP