

May 12, 2024
First Presbyterian Church
7th Sunday of Easter

We Gather in God's Name

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude *Sarabande* Mendelssohn

Welcome Rev. Maxwell Michaels

We Worship Together

*Call to Worship Kathie Cook

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked
We delight in God's Word, we meditate on God day and night.
Our worship grounds us in God, like trees planted by streams of water
God helps us yield good fruit. We do not wither when we spend
time in God's presence.

*Hymn 267 *Come, Christians Join to Sing* MADRID

Invitation to Confession (the congregation is seated)

As this Easter season comes to a close, we turn again to God to confess our sins, the sins of our community and our society, to prepare ourselves to live into the redemption Christ offers.

Prayer of Confession

Savior God, we invite you into our lives for a season, only to forget and neglect you once again. You beckon us, calling for our attention, but we are distracted and busy taking care of other priorities. Remind us, Holy God, that you are the source of our flourishing. You are the living water by which we have been planted. Forgive our neglect. Forgive our unfaithfulness. Focus us on you, your Word, and all that your Spirit provides. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Christ forgives. Christ transforms. Christ renews. Christ leads us down the path of new beginnings. We are a new creation, ready to sing God's glory and testify to God's grace. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us now greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

*Holy Interruption *We greet our neighbors in Christ's love*

*Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen, Amen.

Choral Anthem *The Gift of Love* Hopson
Chancel Choir

We Receive God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading Jeremiah 10:1-10

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

New Testament Reading Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Message "Which One Is It?" Rev. Maxwell Michaels

Affirmation of Faith *(from the Brief Statement of Faith)*

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God 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. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

*Hymn 735 *I Need Thee Every Hour* NEED

Announcements

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory *All Creatures of Our God and King* Kartsonakis

*Doxology *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* OLD HUNDREDTH
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Sacrament of Communion
Communion

Invitation to Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Elements

Communion Music *Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele*, BWV 654 J.S. Bach

Prayer After Communion

We Go Out to Serve

*Hymn 697 *Take My Life* (vs. 1-4) HENDON

*Benediction

*Benediction Response *The Lord Now Sends Us Forth* Aguiar
Chancel Choir

The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give, to make of all the earth a better place to live. Amen.

*Postlude *Postlude* Hesse

Please wait until the end of the benediction response by the choir before exiting.

*Those who are able, please stand as directed at the items marked with an asterisk

The Church This Week (5/12/2024)

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| Today | 10:00 a.m. | Sunday School |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Worship |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Youth |
| Mon. | 8:30 a.m. | MMO |
| Tues. | 6:00 p.m. | Women's Community Bible Study |
| Wed. | 8:30 a.m. | MMO |
| | 9:00 a.m. | Women's Community Bible Study |
| Sun. | 10:00 a.m. | Sunday School |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Worship |

Prayer List as of May 12, 2024

Gerry & Bobby Rogers
 Ina Coggeshall
 Gray & Bea Sloop
 Bennie and Benny Lou Moore
 Bobbie Jones
 Dr. Sue Arledge and her husband, Bob
 Shenell Malloy (Susan & Bill's daughter-in-law)
 Edward Tinsley
 Barbara Dickson
 For those suffering from chronic mental and emotional illnesses
 Ruth Jackson
 Peggy Hamden Stewart
 Nathan Jewart



The church has several volunteer opportunities available, including placing flowers in the sanctuary, providing nursery coverage during Sunday worship, and monitoring students and Pathfinders. If interested, please go to <https://www.cherawfpc.org/signup> and click the appropriate link. If you have any questions, please contact Cathy Chapman.

The sanctuary is equipped with a hearing loop. For individuals with hearing aids, please activate your T-coil to utilize this feature. Spare headsets are also available.

We will receive the Mother's Day Offering today which benefits residents at Presbyterian Communities whose financial resources have been exhausted. Our gifts make it possible for these residents who can no longer provide for themselves to remain in their "home." This peace of mind is a great gift.

Exciting news! Registration is now available online for Vacation Bible School! Check out the home page of our church website to register. Also, if you would like to help, there is a sign-up poster on the wall next to my office door. Please consider registering, signing up to help, or both! Due to limited seating, we are accepting the first 150 registrants!

<https://www.cherawfpc.org/>

What: Vacation Bible School

When: June 18-20

Time: 5-8 p.m.

Dinner included! Join me in diving deeper into a relationship with God!

May 19 is Graduation Sunday. There will be a reception in the Fellowship Building after worship to celebrate our graduates.



Our Vision

*Rooted by God's Grace,
 Growing in the Spirit,
 Reaching Out with Christ's Love*

Session of First Presbyterian Church

Class of 2024

Marietta Melton Burch
 Cathy Chapman
 Dan Tillman, III
 Charlene Tillman

Class of 2025

Kelli Beck
 Avery Dickson
 Mary Jane Evans
 Jean Page Watson

Class of 2026

Mary Anderson
 Andrew McLeod
 Kristen Miller
 Richard Pierce

The Church Staff

Rev. Maxwell Michaels, Pastor
 Mrs. Carolyn S. West, Secretary
 Mr. James W. Kendall, Sexton
 Mrs. Arnetha Kendall, Housekeeper
 Mrs. Mary Gullledge, Miss Eve Nobles, Nursery

Mrs. Mary Louise Baker, Music Director, DCE

Mrs. Kim Brabham, Director MMO
 Mrs. Sally Powell, MMO

Mission Partners

Mr. Mark Hare/ Mrs. Jenny Bent, Costa Rica
 Mrs. Ellen Smith, (mission co-worker) Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Poland

Sunday, May 12, 2024

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