

February 23, 2025
First Presbyterian Church
7th Sunday after Epiphany

We Gather in God's Name

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude *Praeludium in G Minor*, BuxWV 149 Buxtehude

Welcome Rev. Maxwell Michaels

We Worship Together

***Call to Worship** (*based on Psalm 37*) Cathy Chapman

Our salvation is from the Lord;
God is our refuge in times of trouble.
The Lord helps us and rescues us;
God saves us because we take refuge in our Lord.

***Hymn** 65 *Guide Me, O, Thou Great Jehovah* CWM RHONDDA

Invitation to Confession (the congregation is seated)
Jesus promised us that God is kind even to the ungrateful and the wicked,
even to us. Trusting in God's kindness and love, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, you have commanded us to love you above all and to have no other gods. You have called us to love others as you love them. But we are personally and socially deformed by the love of other "gods" — Forgive us for our sins and transform us by your Spirit so that we might learn to love as you love and live as people baptized as your own children. Show us your ways so that we can ever strive to be more like you in what we say and do. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, hear the good news of the gospel — God's radical forgiving, transforming and justice-seeking love will not let us go and is ever bringing resurrection and new life. Let us remember our baptisms and trust in God's mercy to restore our right standing as God's own. Thanks be to God!

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 *Jesus Paid it All* arr. by Hayes
(Chancel Choir)

Children's Message

We Receive God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading Genesis 45:3-11, 15

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Gospel Reading Luke 6:27-38

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Message "All We Do" 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. 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** 661 *Why Should I Feel Discouraged?* SPARROW

Announcements

Pastoral Prayers & 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.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory *Herzlich tut mich erfreuen*, No. 4 Brahms
(My Heart is Filled)

***Doxology** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* OLD HUNDRETH
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.

Prayer of Dedication

Holy God, may these gifts be used as a witness to your love, peace, and
justice at work in the world, renewing the face of the earth. Make our
thanksgiving bloom forth into the lives of others in the name of the one
who gave everything for us. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn** 465 *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* CONVERSE

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response** *Sweet, Sweet Spirit* Gaither

***Postlude** *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing* Whitworth

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

Acolytes for today: Mari Burch and Brylee Denham

The Church This Week (2/23/2025)

Today	10:00 a.m.	Church School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Tues.	6:00 p.m.	CBS
Wed.	9:00 a.m.	CBS
	5:30 p.m.	Prayer Meeting
Sun.	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship

Prayer List as of February 23, 2025

Gerry Rogers
 Ina Coggeshall
 Gray & Bea Sloop
 Benny Moore
 Bobbie Jones
 For those suffering from chronic mental and emotional illnesses
 Ruth Jackson
 B.J. Moore
 Edward Tinsley
 Louise Carpenter
 Friends and families affected by Hurricane Helene

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.

If you would like to place flowers or a plant in the sanctuary for worship service, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. You can also call or email Cathy Chapman and she can sign you up for a date.

We are excited to announce this year's Vacation Bible School, "True North," June 17-19, 5-8 p.m. Mark your calendars and learn more about trusting Jesus in a wild world!

Dear FPC Congregation,
 Thank you all so much for helping make our first annual BBQ with our friends at St. Davids Episcopal Church a huge success. We have gotten all our receipts in, paid expenses and am very happy to report that our net income for the BBQ is \$5003.44. This will be split with St. Davids and each church will give Path Finders and the McArn Food Bank checks for \$1250.00 each. So both entities will get \$2500.00 from our first BBQ. We could not have done this without each congregation volunteering to sell tickets, help cook, chop, cleanup and place bbq in containers, staff pickup areas, gather wood, clean pits, make and sell sauce, and a host of other things that was behind the scenes. A very big THANK YOU goes out to each of you. We had a lot of fun doing this and I truly believe that our two groups thoroughly enjoyed the interaction between our churches.
 On a more important note we cooked 882lbs of pork, burned almost 4 cords of oak, cooked on seven pits, sold 530 tickets (approx.) , had 60 plus volunteers, worked on Sat, Feb 1 cleaning up grates and pit area, worked all day Feb. 7 cooking starting at 7:15am and ending up around 7:45pm, Sat Feb.8 started at 8am cleaning up and volunteer group to bag, sell sauce and man the pick up were there from 10am until 2:30 pm. A lot of work, but a lot of fun too, and we helped two great organizations who do a wonderful job helping folks in Cheraw.
 look forward to next year and will be starting our planning in the fall. Thank you all so much.

Robby Bennett

Nursery Schedule for February - March

February 23	Penelope Angle	Lainey/Jessie Baker
March 2	May Jane Evans	Steve Cook
March 9	Charlene Tillman	Marietta Melton Burch
March 16	Maggie Lloyd	Michael Chapman
March 23	Brittany Tillman	Heather Tucker
March 30	Edward Tinsley	Jean Page Watson

The First Presbyterian Church has four scholarships available for young people:
 The **William Manning Malloy Memorial Scholarship** is available to the most qualified high school senior living within a five mile radius of Cheraw;
 The **Edwin Malloy Memorial Scholarship** is available to anyone seeking higher education opportunities living within a five mile radius of Cheraw;
 The **D. W. Moore, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund** is available to students seeking a degree in the field of music;
 The **McArn Scholarship Fund** is also available.
 The deadline for returning scholarship applications is March 1, 2025.

Announcing our NEW 2025 Church Pictorial Directory!
 Beth Shepard, with *Forever Yours Photography*, will take pictures of your family on March 1-3. See the times below and call the church office before Sunday, February 23rd to reserve your 10-min. time slot. We want everyone to be included to make this directory special for our church family! The sign-up sheet is available now.

Pictorial Directory Time Slots
Sat., March 1, 10 a.m.-12; 1-4
Sun., March 2, 12-4 p.m.
Mon., March 3, 5-7 p.m.

Session of First Presbyterian Church

<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>
Kelli Beck	Mary Anderson	Mike Chapman
Avery Dickson	Andrew McLeod	Christie McLeod
Mary Jane Evans	Kristen Miller	Tracie Phillips
Jean Page Watson	Richard Pierce	Harold Watson

The Church Staff

Rev. Maxwell Michaels, Pastor	Mrs. Mary Louise Baker, Music Director, DCE
Mrs. Carolyn S. West, Secretary	
Mr. James W. Kendall, Sexton	Mrs. Kim Brabham, Director MMO
Mrs. Armetha Kendall, Housekeeper	Mrs. Sally Powell, MMO
Miss Eve Nobles, Nursery	Mrs. Gini Eddins, MMO

Mission Partners

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



Our Vision

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

Sunday, February 23, 2025

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