

April 27, 2025
First Presbyterian Church
2nd Sunday of Easter and Service of Baptism

We Gather in God's Name

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude *That Easter Day With Joy Was Bright* Wood

Welcome Rev. Maxwell Michaels

We Worship Together

***Call to Worship** (*from Glory to God, #232*) Charlene Tillman
God of peace, we enter this holy room knowing the gospel's cornerstones of grace and mercy are often rejected in our world.

Yet we understand that rejection is not the end of the story.

We know that those we have come to know as the builders and the rulers of the world do not have the final word.

The Gospel of Grace is the Lord's doing.

Despite powers and principalities, despite the clamoring of meanness and cruelty,

this is the day that the Lord has made.

Grace is the ground upon which we walk.

Let us rejoice and be glad.

***Hymn** 826 *Lift High the Cross* CRUCIFER

Invitation to Confession

When we keep our fears and faults locked up inside us, it is hard to be healed and receive new life. So let us open ourselves to God in confession, trusting the Lord's desire to give us peace.

Prayer of Confession

God of the empty tomb and our empty hearts, when we are afraid to speak our faith in the world, forgive us and give us the power to forgive. When we are afraid to stand up to misguided authority, join with the weak to make us all strong. When we are confined by our hurts, touch us with your wounded hands and set us free. When we are locked behind our doubts and fears, pass through our barricades, open our hearts, and give us peace. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

The God of truth is present to us in the speaking of truth. The Spirit of grace is present to us in the sharing of grace. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

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 Lord is My Light* (Psalm 27) Frances Allitsen

Dr. Raymond M. Harris, baritone

The Lord is my light and my salvation. Whom, then shall I fear?

The Lord is the strength of my life. Of whom then shall I be afraid?

Though a host of men were laid against me, yet shall not my heart be afraid;

And tho' there rose up war against me, yet will I put my trust in Him.

For in the time of trouble, He shall hide me in His tabernacle.

Yea, in the secret places of His dwelling shall He hide me,

And set me up upon a rock of stone.

Children's Message

We Receive God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading Psalm 150

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Gospel Reading John 20:19-31

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Message "Waterfalls" Rev. Maxwell Michaels

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

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

***Hymn** 829 *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* OLIVET

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 *I Know That My Redeemer Liveth*, from "The Messiah" Handel

***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.

Baptism and Profession of Faith

Presentation

Profession of Faith

Thanksgiving Over the Water

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Baptism

Welcome

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn** 837 *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* SHOWALTER

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response** *He Lives!* ACKLEY
Chancel Choir

He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today! He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way. He lives, He lives salvation to impart! You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.

***Postlude** *Lift High the Cross* Manz

Please wait until the end of the postlude before exiting.

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

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary today by Rickey & Susie Pace in loving memory of their parents.

Special thanks to Dr. Raymond M. Harris, Weiz's dad, for sharing his time & talents with us today.

Acolytes for today: Ella Morgan and Campbell Harris

The Church This Week (4/27/2025)

Today	10:00 a.m.	Church School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Mon.	8:30 a.m.	MMO
Tues.	5:00 p.m.	McArn
	6:00 p.m.	CBS
Wed.	8:30 a.m.	MMO
	9:00 a.m.	CBS
Sun.	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship

Prayer List as of April 27, 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
 Randy Jewart

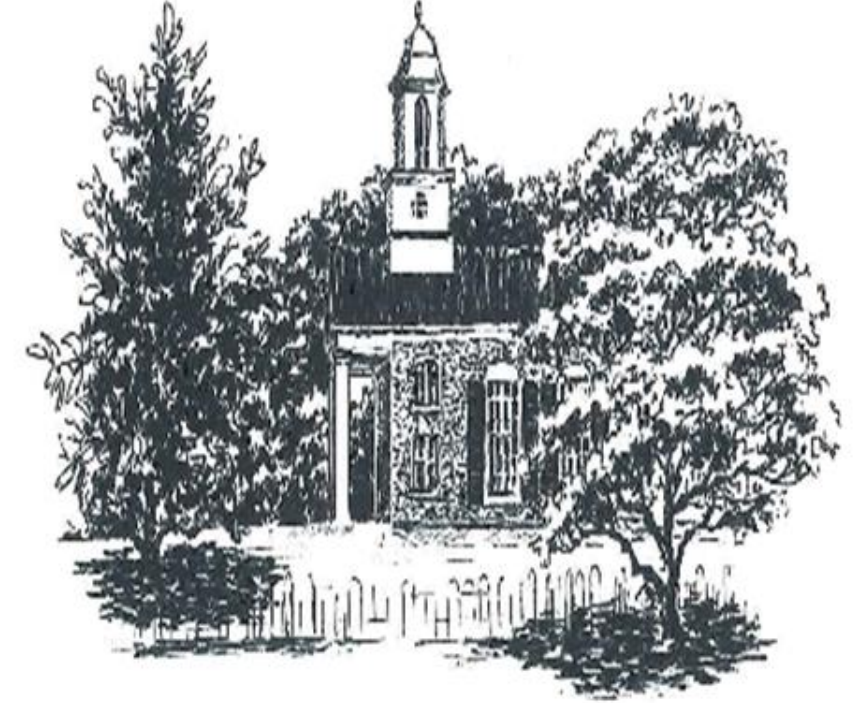
The sanctuary is equipped with a hearing loop. For individuals with hearing aids, please activate your T-coil to utilize this feature. Spare headsets are also available.

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 will have our first VBS "True North" meeting this afternoon at 5:30 p.m. in the Library. If you'd like to help with this year's Vacation Bible School, please join us! It's going to be a fun experience for all!

Nursery Volunteer Schedule for April - June

April 27	Jean Page Watson	Mary Jane Evans
May 4	Laura Folger	Cathy Chapman
May 11	Alison Chapman	Jesse/Lainey
May 18	Laura Folger	Cathy Chapman
May 25	Charlene Tillman	
June 1		Steve Cook
June 8	Mary Jane Evans	Marietta Melton Burch
June 15	Maggie Lloyd	Michael Chapman
June 22	Brittany Tillman	Heather Tucker
June 29	Beth Witherspoon	Jean Page Watson



Our Vision

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

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. Arneitha Kendall, Housekeeper	Mrs. Gini Eddins, MMO
Miss Eve Nobles, Nursery	

Sunday, April 27, 2025

First Presbyterian Church
 300 Market Street
 PO Box 552
 Cheraw, SC 29520
 (843) 537-7474
 Email: info@cherawfpc.org