

July 5, 2026
First Presbyterian Church
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather in God’s Name

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude Prelude in Classic Style Young

Welcome Rev. Maxwell Michaels

We Worship Together

*Call to Worship Kathie Cook
O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.
O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

*Hymn 35 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty LOBE DEN HERREN

Invitation to Confession
The apostle Paul wrote to the believers in Galatia, “For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.”
With full assurance of God’s grace and mercy in Jesus Christ, let us confess our sin before God and our neighbor.

Prayer of Confession
Gracious and loving God, forgive us when turn a deaf ear to your call in Jesus Christ and to the cries of those in the world who need your love and our help. Forgive us when we treat discipleship as a yoke of oppression rather than a blessing and gift for leading a faithful life as your people. O Lord, forgive our sin. Help us to know and love you with all that we are that we may love our neighbors as we love ourselves. We pray for the strength of your Holy Spirit to equip us for our calling as followers of Jesus Christ, in whom we have our hope and put our trust. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon
The apostle Paul also wrote to the believers in Galatia, “For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” Hear and believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.
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

*Gloria Patri

We Receive God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading Zechariah 9:9-12
This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God!

Gospel Reading Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God!

Sermon “Free Bird” Rev. Maxwell Michaels

Affirmation of Faith (from the Barmen Declaration)
“Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption” (1 Corinthians 1:30). As Jesus Christ is God’s assurance of the forgiveness of all our sins, so in the same way and with the same seriousness is he also God’s mighty claim upon our whole life. Through him befalls us a joyful deliverance from the godless fetters of this world for a free, grateful service to his creatures. We reject the false doctrine, as though there were areas of our life in which we would not belong to Jesus Christ, but to other lords — areas in which we would not need justification and sanctification through him.

*Hymn 377 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light HOUSTON

Announcements

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Tribute to America Mark Hayes

*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 Nocturne in E-flat Major, Op. 9 No. 2 Frederic Chopin

Prayer After Communion

We Go Out to Serve

*Hymn 375 Shall We Gather at the River HANSON PLACE

*Benediction

Benediction Response Go, My Children, With My Blessing
Chancel Choir AR HYD Y NOS

*Postlude Olympic Fanfare Leo Arnaud

*Please wait until the end of the Benediction Response before exiting.

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

Acolytes

The Church This Week (7/5/2026)

Today 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Worship
Tue. 12:00 p.m. AT Ease
Sun. 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Worship

Prayer List as of July 5, 2026

Gerry Rogers
Benny Moore
For those suffering from chronic mental and emotional illnesses
B.J. Moore
Louise Carpenter
Shirley Brock
Edward Tinsley
Ruth Jackson
Nadia Harris
Lesley Jean Watson
Pam Cook (Alison Chapman's mother)
Wyatt Smith
Summer Cathey
Lynn Smith
Harold Watson
Susan Malloy
Mary Gulledge
Kathy Bradshaw
Jessie Baker
Betty Davis
Sue Funderburk
Sherryl Shaw (Friend of Susie Pace)
Bobbie Jones
Johnny Hickey

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 outside of the church office. You can also call, or email Cathy Chapman and she can sign you up for a date.

Ice Cream Social – Sunday, July 19 at the New Shelter at 4:00 pm

If you have a favorite home-made ice cream you would like to bring and share it with everyone, please bring it! We will also have ice cream and all the fixing, too. So come join the fun!

Join Us Sunday, July 26th!

Join us for a special afternoon of music as we celebrate the talents of Jackson & Watson in a combined organ and piano recital. Their dedication, hard work, and love of music have blessed our church family, and we invite the congregation to come and support them as they share their gifts in praise to God. We hope you will attend this joyful occasion of music and celebration on **Sunday, July 26th at 3pm** in the sanctuary with a reception to follow in the Fellowship Building.

Nursery Volunteer Schedule for July - September

July 5	Cathy Chapman
July 12	Marietta Melton Burch
July 19	Alison Chapman
July 26	Kelli Beck
August 2	Brittany Tillman
August 9	Steve Cook
August 16	Charlene Tillman
August 23	Lainey Baker
August 30	Laura Folger
Sept. 6	Mary Jane Evans
Sept. 13	Jenny Michaels
Sept. 20	Maggie Barton
Sept. 27	Heather Tucker

Session of First Presbyterian Church

<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>	<u>Class of 2028</u>
Mary Anderson	Mike Chapman	John Folger
Andrew McLeod	Christie McLeod	Cam Beck
Kristen Miller	Tracie Phillips	Tammy Joyce
Richard Pierce	Harold Watson	Steve Cook

Board of Decans of First Presbyterian Church

<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>	<u>Class of 2028</u>
Marion Anderson	Buddy Brooks	Karen Tillman
Becky Childers		Debra Luke
Bron Long		

The Church Staff

Rev. Maxwell Michaels, Pastor	Mrs. Mary Louise Baker, Music Director, DCE
Mrs. Danielle Self, Office Administrator	
Mr. James W. Kendall, Sexton	Mrs. Gini Eddins, Director MMO
Mrs. Arnetha Kendall, Housekeeper	
Miss Eve Nobles, Nursery	



Our Vision

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

Sunday, July 5, 2026

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