

July 12, 2026
First Presbyterian Church
7th Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather in God’s Name

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude *Fanfare* William Mathias
Jackson Alexander, organ

Welcome Rev. Maxwell Michaels

We Worship Together

*Call to Worship *(based in Psalm 89)* Jean Page Watson
All who walk in shadow, come into the light!
God’s Word lights the way for us.
God has promised to abide with us.
So let us commit to walk in God’s ways.
All who are afflicted, ensnared by the world, come give praise to God.
God is the joy of our heart, our sure and certain comfort, come what may!

*Hymn 610 *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing* AZMON

Invitation to Confession
In Christ, there is no condemnation, for perfect love casts out sin. Let us confess our sins to God.

Prayer of Confession
Patient and persistent God, we come, polished and presentable, to this comfortable room as if we knew what to expect, as if this were a safe and predictable place, as if we could simply observe. Holy One, forgive our tepid expectations. In the mystery of your love, overshadow us. Plant the seeds of your gospel in each of our hearts until we bloom and spill with your passion to serve in a world that is wasting. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon
There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. The Spirit of God dwells in you. If you hear nothing else today, hear these words: there is no condemnation. In the name of Jesus, you 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

*Gloria Patri

We Receive God’s Word

Children’s Message

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 55:10-13
This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God!

Gospel Reading Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God!

Sermon “Sowing The Seeds of Love ” Rev. Maxwell Michaels

Affirmation of Faith *(from the Barmen Declaration)*
The Christian Church is the congregation of the brethren in which Jesus Christ acts presently as the Lord in Word and Sacrament through the Holy Spirit. As the Church of pardoned sinners, it has to testify in the midst of a sinful world.
So we reject the false doctrine, as though the church in human arrogance could place the Word and work of the Lord in the service of any arbitrarily chosen desires, purposes, and plans. Amen.

*Hymn 177 *I Will Come to You* YOU ARE MINE

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 *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* arr. by Faber
Annie McDiarmid, piano

*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.

Prayer of Dedication
Holy God, you have called us together as your people, gathered in your church, to struggle on behalf of your promises of grace and life for all the world. So we pledge this portion of what is precious to us gratefully and hopefully. Bless and multiply these gifts. May their fruit demonstrate the unfathomable, inestimable glory that is yours in Christ Jesus. And if that’s asking too little, do more! In Jesus’ name we pray: Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

*Hymn 300 *We Are One in the Spirit* CHRISTIANS

*Benediction

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

*Postlude *Russian Folk Song* arr. by Faber
Come See the Parade arr. by Faber
Lauchlin McDiarmid, organ

*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 (7/12/2026)

Today 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Worship

Mon.

Tue.

Wed.

Thurs.

Fri.

Sun. 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Worship
 4:00 p.m. Ice Cream Social

Prayer List as of July 12, 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
Lynn Smith
Harold Watson
Susan Malloy
Mary Gullledge
Kathy Bradshaw
Jessie Baker
Betty Davis
Sue Funderburk
Bobbie Jones
Jessi Tillman

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 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

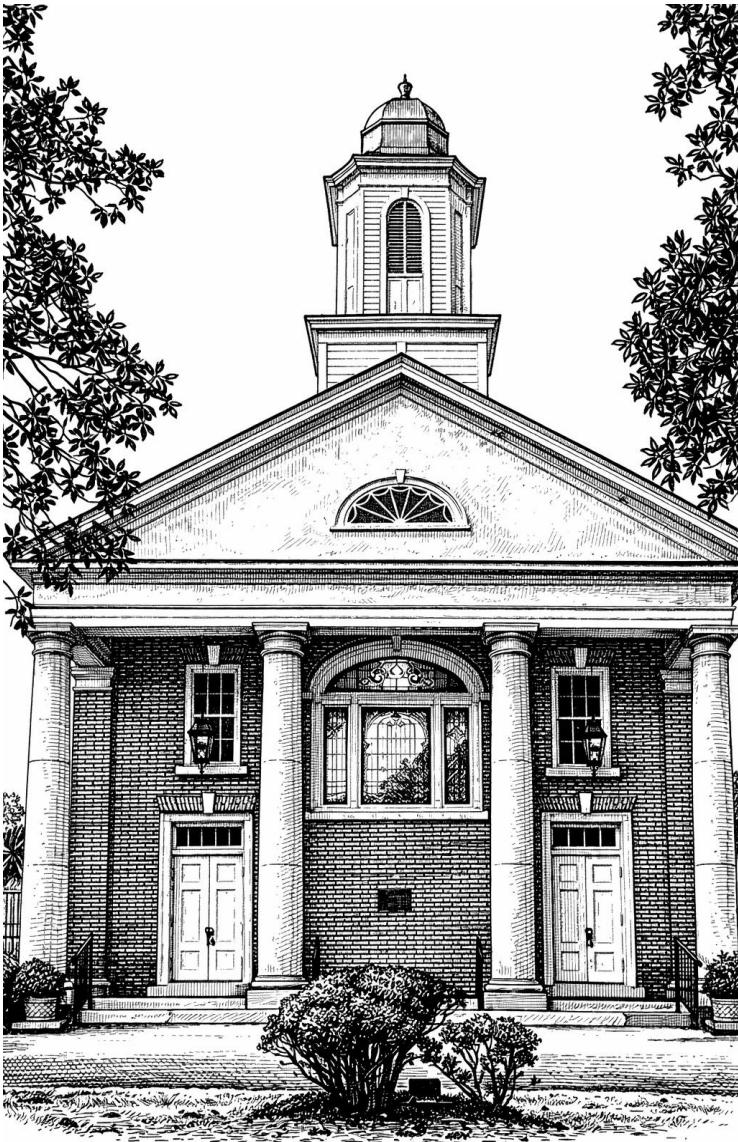
<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>	<u>Class of 2028</u>
Mary Anderson	Mike Chapman	John Folger
Andrew McLeod	Christie McLeod	Cam Beck
Kristen Miller	Tracie Phillips	Tammy Joyce
Richard Pierce	Harold Watson	Steve Cook

Board of Deacons 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 12, 2026

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