

August 9, 2026
First Presbyterian Church
Rally & Backpack Sunday

We Gather in God’s Name

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude Praise to the Lord, the Almighty Neander/Keveren

Welcome Rev. Maxwell Michaels

We Worship Together

*Call to Worship (based on 1 Kings 11-13)
Upon Mount Horeb, Elijah heard the voice of God, not in the wind, or the earthquake, or the fire, but in the sound of sheer silence.
Holy God, quiet our minds and our hearts, rid us of distraction, so we can hear you and know you among us.

*Hymn 307 God of Grace and God of Glory CWM RHONDDA

Invitation to Confession
We return to God through confession. Let us honestly acknowledge how we have gone astray and confess our sins to God.

Prayer of Confession
God our refuge, you hear our cries for mercy. You know our exhaustion, our cynicism, our sense of defeat. You lift the lowly and offer hope to the hopeless. But we are quick to lose perspective and exaggerate critique. We confess the ways we are tempted to give up on the path of righteousness. We pray for your forgiveness. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. In the name of 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

*Gloria Patri

We Receive God’s Word

Children’s Message & Blessing of the Backpacks

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading: 1 Kings 19:9-18
This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 14:22-33
This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God!

Sermon “Riders on the Storm” Rev. Maxwell Michaels

Affirmation of Faith (from a Brief Statement of Faith)
We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

*Hymn 722 Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak CANONBURY

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 For the Beauty of the Earth 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.

Prayer of Dedication
Gracious God, the gifts we offer reflect only a portion of all that you have given us. Take these offerings, we pray, and multiply them for your use. May our offerings be a blessing to those most in need, to those most vulnerable. May our offerings, given in a spirit of generosity, abate the desire to hoard, and spread the desire to share. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

*Hymn 757 Today We are Called to Be Disciples KINGSFOL

*Benediction

Benediction Response God Be With You Till We Meet Again Rankin/Tomer

*Postlude Rejoice, the Lord is King Mark Hayes

*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 flowers are placed in the sanctuary today to the Glory of God by Susan and Bill Malloy, in loving memory of Drusilla Walker (August 7, 1923 – October 29, 2024).

The Church This Week (8/9/2026)

Today 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Worship (Rally Day & Backpack Sunday)
 12:00 p.m. Covered Dish Luncheon
Mon. Church Office Closed
Tue.
Wed.
Thurs.
Fri.
Sun. 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Worship (Blue Grass Sunday)

Prayer List as of August 9, 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 Gulledge
Kathy Bradshaw
Jessie Baker
Betty Davis
Sue Funderburk
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.

Covered Dish Luncheon Today!

Following our **Rally Day Worship Service**, we will gather for a **Covered Dish Luncheon** in the Fellowship Hall. The committee will be providing fried chicken, and we invite everyone planning to attend to bring a side dish or dessert to share. We hope you will join us for a wonderful time of fellowship as we celebrate the beginning of our new church season. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

‘Blessing of the Backpack Sunday’ is Today!

Children & youth are asked to bring their bookbags to church next Sunday for a time of prayer and blessing. As we begin a new school year, let us uplift our students, teachers, bus drivers, administrators, and the entire school community in prayer. Hope to see you next Sunday!

Nursery Volunteer Schedule for August – September

August 9	Kelli Beck
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, August 9, 2026

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