

August 16, 2026
First Presbyterian Church
Bluegrass Sunday

We Gather in God’s Name

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude Give Me That Old Time Religion Traditional Gospel

Welcome Rev. Maxwell Michaels

We Worship Together

*Call to Worship (adapted from Psalm 100) Sam Baker
Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!
Come into God’s presence with singing.
We come with thanksgiving, with music and praise!
For the Lord is good;
His steadfast love endures forever.
Let us worship the Lord with joy in our hearts and a song on our lips!

*Hymn I’ll Fly Away (insert) I’LL FLY AWAY

Invitation to Confession (adapted from Psalm 145)
Friends, before the music lifts us up, we take a moment to lay our burdens down. Scripture reminds us: “The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love”
Let us come honestly before God, trusting in that love.

Prayer of Confession
Merciful God, we confess that we have not always lived in tune with Your grace. We have played our own rhythms, ignored Your harmony, and missed the joy of walking in step with Your Spirit. We have hurt others with careless words and kept quiet when love called us to speak. Forgive us, Lord. Tune our hearts once more to sing Your praise, and lead us in the path of mercy, justice, and joy. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (from Romans 11:29)
Paul writes: “I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.” God has shown us mercy, and God will be merciful to all. Hear and believe this good news: in 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

*Hymn 370 This is My Father’s World TERRA BEATA

We Receive God’s Word

Children’s Message Ken Rogerson

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God!

Special Music Beaumont Rag Traditional Bluegrass
Dueling Banjos Arthur Smith

Gospel Reading: Matthew 15:21-28
This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God!

Homily “Old Home Place” Rev. Maxwell Michaels

Affirmation of Faith (from the Apostles’ Creed)
I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.
Amen.

*Hymn 835 Just a Closer Walk With Thee CLOSER WALK

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 Amazing Grace Traditional American

*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 (from Isaiah 56:7)
Holy God, you tell us that “offerings will be accepted on your altar, for your house shall be called a house of prayer.” Thank you for all that you have given us. Continue to guide us as we dedicate these offerings and our lives to you. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

*Hymn Sweet By and By (insert) SWEET BY AND BY

*Benediction

Benediction Response Count Your Blessings BLESSINGS
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God hath done.
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.

*Postlude In the Highway, In the Hedges Traditional Gospel
(from Luke 14:23)

*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

*Special thanks to the Longleaf Social Club, a local bluegrass band, for leading us in worship today. Band members are Kris Houser, Bill Rivers, Ken Rogerson, & Patrick Oliver.

The Church This Week (8/16/2026)

Today 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Worship (Blue Grass Sunday)

Mon.

Tue.

Wed.

Thurs. 6:00 p.m. Session Meeting

Fri. Church Office Closed

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

Prayer List as of August 16, 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
Robbie McCombs

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.

Chancel Choir

Join us for a new season of music making! Chancel Choir Practice begins on **Wednesday, August 26th** in the choir room from 6-7 p.m.! All are welcome! Hope to see you there!

FUN Program Registration is NOW OPEN!

We’re excited to announce that registration is now open for our FUN Program for 1st–5th graders!

This is a wonderful opportunity for children to:

- Grow in their faith
- Build lasting friendships
- Enjoy fun activities, games, & crafts
- Learn how to read music, play handbells, and sing in the choir!

Come be a part of a ministry where faith, fun, and friendships grow together! Fun Program begins on Sept. 2! Register online only: cherawfpc.org

Nursery Volunteer Schedule for August – September

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

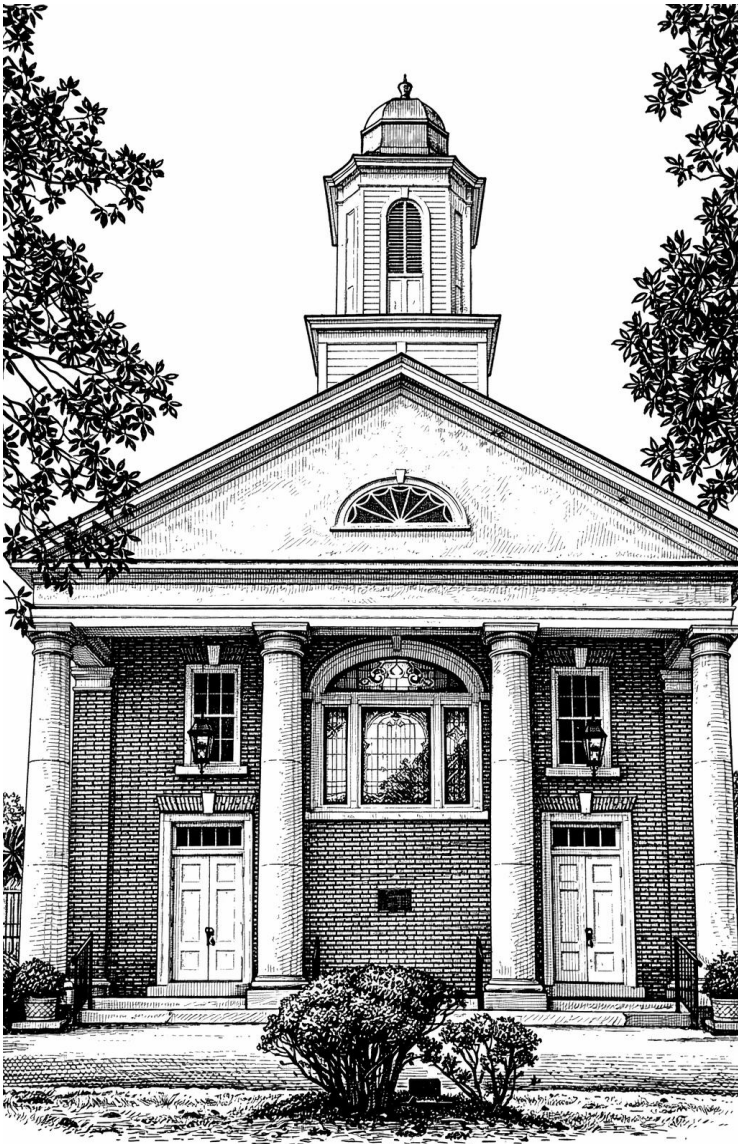
<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>	<u>Class of 2028</u>
Marion Anderson	Buddy Brooks	Karen Tillman
Becky Childers		Debra Luke
Bron Long		

The Church Staff

Rev. Maxwell Michaels, Pastor
Mrs. Danielle Self, Office Administrator
Mr. James W. Kendall, Sexton
Mrs. Arnetha Kendall, Housekeeper
Miss Eve Nobles, Nursery

Mrs. Mary Louise Baker, Music Director, DCE

Mrs. Gini Eddins, Director MMO



Our Vision

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

Sunday, August 16, 2026

First Presbyterian Church
300 Market Street
PO Box 552
Cheraw, SC 29520
(843) 537-7474

Email: info@cherawfpc.org