

August 23, 2026  
First Presbyterian Church  
13th Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather in God’s Name

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude Praeludium in E Minor Nikolaus Bruhns

Welcome Rev. Maxwell Michaels

We Worship Together

\*Call to Worship  
Hear O Israel! I am calling! Are you listening?  
We are here and we are ready.  
Beloved Children, who do you say that I am?  
You are our rock and our redeemer. Our trust is in you. Our hearts, minds and souls belong to you!  
I created you, named you and have a calling for your life.  
We give thanks with our whole hearts for your steadfast love!

\*Hymn 682 It is Good to Sing Thy Praises ELLESDIE

Invitation to Confession  
You call out to us, Lord, but we struggle to listen. As we come before you with our hearts open, quiet the noise of the world, of our pressing thoughts and fears, so that we may hear your Spirit fully.

Prayer of Confession  
God of truth, like a moth that gnaws at wool, our brokenness eats away at our souls. We allow the cacophony of greed, selfishness, apathy and ignorance to drown out your voice as you call us to see the suffering in our world and respond to the needs of your children. In our busy lives, we convince ourselves that there is no time to help, no space for prayer and no need for justice. Forgive us. Remind us that only when we slow down and breathe deeply of your Holy Spirit and holy Word can our ears hear your voice. Inspire us to greater love for you and for one another. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon  
We know love and forgiveness because God first loved us and has been calling out to us forever, “You are my beloved!” May we respond to such abundant grace with deep gratitude for God’s unending forgiveness.  
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

Children’s Message

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6  
This is the Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God!

New Testament Reading: Romans 12:1-8  
This is the Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God!

Sermon “Who Are You” Rev. Maxwell Michaels

Affirmation of Faith (from The Confession of 1967)  
The new life finds its direction in the life of Jesus, his deeds and words, his struggles against temptation, his compassion, his anger, and his willingness to suffer death. The teaching of apostles and prophets guides men and women in living this life, and the Christian community nurtures and equips them for their ministries. The members of the church are emissaries of peace and seek the good of all in cooperation with powers and authorities in politics, culture, and economics. But they have to fight against pretensions and injustices when these same powers endanger human welfare. Their strength is in their confidence that God’s purpose rather than human schemes will finally prevail. Life in Christ is life eternal. The resurrection of Jesus is the sign that God will consummate the work of creation and reconciliation beyond death and bring to fulfillment the new life begun in Christ.

\*Hymn 729 Lord I Want to Be a Christian CHRISTIAN

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 Jesus Loves the Little Children arr. by 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  
God of Abundance, we have received blessings from you and today we hear your call to share our time, our talent and our treasure with your beloved community. May these gifts bring your light, love and hope to all who need them.

We Go Out to Serve

\*Hymn 840 It is Well With My Soul VILLE DU HAVRE

\*Benediction

Benediction Response 546 Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing  
Chancel Choir SICILIAN MARINERS

\*Postlude Finale on “Hyfrydol” Henry Coleman

\*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 Boone Lloyd and Chrstopher Tucker

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary today to the Glory of God by Mary Jane and David Evans, in loving memory of Jim Lockamy.

**The Church This Week (8/23/2026)**

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

Mon.

Tue.

Wed.       5:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting  
            6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thurs.

Fri.

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

**Prayer List as of August 23, 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  
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 this **Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>** 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](http://cherawfpc.org)

**Nursery Volunteer Schedule for August – September**

|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| August 23 | Lainey Baker    |
| August 30 | Kelli Beck      |
| Sept. 6   | Mary Jane Evans |
| Sept. 13  | Jenny Michaels  |
| Sept. 20  | Maggie Barton   |
| Sept. 27  | Heather Tucker  |

**Session of First Presbyterian Church**

Class of 2026

Mary Anderson  
Andrew McLeod  
Kristen Miller  
Richard Pierce

Class of 2027

Mike Chapman  
Christie McLeod  
Tracie Phillips  
Harold Watson

Class of 2028

John Folger  
Cam Beck  
Tammy Joyce  
Steve Cook

**Board of Deacons of First Presbyterian Church**

Class of 2026

Marion Anderson  
Becky Childers  
Bron Long

Class of 2027

Buddy Brooks

Class of 2028

Karen Tillman  
Debra Luke

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 23, 2026**

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