

September 20, 2026
First Presbyterian Church
17th Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather in God’s Name

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude Someone’s Singing, Lord, from Kum Bah Yah John Behnke

Welcome Rev. Maxwell Michaels

We Worship Together

*Call to Worship (from Psalm 145:1-8) Fred Harris
Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised
God’s greatness is unsearchable.
From generation to generation, we sing of your righteousness.
The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in
steadfast love

*Hymn 49 The God of Abraham Praise LEONI

Invitation to Confession
God loves us and calls us by name. Too frequently, we stake our claim on that
tenderness and use it as a weapon against others, forgetting that God’s love
does not build walls but knocks them down. Let us set down our burdens and
our defenses as we confess our sins in front of God and one another.

Prayer of Confession
Almighty God, when we follow the path of Jonah and allow our anger
and frustration to cut us off from others, you sit next to us and call us
back to your way of mercy, love and redemption. It is one thing to accept
these gifts for ourselves; it is another to extend them to those who
frustrate us. Forgive us for our anger, resentment, and desire to hoard.
We lay these impulses at your feet and ask that you create a new heart
within us, one modeled after your steadfast love and generosity. Help us
to see the world in new ways. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (2 Corinthians 5:17)
Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old has gone; a new life has
begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.
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

Choral Anthem Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus Helen Lemmel
Chancel Choir

We Receive God’s Word

Children’s Message

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading: Jonah 3:10-4:11
This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 20:1-16 or Philippians 1:21-30
This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God!

Sermon “You Can’t Always Get What You Want” Rev. Maxwell Michaels

Affirmation of Faith (from The Apostles’ Creed)
I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived of the
Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was
crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He
arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth at the
right hand of God the Father Almighty, from whence He shall come to
judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy
catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the
resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

*Hymn 54 Make a Joyful Noise DIX

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 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing Paul Manz

*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
Almighty God, we offer you these gifts and our hearts alongside them.
May they be blessed to do your bidding. May our expectations of what is
right and what is wise always be governed by your unruly love. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

*Hymn 816 If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee
WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

*Benediction

Benediction Response 545 Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace
LAND OF REST

*Postlude Recessional Edward Wetherill

*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 Mari Burch and Campbell Harris

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.

The Church This Week (9/20/2026)

Today 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. Congressional Meeting
5:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice
5:30 p.m. Youth
Mon. 8:30 a.m. MMO

Tue. 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

Wed. 8:30 a.m. MMO
3:15 p.m. Fun Program
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 September 20, 2026

Gerry Rogers
Benny Moore
For those suffering from chronic mental and emotional illnesses
Louise Carpenter
Shirley Brock
Ruth Jackson
Nadia Harris
Lynn Smith
Susan Malloy
Tommy Gullledge
Kathy Bradshaw
Betty Davis
Sue Funderburk
Robbie McCombs
Gene & Rosalind Brymer

The Men of the Church Fish fry

Tuesday, October 13 at 6:00 p.m.

Join us for an evening of good food, fun, and fellowship!

The Men of the Church Fish Fry is a long-standing tradition that was started many years ago by Stuart Nickles and Brother Davis.

Enjoy freshwater bream, slaw, hushpuppies, and fries!

A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board near the Church office to help us get an accurate headcount. Please sign up if you plan to attend.

Please Contact Steve Cook with any questions.

Please make plans to attend this event for an evening of good fun, fellowship and fine food!

The Woman Behind the Hymn

The anthem today, *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus*, was written by Helen Lemmel. Helen was born in 1864 and dedicated he life to writing and teaching hymns about Jesus. Shortly after she married, a tragic illness caused her to lose her vision. Her husband, refusing to attend to a blind wife, left her. This time of hurt and loss weighed heavily upon Helen, but she kept her eyes on the Lord Jesus and continued to serve Him faithfully. She led a women’s choral group and composed over 400 hymns! Although blind, she has inspired and challenged those who can see to keep their eyes fixed on Christ.

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

*O soul, are you weary and troubled?
No light in the darkness you see?
There’s light for a look at the Savior,
And life more abundant and free!*

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.*

*Thro’ death into life everlasting,
He passed, and we follow Him there;
O’er us sin no more hath dominion—
For more than conquerors we are!*

*His Word shall not fail you—He promised;
Believe Him, and all will be well:
Then go to a world that is dying,
His perfect salvation to tell!*

Nursery Volunteer Schedule for September

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

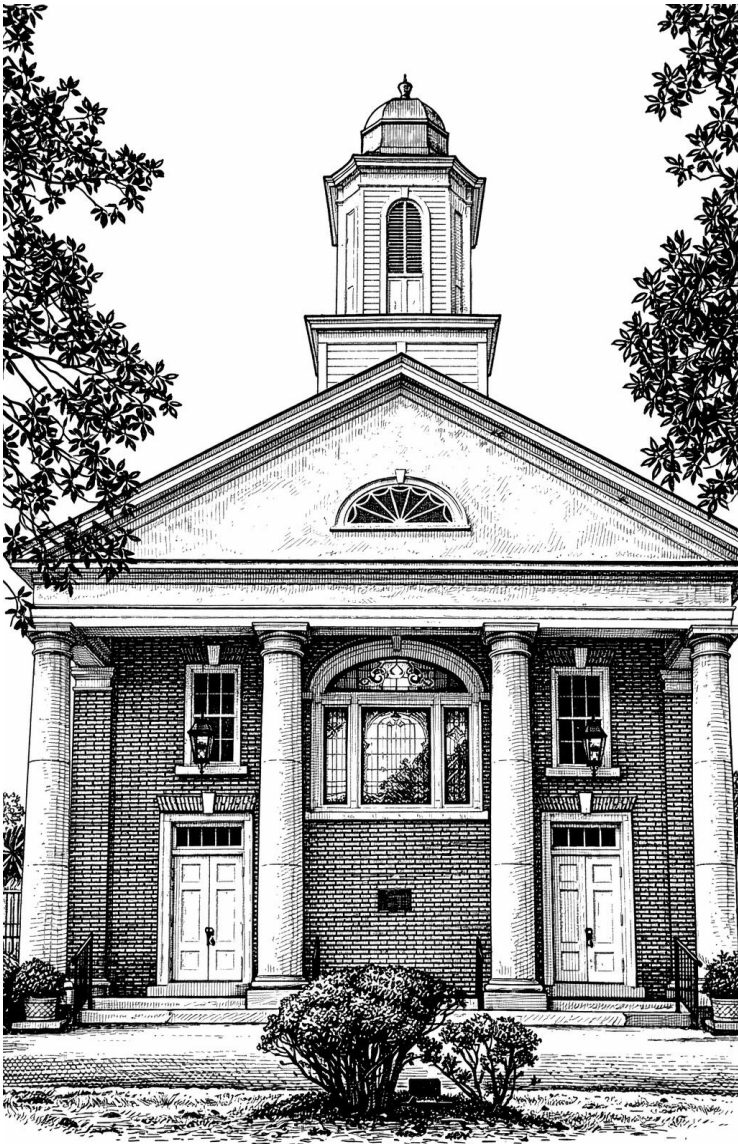
<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>	<u>Class of 2028</u>
Marion Anderson	Buddy Brooks	Karen Tillman
Becky Childers		Debra Luke
Bron Long		

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, September 20, 2026

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