October 18, 2026
First Presbyterian Church
21st Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather in God's Name

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude *Claire De Lune* Claude Debussy
Chelsi Frazer, piano

Welcome Rev. Maxwell Michaels

We Worship Together

***Call to Worship** Kathie Cook
Sing to the Lord and bless God's name.
Tell of God's saving power from day to day.
Worship the Lord in holy splendor.
Tremble before God, all the earth.

***Hymn** 664 *Morning Has Broken* BUNESSAN

Invitation to Confession
God does not regard us with partiality, but with the grace of Christ Jesus deals with each of us according to our need. With gratitude for this amazing grace, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession
What a debt we owe to you, O God. You have given us all things in Christ and yet we withhold from you the honor and glory that are yours. Instead, we pay tribute to empire, plot to entrap the innocent, mock your truth with empty praise, and put your patience to the test. Forgive us, O God, and by your grace restore in us the image of your face; through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon
Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice! Let the sea roar with laughter, the fields shout in celebration, and the forests sing with joy; in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. **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 *It is Well With My Soul* Traditional
Chancel Choir

We Receive God's Word

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7
This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:15-22
This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God!

Sermon "Taxman*"* Rev. Maxwell Michaels

Affirmation of Faith *(from The Confession of 1967)*
The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***Hymn** 693 *The Gift of Love* GIFT OF LOVE

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

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Offertory Anthem *Für Elise* Ludwig Van Beethoven
Chelsi Frazer, 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
All honor and majesty, strength and beauty are yours, Almighty God, maker of heaven and earth. Let these simple offerings we bring be a sign of the great glory that is due to your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn** 175 *Seek Ye First* LAFFERTY

***Benediction**

Benediction Response 658 *God is So Good* GOD IS SO GOOD

***Postlude** *Dance* Faber
Campbell Harris, piano

***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 Jem Morgan and Christopher Tucker

Special thanks to Chelsi Frazer, Campbell Harris, Josh Lloyd, Bill Malloy, and Dan Tillman for volunteering their time to lead the music in worship today!

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary today to the Glory of God by Presbytery Women.

The Church This Week (10/18/2026)

Today 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
5:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Cantata Rehearsal
5:30 p.m. Youth

Mon. 8:30 a.m. MMO

Tue. 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

Wed. 8:30 a.m. MMO
8:45 a.m. CW Bible Study
3:15 p.m. Fun Program
5:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting
6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thurs.

Fri.

Sat. Church Clean Up Day

Sun. 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship
5:00 p.m. Fall Carnival

Prayer List as of October 18, 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 Gulledge
Kathy Bradshaw
Betty Davis
Sue Funderburk
Robbie McCombs
Gene & Rosalind Brymer
Lottie Brabham
Phil Bayness

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.

Please Join Us
At Ease – First Tuesday of every month at 12 noon in the fellowship building.
Circle Meeting – First Wednesday of every month at 10 am in Ladies Parlor.
Prayer meeting - Wednesday nights at 5:30 pm in the Session House.

Church Clean Up Day
Church Clean Up Day is Saturday, October 24th.

Fall Carnival
Sunday, October 25 from 5:00–7:00 p.m.

Please join us for an evening of fun, food, fellowship, and prizes!

Games • Food • Prizes • Hot Dogs • Cake Walk

Costume Contest for All Ages!

Bring your family and friends and come enjoy an evening together.

Everyone is welcome!

Nursery Volunteer Schedule for October-December

Oct. 4	Cathy Chapman
Oct. 11	Lainey Baker
Oct. 18	Alison Chapman
Oct. 25	Kelli Beck
Nov. 1	Brittany Tillman
Nov. 8	Steve Cook
Nov. 15	Charlene Tillman
Nov. 22	Debbie Watson
Nov. 29	Laura Folger
Dec. 6	Mary Jane Evans
Dec. 13	Jenny Michaels
Dec. 20	Maggie Barton
Dec. 27	Heather Tucker

Session of First Presbyterian Church

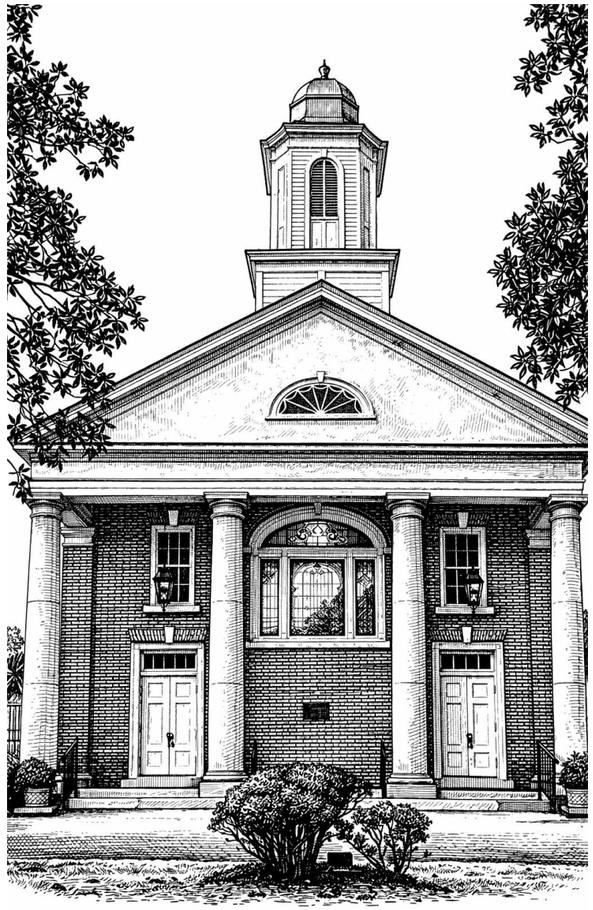
Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Mary Anderson	Mike Chapman	John Folger
Andrew McLeod	Christie McLeod	Cam Beck
Kristen Miller	Tracie Phillips	Tammy Joyce
Richard Pierce	Harold Watson	Steve Cook

Board of Deacons of First Presbyterian Church

Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
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
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, October 18, 2026
First Presbyterian Church
300 Market Street
PO Box 552
Cheraw, SC 29520
(843) 537-7474
Email: info@cherawfpc.org