

Church Staff

Steve Frazier – Covenant Pastor
Edna Broadhurst – Director of Music
Gabrielle Goodrich – Secretary

Week of July 23- Prayers of the People

- Skip Parker
- Jackie Lapointe
- Josh Bennett
- David Stuart
- Deb Hardie
- Frances Hasty
- Paul Butler
- Greg Graupmann
- Lane Pittman
- Robert Norfleet
- Emily Bond
- Monica Manley

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 6 Megan Diggs
- 8 Arianna Templeton
- 10 Riley Jane Smith
- 18 Daniel McCormick
- 18 Melanie Lutz
- 23 Robert Carlisle
- 28 Regan Taylor Smith

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, July 23, 2023 – 10:30 AM

Order of Worship

Welcome and Announcements-Thank you for joining us for this morning’s worship service. We are glad to have you here! If this is your first time visiting with us, please fill out a visitor’s form, found in the back of most pews. We would be pleased to add you to our email list. Welcome!

Prelude “Meditation” Dubois

Choral Call to Worship

****Call to Worship**

We come. We wait.

We long. We hope.

We suffer. We pray.

We rejoice. We sing.

We know we are children of God.

We wait for Christ to set all things right.

*Hymn 321 “The Church’s One Foundation”

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession-followed by a time for silent confession and prayer

There is goodness within us that grows like fresh wheat. There is also sin within us that chokes that wheat like weeds. Let us bring all of who we are to God, who can separate what is good, so that we are not overcome with evil.

****Ever-present God, there is no place where you are not with us. You see us at our worst and at our best. There is much we would hide from you – the ways we harm your creation, the ways we mistreat others, the ways we turn away when we should turn toward. Even as you know us, forgive us. Guide our thoughts, our words, our deeds, that you may delight in us as we delight in you.**

Assurance of God’s Grace

Beloved, hear the good news: God knows us and forgives us and leads us in the way of everlasting life.

****Thanks be to God!**

**Please rise in body or Spirit. | **Words in bold print are spoken aloud in unison.*

Response "Gloria Patri" Hymn 581

****Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.**

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Anthem "Alleluia Round" arr. Boyce

*Doxology
****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.**

Prayers of the People
****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.**

Time with Children
*Hymn 314 "Christ, Be Our Light"

First Lesson Genesis 28: 10-19a
Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it There above it stood the Lord, and he said: "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it." He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; This is the gate of heaven."

Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz.

Second Lesson Romans 8: 13-25
For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

Sermon "Ladder Theology" The Rev. Dr. Steven Frazier

*Hymn 686 "God of Our Life"

Benediction

*Benediction Response "Jesus Be with Us" Gambrell
(Please join the choir in singing)

Jesus, be with us. Help us each day to follow the Gospel and live as we pray. Send us your Spirit and show us your way Jesus be with us today.

Where there is hunger and thirst in the land, scatter the systems of greed. Jesus be with us, make use of our hands. Lift up your people in need.

Passing the Peace of Christ
Peace of Christ be with you.

****And also with you.**

Greet one another with the peace of Christ.

Please join us in the Courtyard Lobby for refreshments after worship!

