

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, September 3, 2023 – 10:30 AM

Order of Worship

Church Staff

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

Week of Sept 3 - Prayers of the People

The Family of Agnes McFadden
 Josh Bennett
 Skip Parker
 Nancy Ward
 Jackie Lapointe
 David Stuart
 Deb Hardie
 Frances Hasty

Paul Butler
 Greg Graupmann
 Lane Pittman
 Robert Norfleet
 Emily Bond
 Monica Manley
 Neal Williams

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 Lyra Furman
 8 Sonia Powell
 10 Bentley Breeden
 10 Collin Taylor
 18 Rebecca Tanner
 20 Karen Diggs

23 Patrice Winkler
 24 C. C. Smith
 25 Oralie Wilhite
 28 Dee Dee Straus
 28 Brian Patgorski
 29 Roberta Stegall
 30 Toni Rutsch



Calling on willing hands! Member gifts have been made to paint and re-carpet the three offices across from the Fellowship Hall. **Please mark your calendars for September 23, 9 AM and come help paint these three rooms.** Bring your favorite brush, roller, and or roller extension and join in some fellowship and laughter as we "getter done". If you can't paint, you can tape, or pull off toe molding, or move chairs. Many hands make light work.

Email Gail Pittman at gailtu@aol.com to sign up.



The First Presbyterian Book Club will hold a post-Covid reorganizational meeting in the fellowship hall on Sunday, September 17 immediately following worship. Surely all of you book lovers have read lots of good books since we last met, pre-covid. Bring your suggestions for the group to read and discuss in the coming months. A light snack and beverage will be provided. See you then!

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 "Andante in F" Vierne

Choral Call to Worship

****Call to Worship**

God calls us each by name as we gather on holy ground.
We come to this place, seeking to know the great I AM.
 Let us worship God.

*Hymn 276 "Sing a New Song unto the Lord"

Invitation to Confession

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

The apostle Paul tells us: Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. For the times we have failed to do this, let us confess to God.

****Sometimes it sounds too hard: deny ourselves, take up our crosses, lose our lives? Forgive us, Savior, but we'd rather you do it for us. Forgive us, Christ, but we are overwhelmed with what you ask of us. We long to see you come to glory, but fear the road we must take. Have mercy on our weakness. Be patient with our stumbling. Do not leave us behind, even when we are slow to follow, and lead us in your ways of peace.**

Assurance of God's Grace

Christ does not abandon us, but died for us, was raised for us, and loves us still. This is the good news that prevails!

****In Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, we are forgiven!**

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.**

Offertory Anthem "Be Thou My Vision" Rutter

*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.**

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

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Time with Children

*Hymn 525 "Let Us Break Bread Together"

First Lesson Romans 12: 9-21

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge, I will repay," say the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Second Lesson Matthew 16: 21-28

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests, and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"

Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life^a will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

"Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Sermon "Gaining the Whole World" Dr. Steven Frazier

The Sacrament of the Lord's Table

The Lord be with you.
Lift up your hearts.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**And also, with you.
We lift them to the Lord.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

...Therefore with apostles and prophets, and that great cloud of witnesses who live for you beyond all time and space, we lift our hearts in joyful praise.

****Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

...Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:
****Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

...Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

****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.**

Distribution of the Elements and Communion of the People

*Hymn 720 "Jesus Calls Us"

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!



The Ladies Circle will be resuming their monthly meetings on Tuesday, September 12 at 11:00 a.m.