

November 19, 2023
First Presbyterian Church
25th Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather in God's Name

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude *Sinfonia, from "Wir Danken Dir, Gott"* J.S. Bach

Welcome Rev. Maxwell Michaels

We Worship Together

***Call to Worship** Elder John Joyce

Lord, you have been our dwelling place;

we come today to rest in you.

You have been the voice that guides us;

we come today to listen.

You have been the host who feeds us;

we come today to be filled.

You have been our joy and crown;

we come today to sing your praise!

***Processional Hymn 33** *Praise the Lord! God's Glories Show* LLANFAIR

Invitation to Confession (the congregation is seated)

We know that our sins are too heavy for us to carry, too real to hide and too deep to undo. But we also know that you can lift that weight from us and transform our lives. So, we lift our prayer of confession to you:

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that once again, we have done what is evil in your sight. We've made mistakes. We've made missteps. We have hurt people, by action and inaction. We have wounded creation, by action and inaction. We have chosen our ways over yours, by action and inaction. And if the sum total of what we have done and what we have not done adds up to evil in your sight, then in your sight we ask you to turn us towards goodness. Forgive our past, and shape our future that we might build your kingdom here. In the strong name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news! Who is our God?

Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.

We are forgiven, rescued, and redeemed. Alleluia! Amen.

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** *We greet our neighbors in Christ's love*

***Gloria Patri**

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.

Message to the Children

We Receive God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading Psalm 90:1-12

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

New Testament Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Message "Coming Up" Rev. Maxwell Michaels

***Affirmation of Faith:** *(adapted from the Confession of 1967)*

God's redeeming work in Jesus Christ embraces the whole of our life.

It is the will of God that God's purpose for human life shall be fulfilled under the rule of Christ and all evil be banished from creation.

Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in people and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption.

With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world.

It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat.

In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.

***Hymn 450** *Be Thou My Vision* SLANE

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer and the 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 Anthem *Praise the Lord!* Handel/Hopson
Chancel Choir

***Doxology Hymn** *(Praise to God)*

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**

Generous God, with Thanksgiving quickly approaching, we are reminded to give you thanks for the ministries of this congregation which you have entrusted us with. We are honored by the opportunity to be your holy body here. Bless these offerings, however they are given that our efforts may be ever more worthy of your name. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn 353** *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less* SOLID ROCK

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response** *We Give Thee But Thine Own* SCHUMANN
Chancel Choir

***Postlude** *Now Thank We All Our God* Burkhardt

Please wait until the end of the benediction response by the choir before exiting.

*Those who are able, please stand as directed at the items marked with an asterisk

We welcome our new pastor, Rev. Maxwell Michaels, and his wife, Jenny.

The flowers are placed in the Sanctuary today by the Luke Family in memory of family and friends no longer with us.

The Church This Week (11/19/2023)

Today	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:00 p.m.	Reception in Fellowship Bldg.
Mon.	8:30 a.m.	MMO
Wed.		Office Closed
Thurs.		Happy Thanksgiving
Sun.	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship

Prayer List as of November 19, 2023

Gerry & Bobby Rogers
 Ina Coggeshall
 Gray & Bea Sloop
 Bennie and Benny Lou Moore
 Beth O’Neal
 Bobbie Jones
 Keller Smith
 Gene Brymer

We welcome Joseph Murray from Thornwell Home today. Joseph has been at Thornwell since 2021 as an Advancement Officer on the Mission Advancement Team. He works with donors and Churches across the Southeast, primarily in South Carolina, North Carolina, and Florida to enhance the mission of Thornwell. Thornwell’s mission is to “prevent child-abuse and neglect, build and strengthen families, and support health communities in the name of Jesus Christ.” Joseph and his wife Katie have two adopted girls and are very passionate about family and children’s ministry. They love Thornwell and are honored to play their part in bringing hope and healing to abused and neglected children!

We will collect the Thornwell Home Offering today.

The deadline for ordering Christmas poinsettias is today. Poinsettias will be red with green wrappers.

The prices are:
 small: 6 1/2 inch - \$11.50
 large: 8 inch - \$16.00

Please place your money and requests in the offertory plate in an envelope or drop it off at the church office. Please make checks out to First Presbyterian Church. **Include all money and requests in an envelope labeled**

Attn: Karen Tillman

Your name: _____
 Remembrance: _____
 Honor: _____
 number of poinsettias: _____
 size of poinsettias: _____
 total money : _____

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Jim Funderburk and his family upon the death of his brother, William “Bill” Barnes Funderburk.

We will have a reception in the Fellowship Building following the worship service to give everyone an opportunity to meet our new pastor, Rev. Max and his wife, Jenny.

We will need all Christmas Shoe Box Ministry boxes to be placed in the library by the end of worship service today.

PW will be decorating the church for Advent and Christmas on Thursday, November 30th at 10:00 a.m.



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.



Our Vision

*Rooted by God’s Grace,
 Growing in the Spirit,
 Reaching Out with Christ’s Love*

Session of First Presbyterian Church

Class of 2023

Gina Goddard
 John Joyce
 Christie McLeod
 Calvin Phillips
 Charlene Tillman

Class of 2024

Marietta Melton Burch
 Cathy Chapman
 David Nagel
 Dan Tillman, III
 Jennifer Tillman

Class of 2025

Kelli Beck
 Avery Dickson
 Mary Jane Evans
 Jean Page Watson

The Church Staff

Rev. Maxwell Michaels, Pastor
 Mrs. Carolyn S. West, Secretary
 Mr. James W. Kendall, Sexton
 Mrs. Arneitha Kendall, Housekeeper
 Mrs. Mary Gullede, Miss Eve Nobles, Nursery

Mrs. Mary Louise Baker, Music Director, DCE

Mrs. Kim Brabham, Director MMO
 Mrs. Paige Coates, MMO
 Mrs. Sally Powell, MMO

Mission Partners

Mr. Mark Hare/ Mrs. Jenny Bent, Costa Rica
 Mrs. Ellen Smith, (mission co-worker) Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Poland

Sunday, November 19, 2023

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