

August 27, 2023
First Presbyterian Church
Thirteenth Sunday of Pentecost

We Gather in God's Name

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude *Fugue in G Minor, BWV 578* J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements Dr. Dan Sansbury

We Worship Together

Call to Worship Elder Charlene Tillman

It is good to give thanks to the LORD, and to sing the praises of our Most High God.

It is good to declare God's steadfast love in the morning, and God's faithfulness at night.

For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work; and at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

How great are your works, O LORD! Your thoughts are very deep!

The righteous shall flourish like the oak tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

They are planted in the house of the LORD; they flourish in the courts of our God.

They show that the LORD is upright in all things.

The LORD is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in our God!

(from Psalm 92)

***Hymn** 327 *From All That Dwell Below the Skies*
LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Invitation to Confession (the congregation is seated)

Friends, in the Psalms we read, "*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.*

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin" [Psalm 51.1-2]. Let us admit to God our need for more of his forgiving, gracious love. Let us pray together.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious and Almighty God, as we make the transition from the end of summer to early fall, we do so with an awareness of your rich and generous blessings upon us all. And yet, there have been times when we have strayed from your perfect will. We sometimes follow our own pathways instead of your intended purpose for our lives. We have not always acted or spoken in ways that are pleasing to you. Forgive us, O Lord. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us anew. Make us the people and Church that you want us to be, for the glory of your name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, as we are told in the Apostle Paul's letter to the Church in Corinth, "*If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. That is, in Christ God was . . . not counting their trespasses against them.*" (II Corinthians 5.17-19).

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

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

Giving of our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Anthem *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*
Chancel Choir Roberts/Williams

***Praise of 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**

***Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

***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

Prayers of the People 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.**

***Hymn** 729 *Lord, I want to Be a Christian* BE A CHRISTIAN

We Receive God's Word

Scripture Selections from Genesis 17-18

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Message "Our Surprising God" Dr. Sansbury

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn** 49 *The God of Abraham Praise* LEONI

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response**

Chancel Choir

***Postlude** *Trumpet Tune I* McCabe

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

The rosebud placed at the front of the sanctuary is in honor of Duke Oswalt Barton, son of Cody and Maggie Barton. He was born on August 9th, 2023. Congratulations to his parents and to his siblings, Adeline and Thomas.

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary today in memory of Jim Lockamy by David & Mary Jane Evans and family.

The Church This Week (8/27/2023)

Today	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Acolyte Training
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Wed.	6:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir
Sun.	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship

Prayer List as of August 27, 2023

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

WELCOME to worship! We are glad that you have joined us today!

Our Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) continues its work of seeking our next installed pastor. Members are Cathy Chapman (Chair), Kristen Miller, Katelyn Evans, Christie McLeod, John Long and Calvin Phillips. The congregation is asked to pray for our PNC throughout the pastoral search process.

The Youth Coordinator Search Committee members are Kelli Beck (chair), Kristen Miller, Katelyn Evans, Tammy Joyce, Eva Goddard and Craig Goddard. Please remember our search team in your prayers. Also, send your suggestions for this part-time position to our committee members.

Print copies of Dr. Sansbury’s previous sermons are available in the narthex, or you may request a copy mailed to you by calling the church office (843-537-7474).

The elders have called for a CONGREGATIONAL MEETING during worship on Sunday, September 17, for the purpose of forming a new Officer Nominating Committee. Two current elders and one Presbyterian Women representative will automatically be on the Committee, according to church policy. The congregation will be asked to vote on two additional, at-large representatives. The names of all five members of the ONC will be published ahead of the September 17 meeting.

Copies of the Fun Program Registration Form/FPC Photo Release Form for 2023/2024 are on the table in the Narthex.

Our church is growing and we are so excited. The number of children attending nursery during worship has increased and we need your help! We ask that **any adult** who is willing to keep the nursery during worship, please sign up at the link listed below. We ask that **parents** with a young child attending nursery, please help us by signing up for a Sunday every other month. Thank you for your willingness to volunteer in our nursery.
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0545afaf22ab9-nursery#/>

NEW--Pastor’s Pals! NEW activities are now available in the narthex for children ages 1st grade & up who remain during the service! Worksheets, games, and fun activities are provided for our little ones in a canvas bag labeled “Pastor’s Pals” located in the narthex. Just pick one up before the service and enjoy! We ask that you neatly place all items back in their respective bags and return to its proper place after the service so that other kids can enjoy the following week. An engaging, interactive worksheet is available for those children who pay special attention to the service. Just fill it out and see Dr. Dan after church for a prize!



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.

We need a few more Preschool Sunday School teachers to share the rotation! Only three Sundays this fall are unaccounted for, so we are asking for coverage for these dates: 9/24, 11/26, & 12/24. Nothing is more important than educating our children to know Christ. Please prayerfully consider and contact Weiz if you are willing. A fantastic, simple lesson-guide, and fun activity booklets are provided. Thank you for meeting the needs of our children’s ministry.

The Church Staff

Dr. Dan Sansbury, Interim Pastor	Mrs. Mary Louise Baker, Music Director, DCE
Mrs. Carolyn S. West, Secretary	
Mr. James W. Kendall, Sexton	Mrs. Kim Brabham, Director MMO
Mrs. Arneha Kendall, Housekeeper	Mrs. Paige Coates, MMO
Mrs. Mary Gullede, Miss Eve Nobles, Nursery	Mrs. Sally Powell, MMO

Session of First Presbyterian Church

<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>
Gina Goddard	Marietta Melton Burch	Kelli Beck
John Joyce	Cathy Chapman	Avery Dickson
Christie McLeod	David Nagel	Mary Jane Evans
Calvin Phillips	Dan Tillman, III	Jean Page Watson
Charlene Tillman	Jennifer Tillman	

Mission Partners

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



Our Vision

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

Sunday, August 27, 2023

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