



Worship Services

September 14, 2025
9:00 · 11:15 AM

*First Presbyterian is a Welcoming Church Community in Downtown Macon
Committed to Knowing Christ and Making Him Known.*

Welcome

TO OUR GUESTS

We want to welcome you today! More information about our church is available on our website at fpcmacon.org.

SPIRITUAL CARE

If you would like to speak to someone about what it means to know Jesus Christ or you have any spiritual need or question, please speak to one of the pastors after the service.

CHILDREN'S BIBLE LESSON

We provide a Bible lesson and music for children in Pre-K through second grade during the services. Children will be dismissed from the service and escorted to their classroom before the sermon. Please pick up your children after the first service or Sunday school on the second floor of Cornerstone and after the second service in the nursery. If this is your first Sunday at FPC, please walk your child to the Bible lesson to check them in.

NURSERY

Nursery is provided for 3K and under from 8:45 AM-12:15 PM. We also provide a mother/infant room located in the nursery with a live video feed of the service, as well as a "cry room" downstairs from the sanctuary for parents of "fussy" children with an audio feed. Ushers are available to direct you.

HEARING ASSISTANCE

Hearing assistance devices are in the Narthex for worshippers needing hearing assistance. You may also use a smartphone or bluetooth-enabled hearing aid to connect directly to the sound system. Connection instructions are in the Narthex. Please ask an usher or deacon for assistance.

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given today to the glory of God and in loving memory of Hunter Johnson by his family.

YOUR PRESENCE

Please let us know that you're here today by scanning the QR code.

Worshippers read text in bold.



Corporate Worship

Approach, My Soul, the Mercy Seat

John Newton, Laura Story, Jordan Kauflin



1. Ap - proach, my soul, the mer - cy seat where Je - sus an - swers prayer;
2. *Bowed down be - neath a load of sin, by Sa - tan sore - ly pressed,*
3. O won - drous love! to bleed and die, to bear the cross and shame,



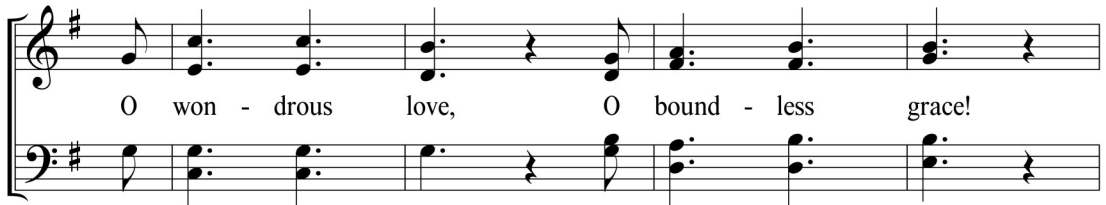
there hum - bly fall be - fore His feet, for none can per - ish there.
by wars with - out and fears with - in, I come to Thee for rest.
that guilt - y sin - ners, such as I, might plead Thy gra - cious name!



Thy prom - ise is my on - ly plea; with this I ven - ture nigh:
Be Thou my shield and hid - ing place, that, shel - tered near Thy side,
The tempt - ed soul, He tells me still, "My prom - ised grace re - ceive."



Thou calls our bur - dened souls to Thee, and such, O Lord, am I.
I may my fierce ac - cus - er face, and tell him Thou hast died.
'Tis Je - sus speaks; I must, I will, I can, I do be - lieve.



O won - drous love, O bound - less grace!



Re - joice, my soul, for - ev - er, Christ has made a way.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 25:1-5

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame.

Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.

PRAYER FOR GOD'S PRESENCE

HYMN OF PRAISE 598 - *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy pow'rful hand;
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through;
Strong Deliv'rer, Strong Deliv'rer,
Be thou still my strength and shield, be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's Destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee, I will ever give to thee.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - *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 arose 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.

****Seating Interlude****

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 20:1-17

And God spoke all these words, saying,

“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

“You shall have no other gods before me.

“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

“You shall not murder.

“You shall not commit adultery.

“You shall not steal.

“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”

HEIDELBERG CATECHISM 115

Since no one in this life can obey the Ten Commandments perfectly,
why does God want them preached so pointedly?

First, so that the longer we live the more we may come to know our sinfulness
and the more eagerly look to Christ for forgiveness of sins and righteousness.

Second, so that we may never stop striving,
and never stop praying to God for the grace of the Holy Spirit,
to be renewed more and more after God's image,
until after this life we reach our goal: perfection.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Lord, we have loved other gods before you and have become their slaves.
We have coveted blessings you wisely and rightly gave to others.
O LORD, have mercy on us for we have not kept your good and holy law.
Forgive our sins and renew and lead us by your Holy Spirit
so that we may delight in your law and walk joyfully in your ways. Amen.

SCRIPTURE OF GRACE

Psalm 145:13-14

The LORD is faithful in all his words
and kind in all his works.
The LORD upholds all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

He Will Hold Me Fast

Habershon(1906)/M. Merker(2013)

1. When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
2. Those He saves are His de-light, Christ will hold me fast;
3. For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;

When the tempt - er would pre - vail, He will hold me fast.
Pre - cious in his ho - ly sight, He will hold me fast.
Just - ice has been sat - is - fied; He will hold me fast.

I could nev - er keep my hold through life's fear - ful path;
He'll not let my soul be lost; His prom - is - es shall last;
Raised with Him to end - less life, He will hold me fast

For my love is oft - en cold; He must hold me fast.
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.
'till our faith is turned to sight, When He comes at last!

He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;

For my Sa - vior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

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PASTORAL PRAYER

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Online giving may be done by texting **fpcmacon** to 73256 or through the church website.

A Prayer for Our Time Joseph Martin

*Our God, to Thee we pray.
Heal our nation, Lord, today.
God of mercy, grant us courage. Give us peace.*

*When evil draws its angry sword and seeks to sever freedom's cord,
When death and darkness shake our faith in God's unfailing pow'r to save,
Eternal Father, ever be our courage in the time of need.*

*When war is waged by faceless foes
Who battle peace with fiery blows,
When storms of hate and fear assail,
our Father's might arm prevails.
Eternal Father, ever be our refuge in the time of need.*

*There is no tyrant who can stand against our sure Defender's hand.
No threat or danger can defeat the strong and righteous Prince of Peace.
Eternal Father, ever be our fortress in the time of need. Amen.*

Children K4-second grade are welcome to leave the worship service for a Bible Lesson in Cornerstone (BLC). Children in the 11:15 BLC class may be picked up in the nursery. We encourage children third grade and above to continue in corporate worship with their parents.

HYMN OF PREPARATION - *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love and power.

Refrain

I will arise and go to Jesus, He will embrace me in His arms;
In the arms of my dear Savior, O there are ten thousand charms.

Come, ye thirsty; come and welcome, God's free bounty glorify,
True belief and true repentance, Every grace that brings you nigh. *(Refrain)*

Come, ye weary, heavy laden; lost and ruined by the fall;
If you tarry till you're better, you will never come at all. *(Refrain)*

Lo! The incarnate God ascended, pleads the merit of His blood;
Venture on Him, venture wholly; Let no other trust intrude. *(Refrain)*

PREACHING OF GOD'S WORD - Chip Miller

The Calling of Matthew

Matthew 9:9-13

BENEDICTION

DOXOLOGY 731

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PASTORAL STAFF

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Leading in Worship Today
Chip Miller, Senior Pastor
Justin Leslein, Executive Pastor
Michael McGhee, Music Director/Organist
Rebecca Lanning, Choir Director
Tom Rule, Pianist
Chancel Choir

CHURCH OFFICERS

The Session

Class of 2025

Paul Cable
Sam Jones
Matt Kitchell
Kort Peterson
Jerome Strickland
William White

Class of 2026

Chuck Duggan
Mike Hall
Bobby Newman
Nick Rios
Tony Rodriguez
Blake Sullivan

Class of 2027

Ves Berry
Kevin Bridges
John Carey
Hal Foshee
Mike Peed
Kim Thompson

The Diaconate

Class of 2025

Jave Bjorkman
Joey Brumbelow
Eric Hunt
Kent McCormick
David Milligan
Caleb Peed

Class of 2026

Dave Grant
Darrell Hallman
Jeremy Johnson
John David Miller
Gray Widstrom
Jeff Wilhelm
Calder Willingham

Class of 2027

Chris Anderson
Cameron Garvin
Jeff Hill
Kevin Lennon
Jim Self
Brian Stone

Trustees

Rob Danner
Bruce Jones

Buddy Ponder
Ray Pearson

Lowry Tribble

YOUTH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Class	Description	Topic	Room Location
Nursery & Special Needs		New Testament	Nursery
Children	4K-5th Grade	New Testament	Cornerstone
Middle School Youth	6-8 Grades	God's Promises	Education Building 2nd Floor
High School Youth	9-12 Grades	Christian Doctrine	Education Building 3rd Floor
Young Adults	College/20s-30s	Mark	Basement M102
Young Marrieds	20s-30s	Marriage & Relationships	Education Building
Immanuel	Mid 40s-50s	Hosea	Education Building E102
Shepherds	50s-60s	I & II Peter	Brickyard M102
Trinity	60s+	Equipping Yourself	Education Building E103
Covenant	70s+	Fundamentals of Faith	Education Building E105
Canterbury	70s-80s	Studies in the Psalms	Education Building E104
Connections	Mixed Ages	Acts	Gathering Place
Generations	Mixed Ages	Romans	Basement M100
Pathways	Mixed Ages	James	Brickyard M103

Announcements



- New to First Presbyterian Church?
- Interested in church membership?
- Wondering what Christianity is all about?

The Inquirer's Class is an informative six-week course, taught by Senior

Pastor Chip Miller that will help you assimilate into church life at FPC and learn important and interesting things – like what First Presbyterian Church is trying to accomplish, what we believe, and what it means to be a Christian. Along the way, you'll meet new friends, connect with church staff and even become a church member if that's your desire. This class provides a "no pressure" atmosphere, you'll learn a lot, and have a great time. Classes are Sundays at 10:10 AM in the Library Ballroom and begin September 28. Please let us know if you're coming by calling Tammy Jones at 746.3223 or email tjones@fpcmacon.org.



This year's **Equip weekend is Sept. 19-21th**, the theme is "**Our World & Our Gospel Mission**", and our speaker will be Andy Young, Pastor of Oxford Presbyterian. Go to www.fpcmacon.org/equip for more information.

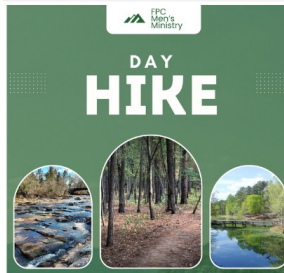
- Friday Night – Session 1 : "Ourselves and Gospel Mission"
 - 5:30 PM | Dinner
 - 6:15 PM | Dismiss Children and Program starts
- Saturday Morning – Sessions 2 & 3 :
 - 9 AM | Coffee and light snacks
 - 9:30 AM | Session 2 : "Understanding our Culture"
 - 10:30 AM | Sessions 3 : "Reaching our Culture"
- Sunday Morning
 - 9 & 11:15 AM | Sermon: "Our God and Gospel Mission"
 - 10:10 AM | Joint Sunday School



There will be a **called congregational meeting** **tonight Sept 14** in the **sanctuary** for the **purpose of electing a pulpit committee** in accordance with BCO 20-2. A brief worship service at 6 pm will precede the meeting. If you are a member of FPC, please plan to attend.



Young Adults join us October 3-5 for our annual **Fall Retreat!** This year we will be heading to Lake Martin.
Cost: \$50/person
www.fpcmacon.org/young-adults for more information.



All Men are invited to join us for a **day hike on Saturday, October 25 at Indian Springs State Park** with the option to camp overnight on Friday, October 24.
Hike: **9am-11:30am**
For those desiring to carpool, please meet at FPD at 8am **Register on Realm!**

Upcoming Events

September 14 – Called Congregational Meeting

September 19-21 – Equip Conference

September 28 – Inquirers' Class begins

October 3-5 – Grad and Career Fall Retreat

October 3-5 – Middle School Fall Retreat

October 25 – Men's Day Hike

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

682 Mulberry Street · Macon, GA 31201 · 478.746.3223 · www.fpcmacon.org