

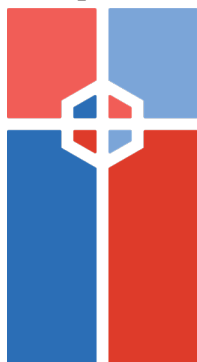
January 12, 2025
Baptism of the Lord



First Presbyterian Church *Aiken, South Carolina*

A community actively seeking ways to continue

... writing new chapters in an old story ...



A Stephen Ministry Congregation.

First Presbyterian Church of Aiken extends a simple and unqualified welcome, in Christ's name, to all who seek to join us. We affirm that there can be no exclusiveness within the body of Christ, and, therefore, we invite all children of God into our worship, study, mission, and fellowship as we together seek ways to live in grace and respond with gratitude. We would be happy to answer any questions about our mission, ministry, and membership.

We invite you to please join us again in worship.

Call To Worship

Gathering Music: The people are called to worship God through the Gift of Music.

Congregational: The people are called to worship God. Words from scripture are spoken or sung to proclaim who God is and what God has done. We are thus reminded that our worship centers in God and not in ourselves. "Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth." (Psalm 124:8).

Prayer Of Confession

is intended to encourage people to lay down any burdens of guilt, regret, sense of failure, or inadequacy, and to reaffirm their trust in Christ's unfailing love and forgiveness.

Assurance Of Pardon

in the waters of baptism, God claimed you and named you a child of God. In the waters of baptism, we receive God's forgiveness, healing, and love.

Gloria Patri giving glory to the Good Father in thanksgiving for grace and forgiveness.

✦ Please rise in body or spirit.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

STRIKING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

MOMENT FOR MISSIONS

FPCA Jigsaw Jamboree

GATHERING MUSIC

LITANY

CONGREGATIONAL CALL TO WORSHIP

One: But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:

All: **Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.**

✦ HYMN 490

WASH, O GOD, YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS

✦ INVITATION TO CONFESSION OF SIN

(Silent Confession)

We know what it is like to be singed by the flames of our lives, Holy God. We look for ourselves in all the wrong places - success, power, adulation. We carve our names in the granite walls of work, hoping we will be remembered when we are gone. We have gone through the waters of baptism, but live as if they have not changed us. We need to hear your sure word, 'do not fear. Our failures do not cause you to quit loving us, for you continue to claim us, gathering us up in your compassionate arms. In our baptism, we discover not the end, but the first step of our journey with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

✦ RESPONSE 109 v.3

BLEST BE THE GOD OF ISRAEL

**On those who sit in darkness
the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness
upon the sinner's eyes.**

**God guides the feet of pilgrims
along the paths of peace.
O bless our God and Savior
with songs that never cease!**

✦ PASSING OF THE PEACE - WELCOMING OUR NEIGHBORS

TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

Tamra Erde

✦ HYMN 623

I'VE GOT PEACE LIKE A RIVER

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING ISAIAH 42:1-7

SECOND READING LUKE 3:15-17, 21-22

SERMON "Take Me to the River" Rev. Dr. Christopher Erde

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise...

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.

RECEIVING THE ELEMENTS BY INTINCTION

Please exit your row to the left, go to the station at the front of your section to receive the Communion elements, returning to your row from the right side. Gluten-free bread is available at the station located in the center beside the ministers. When taking Communion by intinction, a piece of bread will be placed in your hand. Take the bread and dip it in the cup, partake of it, then return to your seat. If you are unable to come forward to receive Communion, it will be brought to you at your seat.

✠ **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 rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits 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.

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES, GIFTS, AND OFFERINGS

Please sign and pass the friendship register on your pew during this time.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

YOU ARE SEALED WITH THE SPIRIT
Sanctuary Choir

Passing of the Peace

worshippers may share signs of Christ's peace welcoming each other i.e. "The peace of Christ be with you" response "and also with you".

Prayer For

Illumination is a prayer seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to lead us to a deeper understanding of the reading, hearing, and proclaiming of God's word.

Sermon Or

Meditation when the Bible has been read, its message is proclaimed in a sermon or other form of exposition of God's Word. The God who speaks in scripture speaks to us now. The God who acted in biblical history acts today. Through the Holy Spirit, Christ is presented in the sermon, offering grace and calling for obedience.

Affirmation of Faith

the congregation speaks as one, affirming essential tenets of the reformed Christian faith.

The Offering is a

significant part of our response to the Gospel. As we present the financial gifts that represent our commitment to the work of the church. We resolve to maintain this community of worship, fellowship, and service.

The Doxology is sung, ascribing glory to God in three persons - praising Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Charge And Benediction are delivered from the pulpit, font, or table. The charge is a challenge to take the lessons learned in worship, and apply them to our lives. The benediction concludes the worship service, and confers the Triune God's blessing upon the congregation.

Congregational Blessing we join hands and voices as we acknowledge God's blessing which binds us together in ministry.

♠ **DOXOLOGY 607**

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow;
 praise Christ, all peo - ple here be low;
 praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more;
 praise Tri - une God whom we a - dore A - men ,

♠ **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

♠ **HYMN 475**

COME THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING

BEARING AND FOLLOWING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL BLESSING 306

Blest be the tie that binds
 Our hearts in Chris - tian love
 The fel - low - ship of kin - dred minds
 is like to that a - bove

POSTLUDE

RELIGIOUS PROCESSION

WORSHIP NOTES

The flowers in the Sanctuary today are given by Tom and Peggy Thome to the glory of God and in celebration of their 54th wedding anniversary.

Lay Reader: Will Callicott

Head Ushers: Rob Gray & Stephen Ministers

Large print hymnals, bulletins, and wireless assisted hearing receivers are available from any usher.

Childcare is available during Sunday school and worship for our youngest members ages 0 - 5. Join us in Room 6.

Worship Bags are available in the Narthex for children through 5th grade.

Offering Cards have been added to the pews for our online givers. Please use these during the offering as the plates are passed.



CHURCH AT WORK

Congregational Meeting - will be held during worship, in order to approve the pastor's terms of call.

Art Wall - It is a privilege to feature the artwork of Margot Salzman, well known seamstress artist and longtime member of FPCA.

Please join us after worship for the opening reception in the Parlor.

Her work will be on display until February 6th.

Youth Activities - All youth will meet this Sunday, January 12th from 5:30-7:00PM. Come join us for fun, food, & fellowship in Room 2.

Join us for hot apple cider, donut holes and a time of fellowship in the breezeway following the church services on **January 19th!** Sponsored by Stephen Ministry.

FPCA Jigsaw Jamboree - Join us January 25, from 9:00 AM-Noon, in the Fellowship Hall for our first Jigsaw Jamboree!!! Team should consist of 1-4 players, \$50 per team. Whether you are "in it to win it" or just there for fun, come support our youth and enjoy this time of fellowship. Coffee and snacks will be served. Prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams will be given. Please fill out a registration form and return to the church office by January 22nd. Piece be with You!!!

Sunday Potluck - Change of date, please join us after worship on **January 26th**. Come enjoy time together sharing a meal as a church family. Please bring a side dish to share, the church will be providing the main course.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, January 12, 2025

8:20 AM - 9:15 AM Men's Breakfast
9:15 AM - 9:30 AM Coffee
9:15 AM - 11:30 AM Nursery
9:30 AM - 10:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Art Wall Reception
12:00 PM - 12:30 PM Diaconate Meeting
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Indoor Soccer
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Youth Group
7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Men's Basketball

Monday, January 13, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM Finance Meeting
5:16 PM - 6:45 PM Pickleball
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Ploeger Covenant

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool
9:00 AM - 9:15 AM Preschool Chapel
5:16 PM - 6:45 PM Pickleball
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Ask, Seek, Knock
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Boy Scouts
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM BSA

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool
8:45 AM - 9:15 AM Morning Prayer
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Handbells
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Session
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Choir

Thursday, January 16, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool
2:00 PM - 3:30 PM Small Group
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Pickleball

Friday, January 17, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool

Sunday, January 19, 2025

9:15 AM - 9:30 AM Coffee
9:15 AM - 11:30 AM Nursery
9:30 AM - 10:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Indoor Soccer
7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Men's Basketball

CHURCH OFFICERS AND STAFF

First Presbyterian Church

224 Barnwell Ave. NW Aiken, SC 29801 (803) 648-2662

E-mail: aikenpresbyterian@aikenpresbyterian.org

Website: www.aikenpresbyterian.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/aikenpres>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/aikenpres/>

Office hours Monday- Thursday 9:00 AM- 3:00 PM

Friday 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

The Church Organized For Work

Pastor/Head of Staff	Rev. Dr. Christopher Erde
Parish Associate	Rev. Dr. Beth Yarborough
Director of Operations and Media	Joanna Hamilton
Director of Christian Education	Tamra Erde
Director of Music	Daniel Hamilton
Director of Finance	Cassie Buchanan
Office Manager	Debby Dugan
Organist/Accompanist	Kathy Clark
Preschool Director	Mary Maddrey
Finance	Suzanne McLeod

The Session

Moderator: Rev. Dr. Christopher Erde

Clerk of Session: Clark McCants

Class of 2025

Trey Brown
Suzanne McLeod
Melissa Patterson
Graham Reynolds
Wayne Rickman

Class of 2026

Richard Abney
Christa Budney
Wallace Fraser
Martha Funk
Sharon Rodgers
Bill Tucker

Class of 2027

Paul Crook
John Gordon
Christine Kupcha
Eric Muhlbaier
Dee Verley-Matthews
Tom Thome

The Deacons

Class of 2025

Barbara Bower
Anne Elkins
Mary Hunter

Class of 2026

Mike Anderson
Gail Ebner
Brock McLeod

Class of 2027

Adam Garcia
Sue Todd
Lisa Woods

The Trustees

Class of 2025

David Keisler

Class of 2026

Bob Buchanan

Class of 2027

Vic Sowers

Stephen Ministry

Rob Gray, Mary Maddrey, Lucy Sutter, and Vic Sowers

If you are wanting a Stephen Minister assigned please contact:

Gayle Gordon (803) 507-7725, Karalee Kludzuweit (803) 335-8632, or

Julie Taylor (803) 979-9919

Presbyterian Women

Moderator:

Sandy Evans

Gathering Contacts:

Amy Gray and Margot Salzman

Church Officers the congregation of the PCUSA operate using a model of shared leadership and responsibility. Ordained Ministers of Word and Sacrament work along side men and women called to serve in the ordained officers of Elders (the Session) and Deacon (the Diaconate). In the PCUSA, the gifts of leadership and ministry are affirmed and celebrated in all people and the service of all is appreciated.

