

April 28, 2024  
5th Sunday of Easter



# *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 HOUR**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WELCOME**

**One:** The Lord be with you.

**All:** And also with you.

**GATHERING MUSIC**                      **ASH GROVE**

**CONGREGATIONAL CALL TO WORSHIP**

**One:** We gather this day in joy and Christian fellowship,

**All:** **for we are the church of Jesus Christ!**

**One:** We pray for the Holy Spirit to be among us,

**All:** **opening our hearts and minds to the worship of God!**

☩ **HYMN 485**                      **WE KNOW THAT CHRIST IS RAISED**

☩ **INVITATION TO CONFESSION OF SIN**

*(Silent Confession)*

**Gracious God, our hearts are restless until they find their home in you. Forgive our pursuit of things that separate us from you. We pursue success, realizing it will never be enough. We desire more possessions, knowing they are empty. We turn toward the world and hope we will find peace, knowing the world cannot provide it. Forgive us, we pray, and may our wandering hearts find their rest in you alone. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

☩ **GLORY TO GOD 591**                      **HALLE, HALLE, HALLELUJAH!**

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le lu - iah !

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le lu - iah !

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le lu - iah !

Hal - le - lu - jah ! Hal - le - lu - jah !

‡ PASSING OF THE PEACE - WELCOMING OUR NEIGHBORS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

Tamra Erde

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S

**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 36

FOR THE FRUIT OF ALL CREATION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

ACTS 8:26-40

SECOND LESSON

1 JOHN 4:7-21 AND JOHN 15:1-8

SERMON

"Follow God's Lead"

Rev. Dr. Christopher Erde

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

WELCOME CONFIRMANDS

‡ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *ADAPTED FROM BELONGING TO GOD: A FIRST CATECHISM*

**We are the church: the people who believe the good news about Jesus, who are baptized, and who share in the Lord's Supper. Through these means of grace, the Spirit renews us so that we may serve God in love. We believe the good news that gives us comfort that we belong to our faithful Savior Jesus Christ, who died and rose again for our sake, so that nothing will ever separate us from God's love. We know this good news through reading the Bible and hearing it taught and preached. The Holy Spirit inspired those who wrote the Bible and helps us rely on its promises today.**

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES, GIFTS, AND OFFERINGS

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

KEEP GOD'S LIGHT  
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.

♠ **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

**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.

♠ **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

♠ **HYMN 450**

BE THOU MY VISION

**BEARING AND FOLLOWING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD**

**INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP**

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**CONGREGATIONAL BLESSING 306**

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

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**

EIN FEST BURG

## WORSHIP NOTES

The flowers today have been given by Lorraine & Jim Kelley, to the glory of God and in memory of Starr.

Lay Reader: Hilary Erde

Head Ushers: Jimmy Guerry

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 infant to 5 years old. Room 6 is for ages 0-2 and room 8 is for ages 3-5.

Worship Bags are available in the Narthex for children through 5<sup>th</sup> 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

### **Presbyterian Women Mother's Day Cards**

- Presbyterian Women are offering Mother's Day Cards for sale for \$5 each before and after church on Sunday, April 28th, May 5th, and in the office hallway during the week. Available also are birthday, get well, and note cards. The proceeds benefit our local missions and the PW Birthday Offering of national and international missions.

**Sunday Night Youth** - Middle school and Senior High - will meet tonight in the Youth Room 5:30-7:00 PM.

**Mothers Day Offering** - We will be receive a special offering on May 12th that supports our Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina as they continue to care for residents who have outlived their resources through no fault of their own. Thank you for continuing this caring ministry with your contribution noting "Mother's Day Offering."

**Baccalaureate Sunday** - We will honor our graduating seniors during worship on Sunday, May 19th. Please stop by the narthex and leave a message in the Blessing Jars for each graduate. Our High School Seniors are:Katie Brown, Tripp Calfee, Bryant Ford Crook, Bayer Dawsey, and Robert Girardeau, Jr. Please contact the church office if you have a student who is graduating from college.

### **Pick up Bags for Those in Need in Narthex.**

The JAM! Kids have put together bags containing water bottles and food to be given to our neighbors in need. Please take one/some so that you can give it to anyone you come across who may be hungry and thirsty. We have additional bags to put into the blessing box as needed and to give to folks who come into the office. Thank you for helping us reach out and nourish our neighbors- body and soul.

**SCUBA VBS** – Diving Into Friendship with God – June 3-7, 9 AM-Noon - Registration is now open! Forms are in the Narthex and online at <https://www.aikenpresbyterian.org>

**Thornwell Supply Drive** - New Items Only Please. During the month of May and at VBS, we will be collecting needed items for Thornwell, focusing on: Individually wrapped snacks, craft supplies, linens (towels/pillows/sheet sets, etc), outdoor toys/sports equipment, age appropriate books, pool toys, or hygiene products (ie: body wash, shampoo, deodorant, feminine products, lotion, razors, etc) Our high school kids will deliver our collection to Thornwell in Clinton on their way to Montreat Youth Conference on June 8.

**Montreat Women's Conference** - Aug. 9-11 If you have an interest in attending the Montreat Women's Conference, please sign up (in Narthex, table outside office, or call the office) and you will receive updates. The number of people will determine housing needs and final costs. Talk to Tamra Erde if you have any questions.

## CHURCH CALENDAR

### Sunday, April 28, 2024

9:15 AM-11:30 AM Nursery  
 9:15 AM-9:30 AM Coffee Fellowship  
 9:30 AM-10:15 AM Sunday School  
 9:30 AM-10:30 AM Confirmation  
 Breakfast  
 10:30 AM-11:30 AM Worship  
 2:00 PM-4:00 PM Indoor Soccer  
 5:30 PM-7:00 PM Youth  
 7:30 PM-9:00 PM Men's Basketball

### Sunday, May 5, 2024

9:15 AM - 11:30 AM Nursery  
 9:15 AM - 9:30 AM Coffee Fellowship  
 9:30 AM - 10:15 AM Sunday School  
 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship  
 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Youth

### Monday, April 29, 2024

7:00 AM-3:00 PM Preschool  
 9:30 AM-11:00 AM Covenant  
 Evans  
 5:00 PM-6:30 PM Pickleball

### Tuesday, April 30, 2024

7:00 AM-3:00 PM Preschool  
 9:00 AM-9:30 AM Preschool  
 Chapel  
 5:00 PM-6:30 PM Pickleball

### Wednesday, May 1, 2024

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool  
 8:45 AM - 9:15 AM Morning Prayer  
 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Staff Meeting  
 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Handbells  
 5:45 PM - 7:00 PM Wednesday Dinner  
 6:15 PM - 7:00 PM Children's Activity  
 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Choir

### Thursday, May 2, 2024

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool  
 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM South Boundary

### Friday, May 3, 2024

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool

## CHURCH OFFICERS AND STAFF

### First Presbyterian Church

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

E-mail: [aikenpresbyterian@aikenpresbyterian.org](mailto:aikenpresbyterian@aikenpresbyterian.org)

Website: [www.aikenpresbyterian.org](http://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 2024

Katie Brown  
Robin Callicott  
Chuck Dynarski  
Jennifer Feraldi  
Katie Kucharski  
Connor Patterson  
Jerry Shumpert  
Chick Warner

#### Class of 2025

Trey Brown  
Suzanne McLeod  
Melissa Patterson  
Graham Reynolds  
Wayne Rickman

#### Class of 2026

Richard Abney  
Dub Bankes  
Wallace Fraser  
Martha Funk  
Sharon Rodgers  
Bill Tucker

### The Deacons

#### Class of 2024

Dave Clerc  
Mary Fran Crook  
Kathy Kent

#### Class of 2025

Barbara Bower  
Anne Elkins  
Mary Hunter

#### Class of 2026

Mike Anderson  
Gail Ebner  
Brock McLeod

### The Trustees

#### Class of 2024

Reggie Ebner

#### Class of 2025

David Keisler

#### Class of 2026

Bob Buchanan

### Stephen Ministry

Rob Gray, Kathy Kent, Mary Maddrey, Carol Mondschein,  
Christin Sosa-Gaston, 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,  
Linda McGurer (803) 648-0856, or Julie Taylor (803) 979-9919

### Presbyterian Women

Moderator:

Sandy Evans

Gathering Contacts:

Amy Gray, Barb Magrath, 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.

