

*May 12, 2024  
7th 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.

# GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

## 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.

## PRELUDE

## STRIKING OF THE HOUR

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## WELCOME

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

## GATHERING MUSIC

## MORNING HAS BROKEN

## CONGREGATIONAL CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked

All: **We delight in God's Word, we meditate on God day and night.**

One: Our worship grounds us in God, like trees planted by streams of water God helps us yield good fruit.

All: **We do not wither when we spend time in God's presence.**

## ☩ HYMN 634

## TO GOD BE THE GLORY

## ☩ INVITATION TO CONFESSION OF SIN

*(Silent Confession)*

**Savior God, we invite you into our lives for a season, only to forget and neglect you once again. You beckon us, calling for our attention, but we are distracted and busy taking care of other priorities. Remind us, Holy God, that you are the source of our flourishing. You are the living water by which we have been planted. Forgive our neglect. Forgive our unfaithfulness. Focus us on you, your Word, and all that your Spirit provides. 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**

**TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH**

Joanna Hamilton

**PRAYER SHAWLS DEDICATION**

One: Dear God, thank You for the work of the many hands and hearts that have made these prayer shawls.

**All: Enfold us in Your love.**

One: Bless the shawls as they give comfort and warmth to those who receive them.

**All: Enfold them in Your love.**

One: We pray that they will be tangible reminders of God's steadfast love and of the comfort God gives, the peace God sends, the healing God provides, and the hope God offers.

**All: Enfold them in Your love.**

One: May the recipients feel wrapped in Your love and the love of Your people in this church.

**All: Enfold us all in Your love. Amen.**

**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 722**

LORD, SPEAK TO ME THAT I MAY SPEAK

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**FIRST LESSON**

PSALM 93

**SECOND LESSON**

ACTS 1:1-11

**SERMON**

Rev. Dr. Beth Yarborough

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

✦ **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**

HOW LOVELY IS THY DWELLING PLACE  
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

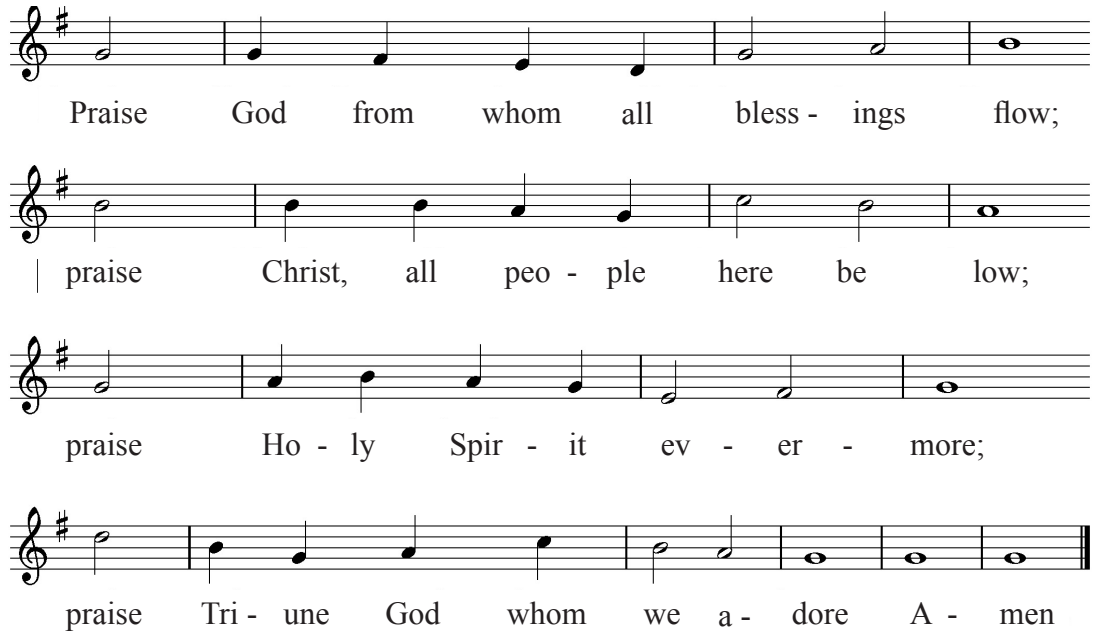
significant part of our response to the Gospel. As we present the financial gifts that represent our commitment to the work of the church. We resolve to maintain this community of worship, fellowship, and service.

**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 546

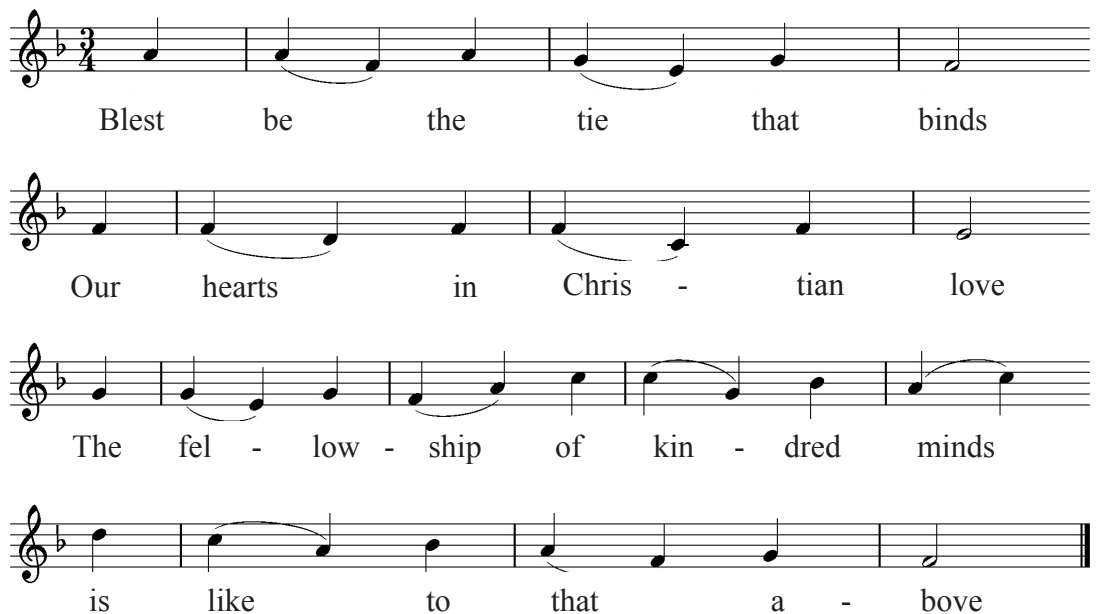
LORD, DISMISS US WITH YOUR BLESSING

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

### INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

### 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

### GREAT DAY

## WORSHIP NOTES

The flowers today have been given by First Presbyterian, to the glory of God and in celebration for all the women of this church.

Lay Reader: Melissa Patterson

Head Ushers: Steve Salzman

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, 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.



**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** began at our church in September 2007 as an outreach of our Presbyterian Women. Today we dedicate 25 more prayer shawls for a total of 922 prayer shawls dedicated since we began. Eight hundred and eighty-one of those have been given away so far. Those who are making the shawls pray that they will be tangible reminders of God's steadfast love, of the comfort God gives, the peace God sends, the healing God provides, and the hope God offers. The shawls are given as gifts from our church to anyone who might benefit from receiving one (whether a church member or not). Please let us know if you would like a prayer shawl for someone. We will be adding our prayers as a church family during worship today. You are invited to add your personal prayers also.

Since our last dedication in May 2023, our prayer shawls have been made by the following: Liz Cox, Barb Emery, Bet Girardeau, Jean Herbst, Robbie Knox, and Lenaya Raack. If you know of somebody who could benefit from the comfort of a prayer shawl or if you'd like to assist in any way, please contact Robbie Knox.

**Presbyterian Women:** Congratulations to Margot Salzman for being awarded the Honorary Life Membership in Presbyterian Women for 2024.

## CHURCH AT WORK

**Mother's Day Offering** - We will be collecting a special offering today 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.

**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>

**Morning Prayer** - Wednesday, May 15th (8:45 AM) will be the last Morning Prayer for the spring. We will resume in September.

**Thornwell Supply Drive** - 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

Hygiene products (ie: body wash, shampoo, deodorant, feminine products, lotion, razors, etc) New Items Only, Please. Please leave items in the basket in the narthex or the basket near the office doors. Our high school kids will deliver our collection to Thornwell in Clinton on their way to Montreat Youth Conference on June 8.

**Church Picnic Sunday, May 26, 2024** - Meet on the West Lawn after the 10:30 AM worship service. Please bring a side dish to share. Burgers, hot dogs, meatless varieties, potato chips, drinks, and ice cream will be provided. The Fellowship Hall will have tables and chairs for those who prefer to eat inside.

**Note** - Please know that church staff keeps the small parking lot on Henderson Lane open for you to park in when visiting the church office.

## CHURCH CALENDAR

### Sunday, May 12, 2024

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship

### Monday, May 13, 2024

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool  
9:30 AM - 11:00 AM Covenant Evans  
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Covenant Britt

### Tuesday, May 14, 2024

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool

### Wednesday, May 15, 2024

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool  
8:45 AM - 9:15 AM Morning Prayer  
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Staff Meeting  
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Session  
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Choir

### Thursday, May 16, 2024

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

### Friday, May 17, 2024

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool

### Sunday, May 19, 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

### Monday, May 20, 2024

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool  
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Spring Program  
Practice  
9:30 AM - 11:00 AM Covenant Evans  
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Hunter  
Covenant  
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Stephen  
Leaders  
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Book Group

### Tuesday, May 21, 2024

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool  
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Spring Program  
Practice  
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Stephen  
Ministry

### Wednesday, May 22, 2024

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool  
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Spring Program  
Practice  
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM 5K Graduation  
Brunch  
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Teacher Appreciation  
Lunch  
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Celestial Circle  
Presbyterian  
Women

### Sunday, May 26, 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  
11:30 AM - 2:00 PM Memorial Day  
Church Picnic

### Monday, May 27, 2024

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Office CLOSED

## 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.

