



*May 19, 2024  
Day of Pentecost*

# *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

### CONGREGATIONAL CALL TO WORSHIP

One: All together in one place;

All: **They heard the rush of a violent wind; it filled the entire house.**

One: Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared and rested on each of them;

All: **They were filled with the Holy Spirit.**

### ✠ HYMN 280

COME, O SPIRIT, DWELL AMONG US

### ✠ INVITATION TO CONFESSION OF SIN

*(Silent Confession)*

**Spirit of God, we hesitate and doubt. You call us to act boldly but our fear keeps us from following your call. Forgive our lack of courage. Embolden us to dream big and trust the Spirit to fill us and use us. Help us be Christ's church without hesitation. Guided by your Holy Spirit, help us usher in your kingdom to come. Amen.**

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

### ✠ GLORY TO GOD 591

HALLE, HALLE, HALLELUJAH!

### ✠ PASSING OF THE PEACE - WELCOMING OUR NEIGHBORS

### TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

Tamra Erde

### LITURGY OF CELEBRATION FOR OUR GRADUATES

One: God of truth and knowledge, by your wisdom we are taught the way and the truth. Bless our graduates as they now finish this course of study.

All: **We thank you for those who taught and worked beside them, and all who supported them along the way.**

One: Walk with the graduates as they leave and move forward in life. Take away their anxiety and confusion of purpose.

All: **Strengthen their many talents and skills, instill in them a confidence in the future you plan, where energies may be gathered up and used for the good of all people.**

One: For the graduates, this truly is a day of new beginnings, a time to remember and move on, and a time to believe what love is bringing.

All: **May they always know that Christ is alive and goes before us, to show and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings, our God is making all things new.**

### PRAYER FOR GRADUATES

## PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

✠HYMN 282

COME DOWN, O LOVE DIVINE

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

EZEKIEL 37:1-14

SECOND LESSON

JOHN 15:26-27, 16:4B-15

THIRD LESSON

ACTS 2:1-21

SERMON

“The Spirit of Life”

Rev. Dr Christopher Erde

### CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

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

Please eat the bread as you receive it, symbolizing your individual relationship with Christ. Then please serve the next person, saying to them, “This is the bread of life.” The cup in the center of the tray holds gluten-free wafers. When the cup is passed, please take one and hold it until all can drink together, symbolizing the fact that, together, we are Christ's body. If you are not able to hold the cup until all can partake together, please feel free to drink it as soon as you receive it. As you pass the tray to the next person, please say to them, “This is the cup of salvation”.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

#### 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

SPIRIT COME, AND MAKE US ONE  
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 69**

I, THE LORD OF SEA AND SKY

**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**

## WORSHIP NOTES

The flowers today have been donated to the glory of God and in honor of all our graduates

Lay Reader: Chick Warner

Head Usher: 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.

Today we welcome guest organist, Camille Rosier!  
We are grateful that she is here today. Welcome!



## CHURCH AT WORK

**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.

**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** - During the month of May and at VBS, we will collect 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.

**Please note** - Our Finance Team is on a part-time / flex-time work schedule. Suzanne or Cassie are normally in the office from 10:30-1:30 Monday-Thursday, however if you need to meet with either, it is best to call ahead. For your convenience meetings may be scheduled by contacting the Finance Team via phone 803-648-2662 or email [finance@aikenpresbyterian.org](mailto:finance@aikenpresbyterian.org) [financedirector@aikenpresbyterian.org](mailto:financedirector@aikenpresbyterian.org) .

\*During the summer months please call or email before you make a trip to the finance office as family vacations/outings will undoubtedly alter the normal schedule.\*



## CHURCH CALENDAR

### **Sunday, May 19, 2024**

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship  
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Baccalaureate Lunch  
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Indoor Soccer  
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM Youth Concert  
7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Men's Basketball

### **Monday, May 20, 2024**

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool  
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Tai Chi  
2:00 PM - 3:30 PM Endowment Committee  
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Pickleball  
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Hunter Covenant Group  
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Stephen Leaders Mtg.  
6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Aiken Athletic  
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Book Group

### **Tuesday, May 21, 2024**

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool  
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Buildings & Grounds  
Committee Meeting  
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry  
2:00 PM - 4:30 PM Newcomers Bridge  
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Pickleball  
5:45 PM - 6:50 PM Cub Scout Pack  
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Stephen Ministry  
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM BSA Troop  
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Boy Scouts

### **Wednesday, May 22, 2024**

7:00 AM - 03:00 PM Preschool  
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Preschool Spring Program  
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Tai Chi  
10:00 AM - 1:15 PM 5K Grad & Teacher Lunch  
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Celestial Circle  
6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Aiken Athletic Assoc  
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Honduras Agape  
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Choir Off Campus

### **Thursday, May 23, 2024**

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM Purvis Group  
2:30 PM - 5:00 PM Aiken Sher. Bagpipes/Drum  
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Pickleball

### **Friday, May 24, 2024**

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Tai Chi

### **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 Mem. Day Church Picnic  
7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Men's Basketball

### **Monday, May 27, 2024**

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Office CLOSED  
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Tai Chi  
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Pickleball  
6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Aiken Athletic

### **Tuesday, May 28, 2024**

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Pickleball  
5:45 PM - 6:50 PM Cub Scout Pack  
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM BSA Troop 404G  
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Boy Scouts

### **Wednesday, May 29, 2024**

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Tai Chi  
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Staff Meeting  
6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Aiken Athletic

### **Thursday, May 30, 2024**

2:30 PM - 5:00 PM Aiken Sher. Bagpipes/Drum  
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Pickleball

### **Friday, May 31, 2024**

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Tai Chi

### **Sunday, June 2, 2024**

9:15 AM - 11:30 AM Nursery  
9:45 AM - 10:15 AM Summer Choir  
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](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.

