

September 28, 2025
16th Sunday after 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 BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Stephen Ministry

WELCOME

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

GATHERING MUSIC

GOD WELCOMES ALL
Sanctuary Choir

CONGREGATIONAL CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come! Praise the Lord!

All: **Praise God for the heavens and the earth and all that is in them!**

One: Come! Praise the Lord!

All: **Praise God who feeds the hungry and uplifts the downtrodden!**

One: Come! Praise the Lord!

All: **Praise God who gives sight to the blind and sets prisoners free!**

One: Come! Praise the Lord!

All: **The Lord will reign forever! Praise the Lord!**

✠ HYMN 415

COME, YE SINNERS, POOR AND NEEDY

✠ INVITATION TO CONFESSION OF SIN

(Silent Confession)

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

✠ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

✠ GLORY TO GOD 48

RAIN DOWN

**Rain down;
rain down;
rain down your love on your people.
Rain down;
rain down;
rain down your love, God of life.**

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

TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Beth Yarborough

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

✠ **HYMN 712**

AS THOSE OF OLD THEIR FIRST FRUITS BROUGHT

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

AMOS 6:1A, 4-7; PSALM 146

SECOND LESSON

LUKE 16:19-31

SERMON

"I will remember your name"

Rev. Dr. Christopher Erde

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

BESIDE A STREAM OF LIVING WATER
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 740

LEAD ME, GUIDE ME

BEARING AND FOLLOWING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL BLESSING 306 BLEST BE THE TIE V 1.

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

Lay Reader: Karalee Kludzuweit

Head Usher: Eric Muhlbaier

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 through kindergarten). 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.

To our Visitors and Guests: Welcome! We hope you are finding meaningful worship and fellowship here at First Presbyterian Church. If you would like to know more about the church or how to become a member please contact our Parish Associate, Rev. Beth Yarborough by phone at 803-648-2662 or email bethy@aikenpresbyterian.org

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in celebration of 30 years of Stephen Ministry at First Presbyterian.



CHURCH AT WORK

Stephen Ministry - As we continue to celebrate 30 years of Stephen Ministry, please join us after worship service today in the Fellowship Hall for cake as we honor past and present Stephen Ministers.

With Grateful Hearts - Rummage Sale Success! Family Promise of Aiken County cannot thank you enough! From opening our church doors to store donations, to the many hands that moved, sorted, organized, and worked through the weekend—our church family helped make the Rummage Sale a huge success. Because of the generosity of First Pres. and our other community partners, we raised over \$15,000 to help prevent and end family homelessness right here in our community. What a beautiful example of faith in action!

For the Mission Committee - Thank you all so much for all that you do, and all that you continue to do as part of the Mission Committee! Blessings, Chris Kupcha

Navigating Griefland - On Tuesday, at 10:00 AM in the church parlor: Navigating Griefland, week 2 of an 8 week small-group event for anyone dealing with grief. As grief can affect us for many reasons, whatever kind of loss you're dealing with, you're welcome to join us. Peggy Haymes, the author of Navigating Griefland is a colleague whom Beth has known for several years. Peggy has served as a licensed therapist, church staff member, interim pastor, devotional magazine editor, hospital chaplain and coach. For more information about Navigating Griefland, please call the church office or email me at bethy@aikenpresbyterian.org.

Art Wall - It is our privilege to feature the works of Marti Healy and Mimi Inman. Theirs is a joint display that showcases Marti's book Walking With Dogs, select pages from the book, and original illustrations. Stop by the Parlor to see these beautiful works.

New Book Study - We will meet every other Thursday at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall to discuss a book that we can read together. The first book is The Little Liar, by Mitch Albom. This is a great book with lots of emerging themes of truth, honesty, and relationships. The book can be purchased on-line or at a local bookstore. Let the office know if you need us to order a copy for you. We'll include Advent and Lent studies in addition to other titles throughout the year. Jan Eubank, Chris Erde, and Beth Yarborough will be leading this discussion. Be sure and get it on your calendar. For more information, call the church office or email Beth at bethy@aikenpresbyterian.org **The Little Liar** - Oct. 9, and Oct. 23

SAVE THE DATE: Day of Service 2025 is Saturday October 18th 8:00-Noon.

Christmas Store - Christmas will be here before you know it! Please begin thinking about gifts and contributions for the ACTS Christmas Store. Last year, we served over 300 children which translates into 900 gifts. Dates and times to sign up to volunteer will be announced soon.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, September 28, 2025

9:15 AM - 9:30 AM	Coffee
9:15 AM - 11:45 AM	Nursery
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Sunday School
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Worship
11:30 AM - 12:00 AM	Cake
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Indoor Soccer
7:15 PM - 9:00 PM	Men's Basketball

Monday, September 29, 2025

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM	Pickleball
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM	Friends Group

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Navigating Griefland
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM	Pickleball
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	Boy Scout

Wednesday, October 1, 2025

8:45 AM - 9:15 AM	Morning Prayer
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Staff Meeting
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM	Handbells
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Choir

Thursday, October 2, 2025

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM	Pickleball
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Friday, October 3, 2025

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Office Closed
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Sunday, October 5, 2025

9:15 AM - 9:30 AM	Coffee
9:15 AM - 11:45 AM	Nursery
9:30 AM - 10:15 AM	Adult Sunday
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Worship
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Indoor Soccer
7:15 PM - 9:00 PM	Men's Basketball

CHURCH OFFICERS AND STAFF

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.

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	Jaimie Dandridge
Office Manager	Debby Dugan
Organist/Accompanist	Scott Chappell
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

Stephen Leaders: Gayle Gordon, Karalee Kludzuweit, Michael Kucharski, Jerry Shumpert, and Julie Taylor

Stephen Ministers: Gayle Gordon, Rob Gray, Sharyn Greytak, Karalee Kludzuweit, Mary Maddrey, Jo McMurtrie, Vic Sowers, Lucy Sutter, Julie Taylor and Joe Tully

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

