



October 19, 2025
19th 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

WELCOME

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

GATHERING MUSIC

CONGREGATIONAL CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We lift up our eyes to the hills — from where will our help come?

All: **Our help comes not from the hills, but from the Lord who made heaven and earth.**

One: I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable;

All: **The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.**

One: With endurance, expectation, and joy, let us worship the living God!

✠HYMN 645

SING PRAISE TO GOD WHO REIGNS ABOVE

✠INVITATION TO CONFESSION OF SIN

(Silent Confession)

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. 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

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

"WHY I PLEDGE?"

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 833 O LOVE THAT WILT NOT LET ME GO

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON GENESIS 32:22-31

SECOND LESSON LUKE 18:1-8

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 ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL
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 45

I TO THE HILLS WILL LIFT MY EYES

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: Sandy Evans

Head Usher: Howard Jones

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 by Deno & Robin Verenes to the glory of God and in memory of Nick and Demetra Verenes.



CHURCH AT WORK

From the Nominating Committee - The Nominating Committee is now accepting recommendations for six Elder positions and three Deacon positions, with terms beginning in January 2026. As you prayerfully consider who to recommend, please look for members of First Presbyterian Church who demonstrate the wisdom, maturity of faith, and compassionate spirit needed to lead in our mission and ministry. These individuals should have skills that align with guiding our congregation to be faithful to the Word of God and strengthening our collective faith and life. Nomination forms, which include more detailed information about each office, are available in the narthex and in front of the church office. You may nominate yourself, and there is no need to contact the people you recommend. The Nominating Committee will reach out to all nominees. **Nominations are requested by 3 November 2025.**

October Stewardship Note - October is stewardship month for FPCA. A brochure that provides our preliminary 2026 budget in Narrative form will be going out soon. The monetary requests demonstrate the required support for the major functions of our church's ministry: Worship, Christian Education, Fellowship, Mission, and Pastoral Care. We ask that each person in the household (including youth) complete a Time and Talent sheet. You may pick up extra copies in the narthex, in the church office, or print a copy from the Give Section on the church website. We are asking you to return your time and talent sheets with your pledge card during the service on Commitment Sunday November 2nd. We ask all giving units to fill out a pledge card. No amount is too small.

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.

New Book Study - We 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 Liars, 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 Liars** - Oct. 23

Formula for Life - During the recent time that Lorraine Kelley's beautiful artwork was displayed in the parlor, several people asked if we could make note cards from the artwork images. The cards will be sold in any quantity, and you are able to choose as many art pieces as you would like for an assortment with 30 pieces to choose from. They are \$1 each for a 5 x 7 card with an envelope. Sales from these cards will go to Formula for Life. Since the U.S. funds that buy HIV-prevention drugs in Mwanzi, Zambia have been cut drastically, continued Formula for Life support is critical. Also, this new card-making project helps to extend our memories of Lorraine. Please reach out to Debby Dugan if you are interested in purchasing Lorraine's artwork on a set of cards.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, October 19, 2025

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

Monday, October 20, 2025

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Pickleball
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Stephen Leader Meeting
6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Ploeger Covenant Group

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool
9:00 AM - 9:15 AM Preschool Chapel
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Prayer Shawl
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Navigating Griefland
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Pickleball
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM BSA Pack 110
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Stephen Ministry Meeting
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Boy Scout
7:00 PM - 8:45 PM Scouts BSA
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Indoor Soccer

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

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

Thursday, October 23, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Thursday Morning Book Study
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Pickleball

Friday, October 24, 2025

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM Preschool

Sunday, October 26, 2025

9:15 AM - 9:30 AM Coffee
9:15 AM - 11:45 AM Nursery
9:30 AM - 10:15 AM Adult Sunday School
9:30 AM - 10:15 AM Children/Youth Sunday School
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Fall Festival

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

