

# First Presbyterian Church

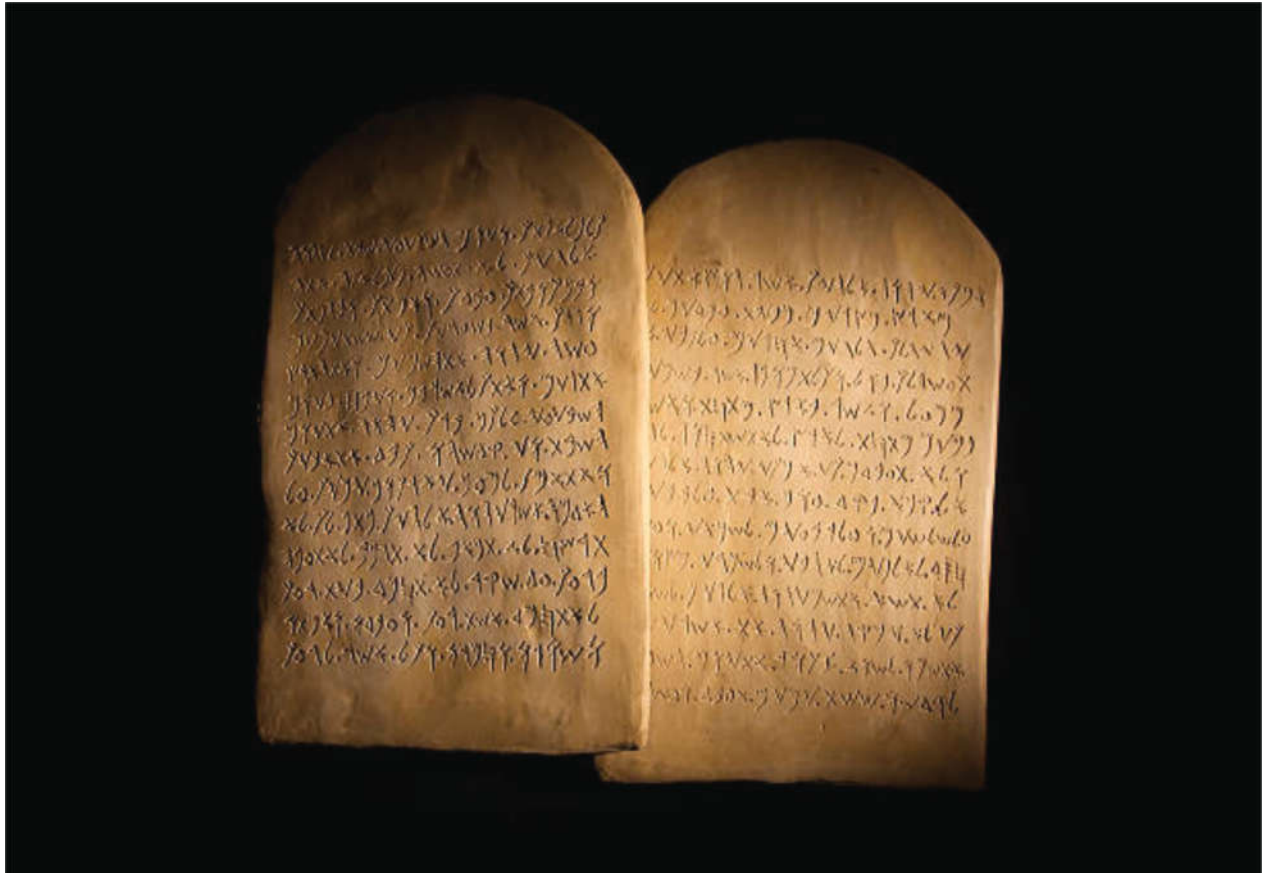
Established 1988 PCA

April 12, 2026

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## Who is First Presbyterian Church?

We belong to the family of the Redeemed.  
Transformed by the grace of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection,  
we are delighting in the supremacy of God in all things  
as we reach up to Him in worship,  
reach in to one another with biblical teaching and shepherding care,  
and reach out to the world with Christ.

*So that in everything He might be preeminent.*  
Colossians 1:18

Welcome!

We are so glad you are here today to worship the Triune God with us. Our prayer is that we will delight to:

Glorify God in all things,  
Trust him for all things,  
Proclaim him as King over all things,  
So that we might love God and others through all things.

Our worship begins with God calling us into worship from his Word; we respond in adoration and praise.

We then hear our God speak to us in his Word, profess our faith in him, confess our sins to him, and hear his assurance of our pardon by the work of Christ.

This leads to a response of rejoicing as we prepare to hear the Word of God preached. Our church practices expository preaching. This means that the Bible determines the content of the messages. The messages “come out of” the text. Ordinarily, we preach through books of the Bible; currently, we are working our way through Exodus.

In the book of Exodus we see the invisible hand of God leading God’s people out of their sin and slavery into the promised land where they can worship him according to the instructions he gives. We are always looking for how these stories and instructions point us to Christ and the gospel empowered way to live.

Our Elders have been praying for you. May you encounter God today through his Word and by the presence of his Spirit.

Warmly,  
Pastor Andy

# Order of Worship

## Welcome and Announcements

Psalm 121:1-2

Where does our help come from?

**Our help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.**

## Preparation for Worship

O Lord, we desire to adore your name, which is excellent in all the earth, and whose glory is above the heavens. You are the maker and disposer of all things; and for your sovereign pleasure it is that they still exist, and were at first created. Your hands have made and fashioned us; and all that we enjoy comes from you. As we are the workmanship of your power, O make us likewise your spiritual workmanship, created anew in Christ Jesus, unto holiness and true righteousness. Give proof that you have formed us for yourself, by causing us to show forth your praise, and making us live to glory, as we do every day live upon your bounty. Amen.

*from Augustus Toplady*

## Call to Worship

Psalm 103:1-13

Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name!

<sup>2</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits,  
<sup>3</sup> who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,  
<sup>4</sup> who redeems your life from the pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,  
<sup>5</sup> who satisfies you with good  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD works righteousness  
and justice for all who are oppressed.

<sup>7</sup> He made known his ways to Moses,  
his acts to the people of Israel.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

<sup>9</sup> He will not always chide,  
nor will he keep his anger forever.

<sup>10</sup> He does not deal with us according to our sins,  
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

<sup>11</sup> For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

<sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west,  
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

<sup>13</sup> As a father shows compassion to his children,  
so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

## Prayer of Adoration

### Hymn of Praise — O Bless the LORD My Soul

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 6/4. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The lyrics are arranged in three columns, with the first column containing the first line of the hymn, the second column the second line, and the third column the third line. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

1. O bless the Lord, my soul! His grace to you\_ pro-claim! And  
2. He will not al-ways chide; he will with pa-tience wait; his  
3. He clothes you with his love; up-holds you with his truth; and

all that is with-in me join to bless his ho-ly Name! O  
wrath is e-ver slow to rise, and read-y to\_\_ a-bate. He  
like the ea-gle he re-news the vi-gor of\_\_ your youth. Then

bless the Lord, my soul! His mer-cies bear\_\_ in mind! For-  
par-dons all your sins; pro-longs your fee-ble breath; he  
bless his ho-ly Name, whose grace has made you whole, whose

-get not all his\_ be-ne-fits! The Lord to you\_ is kind.  
heals all your in-firm-i-ties, and ran-soms you\_ from death.  
lov-ing-kind-ness crowns your days! O bless the Lord, my soul!

## Hymn of Praise — Fairest Lord Jesus



1. Fair - est Lord Je - sus, rul - er of all na - ture,  
 2. Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,  
 3. Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,  
 4. Beau - ti - ful Sa - vior! Lord of the na - tions!



Son of God and Son of Man!  
 robed in the bloom - ing garb of Spring:  
 and all the twink - ling, star - ry host:  
 Son of God and Son of Man!



Thee will I cher - ish, thee will I  
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is  
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines  
 Glo - ry and ho - nor, praise, a - do -



hon - or, thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.  
 pur - er, who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.  
 pur - er than all the an - gels heav'n can boast.  
 - ra - tion, now and for - e - ver - more be thine.

## Scripture Reading — Hebrews 12:18-29

For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest<sup>19</sup> and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them.<sup>20</sup> For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned.”<sup>21</sup> Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.”<sup>22</sup> But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,<sup>23</sup> and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,<sup>24</sup> and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

<sup>25</sup> See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven.<sup>26</sup> At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.”<sup>27</sup> This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain.<sup>28</sup> Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe,<sup>29</sup> for our God is a consuming fire.

## Profession of Faith — Westminster Confession of Faith 2.1

**There is but one only, living, and true God, who is infinite in being and perfection, a most pure spirit, invisible, without body, parts, or passions; immutable, immense, eternal, incomprehensible, almighty, most wise, most holy, most free, most absolute; working all things according to the counsel of his own immutable and most righteous will, for his own glory; most loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin; the rewarder of them that diligently seek him; and withal, most just, and terrible in his judgments, hating all sin, and who will by no means clear the guilty.**

## Song of Confession — Breathe on Me, Breath of God



1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new,
2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am who - lly thine,
4. Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I ne - ver die,



that I may love as thou dost love, and do— what thou wouldst do.  
un - til my will is one with thine, to do— and to en - dure.  
un - til this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.  
but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

## Prayer of Confession

God of everlasting love,  
we confess that we have been unfaithful  
to our covenant with you and with one another.

**We have worshiped other gods: money, power, greed, and convenience.**

We have served our own self-interest  
instead of serving only you and your people.

**We have not loved our neighbor as you have commanded,  
nor have we rightly loved ourselves.**

Forgive us, gracious God,

**and bring us back into the fullness  
of our covenant with you and one another  
Through Christ, our Lord.**

## Assurance of Pardon — Romans 8:1-4

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup> For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

To all who have received the Gospel,  
know that in Christ, your sins are forgiven and be at peace.

## Hymn of Illumination — Spirit of God



1. Spi - rit of God, de - scend up - on my heart;  
2. I ask no dream; no pro - phet ec - sta - sies,  
3. Teach me to feel that thou art al - ways nigh;  
4. Hast thou not bid me love thee, God and King?  
5. Teach me to love thee as thine an - gels love,  
wean it from earth, through all its pul - ses move.  
no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,  
teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear,  
All, all thine own, soul, heart and strength and mind.  
One ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;  
Stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as thou art;  
no an - gel vi - sion, no op - 'ning sky;  
to check the ris - ing doubt, the re - bel sigh,  
I see thy cross; there teach me to cling:  
the pre - sence of thy de - scend - ed Dove,  
and make me love thee as I ought to love.  
but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.  
teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.  
O let me seek thee, and O let me find!  
my heart an al - tar, and thy love the flame.

D.S. al Fine

**Sermon**

**from Sinai to Zion**  
Exodus 19:16-25

Pastor Andy Aikens

**Sermon Notes:**

## Song of Response — Sing Ye Saints

1. Sing, ye saints, ad-mire and won-der, Je - sus' match-less love a - dore; sing for  
 2. Sing, though sense and world-ly rea-son tries to stop the joy-ful song; sing and  
 3. Sing, ye saints, ad-mire and won-der, Je - sus' match-less love a - dore; sing for

Si - nai's aw - ful thun - der shall up - on you burst no more. Sing, in  
 count it high-est trea - son for a saint to hold his tongue. Sing ye  
 Si - nai's aw - ful thun - der shall up - on you burst no more. Sing, for

spite of Sa - tan's ly - ing; sing, though sins are black and large; sing, for  
 loud, whose ho - ly call - ing your e - lec - tion plain - ly shows; sing, nor  
 you shall heav'n in - her - it, sing, and ne'er the song have done; sing to

Je - sus, by his dy - ing, set you free from e - v'ry  
 fear a fi - nal fall - ing, Je - sus' love no chang - es  
 Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, One in Three and Three in

charge,— set you free from e - v'ry charge.  
 knows.— Je - sus' love no chang - es knows.  
 One,— One in Three and Three in One.

## Benediction – Based on Galatians 6:7-9

In Christ, through His Spirit,  
 may you go out of this place  
 knowing the certainty of his mercy and peace  
 so that you do not grow weary in sowing  
 what is good and doing good to all people.  
 May the hope of eternal life encourage you  
 as you do what is pleasing to the Lord through all your days.

## News and Announcements

There will be a Congregational Meeting after the morning worship today, April 12, to hear about the process of calling an associate pastor and electing a pulpit committee.

All women in the church are invited to meet for prayer this week on Thursday, April 16 at 10 am. We will meet in the CEC building. Please come through the door on the side of the gravel parking lot. If you are able, please join us for lunch and fellowship following our prayer time.

Women are invited to register for the TN Valley Presbytery Women's Conference on Saturday, April 25, from 9 am – 3 pm at Covenant Presbyterian Church in East Brainerd. The sign up sheet is in the hallway; the cost is \$20, which covers food and handouts. The theme, *Body, Bride, and Building*, will be lead by Paula Miles. The registration deadline is today, April 12.

## First Catechism

What is the gospel and its reward?

**God, the righteous Creator, rescues sinful people from separation to himself through Jesus' sinless life, death, and resurrection. Repenting of our sins and believing in Jesus' work unites us to Jesus and transforms us to grow in ways pleasing to God. The eternal presence of God is our reward!**

Weeks 1-5 God

Weeks 6-12 Creation

Weeks 13-19 Fall/Sin

Weeks 20-28 Salvation by grace alone, through Christ alone

Weeks 29-30 Repentance and Faith

Weeks 31-48 Growing in Grace

Weeks 49-52 Heaven now and in the future

Week 32 - April 12

Where do you learn how to love and obey God?

**In the Bible alone.**

## Schedule

Sunday Morning Worship Service	10:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Bible Study (all ages)	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:00 p.m. On Break
Women's Monday Theology Study	2:00 p.m.
Men's Thursday Bible Study	9:00 a.m.
Octogenarian/Nonagenarian (ON) Lunch	Monthly
Women's Tuesday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.

## Our Missionary Family International

Lydia Goeglein, MTW Sofia Bulgaria  
Brian & Becky Schrader, Pioneers in Africa  
Lee Leadbetter, RUF International at UT  
Julian & Rachel Bacon, MTW Brussels

## North America & Local

Plateau Pregnancy Services  
Good Samaritans, 10th Street  
RUF Tennessee Tech, Ryan Angel  
Rural Church Development, Corey Pelton  
Myers Park Initiative, Greg Salazar  
Mercy Presbyterian, Rob Herron  
Occom Ministries, Native American Initiative

## Session

Andy Aikens TE, Senior Pastor  
Robert Berman, RE '27  
Eric Larson, RE '28  
Jim Sparks RE '26  
Richard Parks RE '27  
Forrest Marion RE, Clerk, '26

## Deacons

Dave Miser, Chair '28  
John Reed '26  
Mike Tuuk '27  
Greg Wood '28

## Staff

Music/Sound Director	Matt Bundy
School of Music Director	April Stewart
Finance/Admin	Holly Kisly

## Security Team

Today	Tim Grimes
Next Week	Cole Mayhugh/John Reed

## Ministry Support

Treasurer	Bill Allbright
Newsletter	Darlene Gendjar
Library	Kathy Pipkin
Children's Ministry	Hope Aikens

## Greeters

Today	Ray and Carol Sprik
Next Week	Christian and Brianna Ragle

## Nursery

Today	Hope Aikens
	Eden Tuuk
Next Week	Keely Ragle
	Annalise Aikens