

First Presbyterian Church

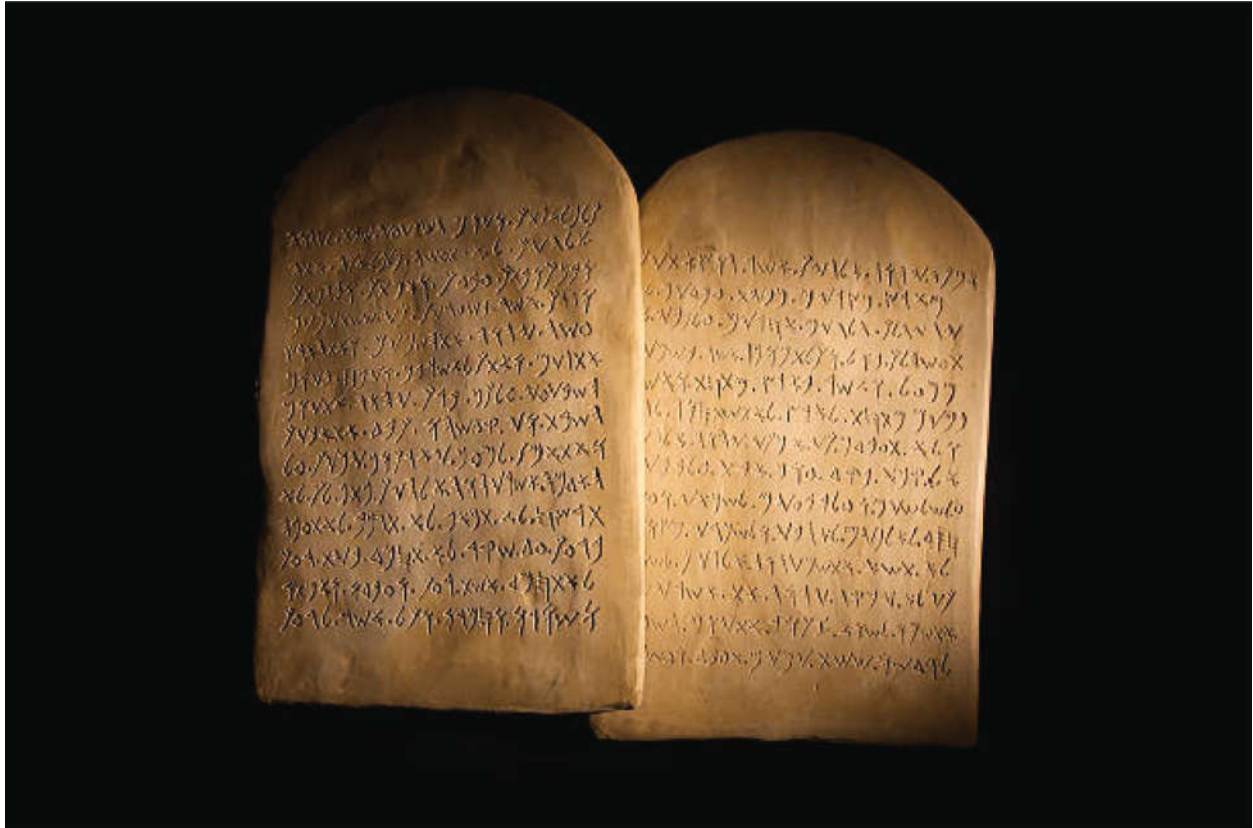
Established 1988 PCA

August 23, 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

ETERNAL FATHER,

You are good beyond all thought, but I am vile, wretched, miserable, blind; my lips are ready to confess, but my heart is slow to feel, and my ways reluctant to amend. I bring my soul to you: break it, wound it, bend it, mold it. Unmask to me sin's deformity, that I may hate it, abhor it, flee from it. My faculties have been a weapon of revolt against you; as a rebel, I have misused my strength, and served the foul adversary of your kingdom. Give me grace to grieve my unfeeling folly, grant me to know that the way of transgressors is hard, that evil paths are wretched paths, that to depart from you is to lose all good.

The Valley of Vision

Call to Worship

Psalm 146

Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

² I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

³ Put not your trust in princes,

in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

⁴ When his breath departs, he returns to the earth;

on that very day his plans perish.

⁵ Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the LORD his God,

⁶ who made heaven and earth,

the sea, and all that is in them,

who keeps faith forever;

⁷ who executes justice for the oppressed,

who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

⁸ the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹ The LORD watches over the sojourners;

he upholds the widow and the fatherless,

but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

¹⁰ The LORD will reign forever,

your God, O Zion, to all generations.

Praise the LORD!

Hymn of Praise — Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah (Psalm 146)



1. Hal - le - lu - jah, praise Je - ho - vah! O__ my soul, Je - ho - vah praise!
2. Hap - py is the man_ who choo - ses Is - rael's God to be his aid!
3. Food he dai - ly gives the hun - gry, sets_ the mourn - ing pris' - ner free,
4. Hal - le - lu - jah, praise Je - ho - vah! O__ my soul, Je - ho - vah praise!



I will sing the glo - ri - ous prai - ses of__ my God through all my days!
He is blessed whose hope_ of bless - ing on__ the Lord his God is__ stayed.
rais - es those bowed down with an - guish, makes the sight - less eyes to__ see.

I will sing the glo - ri - ous prai - ses of__ my God through all my days!



Put no con - fi - dence in prin - ces, nor for help on man de - pend.
Heav'n and earth the Lord cre - a - ted, seas and all that they con - tain.
Well Je - ho - vah loves the right - eous, and the strang - er_ he__ be - friends,
O - ver all, God reigns for - e - ver; through all a - ges he__ is King.



He shall die, to dust_ re - turn - ing, and his pur - pos - es__ shall end.
He de - li - vers from op - press - ion: right - eous - ness he will main - tain.
helps the fa - ther - less__ and wi - dow, judge - ment on__ the wick - ed_ sends.
Un - to him, thy God, O Zi - on, joy - ful hal - le - lu - jahs sing!

Text: Scottish Psalter; Music: Darwin Jordan; ©1982 Darwin Jordan Music

Prayer of Adoration

Hymn of Praise — Praise Him, Praise Him



1. Praise him! Praise him! Je - sus, our bless - ed Re - deem - er!
 2. Praise him! Praise him! Je - sus, our bless - ed Re - deem - er!
 3. Praise him! Praise him! Je - sus, our bless - ed Re - deem - er!

Sing, O earth, his won - der - ful love pro - claim!
 For our sins he suf - fered and bled and died;
 Heav'n - ly por - tals loud with ho - san - nas ring!

Hail him! Hail him! high - est arch - an - gels in glo - ry;
 he our Rock, our hope of e - ter - nal sal - va - tion,
 Je - sus, Sav - ior, reign - eth for - e - ver and e - ver;

strength and hon - or give to his ho - ly name!
 hail him, hail him, Je - sus the Cru - ci - fied.
 crown him! crown him, Pro - phet and Priest and King!

Like a shep - herd, Je - sus will guard his chil - dren,
 Sound his prai - ses! Je - sus who bore our sor - rows,
 Christ is com - ing! o - ver the world vic - to - rious,

in his arms he car - ries them all day long:
 love un - bound - ed won - der - ful, deep, and strong:
 pow'r and glo - ry un - to the Lord be - long:

Praise him! Praise him! tell of his ex - cel - lent great - ness;

Praise him! Praise him! e - ver in joy - ful song!

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1869; Music: JOYFUL SONG, Chester G. Allen, 1869; CCLI #40409

Scripture Reading — Psalm 40:1-8

I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry.

² He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

³ He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.

Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.

⁴ Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust

who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie!

⁵ You have multiplied, O LORD my God,

your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you!

I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.

⁶ In sacrifice and offering you have not delighted, but you have given me an open ear.

Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.

⁷ Then I said, “Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me:

⁸ I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.”

Profession of Faith — Apostle’s Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Song of Confession — Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God, vv 1

Ho - ly Spi-rit, liv-ing breath of God, breathe new life in - to my will-ing soul.

Bring the pres-ence of the ris - en Lord to re - new my heart and make me whole.

Cause your Word to come a - live in me; give me faith for what I can - not see.

Give me pas-sion for your pu - ri - ty; Ho - ly Spi - rit, breathe new life in me.

The image shows a musical score for a song in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. The melody is simple and hymn-like, using mostly quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly Spi-rit, liv-ing breath of God, breathe new life in - to my will-ing soul. Bring the pres-ence of the ris - en Lord to re - new my heart and make me whole. Cause your Word to come a - live in me; give me faith for what I can - not see. Give me pas-sion for your pu - ri - ty; Ho - ly Spi - rit, breathe new life in me.'

Text and Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend; © 2006 Thankyou Music Ltd; CCLI #4779872

Prayer

Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God, vv 2

Holy Spirit, come abide within; may your joy be seen in all I do.
Love enough to cover ev'ry sin in each thought and deed and attitude.
Kindness to the greatest and the least, gentleness that sows the path of peace.
Turn my strivings into works of grace; breath of God, show Christ in all I do.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God, vv 3

Holy Spirit, from creation's birth, giving life to all that God has made,
Show your power once again on earth; cause your church to hunger for your ways.
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise; lead us on the road of sacrifice,
That in unity, the face of Christ will be clear for all the world to see.

Assurance of Pardon — Romans 10:9-13

because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

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

Song of Rejoicing – Grace Unmeasured



1. Grace un-meas-ured, vast and free, that knew me from e - ter - ni - ty, that

2. Grace a-bound-ing, strong and true that makes me long to be like you, that



called me out be-fore my birth to bring you glo - ry on this earth.

turns me from my self - ish pride to love the cross on which you died.



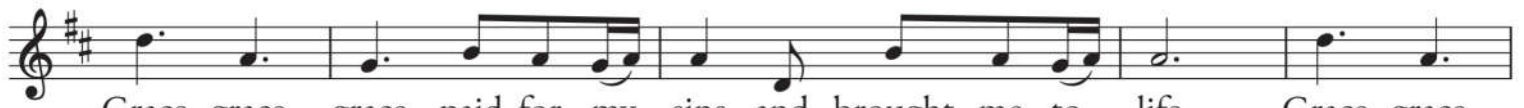
Grace a - maz - ing, pure and deep, that saw me in my mis - er - y, that

Grace un-end - ing, all my days, you'll give me strength to run this race, and



took my curse and owned my blame so I could bear your right-eous name.

when my years on earth are through, the praise will all be - long to you.



Grace, grace, grace paid for my sins and brought me to_ life. Grace, grace,



grace clothes me with pow'r to do what is right. Grace, grace, grace will lead me to



heav'n where I'll see your face and ne - ver cease to thank you for your grace.

Sermon

Slaves to God
Exodus 21:1-11

Pastor Andy Aikens

Sermon Notes:

Song of Response – Take My Life and Let It Be



1. Take my life, and let it be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee.
2. Take my hands, and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love.
3. Take my voice, and let me sing, al - ways on - ly for my King.
4. Take my sil - ver and my gold; not a mite would I with - hold.
5. Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no lon - ger mine.
6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its trea - sure - store.



Take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise,
 Take my feet, and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee,
 Take my lips, and let them be filled with mes - sa - ges from thee,
 Take my in - tel - lect, and use e - v'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose,
 Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy ro - yal throne,
 Take my self, and I will be e - ver, on - ly, all for thee,



let them flow in cease - less praise.
 swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 filled with mes - sa - ges from thee.
 e - v'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.
 it shall be thy ro - yal throne.
 e - ver, on - ly all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1874; Music: HENDON, Henri A. César Malan, 1827

Benediction – 2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
 and the love of God
 and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
 be with you all.

News and Announcements

This is the last Sunday to sign up for the August 30 Fellowship Lunch. Please visit the sign-up sheets on the hallway table.

Mark your calendar to attend the installation service for Pastor Peter Dietsch on September 13 at 5 p.m. Sister Presbyterian churches will be joining us. Refreshments will be provided.

Women in God's Service (WinGS) will meet September 12 at 11:30 a.m. See Bonnie Stanley for more information.

First Catechism

What is the gospel and its reward?

God, the righteous Creator, rescues sinful people by reconciling them 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 51 - August 23

Will the Lord Jesus come again?

Yes! He will return to judge the world on the last day.

Schedule

Sunday Morning Worship Service
Sunday Morning Bible Study (all ages)
Sunday Evening Worship
Women's Monday Theology Study
Women's Tuesday Bible Study
Women's Thursday Bible Study
Men's Thursday Bible Study
Octogenarian/Nonagenarian (ON) Lunch
Young at Heart (YAH) Lunch
Women in God's Service (WinGS)

10:45 a.m.
9:30 a.m.
6:00 p.m. On Break
2:00 p.m.
9:30 a.m. Resumes September 15
6:00 p.m. Resumes August 27
9:00 a.m.
Monthly
Monthly
Quarterly

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
Koos & Bhless Hagg, MTW, Southeast Asia

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	Robert Kalb
Next Week	Dan Dolan

Ministry Support

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

Greeters

Today	Andrew & Diane Remillard
Next Week	Jay & April Stewart

Nursery

Today	Hope Aikens Yasha Bitner April Stewart
Next Week	Robyn Mayhugh April Stewart