

First Presbyterian Church

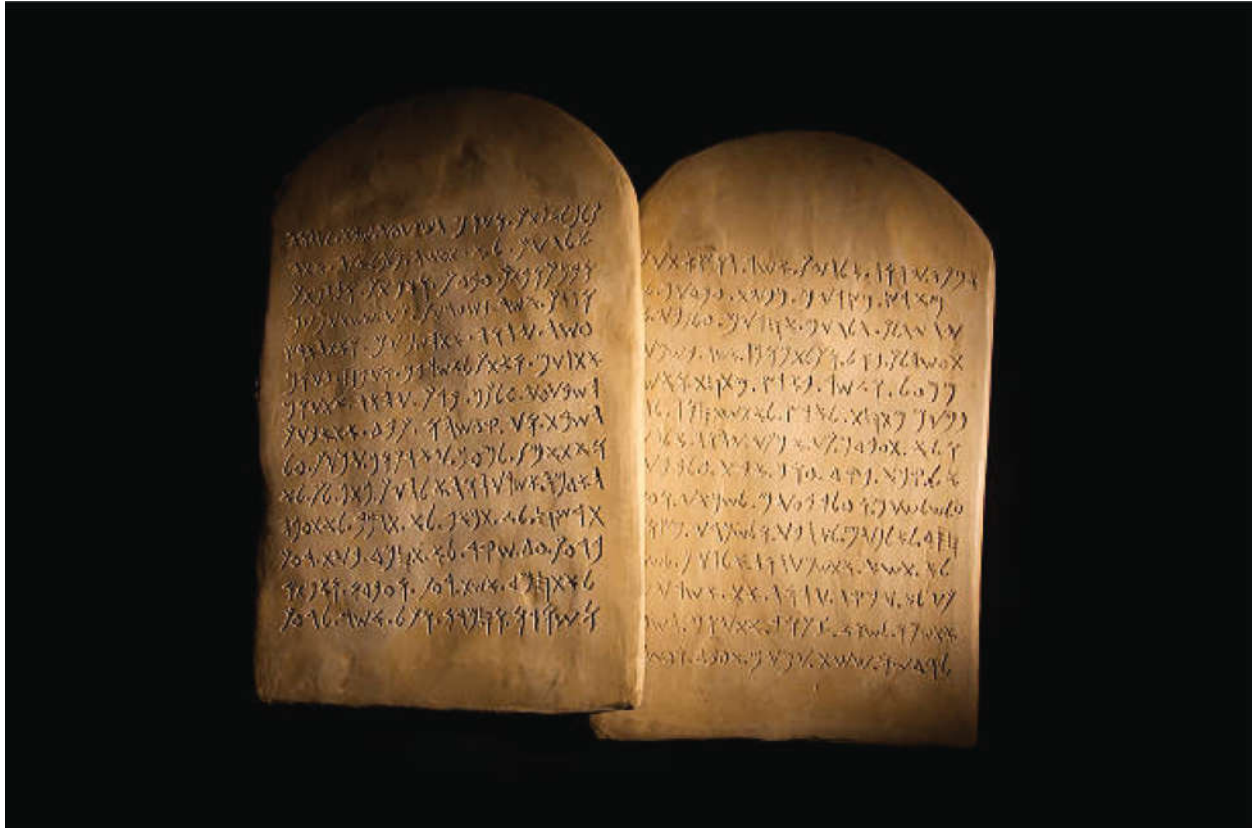
Established 1988 PCA

September 13, 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

Most merciful Father, we humbly beseech you to give every one of us grace to let every word that is read, prayed, sung, and preached sink deeply into our hearts. Bless, we pray, our wills and affections with sanctified desires to entertain them, our memories with faithfulness to retain them, our minds with serious meditation to digest them, our hearts with fervency and prayer for blessing upon them, and our lives with practice and piety to profit by them.

from Robert Bolton, 17th century pastor

Call to Worship

Psalm 103:1-5

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

² Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,

³ who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,

⁴ who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

⁵ who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Prayer of Adoration

Hymn of Praise — Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



1. Praise to the Lord, the Al-might-y, the King of cre-a-tion!
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous-ly reign-eth,
3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros-per thy work and de-fend thee!
4. Praise to the Lord, who with mar-vel-ous wis-dom hath made thee,
5. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a-dore him!



O my soul praise him, for he is thy health and sal-va-tion!
shel-ters thee un-der his wings, yea, so gent-ly sus-stain-eth!
Sure-ly his good-ness and mer-cy here dai-ly at-tend thee;
decked thee with health and with lov-ing hand guid-ed and stayed thee.
All that hath life and breath, come now with prais-es be-fore him!



All ye who hear, now to his tem-ple draw near,
Hast thou not seen how thy de-sires e'er have been
pon-der a-new what the A-might-y will do,
How oft in grief hath not he brought thee re-lief,
Let the a-men sound from his peo-ple a-gain;



join me in glad ad-o-ra-tion.
grant-ed in what he or-dain-eth?
if with his love he be-friend thee.
spread-ing his wings to o'er shade thee!
glad-ly for-e'er we a-dore him.

Text: Based on Psalm 103, Joachim Neander, 1680, Tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt. 1990;
Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, Stralsund Gesangbuch, 1665, Arr. in Praxis Pietatis Melica, 1668

Hymn of Praise — All Praise to Him



1. All praise to him, the God of light, who formed the moun - tains by his
2. All praise to him whose love is seen in Christ the Son, the Ser - vant
3. All praise to him whose pow'r im-parts the love of God with-in our



might. All praise to him who names the stars, that sing his fame in skies a -
King, who left be-hind his glo-rious throne to pay the ran-som for his
hearts. The Spi - rit of all truth and peace, the fount of joy and ho - li -



-far. All praise to him who reigns in love, who guides the gal - ax - ies a -
own. All praise to him who hum - bly came to bear our sor - row, sin, and
-ness. To Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it now our souls we lift, our wills we



-bove, yet bends to hear our e - v'ry prayer, with so-v'reign pow'r and ten - der care.
shame, who lived to die, who died to rise, the all suf - fi - cient sac - ri fice.
bow. To you, the Tri-une God, we raise with lov - ing hearts our song of praise.

Text: Horatius Bonar (1808-1889, alt; Music: Bob Kaufflin and Matt Merker; © 2017 Sovereign Grace Praise; CCLI #1850411

Scripture Reading — James 1:19 - 2:13

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger;²⁰ for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.²¹ Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵ But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

²⁶ If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. ² For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in,³ and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet,"⁴ have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵ Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? ⁷ Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

⁸ If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. ⁹ But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. ¹¹ For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹² So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. ¹³ For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Profession of Faith — Westminster Shorter Catechism #2 & 3

What rule has God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?

The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.

What do the Scriptures principally teach?

The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.

Song of Confession – Hear My Prayer

1. Hear my pray'r O__ Lord, and__ an-swer me; I am poor and need - y.
2. You O Lord, are__ good and for - giv - ing; give ear to my pray'r.

Save my life, for__ you are the on - ly God, for to you I cry.__
Teach your way, so that I may walk in your truth; fix my heart to fear you.

You, O__ Lord, are__ full of__ mer - cy, gra - cious are you, O__ God,
Slow to__ an - ger, a - bound - ing in faith - ful - ness.

Turn to me, de - liv - er me, save me in your love.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first two lines of lyrics are for two different verses. The score ends with a double bar line.

Text and Music: Gregory Wilbur, 2013; © 2013 Gregory Wilbur; CCLI #1850411

Prayer of Confession

God of everlasting love,
we confess that we have been unfaithful
to our covenant to 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 commanded,
nor have we rightly loved ourselves.

**Forgive us, gracious God,
and bring us back into the fullness
of our covenant with you and each other
through Christ, our Lord.**

Assurance of Pardon — Ephesians 2:4-5

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

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

Song of Rejoicing – His Mercy is More

1. What love could re - mem - ber no wrongs we have done? Om -
2. What pa - tience would wait as we con - stant - ly roam? What
3. What rich - es of kind - ness he lav - ished on us! His

ni - scient, all know - ing he counts not their sum. Thrown
Fa - ther so ten - der is call - ing us home? He
blood was the pay - ment; his life was the cost. We

in - to a sea with - out bot - tom or shore,
wel - comes the weak - est, the vil - est, the poor; our
stood 'neath a debt we could ne - ver a - ford;

sins they are ma - ny; his mer - cy is more. Praise the

Lord! His mer - cy is more!

Strong - er than dark - ness, new e - v'ry morn; our
D.S. al Fine

sins, they are ma - ny; his mer - cy is more.

Text and Music: Matt Boswell and Matt Papa; © Getty Music Hymns and Songs; CCLI #1850411

Sermon

Consecrated to Me
Exodus 22:16-23:9

Pastor Andy Aikens

Sermon Notes:

Song of Response – Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah



1. Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this bar - ren land;
 2. O - pen now the cry - stal foun-tain, whence the heal - ing stream doth flow;
 3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my an - xious fears sub - side;

I am weak, but thou art might - y; hold me with thy pow'r - ful hand;
 let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my jour - ney through;
 death of death and hell's de - struc-tion, land me safe on Ca-naan's side;

Bread of heav - en, Bread of heav - en, feed me till I want no more,
 strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer, be thou still my strength and shield,
 songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es, I will e - ver give to thee,

feed me til I want no more.
 be thou still my strength and shield.
 I will e - ver give to thee.

Text: William Williams, 1745, St. 1 tr. by Peter Williams, 1771, St. 2-3 by William Williams, 1772;
 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1907; CCLI #1850411

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

Please come to Pastor Peter Dietsch's Installation Service tonight at 5 p.m. Refreshments and fellowship will follow.

The Thursday evening and Tuesday morning Colossians Bible study classes are invited to the September 15 class at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall for a combined breakfast fellowship and introduction to Colossians. Please bring a breakfast food to share. Coffee and tea will be provided.

All women in the church are invited to meet for prayer this week on Thursday, September 17 at 10 a.m. We will meet in the CEC building. Please come through the door on the side of the gravel parking lot. If you are able, join us for lunch and fellowship following our prayer time.

Parents, if you'd like to begin a new year helping your children learn the First Catechism, an outline of a gospel-framework and flashcards are available on the table in the hallway by the back door. See Hope Aikens if you have any questions.

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 2 - September 13

Is there more than one true God?

No, there is only one true God.

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.
Women's Tuesday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Women's Thursday Bible Study	6:00 p.m.
Men's Thursday Bible Study	9:00 a.m.
Octogenarian/Nonagenarian (ON) Lunch	Monthly
Young at Heart (YAH) Lunch	Monthly
Women in God's Service (WinGS)	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	Orville Ennis
Next Week	Tim Grimes

Ministry Support

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

Greeters

Today	Terri Fleck & Faith Ralph
Next Week	Eston & Reba Norris

Nursery

Today	Piper Larson Reba Norris
Next Week	Hope Aikens Eden Tuuk