

First Presbyterian Church

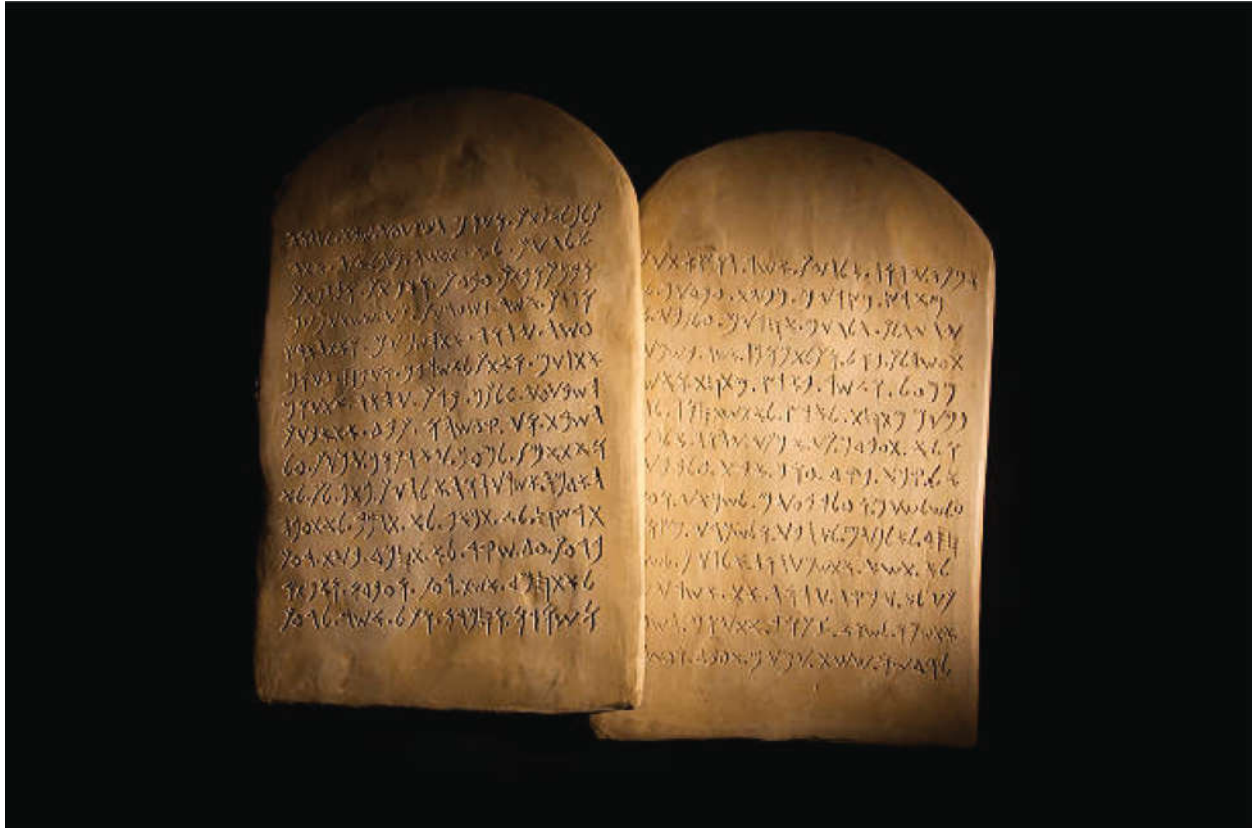
Established 1988 PCA

September 20, 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 commune with you every day, but week days are worldly days, and secular concerns reduce heavenly impressions. We bless you therefore for the day sacred to our souls when we can wait upon you and be refreshed; we thank you for the institutions of religion by use of which we draw near to you and you to us; we rejoice in another Lord's Day when we call off our minds from the cares of the world and attend upon you without distraction; let our retirement be devout, our conversations edifying, our reading pious, our hearing profitable, that our souls be quickened and elevated.

The Valley of Vision

Call to Worship – Psalm 91:1-4

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

² I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."

³ For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence.

⁴ He will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

Hymn of Praise — O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing



1. O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem - er's praise, the
2. My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim, to
3. Je - sus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sor - rows cease; 'tis
4. He breaks the pow'r of reign - ing sin, he sets the pris - 'ner free; his
5. He speaks and list' - ning to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive; the
6. Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb, your loo-sen'd tongues em - ploy; ye



glo - ries of my God and King, the tri-umphs of his grace.
spread through all the earth a - broad the ho - nors of thy name.
mu - sic in the sin-ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
blood can make the foul - est clean, his blood a - vailed for me.
mourn - ful, bro - ken hearts re - joice; the hum - ble poor be - lieve.
blind, be - hold your Sa - vior come; and leap, ye lame, for joy.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1739; alt. Alt. 1961; Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784-1829; CCLI #1850411

Prayer of Adoration

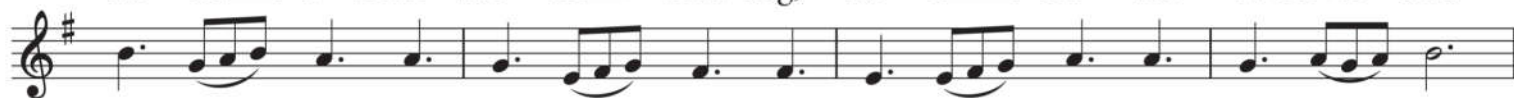
Hymn of Praise — O the Deep, Deep, Love of Jesus



1. O the__ deep, deep love of__ Je - sus! Vast, un - mea - sured, bound-less, free;
2. O the__ deep, deep love of__ Je - sus! Spread his__ praise from shore to shore;
3. O the__ deep, deep love of__ Je - sus! Love of__ e - v'ry love__ the best;



roll - ing__ as a might - y__ o - cean in its__ full - ness o - ver me.
how he__ lov - eth, e - ver__ lov - eth, chang - eth__ ne - ver, ne - ver - more;
'tis an__ o - cean vast of__ bless - ing, 'tis a__ ha - ven sweet of rest.



Un - der - neath me, all a - round me, is the__ cur - rent of thy__ love;
how he__ watch - es o'er his__ loved ones, died to__ call them all his__ own;
O the__ deep, deep love of__ Je - sus! 'Tis a__ heav'n of heav'ns to__ me;



lead - ing__ on - ward, lead - ing__ home - ward, to thy__ glo - rious rest a - bove.
how for__ them he in - ter - ced - eth, watch - eth__ o'er them from the throne.
and it__ lifts me up to__ glo - ry, for it__ lifts me up__ to thee.

Text: George P. Morris, 1838, Music: BEATITUDO, John B. Dykes, 1875; CCLI #1850411

Scripture Reading — Selected Passages

Mark 2:23-28

One Sabbath he was going through the grainfields, and as they made their way, his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. ²⁴ And the Pharisees were saying to him, “Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?” ²⁵ And he said to them, “Have you never read what David did, when he was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with him: ²⁶ how he entered the house of God, in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?” ²⁷ And he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. ²⁸ So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath.”

Hebrews 4:1-11

Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. ² For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. ³ For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said,

“As I swore in my wrath,
“They shall not enter my rest,””

although his works were finished from the foundation of the world. ⁴ For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way: “And God rested on the seventh day from all his works.” ⁵ And again in this passage he said,

“They shall not enter my rest.”

⁶ Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, ⁷ again he appoints a certain day, “Today,” saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted,

“Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts.”

⁸ For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. ⁹ So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, ¹⁰ for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. ¹¹ Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.

Profession of Faith — Heidelberg Catechism Question 103

What is God's will for you in the fourth commandment?

First, that the gospel ministry and education for it be maintained, and that, especially on the festive day of rest, I diligently attend the assembly of God's people to learn what God's Word teaches, to participate in the sacraments, to pray to God publicly, and to bring Christian offerings for the poor.

Second, that every day of my life I rest from my evil ways, let the Lord work in me through his Spirit, and so begin in this life the eternal Sabbath.

Song of Confession – Hear My Prayer (Psalm 86)

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 in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff has two verses of lyrics. The second staff continues the lyrics. The third staff continues the lyrics. The fourth staff continues the lyrics. The fifth staff continues the lyrics and ends with a double bar line.

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

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon — Matthew 11:28-30

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Now, lift up your hearts to the Lord!
My heart I offer to you, O Lord; promptly and sincerely!

Song of Rejoicing – My Soul Finds Rest in God Alone (Psalm 62)

1. My soul finds rest in God a-lone, my rock and my sal - va - tion; a
2. Find rest, my soul, in God a-lone a - mid the world's temp - ta - tions; when
3. I'll set my gaze on God a-lone and trust in him com-plete - ly; with

for - tress strong a - gainst my foes, and I will not be sha - ken. Though
e - vil seeks to take a hold, I'll cling to my sal - va - tion. Though
e - v'ry day pour out my soul and he will prove his mer - cy. Though

lips may bless and hearts may curse, and lies like ar - rows pierce me, I'll
rich - es come and rich - es go, don't set your heart up - on them; the
life is but a fleet - ing breath, a sigh too brief to mea - sure, my

fix my heart on right-eous-ness; I'll look to him who hears me. Oh
fields of hope in which I sow are har-vest-ed in heav - en.
King has crushed the curse of death, and I am his for - e - ver.

praise him, hal - le - lu jah! My de - light and my re - ward! E - ver -
-last - ing, ne - ver fail - ing! My re - deem - er, my God.

Text and Music: Aaron Keyes, Stuart Townend (based on Psalm 62); © Thankyou music Ltd; CCLI #1850411

Sermon

Sabbaths and Festivals
Exodus 23:10-19

Pastor Andy Aikens

Sermon Notes:

Song of Response – Jesus, I am Resting, Resting

1. Je - sus, I am rest ing, rest - ing in the joy of what thou art;— I am

2. Oh, how great thy lov - ing kind - ness, vast-er broad-er than the sea.— Oh, how

3. Simply trust-ing thee, Lord Je - sus, I be-hold thee as thou art,— and thy

4. E - ver lift thy face up - on— me as I work and wait for thee; rest - ing

find - ing out the great - ness of— thy lov - ing— heart. Thou hast

mar - ve - lous thy good - ness la - vished all— on— me. Yes, I

love, so pure, so change - less sa - tis - fies— my— heart. Sa - tis -

'neath thy smile, Lord Je - sus, earth's dark sha - dows— flee. Bright-ness

bid me gaze up - on— thee, and thy beau - ty fills my soul, for by

rest in thee, be - lov - ed, know what wealth of grace is thine, know thy

-fies its deep - est long - ing, meets, sup - plies its e - v'ry need, com-pass -

of my Fa - ther's glo - ry, sun - shine of my Fa - ther's face,— keep me

thy trans-form - ing pow - er thou hast made— me— whole. Je - sus,

cer - tain - y of pro - mise, and have made— it— mine.

-eth me round with bless - ings; thine is love— in - deed.

e - ver trust - ing, rest - ing, fill me with— thy— grace.

I am rest ing, rest - ing in the joy of what thou art.— I am

find - ing out the great - ness of— thy lov - ing— heart.

Text: Jean S. Pigott, Music: David B. Hampton; © 1998 New Spring Publishing, Inc (ASCAP); CCLI #1850411

Benediction – Roman 15:13

May the God of hope fill you
with all joy and peace in believing,
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit
you may abound in hope.

News and Announcements

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.

Happy first anniversary to the FPC Fine Arts School of Music! Enrollment for children (five years and older) and adults (no age limit) is always open.

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 3 - September 20

In how many Persons does this one God exist?
In three Persons.

Name these three Persons.
The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

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
Peter Dietsch TE, Associate 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

Ministry Support

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

Security Team

Today	Tim Grimes
Next Week	Mike Tuuk

Greeters

Today	Eston & Reba Norris
Next Week	Judy Hawes & Keely Ragle

Nursery

Today	Hope Aikens Eden Tuuk
Next Week	Yasha Bitner Isabelle Powell