

First Presbyterian Church

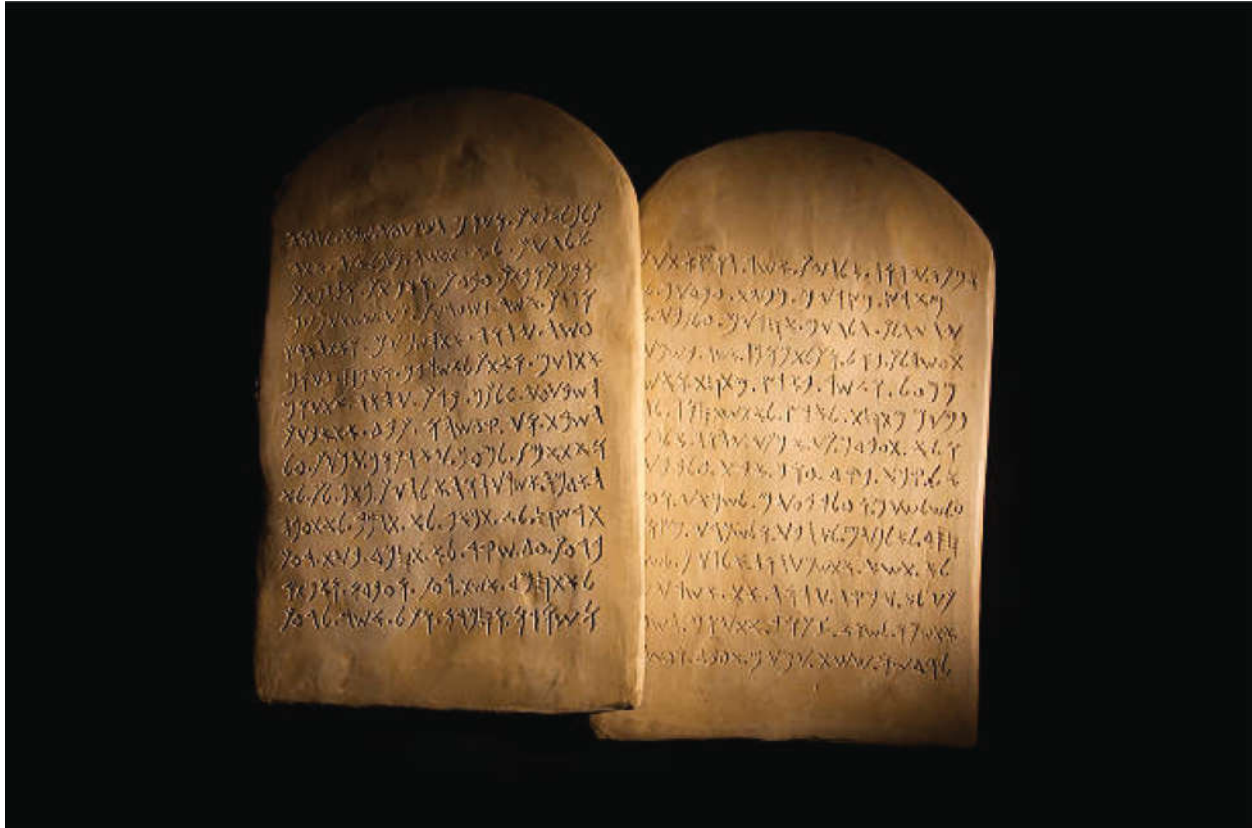
Established 1988 PCA

September 27, 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 great God, may I observe again this day your goodness and faithfulness. You have saved from the penalty of sin, disarmed the sting of death, and trampled low the victory once claimed by the grave. Through Jesus, you hold my hope of life and resurrection. Help me offer worship due your great name!

-from *Every Moment Holy*, Vol. 2

Call to Worship – Psalm 111:1-4

Praise the LORD!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

² Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.

³ Full of splendor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴ He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;
the LORD is gracious and merciful.

Hymn of Praise — O Give the Lord Whole-Hearted Praise (Psalm 111)



1. O give the Lord whole-heart-ed praise. To him, thanks-giv-ing I will

2. The won-drous works that God has wrought, his peo-ple e-ver keep in

3. His works are true and just in-deed; his pre-cepts are for-e-ver



bring; with all his peo-ple I will raise my voice and of his glo-ry sing.

mind; his works with grace and mer-cy fraught, re-veal-ing that the Lord is kind.

sure. In truth and right-eous-ness de-creed, they shall for-e-ver-more en-dure.



His saints de-light to search and trace his might-y works and won-drous ways.

God's pro-mise shall for-e-ver stand; he cares for those who trust his word.

From him, his saints' re-demp-tion came; his cov-'nant sure, no change can know.



Ma-jest-ic glo-ry, bound-less grace, and right-eous-ness his work dis-plays.

Up-on his saints, his might-y hand the wealth of na-tions has con-ferred.

Let all re-vere his ho-ly name in heav'n a-bove and earth be-low.



4. In re-v'rence and in god-ly fear man finds the gate to wis-dom's ways; the



wise his ho-ly name re-vere; through end-less a-ges sound his praise.

Text: Psalter, 1912; Music: Gregory Wilbur 2009; © Gregory Wilbur 2009; CCLI #1850411

Prayer of Adoration

Hymn of Praise — I Greet Thee Who My Sure Redeemer

1. I greet thee, who my sure re deem - er art,
 2. Thou art the King of mer - cy and of grace,
 3. Thou art the Life, by which a - lone we live,
 4. Thou hast the true and per - fect gen - tle - ness,
 5. Our hope is in no o - ther save in thee;

my on - ly trust and Sa - vior of my heart,
 reign - ing om - ni - po - tent in e - v'ry place:
 and all our sub - stance and our strength re - ceive;
 no harsh - ness hast thou and no bit - ter - ness:
 our faith is built up - on thy pro - mise free.

who pain didst un - der - go for my poor sake;
 so come, O King, and our whole be - ing sway;
 O com - fort us in death's ap - proach - ing hour,
 make us to taste the sweet grace found in thee
 O grant to us such strong - er hope and sure

I pray thee, from our hearts all cares to take.
 shine on us with the light of thy pure day.
 strong - heart - ed then to face it by thy pow'r.
 and e - ver stay in thy sweet u - ni - ty.
 that we can bold - ly con - quer and en - dure.

Text: Strasbourg Psalter, 1545, Tr. by Elizabeth L. Smith, 1868; alt. 1961; Music: TOULON, Genevan Psalter, 1551; CCLI #1850411

Scripture Reading – John 14:1-17

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

¹² “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it. ¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

Profession of Faith — Heidelberg Catechism Question 117

What is the kind of prayer that pleases God and that he listens to?

First, we must pray from the heart to no other than the one true God, revealed to us in his Word, asking for everything God has commanded us to ask for. Second, we must fully recognize our need and misery, so that we humble ourselves in God’s majestic presence. Third, we must rest on this unshakable foundation: even though we do not deserve it, God will surely listen to our prayer because of Christ our Lord. That is what God promised us in his Word.

Song of Confession – Savior and Friend



1. Rest of the wear-y, joy of the sad, hope of the drear-y, light of the glad.
2. Pil-low where, ly-ing, love rest its head, peace of the dy-ing, life of the dead.
3. E-ver con-fess-ing, thee I will raise un-to thee bless-ing, glo-ry and praise.



Home of the stran-ger, strength to the end, re-fuge from dan-ger, Sa-vior and Friend!
Path of the low-ly, prize at the end, breath of the ho-ly, Sa-vior and Friend!
All my en-dea-vor, world with-out end, thine to be e-ver, Sa-vior and Friend!



When my feet stum-ble, I'll to thee cry, crown of the hum-ble, cross of the high.



When my steps wan-der, o-ver me bend, tru-er and fond-er, Sav-ior and Friend!

Text: John S.B. Monsell, 1863; Music: Gregory D Wilbur; from My Cry Ascends, © Gregory D Wilbur; CCLI #1850411

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon – Romans 5:18-21

Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.¹⁹ For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.²⁰ Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,²¹ so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Song of Rejoicing – Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery



1. Come be - hold the won-drous mys - t'ry in the dawn-ing of the King. He, the
2. Come be - hold the won-drous mys - t'ry: he the per-fect Son of Man, in his
3. Come be - hold the won-drous mys - t'ry: Christ the Lord up - on the tree. In the
4. Come be - hold the won-drous mys - t'ry: slain by death, the God of life. But no



theme of heav-en's prais - es, robed in frail hu - man - i - ty. In our
liv - ing, in his suff' - ring, ne - ver trace nor stain of sin. See the
stead of ru - ined sin - ners hangs the Lamb in vic - to - ry! See the
grave could e'er re - strain him; praise the Lord! He is a - live! What a



long - ing, in our dark - ness, now the light of life has come! Look to
true and bet - ter A - dam, come to save the hell - bound man, Christ, the
price of our re - demp - tion, see the Fa - ther's plan un - fold, bring - ing
fore - taste of de - liv' - rance! How un - wav - er - ing our hope! Christ in

D.S. al Fine



Christ who con - de - scend - ed, took on flesh to ran - som us.
great and sure ful - fill - ment of the law; in him we stand.
ma - ny sons to glo - ry: grace un - mea - sured, love un - told!
po - wer re - sur - rect - ed, as we will be when he comes.

Sermon

The Divine Messenger
Exodus 23:20-33

Pastor Andy Aikens

Sermon Notes:

Song of Response – Jesus, I Come



1. Out of my bon-dage, sor-row and night, Je-sus I come; Je-sus I come.
2. Out of my shame-ful fail-ure and loss, Je-sus I come; Je-sus I come.
3. Out of un - rest and ar - ro-gant pride, Je-sus I come; Je-sus I come.
4. Out of the fear and dread of the tomb, Je-sus I come; Je-sus I come.



In - to thy free-dom, glad-ness, and light, Je-sus, I come to_ thee..
 In - to the glo-rious gain of thy cross, Je-sus, I come to_ thee..
 In - to thy bless - ed will to a - bide, Je-sus I come to_ thee..
 In - to the joy and light of thy home, Je-sus I come to_ thee..



Out of my sick-ness in - to thy health, out of my want-ing and in - to thy wealth,
 Out of earth's sor-rows in - to thy balm, out of life's storms and in - to thy calm,
 Out of my - self to dwell in thy love, out of de-spair in - to rap-tures a - bove,
 Out of the depths of ru - in un - told, in - to the peace of thy shel - ter-ing fold,



out of my sin_ and in - to_ thy - self, Je-sus I come to_ thee..
 out of dis - tress in - to jub - i - lant psalm, Je-sus I come to_ thee..
 up-ward for - e - ver on wings like a dove, Je-sus I come to_ thee..
 e - ver thy glo - rious face to_ be - hold, Je-sus I come to_ thee..

Text: William Sleeper; Music: Greg Thompson; © 2000 Greg Thompson; 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

Our Sunday Evening Worship Service begins! Mark your calendar for October 18, 6 p.m., for a series in Philippians. “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!”

The YAH Group will meet at Maria Bottom’s Greek Food Truck on Peavine Road, Thursday, October 1, at noon.

FPC members, Elder and Deacon Nominations Forms are available on the hallway table. Please prayerfully consider who you would like to put forward and return your form to an active Elder by Sunday, October 18.

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 4 - September 27

Where is God?

God is everywhere.

Can you see God?

No, I cannot see God but he always sees me.

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. Begins October 18
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

Security Team

Today	Mike Tuuk
Next Week	Greg Wood

Ministry Support

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

Greeters

Today	Judy Hawes & Keely Ragle
Next Week	Michael & Yvette Perle

Nursery

Today	Yasha Bitner Isabelle Powell
Next Week	Jenae Larson Brianna Sears