



# First Presbyterian Church

25th Sunday after Pentecost

November 19, 2023

Worship Service - 8:15

Sunday School - 9:10 - 10:10

Worship Service - 10:30

# Gathered as God's People

Welcome and Announcements

*Please sign the red friendship pad at the end of each pew, so we will know who is worshipping with us today.*

Prelude                                      Sarabande from French Suite no. 5                                      J.S. Bach  
*The prelude is a call to prayerful preparation for the worship of God*

\*Call to Worship

One: To you, O God of the heavens, we lift our eyes.

**Many: Have mercy on us!**

One: God has been our dwelling place from generation to generation.

**Many: Hear us when we call!**

One: From everlasting to everlasting, God is with us.

**Many: We will magnify your holy name!**

\*Hymn 305                                      Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!                                      DARWALL'S 148th

\*Prayer of Adoration    Ellen Ludwig (8:15)  
Dwight Fox (10:30)

First Scripture Reading                                      Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25                                      OT pgs. 215-216

One: The Word of the Lord

**Many: Thanks be to God.**

## Call to Confession

### Corporate Prayer of Confession

**God of abundance, you have given us so many gifts. You bless us with talents, resources, skills, and knowledge, and yet we hide them under a bushel. We hoard these gifts, instead of following you and sharing with those in need. We have been poor stewards of all you have given. Forgive us, and help us grow what we are given, that it might be returned in service to you. (Silent Prayer)**

### Assurance of Pardon

One: Friends, this is the good news of the gospel.

**Many: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.**

### \*Gloria 581

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the  
beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world  
without end. Amen, amen.***

### \*Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you!

**Many: And also with you.**

## Proclaiming God's Word

Anthem (10:30)

Sing to the Lord of Harvest

Healey Willan

Sing to the Lord of harvest, sing songs of love and praise;  
with joyful hearts and voices your alleluias raise.  
By Him the rolling seasons in fruitful order move;  
sing to the Lord of harvest a song of happy love.  
By him the clouds drop fatness, the deserts bloom and spring.  
The hills leap up in gladness, the valleys laugh and sing.  
He filleth with His fullness, all things with large increase;  
He crowns the year with goodness, with plenty and with peace.  
Heap on His sacred altar the gifts His goodness gave,  
the golden sheaves of harvest, the souls He died to save.  
Your hearts lay down before Him when at His feet you fall,  
and with your lives adore Him who gave His life for all.

Prayer for Illumination

Second Scripture Reading

Psalms 90:1-12

OT pgs. 90-91

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

NT pg.205

Sermon

Year End Review

Rev. Steve Thomas

## Responding to God's Word

\*Hymn 12

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

\*Affirmation of Faith (The Apostles' Creed)

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the  
Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was  
crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day  
He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth  
on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He  
shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy  
catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of  
the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Offertory                    Schonster Herr Jesu (Ah, Holy Jesus, Bless Us Here Today)  
setting by D. Johnson

\*Doxology 607

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

\*Prayer of Dedication

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from  
evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

\*Hymn 687                    Our God, Our Help in Ages Past                    ST. ANNE

\*Benediction

Postlude                    Now Thank We All Our God                    setting by J.S. Bach

\*Please stand as able

### **Worship Notes:**

Acolytes: Vivian Sweeney and Parkes Hickman

Flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Helen Fleming by James Fleming.

The church offers **hearing devices** to use during the worship service. They are located on the table in the Narthex or see an usher.

Music Notes:

*French Suite no. 5 by J. S. Bach ©1945 Edwin Kalmus*

*Sing to the Lord of Harvest by Healey Willan © 1954 Concordia Publishing House*

*Schönster Herr Jesu by D. Johnson ©1990 Augsburg Publishing*

*Now Thank We All Our God from Cantata 79 by J. S. Bach ©1952 Mercury Music*

## **Sunday School Schedule**

**9:10-10:10**

**Pre-K - 5th grade** - meets upstairs for Workshop Rotation

**Middle School Class** (6th - 8th) - meets in the Confirmation Room upstairs

**High School Class** (9th - 12th) - meets in the Youth Room upstairs

**Fellowship Class** - Adults of all ages are invited to meet downstairs in the Fellowship Hall.

We are studying “Rediscovering Jonah: the Secret of God’s Mercy” by Rev. Timothy Keller. This study doesn’t say much about the fish but a great deal about God’s grace and the Christian life.

**Chapel Class** - We begin each class with the PCUSA Lectionary scripture and then dig in with discussion facilitated by Greg Martin. Adults of all ages welcome!

### **Prayer List**

Alan Phillips, Sam Duncan, Sally Ewald, Ray Messick and family, Sue Chiles, Barbara Barlar (mother of Janet McAlister), Joe Pugh (brother of Ann Lewis), Bob Sweeney, Imogene Nelson, Joe Graham III, Waymon Hickman, Steve, Roger, and Gary Rampley (brothers of Betty Sloan), Kristin Gwaltney (niece of Jennie Grace Jewell).

# Announcements

**Angel Tree** - It's that time of year when we think about giving gifts and helping others that are less fortunate than ourselves. The Family Center's Angel Tree Program provides a perfect opportunity to spread much needed Christmas love. The Angel Tree will be set up in the Gathering space of the church beginning Wednesday, November 8. Each tag represents a child's information and their Christmas wish. **Presents must be unwrapped with tag attached, then taken to the Family Center by December 8th.**

**Poinsettias:** If you would like to purchase a poinsettia to be delivered to homebound members and decorate the sanctuary for the Advent season, you can purchase one for \$10. Envelopes can be found on the front pews, in the Narthex and on the table in the Gathering Space. Feel free to drop it in the offering plate or bring it by the church office.

## **A Future with Hope**

Our goal for the 2023 Stewardship and Generosity Campaign was for the church to receive **100** pledges. We currently have **97!** We are so close! If you have not yet pledged, please consider doing so and pushing us over the finish line.

**Advent Workshop** on Wednesday, November 29th

**4:00-5:30pm** Advent Wreath making (email sbaxterfpc@gmail.com to sign up)

**5:30– 6:00pm** Dinner for all (email rfosterfpc@gmail.com to sign up)

**6:00—7:00pm** Advent activities for all ages

**Pre-Parade Party** — Join us Saturday, December 2nd at 4pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will share Christmas cheer, eat dinner, and then head upstairs to enjoy the parade

**Pre-K through 5th grade** will decorate cookies to hand out to parade goers

**6th—12th grade youth** will participate in some friendly gingerbread house decorating competition (email Michael at michaelkneff@gmail.com to RSVP so we know how many gingerbread kits to purchase)

**Adults of all ages** are welcome to join the fun!

**Save the Date:** FPC is going caroling Sunday, December 10th at 4:00 pm. Put this on your calendar and watch for details; this is a fun and meaningful activity for our congregation.

# Weekly Schedule

**Tuesday:** Session Meeting 6pm  
**Wednesday:** No Wonderful Wednesday  
**Thursday:** Church Office Closed (Thanksgiving Day)  
**Friday:** Church Office Closed  
People's Table at FUMC

## Ministers of the Church

### **Ruling Elders**

<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>
Mary Beth Cotham	Andy Crichton	Jeff Baxter
Tony Khim	Lorie Fisher	Matt Campbell
Ed Lancaster	John Hill	Dwight Fox
Craig Lorch	Amy Overton	Tonjia Potts
Terry Hendrickson	Argie Satterwhite	Teresa Smith

### **Board of Deacons**

<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>
Brian Allred	Jennie Harlan	Frank Bellamy
Jessica Elam	Mary Marshall Jewell	Lee Brown
Bill Handy	Martha Kelley	Cindy Fox
Lynne Hendrickson	Brent Perry	Marianne Harrell
Katie Ledbetter	Debbie Sherman	Andrew Hickman

## Staff

**Rev. Sarah Bird Kneff**  
Pastor

**Susie Baxter**  
Director of Christian Education

**Renea Foster**  
Administrative Assistant

**Carroll Kilgore**  
Business Administrator

**James Marshall**  
Sexton

**Nancy G. Reiser**  
Director of Music