

GATHERING

God of Love, God who is Love, may each of us present here today know the strength of Your love for us. Love for us as a church, as a community, as a family. Love for us as individuals, as Your child, as Your friend. Grant that we may have the will and the opportunity to live out Your love in our own communities, and to live out Your love to our own friends. In Jesus' name, Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Ushering - Maralyn Foote

PRELUDE

Vocalise
Melissa Milford, viola

S. Rachmaninoff

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Billy Payne

And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love.

But the greatest of these is love.

I may have a faith which can move even mountains.

But without love, I am nothing.

* HYMN 215

What Wondrous Love Is This

WONDROUS LOVE

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Samuel Kerbo

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Lord, we confess that we have doubted your love for us. That we have not loved others as we love ourselves. That we have not lived out the love which you have shown to us. Often it is hatred and bitterness that rules our hearts, hatred and bitterness that is shown by our actions. Forgive us, we pray, and grant us new hearts that love as You love, that we may live as You live. Now, O Lord, transform us as we continue our confession in silence.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, Believe the Good News of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

* ACT OF PRAISE

Gloria Patri

Hymn 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.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Luke Cooper

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Leviticus 19:9-18 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

OT pg. 106

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM (11 A.M.)

How Deep the Father's Love

S. Townend

Kappa Phi Epsilon

How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure; that He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure. How great the pain of searing loss. The Father turns His face away as wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory. Behold the man upon a cross; my sin upon His shoulders. Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers. It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished. His dying breath has brought me life; I know that it is finished. I will not boast in anything, no gifts, no power, no wisdom; but I will boast in Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection. Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer; but this I know with all my heart, His wounds have paid my ransom.

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES (11 A.M.)

Bianca Tabaku

(Afterward, children in kindergarten through 2nd grade will be dismissed to Kids-4-God.)

GOSPEL READING

John 15:9-17 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

NT pg. 109

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Love of Christ

Samantha Powell

Ethan Croteau

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONDING

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Brian Do

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; on 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.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

H. Hopson

Melissa Milford, viola

* **DOXOLOGY**

Hymn 606

*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.*

* **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Jason Park

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.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (8:30 A.M.)

(Gluten-Free Bread)

SENDING

* **HYMN 188**

Jesus Loves Me!

JESUS LOVES ME

* **BENEDICTION**

Kappa Phi Epsilon

Oh Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds Thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed. Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee, How great Thou art! And when I think that God, His Son not sparing, sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in; that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, He bled and died to take away my sin. When Christ shall come with shouts of acclamation, and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration and there proclaim, My God, how great Thou art!

TODAY IN WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: Luke Cooper, Ethan Croteau, Brian Do, Jonathon Haney, Mark Hults, Samuel Kerbo, Jason Park, Billy Payne, Samantha Powell, Bianca Tabaku

ELDER ON DUTY: Susannah Peddie

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST: Mitch Rorick

8:30 USHER: Tom Chamberlain; **SANCTUARY USHERS:** Maralyn & Perry Foote

A/V TEAM: Jelvi Fika, Alex Conerly, Zack Conerly, Frank Counts

THANK YOU TO OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS for leading us in worship this morning.

TODAY IS COLLEGE SUNDAY, an opportunity for our college students to lead us in worship. Leviticus 19:9-18 and John 15:9-17 are the scriptural passages they chose to highlight their sermon topic on Love. The gathering and sending hymns were chosen with the theme of love in mind. The *Glory to God Hymnal* description for our sending hymn, "Jesus Loves Me," seems apt - "Few songs of faith have supported people from cradle to grave like this one." Last week, the Alleluia Choir (ages 3-VPK) sang this hymn, and today we all have the opportunity to sing this popular hymn proclaiming Jesus' love.

We are grateful to the Kappa Phi Epsilon Christian Fraternity for leading us in the anthem and postlude. Their mission is to provide brotherhood in Christ through discipleship and service. The prelude and offertory are led by another student, Melissa Milford, who is working on her doctorate in viola performance at the University of Florida.

ACTION FOR THIS WEEK: As you join us for worship this morning, take some time to think of one friend you know that might be in need this week. Is there anything you can do to sacrifice for this person? It could be something big or even something as simple as cooking them a meal or just taking the time to pray for them each day this week.

Thank you for joining us in worship today. We pray that you experience Christ's presence in our midst and that His presence will sustain you in the week ahead. Visitors are welcome to participate in the worship and the work of First Presbyterian Church. If you feel a call to commit your life to Jesus Christ and His Church, please speak to the pastor or an elder after worship.

Let Us Remember in Prayer and Correspondence: Leon & Jayne Fox and Jed Keesling. Our men and women in the services: Ashley Dace, Matt Gowdy, Brian Hill, Faith Thompson, and Dan Williams; and first responders: Nick Gonzalez and Paul Samala.

Senior Pastor

Rev. Mark Hults - pastor@1stpc.org

Director of Music and Organist

Mitch Rorick - music@1stpc.org

Director of Young Adult & Family Ministry

Fred Lundy - youngadult@1stpc.org

Director of College Ministry

Jonathon Haney - college@1stpc.org

Preschool Director

Lisa Hershkowitz - preschool@1stpc.org

Part-Time Youth Coordinator

Katherine Whisler - 1stpcyouthgnv@gmail.com

Business Manager

Trudy Bonerba - business@1stpc.org

Operations and Administrative Associate

Laura Montgomery - assistant@1stpc.org

Communications Specialist

Jenny Chamberlain - communications@1stpc.org

Event Sexton and Music Clerk

Andrew Netardus - events@1stpc.org

Head Sexton - Tony Cogdill

Sexton - Margaret Hill

Property Coordinator

John Rayl - png.1stpc@gmail.com

What Wondrous Love Is This 215

Dm C Dm C Dm Am
 1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing
 3 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing

Dm C Dm C
 soul, what won - drous love is this, O my soul! What
 down, when I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
 sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing; to
 on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and

Dm Am B $\flat$ Gm Am Em
 won - drous love is this that caused the Lord of
 I was sink - ing down be - neath God's righ - teous
 God and to the Lamb who is the great I
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy - ful

G Dm C Am C Dm Am
 bliss to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul, for my
 frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul, for my
 AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing, I will
 be, and through e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing on, I'll sing

Em Am C Dm Am C Dm
 soul, to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul!
 soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul!
 sing; while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing!
 on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

With its ballad-like repetitions before and after each stanza's central narrative lines, this meditative text needs performance in order to be effective. Its haunting melody proves the means of convincing us that the only adequate response to "wondrous love" is to "sing on."

TEXT: American folk hymn, c. 1811

MUSIC: Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835; harm. Carlton R. Young, 1965
 Music Harm. © 1965 Abingdon Press (admin. The Copyright Company)

WONDROUS LOVE
 12.9.12.12.9

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Leviticus 19:9-18 (NRSV)

⁹ When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰ You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the Lord your God.

¹¹ You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another. ¹² And you shall not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God: I am the Lord.

¹³ You shall not defraud your neighbor; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a laborer until morning. ¹⁴ You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am the Lord.

¹⁵ You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. ¹⁶ You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the Lord.

¹⁷ You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

John 15:9-17 (NRSV)

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶ You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷ I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

188

Jesus Loves Me!

1 Je - sus loves me! This I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so.
2 Je - sus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long a - go,

Lit - tle ones to him be-long. They are weak, but he is strong.
tak - ing chil-dren on his knee, say - ing, "Let them come to me."

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!

Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

Few songs of faith have supported people from cradle to grave like this one. The great theologian Karl Barth said that its opening two lines were a summary of all that he had learned. The composer formed the refrain from those lines when creating this universally used tune.

Ministries & Staff

At **First Presbyterian Preschool**, children are fully prepared for school in a caring, Christian environment. Classes are offered 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Early Childhood Accredited.

Preschool Director

LISA HERSHKOWITZ - preschool@1stpc.org

Our **Children and Youth Ministries** provide a multi-generational approach of Christian example as the church family comes alongside parents to lead children to become fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ.

Nursery Care during worship for children 6 weeks through pre-kindergarten. **Contact:** Victoria Bernard - toraleighb@gmail.com

Kindergarten through 2nd grade children are excused from worship for **Kids-4-God** to spend time growing their faith on Sundays during the school year. **Contact:** Evelyn Lewis - citytr122@gmail.com

LOGOS is a mid-week ministry during the school year with worship arts, Bible time, recreation, and family dinner for students age 3 through high school. **Contact:** Bev Vloedman dvloedman@aol.com

Youth Connection meets for fellowship and food with Bible study and mentoring for students in grades 6-12.

Part-Time Youth Coordinator

KATHERINE WHISLER - 1stpcyouthgnv@gmail.com

Our **College Ministry** seeks to launch students into a life of pursuing Christ, trusting in Him, and growing with others. Join us for Sunday worship & a free lunch and Tuesday Bible study & a free dinner at 6:30 p.m. Bring a friend!

Director of College Ministry

JONATHAN HANEY - college@1stpc.org

Young Adult & Family Ministry (YA&FM) is for marrieds and singles, with or without kids, in grad school or in vocation. We gather for Bible Studies and to get to know each other better and would love the chance to do life with you.

Director of Young Adult & Family Ministry

FRED LUNDY - youngadult@1stpc.org

With choirs for ages three and above, our **Music Ministry** welcomes everyone to sing or ring and to dedicate their music to God. Our concert season includes Concerts for a Cause, which support local and global mission partners.

Director of Music and Organist

MITCH RORICK - music@1stpc.org

Additional Staff

Senior Pastor

REV. MARK HULTS - pastor@1stpc.org

Business Manager

TRUDY BONERBA - business@1stpc.org

Operations and Administrative Associate

LAURA MONTGOMERY - assistant@1stpc.org

Communications Specialist

JENNY CHAMBERLAIN - communications@1stpc.org

Event Sexton and Music Clerk

ANDREW NETARDUS - events@1stpc.org

Property Coordinator

JOHN RAYL - png.1stpc@gmail.com

Head Sexton

TONY COGDILL

Sexton

MARGARET HILL

Glorify God
Make Disciples of Jesus Christ
Meet Human Needs



First Presbyterian
Church of Gainesville

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, October 11, 2026

College Sunday

- 8:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion - Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover: Matthew 1 - Perry Foote - Library
- 9:45 a.m. Multiply Class: Genesis 14 - Jenny C - Room 201
- 10:30 a.m. Kappa Phi - Sanctuary
- 10:45 a.m. Nursery Care - Room 204
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. Kids-4-God
- 12:00 p.m. College Sunday Lunch - Gordon Hall

Monday, October 12, 2026

- 10:00 a.m. Trustees - Zoom
- 10:30 a.m. Ladies' Bible Study: Ruth - Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Christian Education Committee

Tuesday, October 13, 2026

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Parlor
- 4:30 p.m. Property - Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting - Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Trinity Ringers - Room 215
- 6:30 p.m. Trajectory College Bible Study - Gordon Hall

Wednesday, October 14, 2026

- 9:30 a.m. PEO Chapter 1 - Parlor
- 3:30 p.m. LOGOS - Enter through sanctuary doors or gate on SW 1st Ave
- 6:00 p.m. LOGOS Family Dinner - Mexican Night
- 6:30 p.m. Jubilate Ringers - Room 215

Thursday, October 15, 2026

- 4:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study: Obadiah - Gordon Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Carol Ringers - Room 215
- 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

Friday, October 16, 2026

- 9:00 a.m. Sweetie Pie Production
- 12:30 p.m. Senior Saints - Gordon Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Youth Group Lock-In

Saturday, October 17, 2026

- 9:00 a.m. Sweetie Pie Production

Sunday, October 18, 2026

Ordination & Installation Sunday

- 8:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion - Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir - Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover: Matthew 2 - Serendipity Z. R. - Library
- 9:45 a.m. Multiply Class: Genesis 15 - Room 201
- 10:45 a.m. Nursery Care - Room 204
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. Kids-4-God
- 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Time - Gordon Hall



Serve with Us - October Ushers for 11 a.m. Worship

October ushers are needed. This minimal effort and maximum impact service opportunity allows us to help folks feel welcome and comfortable as they join us for Sunday worship. Contact Laura Montgomery at assistant@1stpc.org or call the church office to fill this need.

Fall Means Sweetie Pies

A Sweetie Pie is a delicious pie lovingly made by volunteers and is a fundraising event for the Montreat Worship and Music Conference. A variety of pies are available frozen raw and order cards can be found in the pews and the upcoming Advent Bugle. Pies are made on Friday and Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to about 1 p.m. (starting October 16) and Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m. in the church kitchen. Anyone can help; no experience is necessary. Contact Carol Israel with questions, to help, or to order at fpcpie@gmail.com.



Senior Saints - Friday, October 16, 2026 at 12:30 p.m. in Gordon Hall

On the *third Friday* of October, we will gather for \$10 SweetBerries lunch and a program. Do you have questions for help while living at home? This presentation has answers! Debbie Sahay will tell us about ANCHOR Direct Elder Care, a hands-on management service, covering a range of needs, from simple to complex. Don't miss this! Please join us for fellowship, food, & helpful information! Let us know you are coming by replying to: 1stpcSeniorSaints@gmail.com. We would like as accurate a count as possible, please.



Youth Group Lock-In

All middle and high school students are invited from 7 p.m. Friday, October 16 through 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 17. Dinner and breakfast will be provided. We hope to see you there! Questions? Text Katherine Whisler or email 1stpcyouthgnv@gmail.com. RSVPs are helpful but not necessary.



Celebratory Service of Worship - Sunday, October 18

On Friday, October 23, our Chancel Choir will perform at the Florida American Choral Directors Association Fall Conference in Orlando. Recordings were sent to an anonymous panel of four out-of-state judges, and the Chancel Choir was selected. On Sunday, October 18, the Chancel Choir will include many of the selections for the Orlando concert as part of our worship here. Join us for this special service at 11 a.m.



Montreat Luncheon

The Annual Montreat Worship and Music Conference Luncheon is Sunday, October 25 at 12 p.m. in Gordon Hall. Please join us as we share memories of Montreat 2026 and thank you for your support. RSVP to (352) 378-1527 or communications@1stpc.org by Sunday, October 18. Cost is \$10 per person or a maximum \$35 per family.

Children's worship guides are available at all entrances.

Pick-up a calendar page at any entrance or click the calendar link in the weekly email for all this week's ministry events. Not receiving the weekly invite? Email communications@1stpc.org to be added to the email list.

Online Contributions



Visit our website, www.1stpc.org, to make an online donation. Click the GIVE button at the top of the page. You can contribute to the General Budget or use the drop-down menu, change to Other, and specify the designated ministry in the memo section. Text contributions, bill pay through your bank, and electronic funds transfers are also options. Contact Trudy Bonerba.



T-Coil installed in the sanctuary, and Hearing Assist devices available in the Narthex.

Tune in to Cox Channel 11 from 9-10 a.m. for our televised broadcast  or MyTV 28.2 for over the air broadcasts

Current Worship video, audio, and archives at 1stpc.org