

*Confirmation Sunday* • May 5, 2024 High School Graduation Sunday

Glorify God, Make Disciples of Jesus Christ, and Meet Human Needs

# GATHERING

Holy One, I begin today breathing in your love for me, for others, and for the world. Keep me mindful of all the marvelous things you are doing around and within me. Help me to feel my friendship with Jesus and his confidence in me. Amen.

# WORDS OF WELCOME

# PRELUDE (11 A.M.)

# Take My Life

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee; take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of Thy love. Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee; take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King. Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold; take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise. Take my will and make it Thine, it shall be no longer mine; take my heart; it is Thine own, it shall be Thy royal throne.

# \* CALL TO WORSHIP

God has done marvelous things!

# Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

Break forth into joyous song and sing his praises.

# Let the sea roar and all that fills it.

Let the world and its people sing together for joy!

\* Hymn 331

God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, we have not loved you or each other with our whole hearts. Forgive us, we pray, and lead us toward wholeness, that we may be filled with your joy. Now, O Lord, transform us as we continue our confession in silence.

# **D**ECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, Believe the Good News of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

\* ACT OF PRAISE

Gloria Patri

Hymn 581

NATIONAL HYMN

C. Courtney

*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**

# NEW TESTAMENT READING

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** 

# TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES (11 A.M.)

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

# NT pg. 231

James 5:13-20 (NRSV)

# Holli Best

OLD TESTAMENT READING

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Raising the Temperature

Rev. Mark Hults

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** 

# RESPONDING

RECOGNITION OF OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2024

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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** (11 A.M.)

Amazing Grace

Alison Barat, conductor

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but now am found, was blind, but now I see. Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come. 'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home. When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound.

\* DOXOLOGY

*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

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.)

# **S**ENDING

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

\* Hymn 687\* Benediction

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Hymn 606

I. Althouse

(Gluten-Free Bread)

Norah Barat and Parker Lundy

nperature

Esther 5 (NRSV) OT pg. 447

ST. ANNE

# TODAY IN WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: Holli Best, Mark Hults, Fred Lundy ELDER ON DUTY: Susannah Peddie ACOLYTE: Grace Berger DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST: Mitch Rorick CHANCEL CHOIR CHAPEL USHER: Dan Sutton; SANCTUARY USHERS: Tom Chamberlain, Maralyn Foote, Mary Lou Schubert A/V TEAM: Kaylee Bleeker, Troy Bleeker, Frank Counts, John Rayl

**GRADUATION SUNDAY:** Today we celebrate our high school class of 2024 during worship. Congratulations! We are holding you in prayer and looking forward to what the Lord has in store for you.

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS Norah Barat and Parker Lundy. They publicly professed their faith before our Session on Wednesday, April 24 and we celebrate their confirmation in worship this morning.

THE FLOWERS IN WORSHIP are given to the glory of God and in memory of Helen by Mort Wolfson.

**CHURCH TRIUMPHANT:** We extend our sympathy and offer the prayers of our congregation to the Polk family and Margaret Weech upon the passing of her brother, Jack Polk, who joined the Church Triumphant on April 26, 2024.

**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. You can find a "Three Steps to Membership" card with information about how to join the church in the pew racks. 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.

**Prayer of Belief**: Lord Jesus Christ, I admit I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment, and offering forgiveness. I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior. Amen. (If you are saying this prayer for the first time today, please let the pastor or elders on duty know.)

Leadership								
Rev. Mark Hults <b>Pastor</b>		Alison Barat <b>Clerk of Session</b>		Dink Henderson Treasurer				
Session		Diaconate						
Class of 2024 Alison Barat Ashley Lentz-Black Jennifer Clark Maralyn Foote Evelyn Lewis Coleen O'Brien Dan Sutton	Class of 2025 Fleetwood Fleming Carol Israel Joe Mueller Elisa Neale-Tobener Earle Pickens Geoff Spiegel Alexis Vellis Sarah Whitfield	<b>Class of 2026</b> Pam Bailey Troy Bleeker Andy Greer Margaret Lingg Susannah Peddie Dick Rauber Steve Walker	Class of 2024 Buzz Boyd Mimi Carr Kristin Pickens Mary Lou Schubert Nick Vellis	<b>Class of 2025</b> Holli Best Dell Bowman Megan Greer Fred Lewis	<b>Class of 2026</b> Mark Coffey Mimi Gray Dean Schoenfeld Jane Smith			

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 Parish Associate, Director of College Ministry Rev. Scott Stuart - college@1stpc.org Preschool Director Lisa Hershkowitz - preschool@1stpc.org Business Manager Trudy Bonerba - <u>business@1stpc.org</u> Operations and Administrative Associate Laura Montgomery - <u>assistant@1stpc.org</u> Communications Specialist Jenny Chamberlain - <u>communications@1stpc.org</u> Event Sexton and Music Clerk Andrew Netardus - <u>events@1stpc.org</u> Head Sexton - Tony Cogdill Sexton - Margaret Hill THE LIFE OF THE NATIONS



This hymn was generated by 19th-century centennial celebrations: the words by the Declaration of Independence and the music by the adoption of the United States Constitution. Despite these origins, no specific nation is mentioned in this hymn of praise and prayer for peace.

NATIONAL HYMN 10.10.10.10

### NEW TESTAMENT READING

James 5:13-20 (NRSV)

<sup>13</sup>Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup>Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup>The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup>Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. <sup>17</sup>Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. <sup>18</sup>Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. <sup>19</sup>My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, <sup>20</sup>you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** 

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Esther 5 (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup>On the third day Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king's palace, opposite the king's hall. The king was sitting on his royal throne inside the palace opposite the entrance to the palace. <sup>2</sup>As soon as the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, she won his favor and he held out to her the golden scepter that was in his hand. Then Esther approached and touched the top of the scepter. <sup>3</sup>The king said to her, "What is it, Queen Esther? What is your request? It shall be given you, even to the half of my kingdom." <sup>4</sup>Then Esther said, "If it pleases the king, let the king and Haman come today to a banquet that I have prepared for the king." <sup>5</sup>Then the king said, "Bring Haman quickly, so that we may do as Esther desires." So the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared. <sup>6</sup>While they were drinking wine, the king said to Esther, "What is your petition? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." <sup>7</sup>Then Esther said, "This is my petition and request: <sup>8</sup>If I have won the king's favor, and if it pleases the king to grant my petition and fulfill my request, let the king and Haman come tomorrow to the banquet that I will prepare for them, and then I will do as the king has said."

<sup>9</sup>Haman went out that day happy and in good spirits. But when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, and observed that he neither rose nor trembled before him, he was infuriated with Mordecai; <sup>10</sup>nevertheless Haman restrained himself and went home. Then he sent and called for his friends and his wife Zeresh, <sup>11</sup>and Haman recounted to them the splendor of his riches, the number of his sons, all the promotions with which the king had honored him, and how he had advanced him above the officials and the ministers of the king. <sup>12</sup>Haman added, "Even Queen Esther let no one but myself come with the king to the banquet that she prepared. Tomorrow also I am invited by her, together with the king. <sup>13</sup>Yet all this does me no good so long as I see the Jew Mordecai sitting at the king's gate." <sup>14</sup>Then his wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him, "Let a gallows fifty cubits high be made, and in the morning tell the king to have Mordecai hanged on it; then go with the king to the banquet in good spirits." This advice pleased Haman, and he had the gallows made.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** 

CELEBRATING TIME



5 Time, like an ever rolling stream, bears all our years away; they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day. 6 Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, be thou our guard while life shall last, and our eternal home.

Many people sing this hymn unaware that it paraphrases Psalm 90, partly because this text speaks so immediately to the human condition. Since the middle of the 19th century, it has usually been joined to this tune named for the London parish where the composer was organist.

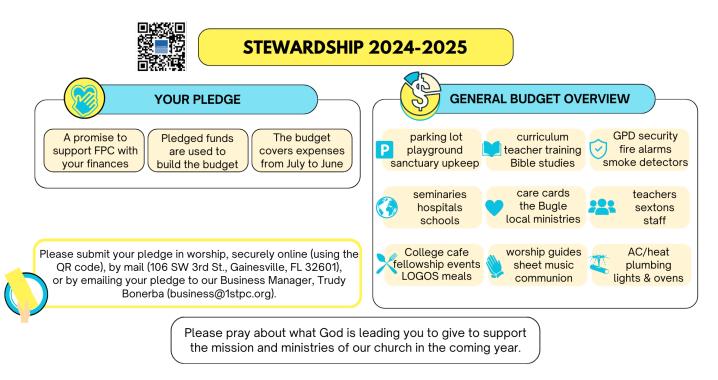
Focus on Stewardship

I was introduced to stewardship seventy-five years ago by my mother when she placed a nickel in my hand on the way to church. That nickel never left my hand until I placed it proudly in the collection basket of my Sunday school class.

I knew nothing about the mission of our church and its financial requirements. I did know that I was doing something for the Lord. Today, I feel that same pride as I place my pledge envelope in the collection plate, but now, I understand the needs of our various programs at First Presbyterian Church. Please join me as we review some of the ways you can pledge your time and talents to help accomplish the mission of our church.

Come to worship on Sunday morning and let the sounds of the organ, the choir, and the congregation surround you. Pray to God with others as part of the great church universal. Take the words of the sermon home and reflect upon them the rest of the week. Come to Gordon Hall on a Wednesday evening and marvel at the joy and enthusiasm of the young people in the LOGOS program. Spend an evening or a night at the church as a host to homeless families and enjoy the security and comfort that we offer them. Assist a group of mothers and fathers in baking pies to raise funds for the Youth Music Conference at Montreat, NC. When asked, please agree to serve as a deacon, elder, trustee, or as a member of a committee. Spend a hour on a Sunday afternoon in the sanctuary and be inspired by the beautiful music of First Presbyterian's Concert Series.

As you increase your participation and awareness of these and the many other programs of our church, you will better appreciate the need for adequate funding. As you prepare your pledge card, don't ask, "What can I afford to give?" but rather, "How can I not afford to give generously to the work of God's church?"



- Stewardship Committee

Confirmation Class of 2024

#### Norah Barat

#### Parker Lundy

#### Norah Barat

I believe that Jesus lives through us physically, emotionally, and spiritually ... that He will always be with me through thick and thin. He has called me to be His, and has claimed me as His own. I know that Jesus has planned out my life for me, and I should trust Him with those plans. The Lord has shown me His love and I do not take that for granted. I lay my life before Him and fully embrace all He has given me. I believe that Jesus died on the cross for my sins, and was resurrected at the right hand of God the Father almighty. Jesus died so I could live.

#### Parker Lundy

*In Luke 24, verses 46-47, it says "*<sup>46</sup>He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." *This shows that Jesus did what He said He was going to do, He paid the ultimate sacrifice for us, because of His love. He did this for me way before I was born and could have earned it. So, I can not earn his love, but I should try to live according to how I have been unconditionally saved and loved, and pay it forward.* 

#### **Membership Questions**

- 1. Do you profess your faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? If so, answer, "I do."
- 2. Do you renounce evil and affirm your reliance on God's grace? If so, answer, "I do."
- 3. Do you declare your intention to participate actively and responsibly in the worship and mission of the church? If so, answer, "I do, with God's help."

# Class of 2024

# **High School**

#### Kaylee Bleeker Honest Chiputula

Kaylee Tsai Bleeker is the daughter of Troy & Tammy Bleeker and will graduate from Gainesville High School on June 1. Kaylee has been involved in many activities at both the church and her school including Youth and Handbell Choirs, as well as President of Canes for Gainesville, Women's Empowerment Club, and the director of her school's production of Mamma Mia. She plans to attend the University of Florida in the fall where she will work toward her degree in Chemical Engineering and a minor in Art.

**Honest Chiputula** is the daughter of Jonathan & Chionetsero Chiputula and graduated from The Lilongwe Academy International School in June of 2023. Honest participated in many activities at church including Youth Choir, Joyful Bell Ringers, Youth Connection, and LOGOS. At school she was part of Bible club and Interactive club. During the

#### Breezy Dowling Josephine Henderson

summer, Honest plans on continuing to help make sanitary pads to give to girls in need around her village. She plans on attending the University of Chester to pursue a degree in biomedical sciences starting this autumn.

**Breezy Madelyn Dowling** is the daughter of Greg & Margaret Dowling and will graduate from Buchholz High School on May 31. She is Student Body Vice President, active in the academy of entrepreneurship, and an honors student. Breezy has attended First Presbyterian Church since 2009, participating in choir, LOGOS, bells, Youth Connection, Fun in the Son, and Montreat. In the fall, Breezy will be attending the University of Florida majoring in Biology on a Pre-Med track.

**Josephine Henderson** is graduating from Oak Hall and will be attending Southern Methodist University in the fall.

## College

Hannah Maine Jackson Rowell Lacy Pirkle Katherine Skipper

Hannah Maine is graduating *cum laude* from the University of Florida. Her degree is in art history, and she has accepted an internship in Washington, D.C.

Lacy Steele Pirkle is the daughter of Kevin & Alana Pirkle and the granddaughter of Bob & Missy Lentz. She will graduate from Buchholz High School on May 31. Lacy has also been dual enrolled at Santa Fe for the last two years of high school, so she will also graduate with her A.A. at the end of the fall semester. Lacy currently works at a law firm parttime and has coached volleyball at the Girls Place for the last several seasons. Following her graduation from Buchholz, Lacy will continue her education at Santa Fe College and has plans to enter the nursing program next spring.

**Jackson Matthew Rowell** graduates with a Bachelor of Arts in history. He was the worship leader of Kappa Phi Epsilon for all four years of college. After graduation, he plans to work with his dad in the family business, Rowell Contracting, whose work includes the installation of underground utilities

Jana Swank

and pavement. Jackson also plans on continuing his involvement in local politics.

Wesley Teza

Katherine McKay Skipper graduates from Galen College of Nursing with an Associate Degree in nursing. She is currently in the interview process.

**Catherine "Katie" Sutton** is the daughter of Dan & Donna Sutton. Katie is graduating with honors from the University of Florida in May. Her bachelor's degree is in tourism, hospitality, and event management. Katie's goal is to find the best job to fit her skills and passion.

**Jana Swank** graduates with an A.A. in biological sciences. She is transferring to the University of Florida and entering the veterinary program.

Wesley Teza is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in food and resource economics. He is being commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Air Force and plans to become an RPA (Remotely Piloted Aircraft) pilot. Wes is headed to Randolph Air Force Base in San Antonio this August.

# **Graduate School**

Tiffany Fung

Elizabeth Osmun Williams

Shichu Xie

Tiffany Fung graduates with a Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Performance and an Interdisciplinary Cognate in Arts in Public Health.

**Elizabeth Osmun Williams** graduates from Tufts University with a Doctor of Dental Medicine degree.

Shichu Xie graduates with a Doctor of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting and an Interdisciplinary Cognate in Music Entrepreneurship.

# Katie Sutton

# **GLORIFY GOD**

- A Congregational Meeting will be held today Sunday, May 5, 2024 after 11 a.m. worship to hear a report from the Congregational Nominating Committee and to elect Elders, Deacons, and Trustees for the class of 2027, to elect the Congregational Nominating Committee class of 2025, and to discuss matters pertaining only to these items.
- Summer Choir will sing Sunday, May 5 & 26 and June 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30. Rehearsals are held on Sunday mornings from 9:30–10:40 a.m. in the sanctuary immediately preceding worship. Well aware of summer schedules, it is not necessary for members of the summer choir to be present every summer Sunday. The anthems are selected to match the abilities of those in attendance. Join us! For more information, contact Mitch Rorick.
- A Men's Choir, conducted by Don McGarity, will sing on Sunday, May 19. Rehearsal will be from 9:30 - 10:40 a.m. and the choir will participate in the 11 a.m. service. Please contact Mitch Rorick if interested.

# MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

- Nursery Care (6 weeks old through pre-kindergarten) is available on Sundays from 10:45 a.m. through the end of the 11 a.m. worship service. Email Jenna Mueller at <u>jdmueller2009@gmail.com</u> with questions or to sign up. Families, please find the sign-in cart upstairs in the Christian Education building by room 204.
- **Children's Worship Guides** are located in the narthex, and Gordon Hall. Pick one up before the service to help your child participate in worship and return the bags to the baskets after the service.
- **Kids-4-God:** Children (K through 2<sup>nd</sup>) will gather in Room 217 after the Time for Young Disciples to engage with their faith through the end of the service. Families will meet in Gordon Hall following worship. Volunteers are needed. Contact Evelyn Lewis at <u>citytr122@gmail.com</u>.
- **Multiply Sunday Class:** Meet upstairs in <u>room 201</u> on the second floor of the Education Wing at <u>9:30 a.m.</u> as we begin a study of the book of Ruth.
- **Gordon Hoover Sunday School:** Meet in the Church Library at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Enter through the Mary Gate or the sanctuary. All are welcome! Email Perry Foote at <u>palbertfoote@gmail.com</u> with questions.

May 5	2 Corinthians 7	Ross Teigan
May 12	2 Corinthians 8	Bob Bailey

# MEET HUMAN NEEDS

- Let Us Remember in Prayer and Correspondence: Marilyn Ast, Jayne Fox, Carol Hayes-Christiansen, Elizabeth Miller, and Marjorie Pedrick. Our men and women in the services: Ashley Dace, Matt Gowdy, Brian Hill, and Dan Williams; and first responders: Nick Gonzalez and Paul Samala.
- **Noteworthy Sponsors:** On June 15, children, youth, and adults from our church will travel to Montreat, North Carolina for the 2024 Worship and Music Conference. Please become a Noteworthy Sponsor. Place a check in the offering plate with the memo "Montreat Noteworthy Sponsor," or mail a check to the church office. Thank you for your continued support.
- **Presbyterian Women** (PW) delivered three pounds of aluminum pull-tabs to Ronald McDonald House this week. RMcD House uses the proceeds from the tab tops to supply snacks and personal necessities for families staying there while their sick children are being treated at Shands Children's Hospital. This is an easy ministry for anyone to join in to let the families know we care for them. Just collect aluminum tab tops and drop them into the PW plastic hopper on the counter in the narthex.

# **FPC Weekly Figures**

In-Person Attendance 4/28	182					
Weekly Budget Requirement	\$35,061					
Received Week of 4/28/24		\$24,650				
Weekly Offering	\$4,425					
Designated Offerings	\$2,021					
Other Revenue						
Preschool	\$18,204					
FPC Fiscal Year: July 2023-June 2024						
YTD Budget Requirements	\$1,542,665					
YTD Received	\$1,449,661					
YTD Expenses		\$1,352,794				

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



Current Worship video and audio as well as archives at <u>1stpc.org</u>



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