



Service for the Lord's Day • September 27, 2026
Glorify God, Make Disciples of Jesus Christ, and Meet Human Needs

GATHERING

God of Truth, You call us to lives of honesty and integrity. You call us to lives of peace and humility. Help us, we pray, to live out this call, to never allow our pride or presumption to strain our relationship with You or our relationship with our neighbor. To always be ready and willing to learn, in all humility, from the weak things of the world who are the special objects of your love and grace. In Jesus' name, Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

D. Wood

* CALL TO WORSHIP

What is the light, the true light, by which we all see?

The truth of God as revealed in Jesus Christ.

What is the promised rest which no fear or anxiety can disturb?

The peace of God won for us by Jesus Christ.

* HYMN 697

Take My Life

HENDON

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Oh, Heavenly Father, we confess that we have been champions of your truth. We have not lived lives of honesty and integrity, peace and humility. So often we have lied or deceived to serve our own interests. So often we have presumed upon your love for us and taken for granted the forgiveness bought for us by Your precious blood. Forgive us, we pray, and grant us that complete confidence in You that alone can bring rest to our souls. 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

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 51 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

OT pg. 520

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM (11 A.M.)

Hear My Prayer, O Lord

A. Dvořák

Alanna Parfait, soloist

Hear my pray'r, O Lord, give ear unto my cry. Thou art my refuge and my hope, Thou shalt tread down my enemies. I will dwell forever in Thy tents and hide me in the shadow of Thy wings. Lord! Thou art indeed my God, yea, I will seek Thee early. My soul is faint, my body longeth, longeth after Thee in a barren desert where there is no water. Now I will bless Thee daily and lift my hands in pray'r and adoration; yea, my lips shall praise Thee all my life.

**All that are able please stand. Please take a moment to silence all electronic devices for worship. Thank you.
Additional service information is included under TODAY IN WORSHIP to enhance your worship experience.*

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES (11 A.M.)

Fred Lundy

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

* **HYMN 418**

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

SOFTLY AND TENDERLY

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 21:23-32 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

NT pg. 23

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Truth and Presumption

Jonathon Haney

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONDING

* **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

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

W. B. Roberts

Alanna Parfait, soloist

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need Thy tender care; in Thy pleasant pastures feed us; for our use Thy folds prepare. Blessed Jesus! Blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, Thine we are. Early let us seek Thy favor, early let us learn Thy will; do Thou, Lord, our only Savior, with Thy love our bosoms fill: Blessed Jesus! Blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us; Love us still.

* **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**

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 459**

O Word of God Incarnate

MUNICH

* **BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE**

Voluntary on "Lift High the Cross"

C. Phillips

TODAY IN WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: Jonathon Haney, Mark Hults, Fred Lundy

ELDER ON DUTY: Elizabeth Bolton

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST: Mitch Rorick

EMERITUS DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST: Dr. Mark Coffey

8:30 USHER: Rose Anna Rutledge; **SANCTUARY USHERS:** Maralyn Foote, Perry Foote, Steph Tyler

A/V TEAM: Kaylee Bleeker, Jack Harling, John Rayl, Geoff Spiegel

THE FLOWERS IN WORSHIP are given to the glory of God and in memory of my late wife Marilyn D. Bachmann, my father Werner E. Bachmann, my mother Marie Bachmann Bull, and my sister Joan Johnston-Stern by Roger Bachmann.

TODAY IS THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, and the assigned Gospel reading is Matthew 21:23-32. Each of today's hymns connect in some way with this passage. The hymn of the day, along with the prelude based on the same hymn, connects particularly with Matthew 21:32. God calls us, even though we don't believe.

Antonin Dvořák's setting of "Hear My Prayer, O Lord" was suggested for the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost. The offertory, "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us," reflects the idea of doing the Master's will, which is found in the Gospel passage.

The prelude is a setting by composer Dale Wood (1934-2003). More than eight million copies of his music have been used in the United States and around the world. For many years, Wood served as editor of *The Sacred Music Press*. He also served churches in Hollywood, Riverside, and San Francisco, California. The postlude is by another California composer, Craig Phillips. From 1988 to 2026, Phillips served as Associate Director and then Director of Music at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Beverly Hills. In 2026, he received the American Guild of Organists' Distinguished Award and was honored at a gala benefit concert.

ACTION FOR THE WEEK: Last Sunday in the Time for Young Disciples, Fred Lundy highlighted the sections of the worship guide: Gathering, The Word, Responding, and Sending. As we focus on The Word section today, we invite you to read some of your favorite Scriptures today and throughout 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

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Fred Lundy - youngadult@1stpc.org

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Take My Life

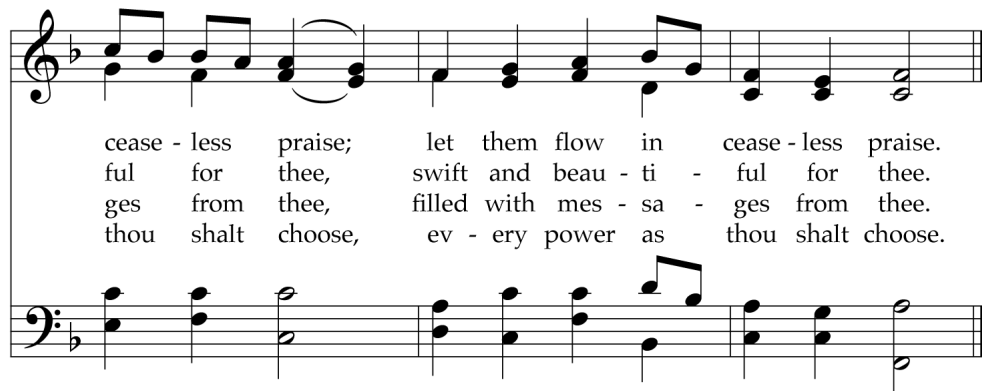
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1 Take my life and let it be con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
 3 Take my voice and let me sing al-ways, on - ly, for my King;
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold; not a mite would I with-hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti -
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sa -
 take my in - tel - lect and use ev - ery power as



cease - less praise; let them flow in cease - less praise.
 ful for thee, swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 ges from thee, filled with mes - sa - ges from thee.
 thou shalt choose, ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.

5 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,
 it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
 at thy feet its treasure store;
 take myself and I will be
 ever, only, all for thee,
 ever, only, all for thee.

This hymn of consecration radiates from the repeated word "take," resulting in a remarkably full survey of a person's attributes and possessions and giving weight to the "all" at the end. The composer of the tune was influential in the renewal of Reformed hymnody in French.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 51 (NRSV)

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. ³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. ⁴ Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. ⁵ Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. ⁶ You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. ⁹ Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. ¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. ¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. ¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance. ¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. ¹⁶ For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased. ¹⁷ The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. ¹⁸ Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, ¹⁹ then you will delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 21:23-32 (NRSV)

²³ When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴ Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁸ 'What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CONFESSION

418 Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 O for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain
 watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
 par - don for you and for me. "Come home, come home!

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

This 19th-century gospel hymn has often been used as a hymn of invitation at evangelistic services. Its imagery is primarily based on Jesus' parable in Luke 15:11-32, commonly called "The Prodigal Son." Each singer thus becomes a wandering child who is urged to return home.

459 O Word of God Incarnate

1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
 2 The church from you, dear Sav - ior, re - ceived this gift di - vine;
 3 O make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of pur - est gold

O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:
 and still that light is lift - ed on all the earth to shine.
 to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old;

we praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,
 It is the chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through,
 O teach your wan - dering pil - grims by this our path to trace,

a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
 a - mid the rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.
 till, clouds and storms thus end - ed, we see you face to face.

The opening four lines of this hymn celebrate attributes of Christ that are revealed through holy Scripture, which serves as a lantern, a chart, and a compass for the church in seeking to know Christ better. The setting of the tune comes from Felix Mendelssohn's *Elijah*.



UF Symphony Orchestra & Choirs Concert for a Cause - Today at 4 p.m.

This afternoon, the University of Florida Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Tiffany Lu, and the UF Choirs, under the direction of Dr. Will Kesling, present *Down the River, Across the Pond* in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church. This first concert of our 2026-2027 season will include a free-will offering to benefit Family Promise, which provides families experiencing homelessness with compassionate care until they can transition to a home of their own. Visit www.1stpcmusic.org for more on the concert series.



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

This minimal effort and maximum impact service opportunity allows us to help folks feel welcome and comfortable as they join with us for Sunday worship. By arriving a little early, handing out worship guides, showing people where the nursery, restrooms, etc. are, and helping collect the offering during the service, your warm, smiling faces remind those with us that they are loved and cared for by our church and by God. Ushers are needed for the October team. Contact Laura Montgomery at assistant@1stpc.org or call the church office to fill this need.



Parking Around the Church

If you are not parking in the big church lot on 2nd Avenue, please be sure to check for signs regarding parking costs. Although the meters are gone, some of the spots require payment through a parking app. Also a reminder - if you park in the big lot during office hours, please park only in the white numbered spots.



World Communion Sunday - October 4

Join us for a truly special worship service uniting Christians around the globe at the Lord's Table. Next Sunday's service will be filled with the gift of music across all ages, including our Children's Choirs and Combined Bell Choirs. A celebration of faith, music, and the global body of Christ. All are welcome at the table. Come worship with us!



Homecoming Parade 2026

Plan now to park at the church on Friday morning, October 9, for the homecoming parade. Donations for parking will be accepted in the big lot on SW 2nd Avenue on Friday beginning at 9 a.m. Proceeds benefit our youth attending Montreat. The church office and preschool will also be closed on Friday, October 9.

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

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

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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, September 27, 2026

- 8:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion - Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover: Job 32-37 - Elizabeth Bolton - Library
- 9:45 a.m. Multiply Class: Genesis 12 - Fred Lundy - 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
- 4:00 p.m. UF Symphony Orchestra & Choirs Concert for a Cause

Monday, September 28, 2026

- 10:30 a.m. Ladies Bible Study: Ruth - Parlor

Tuesday, September 29, 2026

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

Wednesday, September 30, 2026

- 3:30 p.m. LOGOS
- 6:00 p.m. LOGOS Family Dinner - Alphabet Night
- 6:30 p.m. Jubilate Ringers

Thursday, October 1, 2026

- 7:00 a.m. YA&FM Men's Breakfast - Bagel Bakery
- 6:00 p.m. Carol Ringers - Room 215
- 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

Friday, October 2, 2026

Saturday, October 3, 2026

Sunday, October 4, 2026

- 8:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion - Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Carol & Jubilate Ringers - Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover: Job 38-42 - James Knight - Library
- 9:45 a.m. Multiply Class: Genesis 13 - Dan Sutton - Room 201
- 10:00 a.m. Joyful Ringers & Senior Choir - Sanctuary
- 10:15 a.m. Cherub & Junior Choirs - Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. Alleluia Choir - Sanctuary
- 10:45 a.m. Nursery Care - Room 204
- 11:00 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion - Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. Kids-4-God
- 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Time - Gordon Hall

World Communion Sunday