



Dedication Sunday • April 28, 2024

College Graduation and Scholarship Sunday

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

GATHERING

God of all beginnings, you bring a new day, and you promise to journey with me through it. I thank you for the gifts you have given me, and I beg your help that I may use them wisely and with compassion toward everyone I meet. Let my questions today be a form of pruning to bring forth in me new understandings, healing, and good fruit; in Jesus' name. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE (11 A.M.)

Laudamus te

A. Vivaldi

Joelie Campana, Gabriella Pizzi; vocalists

Laudamus te. Benedicimus te. Adoramus te. Glorificamus te.

We praise you. We bless you. We adore you. We glorify you.

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

In the wilderness, water brings life.

Seek us out, O God, and take us to the water.

In the Word of God, the good news gives light.

Seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.

In the bread and the wine, the body of our Savior nourishes everyone.

Seek us out, O God, and give us yourself.

*** HYMN 436**

God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us

O QUANTA QUALIA

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, we confess that we have not borne the fruit of the Spirit. We have not loved others as you have loved us. We have denied the promises of baptism and cut ourselves off from you. Forgive us, restore us, that we may abide in your love and live out your mercy, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. 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

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 7:54 - 8:3 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

NT pg. 126

Thanks be to God.

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES (11 A.M.)

Scott Stuart

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Esther 4 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

OT pg. 446

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

For Such a Time as This

Rev. Mark Hults

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONDING

RECOGNITION OF OUR GRADUATES

SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS

* **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.

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

Dick Rauber

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (11 A.M.)

The Lord Is My Shepherd

T. Matthews

Shichu Xie, conductor

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

* **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 35**

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN

BENEDICTION

Now and Every Day

L. A. Armstrong

April Basiletti, conductor

May grace pursue you, mercy cover you; may peace accompany you. Justice compel you, joy surprise you now and every day of your life.

* **POSTLUDE**

Gigue for Fanfare Trumpet

A. Lovelace

TODAY IN WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: Mark Hults, Fred Lundy, Dick Rauber, Scott Stuart

ELDER ON DUTY: Geoff Spiegel

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST: Mitch Rorick

8:30 A.M. VOCALIST: Payton Francis

CHANCEL CHOIR

CHANCEL CHOIR ACCOMPANIST: Tiffany Fung

CHAPEL USHER: RoseAnna Rutledge; **SANCTUARY USHERS:** Perry Foote, Louis Motz, Mary Lou Schubert

A/V TEAM: Norah Barat, Kaylee Bleeker, Oliver Dowling, John Rayl

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

PLEASE PRAY for Kathy Lingg, Howard's sister, and her family upon the passing of her husband, Steve Heineman. A memorial service will be held on Monday, April 29 in California.

CHURCH TRIUMPHANT: We extend our sympathy and offer the prayers of our congregation to BarBee Geiger and her family upon the passing of her husband, Chuck Geiger, who joined the Church Triumphant on April 23, 2024. A memorial service will be held on Friday, May 3 at 2 p.m. in the sanctuary.

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
Pastor

Alison Barat
Clerk of Session

Dink Henderson
Treasurer

Session

Diaconate

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Alison Barat	Fleetwood Fleming	Pam Bailey
Ashley Lentz-Black	Carol Israel	Troy Bleeker
Jennifer Clark	Joe Mueller	Andy Greer
Maralyn Foote	Elisa Neale-Tobener	Margaret Lingg
Evelyn Lewis	Earle Pickens	Susannah Peddie
Coleen O'Brien	Geoff Spiegel	Dick Rauber
Dan Sutton	Alexis Vellis	Steve Walker
	Sarah Whitfield	

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Buzz Boyd	Holli Best	Mark Coffey
Mimi Carr	Dell Bowman	Mimi Gray
Kristin Pickens	Megan Greer	Dean Schoenfeld
Mary Lou Schubert	Fred Lewis	Jane Smith
Nick Vellis		

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 - 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

God of Compassion, in Mercy 436

Befriend Us

1 God of com - pas - sion, in mer - cy be - friend us,
 2 Though we are lost, you have sought us and found us,
 3 How shall we stray, with your hand to di - rect us,

giv - er of grace for our needs all - a - vail - ing.
 stilled our rude hearts with your word of con - sol - ing.
 you who the stars in their cours - es are guid - ing?

Wis - dom and strength for each day ev - er send us,
 Wrap now your peace, like a man - tle, a - round us,
 What shall we fear, with your power to pro - tect us,

pa - tience un - tir - ing and cour - age un - fail - ing.
 guard - ing our thoughts and our pas - sions con - trol - ing.
 we who walk forth in your great - ness con - fid - ing?

By ending with questions rather than simple affirmations, this text conveys a strong sense of faith in God's presence and guidance without ignoring how much of the future remains unknown. The confidence of the text is well matched by its sturdy 17th-century French tune.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 7:54 - 8:3 (NRSV)

⁵⁴When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. ⁵⁵But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶"Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

¹And Saul approved of their killing him. That day a severe persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout the countryside of Judea and Samaria. ²Devout men buried Stephen and made loud lamentation over him. ³But Saul was ravaging the church by entering house after house; dragging off both men and women, he committed them to prison.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Esther 4 (NRSV)

¹When Mordecai learned all that had been done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went through the city, wailing with a loud and bitter cry; ²he went up to the entrance of the king's gate, for no one might enter the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. ³In every province, wherever the king's command and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and most of them lay in sackcloth and ashes. ⁴When Esther's maids and her eunuchs came and told her, the queen was deeply distressed; she sent garments to clothe Mordecai, so that he might take off his sackcloth; but he would not accept them.

⁵Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs, who had been appointed to attend her, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what was happening and why. ⁶Hathach went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate, ⁷and Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the exact sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews. ⁸Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show it to Esther, explain it to her, and charge her to go to the king to make supplication to him and entreat him for her people. ⁹Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said. ¹⁰Then Esther spoke to Hathach and gave him a message for Mordecai, saying, ¹¹"All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law – all alike are to be put to death. Only if the king holds out the golden scepter to someone, may that person live. I myself have not been called to come in to the king for thirty days." ¹²When they told Mordecai what Esther had said, ¹³Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not think that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. ¹⁴For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this." ¹⁵Then Esther said in reply to Mordecai, ¹⁶"Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will also fast as you do. After that I will go to the king, though it is against the law; and if I perish, I perish." ¹⁷Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

35 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

1 Praise ye the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 2 Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous - ly
 3 Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy
 reign - eth, shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so
 dore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with

health and sal - va - tion! All ye who hear, now to his
 gen - tly sus - tain - eth! Hast thou not seen how thy de -
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his

tem - ple draw near; join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sires e'er have been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for aye we a - dore him.

This very strong 17th-century German hymn employs many phrases from the psalms, especially Psalms 150 and 103:1-6. It did not receive an effective English translation until the mid-19th century, but has remained popular ever since, thanks in part to its stirring tune.

FOCUS ON STEWARDSHIP

During Stewardship Emphasis, I am always reminded of this true story: Outside of a church in Germany before World War II, there stood a beautiful statue of our Lord with His hands outstretched in a beseeching invitation, "Come to me all you who labor and are heavy burdened and I will give you rest"!! The area was then subjected to heavy bombing and the hands of Jesus were broken off at the wrists! After the war, the members of the congregation began to think about reconstruction. Their first desire was to replace the hands of Christ ... but then after more careful consideration, they decided to leave the handless statue just as it was!! Said they, "We shall be His hands. WE SHALL BE HIS HANDS!!!"

In a very real sense, our Lord has no hands but ours to accomplish His purposes in this world!! He has no feet but ours to go on His errands of mercy and practical service. He has no voice but ours to speak out for goodness and truth!! Jesus calls us to give a cup of cold water to the thirsty, to feed the hungry, to welcome strangers, to clothe the poor, to care for the homeless, and to minister to the sick. He said, "In as much as you have done it to one of the least of these ... you have done it to Me"!! ... a kind word, a listening ear, a small act of caring ... all done in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!!

And so, let's give ourselves anew to what lies before us ... a life of service ... always praying for God's guidance and life giving Spirit!! The need is great!! Let us each make a generous pledge, a commitment of our time, our talents, and our financial resources, to support the work of our church, part of the Body of Christ. Freely we have received, freely let us give!

- Stewardship Committee



STEWARDSHIP 2024-2025



YOUR PLEDGE

A promise to support FPC with your finances

Pledged funds are used to build the budget

The budget covers expenses from July to June

We will formally return our pledges on Sunday, April 28. Please submit your pledge in worship, securely online (using the QR code), by mail (106 SW 3rd St., Gainesville, FL 32601), or by emailing your pledge to our Business Manager, Trudy Bonerba (business@1stpc.org).



GENERAL BUDGET OVERVIEW

P parking lot
playground
sanctuary upkeep

curriculum
teacher training
Bible studies

GPD security
fire alarms
smoke detectors

seminaries
hospitals
schools

care cards
the Bugle
local ministries

teachers
sextons
staff

College cafe
fellowship events
LOGOS meals

worship guides
sheet music
communion

AC/heat
plumbing
lights & ovens

Please pray about what God is leading you to give to support the mission and ministries of our church in the coming year.

Scholarship Recipients

The Scholarship Committee on behalf of the Trustees is pleased to announce the following Scholarship Recipients for 2024-2025:

Howard and Emily Patton Scholarship	Kaylee Bleeker
Kirkpatrick Family Scholarship	Lillian Kate Byrum
Kirkpatrick Family Scholarship	Honest Chiputula
John R. Greenman Scholarship	Breezy Dowling
D. R. (Billy) Matthews Scholarship	Mireille Ariel de Fretes
William K. Robertson Scholarship	Hayden Hulst
Kirkpatrick Family Scholarship	Victoria Kitchens
Ruth Maren Scholarship	John Lingg
D. R. (Billy) Matthews Scholarship	Lacy Pirkle
Hank and Margaret Weech Scholarship	Kat Samala
J. Wayne Reitz Scholarship	John Steinmeyer IV
John R. Greenman Scholarship	Dylan Tillery
Charles and Mary Ross Scholarship	Alexis Vellis

On behalf of the Trustees, the Scholarship Committee would like to thank the donors and the families of the donors for their generous contributions to the Scholarship endowment funds that continue to make it possible for First Presbyterian Church to award scholarships to qualified applicants year after year.

If you would like information on creating or contributing to a scholarship fund, please contact Trudy Bonerba, Business Manager, at business@1stpc.org.

Scholarship Committee members: Joe Mueller, Brenda Pickens, Chair, Geoff Spiegel, and Margaret Weech.

Class of 2024

High School

Kaylee Bleeker

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.

Breezy Dowling

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 Sun, and Montreat. In the fall, Breezy will be attending the University of Florida majoring in Biology on a Pre-Med track.

College

Hannah Maine

Lacy Pirkle

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 part-time 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

Jackson Rowell

Katherine Skipper

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

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.

Katie Sutton

Jana Swank

Wesley Teza

Graduate School

Tiffany Fung

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

Shichu Xie

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

GLORIFY GOD

A **Congregational Meeting** will be held on 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 jdmueller2009@gmail.com 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 2nd) 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 citytr122@gmail.com.

College Café: All college students are invited to join us in the Serving Room for lunch following 11 a.m. worship. Thank you to Jane Morris and Nancy Carswell for providing today's meal!

Multiply Sunday Class: Meet upstairs in room 201 on the second floor of the Education Wing at 9:30 a.m. as we study Hebrews 13.

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 palbertfoote@gmail.com with questions.

April 28	2 Corinthians 6	Rick Palmer
May 5	2 Corinthians 7	Ross Teigan


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. Visit the table in Gordon Hall after worship, 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.

FPC Weekly Figures

In-Person Attendance 4/21	163
Weekly Budget Requirement	\$35,061
Received Week of 4/21/24	\$17,084
Weekly Offering	\$6,255
Designated Offerings	\$2,559
Other Revenue	--
Preschool	\$8,271
<u>FPC Fiscal Year: July 2023-June 2024</u>	
YTD Budget Requirements	\$1,507,605
YTD Received	\$1,441,348
YTD Expenses	\$1,341,315

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Is there something you would like to announce in the Bugle or Bulletin? Contact communications@1stpc.org