

Summer Bugle

Volume 54
Issue 2

*Sing praises to the Lord, for he has
done gloriously; let this be known in
all the earth.*

Isaiah 12:5

First Presbyterian Church
Rev. Mark Hults, Senior Pastor

3* Ways to Join Us for Sunday Worship!

1 Worship In-Person
at 11:00 a.m. in the
Sanctuary

2 Livestream at 11:00
a.m. on YouTube and at
1stpc.org

3 Watch Sunday services
at 9:00 a.m. on Cox
Channel 11

**Worship videos are available anytime on the church YouTube page*

THE POINT OF CHRISTIANITY

from Mark Hults

How are you using your summer? Do you have any plans? I hope this summer will be a time of both sabbath and meaningful activity in your life.

I recently saw a short video by N.T. Wright (<https://tinyurl.com/mhbuglevideo>) that got me excited about how we can continue to move forward in our understanding of what God has in store for us. In the video, Wright states, “*Most Western Christians believe that the aim of Christianity is for our souls to go to Heaven when we die.*” He went on to say, “*The whole point is not for my soul to go to Heaven, but for God’s Kingdom to come to earth.*” Before you worry, I do believe that when our souls are absent from the body, they are present with the Lord. But I do like how Wright’s words refocus us on the image we get from Revelation 21 of a new Jerusalem descending from Heaven.

But it was actually one of Wright’s sort of side comments that excited me the most. He went on to say about our souls going heaven, “*This is what most Western Christians believe and what most non-Christians have rejected.*” A tragedy of our misunderstanding of God’s ultimate plan is what it has led us to believe about our world. If yanking us away is the point, then it doesn’t matter how we care for our world, because we are leaving it. Is it this incorrect understanding

that adds fuel to others’ rejection of Jesus? If Wright is correct, what we do now, every moment, matters. When we care for people that are suffering, it matters. When we treat our world as stewards instead of those that strip it only for temporary benefit, it makes a difference. In these ways and many more, we can be reflections of the belief that what we do now has an eternal significance, not just a momentary one. It should change how we look at everything we interact with.

So as you head out into this summer, invest in things that have an eternal perspective. Do good. Make a difference. If we do that, might others be drawn to a faith that not only makes sense in eternity, but also in our world right now?

Joyfully,



To contact Pastor Mark, email pastor@lstpc.org.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Revelation 21:1-2



John Fong designs data-backed, results-oriented programs that help churches achieve measurable growth, foster deeper engagement, and enhance communication, all while ensuring sustainable growth.

CHURCH GROWTH WORKSHOP

Would you like to see our church grow? Are you willing to share your time, energy, imagination, intelligence, and love to make that happen? John Fong, Presbytery Church Growth Consultant, will lead a Zoom workshop on Wednesday, May 20 at 7p.m. for our congregation. He will share real insights from churches within our presbytery. These are real examples with proven results that will help us...

- Grow our church...
- Reach our larger community...
- Improve relational follow up, our overall communications and exposure....

Learn how to help our church grow and reach more members of our community. Contact the church office with questions or to RSVP at communications@lstpc.org.



INTERCESSORY PRAYER

from Fred Lundy

As we head into summer I hope your Fall, Winter and Spring have gone well!

I find it interesting that in the months that just passed (specifically the end of November through the beginning of April) we observe some of the great high points of our Christian faith. In these roughly four months we observe both Advent & Christmas and Lent & Easter.

Amid these great times of worship and reverence we are challenged to reckon with the fullness of our humanity, the destitution of our sin and the fullness of what it means and looks like to be saved by and know Jesus.

Yet for the months we find ourselves in now; What do we have? What do we do?

Honestly and Hopefully, a lot of the same things we did during the significant seasons – particularly and especially – PRAY.

When I think about the blessing and gift of PRAYING, I often think about the great Biblical missionary Paul’s writings found in the book of Romans to the Christian churches in Rome found in Chapter 8 where we are told that BOTH the Holy Spirit (verses 26 & 27) and Jesus

Christ (verse 34) intercede for us.

In the Greek, this word means to make petition for, to appeal, to plead – to intervene – and here is the catch; For – Others.

Praying For Others. This is holy work for it is what The Savior and The Spirit do for us.

While I know I do not have the ability to pray, “with sighs too deep for words” as the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible tells us, I can and will pray for you.

So how can I pray for and with you?

Send me an email (youngadult@1stpc.org) so I know – include as much or as little as you want – for you or someone you know.

And, if there is someone you know who you feel or fear does not know the Lord personally as Lord and Savior, please, please, please let me join you in praying for them.



To contact Fred Lundy, email youngadult@1stpc.org.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Romans 8:26-27

YEAR-END GIVING



We are coming to the end of our fiscal year. If you continue to make payments on your 2025-2026 pledge after June 30, please mark your check or envelope accordingly so it will be applied correctly.

Please call Trudy through the church office at (352) 378-1527 if you have any questions about your pledge or a balance due.

COVER ART



In the cover photo, choir members of all ages are processing in to the sanctuary to lead the congregation in worship. Our children and youth choirs develop musical abilities and worship skills on Wednesdays during the school year at our LOGOS ministry. The adult choir rehearses on Thursday evenings. Congregation members of every generation come together to make a joyful noise to the Lord!

COLLEGE MINISTRY UPDATE

from Jonathon Haney

This first semester at the church has been an incredibly fruitful experience, one that I am grateful to have shared with all of you. I have immensely enjoyed working with you all on Sundays and beyond, for the College Café and LOGOS, through the Souper Bowl and Holy Week, and everything in between! Thank you all for your friendship and kindness these past few months. Now, with that said, here is an update for a few of the events we have planned this summer.

- This summer we will be reading and discussing C.S. Lewis's *Mere Christianity* on Tuesday nights from 6:30 to 8:30. Lewis is a towering figure of the faith and this book, in addition to being a great introduction to his work, is also one near to my own heart. I first read *Mere Christianity* back in middle school, and it converted me from a someone with a vague, nominal belief in God to one with a deep-seated commitment to the truth of the Christian faith. I hope our students can benefit as much from working through it together this summer as I did when I first read Lewis all those years ago.
- The weekly coffee time at Pascal's will continue through the summer on Monday mornings. Last semester this proved to be a great opportunity for students to have some time to discuss theology, future plans after graduation, or anything else that might be on their mind. The Study Center itself is a great organization for encouraging students to gain a deeper relationship with the intellectual tradition of the faith, and I look forward to growing more involved with them in the coming months.
- This summer our students will begin serving with Gainesville Community Ministry on the Monday before their Monthly FDA food days. This is generally GCM's busiest time of the month and a day that they

could really benefit from some extra hands. The time will be 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, but the exact date changes from month-to-month, so reach out to me if you want to get involved.

- I have worked with Meridian to set up a mental health training session, which will be hosted by our church on July 10. This event is an 8-hour session from beginning to end with lunch provided, focusing on detecting the signs of and learning how to best interact with individuals suffering from mental illness. I think that for anyone who will be serving and building personal relationships with students on a regular basis it is integral to develop the knowledge and ability to detect when someone may be suffering from mental illness and then to have a ready plan of action for how to ensure that student receives the treatment they need. This event can host up to 30 people and is open to the members of our congregation. If you would be interested in attending, let me know and I can put you on the list.
- And finally thank you to everyone who volunteered to help out with College Café this past semester! The meals were uniformly excellent, some of the best I had all year! Your commitment to ensuring our students felt welcome did not go unnoticed and I am immensely grateful for your tremendous efforts!

God Bless!



To contact Jonathon Haney,
email college@1stpc.org.

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



We continue to ask for your prayers as we enter another year in the search for a new Director of Children's and Youth Ministries! We are still working closely with the team from Ministry Architects, who shares resumes and potential candidates with us. Please keep sharing the ministry opportunity with everyone you can. The members of the search committee are: Alison Barat, Jessica Berger, Megan Conerly, Margaret Dowling, Evelyn Lewis, Heather Mears, and Bev Vloedman. Pastor Mark Hults and Andy Vloedman are ex officio members.

The job description and the link to apply can be found on our church homepage at www.1stpc.org.



May

Special Events Only. Regular Weekly Ministries and Committee Meetings NOT Listed.

**Sundays
in May**

8:30 a.m. Worship in the Chapel
9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- **Gordon Hoover** in Room 213 and
- **Multiply** in Room 201
9:30 a.m. Summer Choir May 17 & 31
10:45 a.m. Nursery in Room 204
11 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

**Sun
17**

Last Kids-4-God
11 a.m. worship



Church Growth Zoom
7 p.m.
RSVP to the church office

**Sun
3**

Confirmation Sunday
8:30 and 11 a.m. worship
Celebrate with our newest members!

**Thurs
21**

Preschool VPK Graduation
10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary
and Gordon Hall

**Fri
8**

Preschool Mother's Day Tea
10:30 a.m. in Gordon Hall

**Sun
24**

Pentecost Sunday
8:30 and 11 a.m. worship
with Holy Communion



Mother's Day
Worship with your mom if you are able
and celebrate all moms with us.

Dedication Sunday
8:30 and 11 a.m. worship
Submit your yearly pledge and
pray for the year ahead.

**Wed
13**

Montreat Meeting
6 p.m. in Gordon Hall

**Mon
25**

Church Office and Preschool Closed
Memorial Day

**Fri
15**

Preschool 2's and 3's Music Program
10:30 a.m. in Gordon Hall



Fill your cart with non-perishable food items for Gainesville Community Ministry any time of year.

"But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being."

Job 12:7-10



June

**Sundays
in June**

8:30 a.m. **Worship** in the Chapel
9:30 a.m. **Adult Sunday School**
- **Gordon Hoover** in Room 213 and
- **Multiply** in Room 201
9:30 **Summer Choir** in the Sanctuary
10:45 a.m. **Nursery** in Room 204
11 a.m. **Worship** in the Sanctuary

**Fri
12**

The Church Office is Closed.
Starting this week, the church office is closed on Fridays for the summer: June 12 through August 7.

**Sun
14**

Montreat Dedication
Pray for our Montreators as they prepare for the week of music and fellowship.

**Mon
15**

**Fall Bugle Deadline
for Aug-Sept-Oct**



**Sat-Sat
20-27**

Montreat Worship & Music Conference
North Carolina



**Sun
21**

Trinity Sunday and Father's Day
Worship with your dad if you are able and celebrate all dads with us.

**Tues
30**

The End of Our Fiscal Year
If possible, complete your 2025-2026 pledged giving by today.

Special Events Only. Regular Weekly Ministries and Committee Meetings NOT Listed.



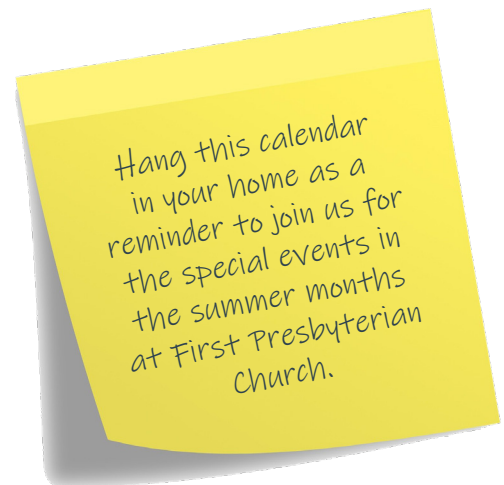
July

**Sundays
in July**

8:30 a.m. **Worship** in the Chapel
9:30 a.m. **Adult Sunday School**
- **Gordon Hoover** in Room 213 and
- **Multiply** in Room 201
10:45 a.m. **Nursery** in Room 204
11 a.m. **Worship** in the Sanctuary

**Fridays
in July**

The Church Office is Closed.
Offices hours in July will be 9 am to 5 pm, Monday through Thursday.
Thank you for your understanding.



Watch your emails for information on summer game nights coming soon!

Istpc Music



Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord

SUMMER CHOIR

This year Summer Choir will sing Sunday, May 17 & 31 and June 7, 14, 21, and 28. 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, please contact Mitch Rorick at music@1stpc.org.

NOTEWORTHY SPONSORS

On Saturday, June 20, children, youth, and adults from our church will board a charter bus and to travel to Montreat, North Carolina for the 2026 Worship and Music Conference. The theme of this year's conference is *Who'll Be a Witness?*

Montreat offers conferees opportunities to explore vital inter-generational worship experiences and ways to enrich the liturgical life of the local church.

Please become a Noteworthy Sponsor. You may 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.

CALLING ALL MUSICIANS

Do you sing or play an instrument? Would you like to use your musical talents to glorify God and to lead the congregation in worship this summer? Contact Mitch to start the conversation.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you have a few hours a month to put music away in the choral library or update the 1stpc Music webpage? Please contact Mitch if you can help with either of these tasks or have questions.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE HYMN?

Why does it top your list? This summer, you will have the opportunity to share your favorite hymn and a personal story about it with us. In August, we'll sing some of those hymns together. Complete the card at one of the boxes outside the sanctuary, respond to our hymn post on the 1stpc Music Facebook page, or submit your answers at www.1stpcmusic.org/hymn. Let's celebrate the hymns of our faith together.



To contact Mitch Rorick, email music@1stpc.org.



MONTREAT 2026

The Worship and Music conference is an intergenerational conference for children, youth, & adults, who serve as pastors, directors, instrumentalists, ringers, worship leaders, choir members, or anyone who loves to sing, play, learn, worship, and fellowship. This year's theme is *Who'll Be a Witness?*

Please keep our 39 children, youth, and brave adults in your prayers as they depart for Montreat on Saturday, June 20, for what is always a life-changing week.

Alison Barat · Emerson Barat · Norah Barat · Grace Berger · Carmen Carr · Rachel Coffey · Alek Concepción
Alex Conerly · Max Conerly · Zack Conerly · Deborah Desforges · Mimi Gray · Adeline Greer · Nina Gunther
Wendy Gunther · Jonathon Haney · Carol Israel · Kay Kline · Evelyn Lewis · Eli Moore
Daryl Mullee · Andrew Netardus · Laura Netardus · Aurora Neuhaus · Dalyla Neuhaus · Ginger Neuhaus
John Rayl · Rivers Rentz · Robin Rentz · Charlotte Roland · Susan Roland · Mitch Rorick · Chris Sylvester
Maylean Sylvester · Steph Tyler · Kate Vellis · Ocean Wacha · Katherine Whisler · Beth Wood



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

MULTIPLY SUNDAY CLASS

All adults are invited to room 201 on the second floor of the Education Wing at 9:45 a.m. for our current study of the book of Luke.

GORDON HOOVER

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 with questions at palbertfoote@gmail.com.

May 3	Romans 7	Tim Schubert
May 10	Romans 8	Elizabeth Bolton
May 17	Romans 9	Steph Tyler
May 24	Romans 10	James Knight
May 31	Romans 11	Perry Foote
June 7	Romans 12	Serendipity Rinonos
June 14	Romans 13	Tim Schubert

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP



Do you appreciate getting to know the congregation after worship on Sunday while also enjoying a sweet treat? If so, please consider donating cookies for fellowship time. Sign up on the whiteboard in Gordon Hall on Sundays or contact Carol Israel at ceisrael@cox.net.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS



Every Sunday, there are bouquets of flowers that decorate the chancel for the Worship services. These flowers are available for members of the congregation to purchase in honor of or in memory of a loved one. Dates are on a first come, first served basis and the cost is \$40. Contact Jenny Chamberlain through the church office or at communications@1stpc.org to sign-up.

Available Sundays - May 10, June 28, and July 19

SENIOR *Saints*

Our group will be "on vacation" for the months of May, June, July, and August.

Please save the date now to join us on Friday, September 11. More details to come as the date gets closer.

The Senior Saints is a group for the senior members of our congregation. We meet once a month on a Friday for lunch, fellowship, and a presentation. Occasionally, we meet somewhere in Gainesville for a special event. If you have questions, email 1stpcseniorsaints@gmail.com.

We'll see you in September!

LOCAL MISSIONS UPDATE

The Local Missions Committee thanks the congregation for your support of our community this year. Some highlights:

1. You generously funded our ministries: St. Francis House, Family Promise, and Gainesville Community Ministries (GCM). You also contributed to the ministries Made for More and Helping Hands Clinic. More than \$14,000 has been raised through offerings and donations.
2. We were able to purchase 43 water filters through the organization Filter of Hope to be distributed to needy families in Cameroon, Africa by Roger and Linda Nana, who have a health ministry there. Linda writes "*We look forward to using these filters to minister the love of Christ to many lost souls as God gives us grace. Please, continue to pray for smooth passage, open doors, and thirsty hearts, as we distribute the filters in the Country.*"
3. Our committee provided dinner monthly to St. Francis House families until their closure in April. We were blessed to have food donated by the catering service at the University of Florida.
4. You blessed families at Gainesville Community Ministries with school supplies and at St. Francis House through the Hope for the Holidays gift drive.
5. You regularly provide food and other goods for GCM, Family Promise, and St. Francis House. These are ongoing needs and your donations provide hope to many families.

We appreciate your continued contributions over the leaner summer months. GCM needs food and toiletries for their food pantry, and Family Promise can use donations of gift cards for gas and groceries for families in transitional housing. Of course, cash donations are always welcome! You may bring any of these to the bins in Gordon Hall or to the church office.

Please pray for the leaders of these ministries as they try to meet the many needs in our community. In particular: the future of St. Francis House ministries, the renovation of Promise House by Family Promise, and the expansion of space at Gainesville Community Ministries.

Thank you for spreading the Gospel message of God's love in a practical way by meeting human needs!

The Local Missions Committee is looking for new members. We meet monthly to plan how best to support our local ministries and to consider new opportunities to impact the lives of individuals. We would love to have you join us!

Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it.

Proverbs 3:27

MEMBER INFORMATION

NEW MEMBERS

Steph Tyler
Jeffrey McAleer & Lily Lewis
Katherine Whisler
Alex Conerly

CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

Howard Lingg, January 24, 2026
Bruce Curry, January 26, 2026
George Singleton, January 31, 2026
Ann Beukelman, February 27, 2026
Dean Schoenfeld, April 19, 2026
Ross Mackenzie, April 24, 2026
Roxane Toben, April 30, 2026

First Presbyterian Church
106 South West Third Street
Gainesville, FL 32601
(352) 378-1527
Return Service Requested

Summer Bugle

2026

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit # 302
GAINESVILLE, FL 32601

PLANNED GIVING

Remember your church in your financial planning.

In every season of life, we are shaped by what we have received, and by what we choose to pass on.

First Presbyterian Church has been a place of deep and steady grace. It is where we have gathered in worship, found community in times of joy and sorrow, and been reminded, again and again, of God's enduring faithfulness.

None of this happens by accident. It is the result of faithful stewardship across generations.

Those who came before us gave not only for their present moment, but for a future they would never fully see. Today, we are invited into that same story.

Planned Giving is one way we can participate in the church's future in a deeply meaningful way. By including First Presbyterian Church in your will or estate plans, you are making a statement of faith. One that says this ministry matters, and that its work should continue for generations to come.

It is a way of saying: what I have received here matters so much that I want others to receive it too.

As you consider your own plans for the future, we invite you to reflect on the role this church has played in your life, and the role it might continue to play in the lives of others.

Because what we build in faith today will, by God's grace, endure far beyond us.

- The Stewardship Committee