



Service for the Lord's Day • August 17, 2025
Glorify God, Make Disciples of Jesus Christ, and Meet Human Needs

GATHERING

*Laboring God of this new age, give me wisdom and courage to understand your will as I live your word this day.
Amen.*

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
Handbell Ensemble

D. E. Wagner

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Let us lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely,
and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.
Mindful of the gifts we receive and confident of the sustenance the Lord provides,
let us worship God.

*** HYMN 263**

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

CORONATION

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of hope, we confess our disregard of your care . . . our doubt of your providence . . . our blindness to signs of your love. We are afraid to risk our comforts to find new life; we separate ourselves from you and from others and foster divisions between those you love. Help us to amend our lives and make us your faithful people who bear the good fruit of your Word in the world. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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 85 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

OT pg. 543

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM (11 A.M.)

Baptized in Water
Andrew Netardus, belltree

L. R. Lamb

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES (11 A.M.)

Dr. Lizzy Tobener

(Afterward, children will return to sit with their families.)

* HYMN 482

Baptized in Water

BUNESSAN

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Colossians 2:8-15 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

NT pg. 200

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Challenge of Deception

Rev. Mark Hults

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

The Lord's Prayer

A. Malotte

Dr. Elaine Turner, handbells

* 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 275

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN' FESTE BURG

* BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (12 P.M.)

TODAY IN WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: Mark Hults, Fred Lundy, Scott Stuart, Lizzy Tobener

ELDER ON DUTY: Andy Greer

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST: Mitch Rorick

8:30 A.M. USHER: Jeanne Thomas; **11 A.M. USHERS:** Maralyn Foote, Perry Foote, Louis Motz, Mary Lou Schubert

A/V TEAM: Dania Moreno, John Rayl, Geoff Spiegel, Elijah West

THE FLOWERS IN WORSHIP are given to the glory of God and in memory of Carol Hayes-Christiansen by her sister, Ethel Rudy, and her niece, Kim Bailey.

TODAY IS THE THIRD SERMON IN OUR AUGUST SERIES ON COLOSSIANS. As we look at Colossians 2:8-15, the three hymns are connected in the following ways to the Scripture:

- Gathering Hymn: "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!" – Colossians 2:10b
- Hymn of the Day: "Baptized in Water" – Colossians 2:12
- Sending Hymn: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" – Colossians 2:15

The prelude, a setting of our sending hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," was also played yesterday morning for the memorial service of Carol Hayes-Christiansen. In addition to a career as a professor in the College of Nursing at UF, Carol sang in the First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir for many years and was director of one of the handbell ensembles. Our Thursday handbell ensemble, "Carol Ringers," is named after Carol.

This morning we celebrate our second annual Bell Day. Various parts of worship utilize handbells or handchimes. In addition to the group handbell piece for the prelude, we see handbells used with a belltree for the anthem, solo ringing for the offertory, and handbells as part of two of the hymns.

We are grateful to Dr. Elaine Turner for sharing her handbell gifts with us today. From 2006 through 2024 she served the UF College of Agricultural and Life Sciences as Associate Dean, Senior Associate Dean, and Dean. As a handbell ringer, she has traveled nationally and internationally.

Thanks also to Andrew Netardus for leading our Bell Day workshop at 10:15 a.m. and for directing and playing handbells at our 11 a.m. worship. Andrew works with our Wednesday Jubilate Ringers ensemble, other facets of the music ministry at First Presbyterian Church, and as Event Coordinator.

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.

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

Senior Pastor

Rev. Mark Hults - pastor@1stpc.org

Director of Music and Organist

Mitch Rorick - music@1stpc.org

Director of Young Adult & Family Ministry

Fred Lundy - youngadult@1stpc.org

Parish Associate, Director of College Ministry

Rev. Scott Stuart - college@1stpc.org

Preschool Director

Lisa Hershkowitz - preschool@1stpc.org

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Andrew Netardus - events@1stpc.org

Head Sexton - Tony Cogdill

Sexton - Margaret Hill

Property Coordinator

John Rayl - png.1stpc@gmail.com

263 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

Descant

4 O that with yon - der sa - cred throng we at his feet may fall!

1 All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
 2 Ye cho - sen seed of Is - rael's race, ye ran - somed from the fall,
 3 Let ev - ery kin - dred, ev - ery tribe on this ter - res - trial ball
 4 O that with yon - der sa - cred throng we at his feet may fall!

We'll join the song, and crown him Lord of all!

bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all!
 hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
 to him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, and crown him Lord of all!
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown him Lord of all!

We'll join the song, and crown him Lord of all!

Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem, and crown him Lord of all!
 Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
 To him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, and crown him Lord of all!
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song, and crown him Lord of all!

This 18th-century text celebrating the sovereignty of Christ has been through several expansions and contractions before reaching its present form. It is set here to the oldest American hymn tune in continuous use since first published in 1793, which was written for it.

TEXT: Stanzas 1–3, Edward Perronet, 1779, 1780; stanzas 2–3, alt. John Rippon, 1787; stanza 4, John Rippon, 1787

MUSIC: Oliver Holden, 1793; desc. Michael E. Young, 1979

Music Desc. © 1979 GIA Publications, Inc.

CORONATION

8.6.8.6.8.6

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 85 (NRSV)

¹ Lord, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. ² You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin. (Selah)

³ You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.

⁴ Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us. ⁵ Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations? ⁶ Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you? ⁷ Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

⁸ Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts. ⁹ Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. ¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. ¹¹ Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. ¹² The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

¹³ Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Colossians 2:8-15 (NRSV)

⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ.

⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹² when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

BAPTISM

482

Baptized in Water

C Am Dm G F G C

1 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the
 2 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the
 3 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the

Em Am Em F G C Am F C/G

blood of Christ our King; heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing the
 tomb with Christ our King; one with his ris - ing, freed and for -
 sign of Christ our King; born of the Spir - it, we are God's

Am G C G/B Am G7 C

prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.
 giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.
 chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.

Each stanza of this compact and carefully constructed text about baptism begins with allusions to John 3:5 and Ephesians 1:13. The interplay of constant and changing lines accentuates each added image. It is set here to a Gaelic tune first transcribed in the 19th century.

TEXT: Michael A. Saward, 1981

MUSIC: Gaelic melody; arr. Dale Grotenhuis, 1985

Text © 1982 The Jubilate Group (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

Music Arr. © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources

BUNESSAN

5.5.8.5.5.9

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JESUS CHRIST: ASCENSION AND REIGN

275

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul-wark nev - er
 2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be
 3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -
 4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a -

fail - ing. Our help - er he, a - mid the flood of
 los - ing, were not the right man on our side, the
 do us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his
 bid - eth. The Spir - it and the gifts are ours through

mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe doth
 man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ
 truth to tri - umph through us. The Prince of Dark-ness grim, we
 him who with us sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go, this

seek to work us woe. His craft and power are great, and
 Je - sus, it is he. Lord Sab - a - oth his name, from
 trem - ble not for him. His rage we can en - dure, for
 mor - tal life al - so. The bod - y they may kill; God's

armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.
 age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.
 lo, his doom is sure. One lit - tle word shall fell him.
 truth a - bid - eth still. His king - dom is for - ev - er.

Long before Isaac Watts began to Christianize the Psalms, Martin Luther had already done so when he created the text and tune for this, his most famous hymn, which is based on Psalm 46. Luther encouraged metrical versions of psalms as well as chanted psalms and new hymns.



BELL DAY **Sunday, August 17, 2025**

OUR HANDBELLS



First Presbyterian Church purchased its first set of handbells in 1972. This set was cast by the Whitechapel Foundry, an organization founded in London in Elizabethan times. It cast bells for four hundred years, many of them famous, including 'Big Ben', which rings from the North Tower of the Houses of Parliament, and the original 'Liberty Bell' of Philadelphia, famous for having cracked on its first ring. Whitechapel bells also ring at Salisbury Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, and the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. The foundry cast its last bell in 2017.

Our Whitechapel Bells rang for the first time at FPC during the Christmas Eve Service, 1973, as the choirs and congregation left the sanctuary carrying candles representing Christ, the Light of the world. In the first week of January, Mary McCleary, New England chairman of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers (and a guest of Carol Hayes-Christiansen), rang the bells for the ending of our Epiphany communion service. By these symbolic

acts we dedicated the handbells to the glory of God and the enrichment of our corporate worship.

After hearing a handbell choir while in Thailand, Dr. and Mrs. J. Wayne Reitz gifted First Presbyterian Church with three middle octaves of Whitechapel Handbells in 1972 and an additional two octaves in 1991.



In September 2020, a new four-octave set of handbells crafted by Malmark was rung for the first time in our worship. First Presbyterian Church is grateful to Carol Hayes-Christiansen, Bruce and Roberta Curry, and Allen and Elaine Turner for their generosity in underwriting, in part, the purchase of the Malmark handbells. Additional funding was provided by the Esther

Jones Endowment and the Sacred Music Fund.

With three weekly rehearsals for the Jubilate, Carol, and Joyful Ringers as well as countless preludes, offertories, postludes, handbell tours, and concerts at Oak Hammock and The Village, the Whitechapel handbells have rung joyfully and clearly for 50 years. We look forward to ringing the Whitechapel and Malmark handbells in praise to God for the next 50 years.

THE STEEPLE BELL



The steeple bell that rings each Sunday morning has called our congregation to worship since 1860 when it was installed in our first-newly-built church building; the population of Gainesville then was fewer than 400. In 1890, when the population of Gainesville had grown to 10,000, the bell followed when we moved to our second

church home on the corner of West University and 6th Street. It followed once again in 1954 when we

moved to our third home, the building we now occupy.

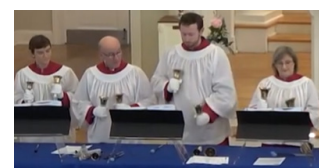
Our bell was cast in the Meneely Foundry in Troy, NY, then a small town on the Hudson River just north of Albany. Between 1826 and 1952, when the foundry closed, it made more than 65,000 bells, many of them installed on college campuses such as Cornell, Colgate, Duke, Mt. Holyoke, and the University of Texas, but also in several nearby churches, Bethesda by the Sea in Palm Beach (1927), St. John's Episcopal in Jacksonville (1948), and St. John's Episcopal in Savannah (1939).

- The Archives Committee

INTERESTED IN TRYING A HANDBELL CHOIR?

- Joyful Ringers (middle and high school students) Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.
- Carol Ringers (beginner and intermediate adult ringers) Thursdays at 6 p.m.
- Jubilate Ringers (for advanced adult ringers) Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Contact Mitch Rorick at music@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:** Jenna Mueller - jdmueller2009@gmail.com

Kindergarten through 2nd grade children are released 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 with questions dvloedman@aol.com.

Youth Connection meets for fellowship and food with Bible study and mentoring for students in grades 6-12. (see **YA&FM** contact)

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 & lunch and Tuesday Bible study. Bring a friend!

Parish Associate, Director of College Ministry
REV. SCOTT STUART - college@1stpc.org

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

Director of Young Adult & Family Ministry
FRED LUNDY - youngadult@1stpc.org

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

Director of Music and Organist
MITCH RORICK - music@1stpc.org

Additional Staff

Senior Pastor

REV. MARK HULTS - pastor@1stpc.org

Business Manager

TRUDY BONERBA - business@1stpc.org

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ANDREW NETARDUS - events@1stpc.org

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JOHN RAYL - png.1stpc@gmail.com

Head Sexton

TONY COGDILL

Sexton

MARGARET HILL

Glorify God
Make Disciples of Jesus Christ
Meet Human Needs



First Presbyterian
Church of Gainesville

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, August 17, 2025

Bell Day

- 8:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion - Iona Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Handbell Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover: Heb 5 - Serendipity Rinonos - Library
- 9:30 a.m. Multiply Sunday School Class: 1 Samuel 22 - Room 201
- 10:15 a.m. Ringing for the First Time Workshop - Sanctuary
- 10:45 a.m. Nursery Care - Rm 204
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
- 12:00 p.m. Congregational Meeting - Sanctuary
- 12:15 p.m. LOGOS Family Meeting - Serving Room

Monday, August 18, 2025

Tuesday, August 19, 2025

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

Thursday, August 21, 2025

- 6:00 p.m. Carol Ringers - Bell room
- 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir - Choir room

Friday, August 22, 2025

Saturday, August 23, 2025

- 11:00 a.m. Memorial Service - Shannon Ashley - Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. LOGOS Welcome Back Pool Party - The Hults' home

Sunday, August 24, 2025

- 8:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion - Iona Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir - Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover: Hebrews 6 - Elizabeth Bolton - Library
- 9:30 a.m. Multiply Sunday School Class: 1 Samuel 23 - Room 201
- 10:15 a.m. All Church Hymn Sing - Sanctuary
- 10:45 a.m. Nursery Care - Rm 204
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. Kids-for-God - Room 217
- 12:00 p.m. College Cafe - Serving Room



Congregational Meeting - Sunday, August 17

A Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, August 17 after the 11 a.m. worship to hear a report from the Congregational Nominating Committee and to elect Elders, Deacons, and Trustees, to elect the Congregational Nominating Committee, and to discuss matters pertaining only to these items.



LOGOS Family Meeting

For more information about LOGOS and for volunteer training, gather in the serving room after the congregational meeting today Sunday, August 17 following worship for lunch, details, and answers to your questions. RSVP to dvloedman@aol.com.



LOGOS Welcome Back Pool Party

Saturday, August 23 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. LOGOS is a mid-week ministry with worship arts, Bible time, recreation, and fellowship for children and youth age 3 through high school. Join us at the Hults' home, 9424 NW 59th Lane, for a pool party and time of fellowship. We can't wait to see you there! RSVP to Bev Vloedman by emailing dvloedman@aol.com. On August 27 we will meet at the church from 3:30-6:45 p.m. for our regular LOGOS schedule.



All Church Hymn Sing - Sunday, August 24

Many of you have shared with us your favorite hymn and a personal story about it. On Sunday, August 24, we'll sing some of those hymns together, led by Dr. Christopher and Lynette Pfund. Gather in the sanctuary at 10:15 a.m. as we celebrate the hymns of our faith together.



Presbyterian Women Triennial Synod Gathering

Register by August 24 for the gathering held Friday through Sunday, October 17-19 at Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island, GA. The first six mother-daughter pairs to register will go free! The PW Synod Gathering, held once every three years, is an opportunity for women to gather for worship, inspiring speakers, and community-building with workshops, tours, music, and more. Check the weekly invite email if you did not get a registration form last week or visit <https://pwsosa.com/>.



Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord

Don't like your seat in the sanctuary? FREE UPGRADE to the Chancel Choir! Please join us Sunday, August 24 at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. For more information, contact Mitch Rorick.

Pick-up a calendar page from the ushers or click the link in the weekly email for all this week's ministry events. Children's worship guides are available at all entrances.

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 **now from 9-10 a.m.** for our televised broadcast **cc** or MyTV 28.2 for over the air broadcasts

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