



World Communion Sunday • October 4, 2026
Glorify God, Make Disciples of Jesus Christ, and Meet Human Needs

GATHERING

Faithful God, you remain when others forsake. When I am tempted to abandon myself today, help me to stay present to this moment, that I may know and do your will. Through the Creator who enfolds me, Christ who defends me, and the Spirit who never abandons me. Amen.

INTROIT

Jubilate Procession
Joyful Ringers

L. McKechnie

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

This Is the Day
Cherub, Junior, & Senior Choirs

K. Berg

This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it! Praise the Lord! ye heav'ns adore Him; praise Him, angels in the height; sun and moon, rejoice before Him; praise Him, all ye stars of light. Praise the Lord! for He hath spoken; worlds His mighty voice obeyed; law which never shall be broken for their guidance hath He made. Alleluia! We will rejoice and be glad! Amen!

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

As the Scriptures promise: the stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes.

The religious elite wanted to arrest him for his statement,
but because they feared the crowds, they did not.

*** HYMN 394**

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, you have planted us like a vineyard on a fertile hill. You cleared away the stones, planted us with choice vines, and kept watch over us by night and day. But we have not yielded the good fruit that you expected or desired. We are overgrown with sin, choked with violence and injustice. Forgive us, we pray. Uproot our evil, prune away our sin, and shower upon us the gift of your grace. 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

Psalms 118:20-25 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

OT pg. 565

Thanks be to God.

*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.

ANTHEM (11 A.M.)

Jesus Loves Me
Alleluia Choir

Traditional

*Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to Him belong. They are weak, but He is strong. Yes,
Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so!*

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES (11 A.M.)

Fred Lundy

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

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 21:33-46 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

NT pg. 24

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Parable of the Tenants

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

Fanfare Prelude on 'Aurelia'
Carol Ringers & Jubilate Ringers

D. Wagner

*** 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.*

*** PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*** 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.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Gluten-Free Bread)

PRAYER

SENDING

* HYMN 321	The Church's One Foundation	AURELIA
* BENEDICTION		
* POSTLUDE	Beach Spring Stomp <i>Carol, Joyful & Jubilant Ringers</i>	J. Honoré

Please remain seated for the Postlude.

TODAY IN WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: Jonathon Haney, Mark Hults, Fred Lundy, Ocean Wacha

ELDER ON DUTY: Steve Walker

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST: Mitch Rorick

CONDUCTORS: Alek Concepción Rivera, Natalie Hamel, Andrew Netardus

PERCUSSION: Andrew Bernard, Dr. Wendy Gunther

8:30 USHER: Tom Chamberlain; **SANCTUARY USHERS:** Maralyn Foote, Perry Foote, Chris Hamilton, Jason Park

A/V TEAM: Owen Best, Frank Counts, John Rayl

THE FLOWERS IN WORSHIP are given to the glory of God and in celebration of my mother's birthday by Elizabeth Jenkins.

TODAY IS THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: "The Parable of the Tenants." Our gathering and sending hymns connect with today's reading from Matthew 21:33-46.

The prelude, "This Is the Day," is an anthem of praise that works well throughout the church year, though it is especially fitting during the Easter season. While we are not currently in the Easter season, Matthew 21:42 points us to Psalm 118:22, a verse from a psalm frequently heard on Easter Sunday. Also, in the Christian tradition, every Sunday is considered a "little Easter" celebrating Christ's resurrection. In Matthew, the vineyard owner's son is killed; in Psalm 118, the stone is rejected. Both images point toward Christ. Rather than rejecting the stone or the Son, let us celebrate Christ's victory over death and "Praise the Lord" this day.

The student choirs are singing for the first time this fall. We are grateful to the Alleluia Choir (ages 3-VPK) for singing "Jesus Loves Me," an important hymn for our young singers to learn. On Sunday, October 11, the congregation will sing this hymn as part of College Sunday's focus on Love. The Cherub Choir (K-1), Junior Choir (2-5), and Senior Choir (6-12) join together to sing "This Is the Day" with Junior Choir Conductor Natalie Hamel leading the singers.

We begin the service with the Joyful Ringers. The offertory features handbells and organ in an arrangement of our sending hymn, "The Church's One Foundation." The postlude, "Beach Spring Stomp," is based on the hymn tune BEACH SPRING. This tune, found in "The Sacred Harp" (1844), appears in many hymnals. In our *Glory to God Hymnal* alone, BEACH SPRING is associated with three hymns: 490, "Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters"; 498, "Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken"; and 716, "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending." Hymn tunes are typically printed in all capital letters to distinguish them from the titles of hymn texts.

It's fitting that today we hear the tune to 498, "Loaves were Broken, Words Were Spoken," as the postlude. This hymn is found in the LORD'S SUPPER section of the *Glory to God Hymnal* and today is World Communion Sunday. Typically celebrated on the first Sunday in October, World Communion Sunday is a worldwide partaking of Holy Communion, symbolizing unity and peace.

ACTION FOR THIS WEEK: As we celebrate World Communion Sunday, consider this question: How might you share God's love and peace with the world?

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.

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation 394



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and
 2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of
 3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from
 4 Laud and hon - or to the Fa - ther, laud and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
 hosts, and stay; come, with all your lov - ing - kind - ness;
 you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er
 to the Son, laud and hon - or to the Spir - it,



bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
 hear your peo - ple as we pray, and your full - est
 with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
 ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and



help for - ev - er, and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.
 in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.
 one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Although this ancient text has often been used at church dedications, the first stanza clearly refers to the people of God and the second to the place where they meet. The stately and soaring tune is aptly named for the edifice where the composer served as organist and is buried.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 118:20-25 (NRSV)

²⁰ This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

²¹ I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. ²² The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. ²³ This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴ This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. ²⁵ Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 21:33-46 (NRSV)

³³ "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce.

³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Finally he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son." ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance." ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹ They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

⁴² Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'?" ⁴³ Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Church's One Foundation 321

1 The chur-ch's one foun-da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord.
 2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op-pressed,
 4 Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war,
 5 Yet she on earth has un - ion with God, the Three in One,

She is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
 by schis - ms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more:
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won:

From heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride.
 One ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we,

With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.
 And soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 like them, the meek and low - ly, may live e - ter - nal - ly.

This hymn was one of twelve written by an English curate to affirm the articles of the Apostles' Creed with biblical allusions such as 1 Corinthians 3:11 here. Though not created for this text, the tune was joined to it in 1868, and the two have been inseparable ever since.

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

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

Property Coordinator

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, October 4, 2026

World Communion Sunday

- 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 - Perry Foote - 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

Monday, October 5, 2026

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Parlor
- 5:00 p.m. Local Missions - Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Circle 5 Presbyterian Women (PW) Bible Study
Questions? Contact Bev Vloedman - dvloedman@aol.com
- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting - Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Trinity Ringers - Room 215
- 6:30 p.m. Trajectory College Bible Study - Gordon Hall

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

- 1:30 p.m. Chocolate Lovers PW Bible Study - Parlor
Questions? Contact Betsy Berry - betsypwberry@gmail.com
- 3:30 p.m. LOGOS - Enter through sanctuary doors or gate on SW 1st Ave
- 6:00 p.m. LOGOS Family Dinner - Orange & Blue Night
- 6:30 p.m. Jubilate Ringers - Sanctuary

Thursday, October 8, 2026

- 6:00 p.m. Carol Ringers - Sanctuary
- 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir - Sanctuary
- 7:30 p.m. YA&FM Young Professionals Bible Study - Gordon Hall

Friday, October 9, 2026

Church Office & Preschool Closed

- 9:00 a.m. Homecoming Parade Parking - \$10

Saturday, October 10, 2026

Sunday, October 11, 2026

College Sunday

- 8:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion - Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover: Matthew 1- Perry Foote - Library
- 9:45 a.m. Multiply Class: Genesis 14 - Jenny C - Room 201
- 10:30 a.m. Kappa Phi - Sanctuary
- 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. College Sunday Lunch - Gordon Hall



Concert for a Cause - Thank You!

Thank you to all who attended last week's symphony and choir concert. The offering of \$1,626 will benefit Family Promise of Gainesville. If you were unable to attend but would like to contribute, you may give using PushPay or place a check in the offering plate payable to First Presbyterian Church, memo "Concert for a Cause - Family Promise." Visit www.1stpcmusic.org for more on the concert series.



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

October ushers are needed. This minimal effort and maximum impact service opportunity allows us to help folks feel welcome and comfortable as they join us for Sunday worship. Contact Laura Montgomery at assistant@1stpc.org or call the church office to fill this need.



Homecoming Parade Parking 2026

Plan now to park at the church on Friday morning, October 9, for the homecoming parade. \$10 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.



Fall Means Sweetie Pies

A Sweetie Pie is a delicious pie lovingly made by volunteers and is a fundraising event for the Montreat Worship and Music Conference. A variety of pies are available frozen raw and order cards can be found in the pews and the upcoming Advent Bugle. Pies are made on Friday and Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to about 1 p.m. (starting October 16) and Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m. in the church kitchen. Anyone can help; no experience is necessary. Contact Carol Israel with questions, to help, or to order at fcpie@gmail.com.



Senior Saints - Friday, October 16, 2026 at 12:30 p.m. in Gordon Hall

On the *third Friday* of October, we will gather for \$10 SweetBerries lunch and a program. Do you have questions for help while living at home? This presentation has answers! Debbie Sahay will tell us about ANCHOR Direct Elder Care, a hands-on management service, covering a range of needs, from simple to complex. Don't miss this! Please join us for fellowship, food & helpful information! Let us know you are coming by replying to: 1stpcSeniorSaints@gmail.com. We would like as accurate a count as possible, please.



Montreat Luncheon

The Annual Montreat Worship and Music Conference Luncheon is Sunday, October 25 at 12 p.m. in Gordon Hall. Please join us as we share memories of Montreat 2026 and thank you for your support. RSVP to (352) 378-1527 or communications@1stpc.org by Sunday, October 18. Cost is \$10 per person or a maximum \$35 per family.

Ministry Highlight

After learning the Bible lesson of Jesus feeding the 5000, the 2-3 grade Bible study class made up 35 shelf stable meals for Gainesville Community Ministry to distribute. They are learning to glorify God, make disciples of Jesus Christ, and meet human need at LOGOS.



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