



Fifth Sunday of Easter • May 18, 2025

Dedication Sunday

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

GATHERING

Delivering God, each day we awaken to your goodness and our hearts cry out in praise as you set us to tasks for the life of the world. Do not let us hinder your love, but strengthen our will, as we offer thanks in every simple gesture of this day. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands S. Page

Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good for all. Healing pain and sickness, blessing children small. Washing tired feet and saving those who fall. Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good for all. Take my hands, Lord Jesus, let them work for you. Make them strong and gentle, kind in all I do. Let me watch you, Jesus, 'til I'm gentle, too. 'Til my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.

* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

The word of the Lord has come to us.

We must be open to what God plans to do.

The Lord is about to shake the earth and to overthrow the kingdoms.

Let us long for God's coming Kingdom.

* **HYMN 612** We Praise You, O God KREMSER

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, your command to love one another across all differences opens us to new horizons, yet we often respond with fear and judgment, that hinders your goal for humanity. Forgive our sins, we pray, and give us a true repentance that leads to life for all creation. We pray in Jesus' name. 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

Revelation 21:1-8 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

NT pg. 259

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM (11 A.M.)

Take My Life

P. Lawson

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee. Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise. Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of Thy love. Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee. Take my voice and let me sing always only for my King. Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from Thee. Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold. Take my intellect and use ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose. Take my will and make it Thine; it shall be no longer mine. Take my heart, it is Thine own; it shall be Thy royal throne. Take my love, my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its treasure store. Take myself and I will be ever, only, all for Thee. Amen.

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES (11 A.M.)

Fred Lundy

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Haggai 2:20-23 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

OT pg. 879

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

I Am About to . . .

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.

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP (11 A.M.)

Perry Foote

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

In His Final Hour

J. Alexander and J. Kozhevnikova

Andrew Netardus, voice; Jane Kozhevnikova, piano

Written in memory of Janine's father (W.J. Alexander, US Army retired). Learn more under TODAY IN WORSHIP.

In his final hour, this is what he said, Come and sit beside me, dear, rest your weary head . . . life is full with roses, roses still have thorns, be careful who you give your heart to now that you've been warned. If I could have one hour to sit there by his side, I'd tell my father Thank you for giving me this life. In his final hour, this is what he said, You didn't have to suffer, I took your place instead. Much too much to put upon the shoulders of one man, a rugged tree on Calvary, sign in his nail scarred hands. If I could have one hour to sit there by his side, I'd tell my father Thank you for giving me this life. Imagine how it must have felt to suffer on that tree, to save a solitary soul as unworthy as me . . . The crown of thorns placed on his head, his destiny was planned: to save us all from sin and death no ordinary man. In his final hour, this is what he said, I hope you choose forgiveness that was in God's plan. He demonstrated this for us, a truly humble man. Back to life, he conquered death, he rose up once again. In his final hour, this is what he said.

*** 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 377	I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light	HOUSTON
* BENEDICTION		
* POSTLUDE	I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light	W. Wold

TODAY IN WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: Mark Hults, Fred Lundy

ELDER ON DUTY: Rachel Coffey

ACOLYTE: Linden Greer

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST: Mitch Rorick

COLLABORATIVE PIANIST: Anait Piloyan

SUMMER CHOIR

CHAPEL USHER: Rose Anna Rutledge; SANCTUARY USHERS: Young Adult & Family Ministries

A/V TEAM: Owen Best, Kaylee Bleeker, Dania Moreno, John Rayl

THE PENTECOST OFFERING unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and gifts with the church and the world. It is unique in that 40% of our total amount received will stay here to support work with at-risk children, youth, and young adults in our local community, 50% supports Presbytery ministries with youth and young adults, and 10% supports child advocacy/children at risk. Use the special envelopes in the pews between now and June 8 or write "Pentecost Offering" in the memo line when you give.

THIS SUNDAY is Dedication Sunday, and we conclude the Haggai Sermon Series. As we submit our pledge cards, the prelude (*Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands*), gathering hymn (*We Praise You, O God*), and Anthem (*Take My Life*) speak to stewarding our time, abilities, and possessions. The sending hymn, as well as postlude, is the hymn *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*. Taken from the A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH section of *Glory to God*, this hymn speaks to Haggai 2:20-23, the Future Hope of God's Kingdom, the new Jerusalem. Please check out bibleproject.com, for a summary of the book of Haggai.

The offertory is a new composition from Janine Alexander (First Presbyterian Church congregant and songwriter) and Jane Kozhevnikova (PhD candidate in composition, University of Florida). It was Janine's request that this piece be sung during the Easter Season. Following the liturgical year, May 18, 2025 is the Fifth Sunday of Easter.

Our prelude composer is Sue Ellen Page, past director of choirs for children and youth at Nassau Presbyterian Church, Princeton, and founder of the Trenton Children's Chorus. Philip Lawson, GRAMMY winner and composer of *Take My Life*, was a member of the King's Singers for many years. The postlude arrangement was composed by Wayne Wold, professor at Hood College from 1990 to 2020, as well as director of chapel music at Camp David for seventeen years.

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.

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

Property Coordinator

John Rayl - png.1stpc@gmail.com

We Praise You, O God

612

1 We praise you, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
 2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers and moth - ers;
 3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer

in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
 through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been.
 and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.

We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;
 When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,
 With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.

we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.
 and with your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
 To you, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

The author wrote this text when only nineteen years old in response to a request from the organist of the Brick Presbyterian Church in New York City, who wanted another Thanksgiving text to sing to this Dutch tune. He regarded the usual text (see no. 336) as too full of conflict.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Revelation 21:1-8 (NRSV)

¹ 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. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶ Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. ⁷ Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children. ⁸ But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the polluted, the murderers, the fornicators, the sorcerers, the idolaters, and all liars, their place will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Haggai 2:20-23 (NRSV)

²⁰ The word of the Lord came a second time to Haggai on the twenty-fourth day of the month: ²¹ Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, I am about to shake the heavens and the earth, ²² and to overthrow the throne of kingdoms; I am about to destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the nations, and overthrow the chariots and their riders; and the horses and their riders shall fall, every one by the sword of a comrade. ²³ On that day, says the Lord of hosts, I will take you, O Zerubbabel my servant, son of Shealtiel, says the Lord, and make you like a signet ring; for I have chosen you, says the Lord of hosts.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

377 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to fol - low
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God. I want to look at
 3 I'm look-ing for the com - ing of Christ. I want to be with

Je - sus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The
 Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ-teous-ness, shine on my path, and
 Je - sus. When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

Refrain

star of my life is Je - sus.
 show me the way to the Fa - ther. In him there is no dark-ness at
 shall know the joy of Je - sus.

all. The night and the day are both a - like. The Lamb is the

light of the cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Ministries

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.

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. After the service, families meet in Gordon Hall. 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.

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!

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.

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.

Glorify God
Make Disciples of Jesus Christ
Meet Human Needs



Weekly Calendar

Sunday, May 18, 2025

Dedication Sunday

- 8:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion - Iona Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover: Micah - Perry Foote - Library
- 9:30 a.m. Multiply Sunday School: John 20:19-31 - Room 201
- 9:30 a.m. Summer Choir - Sanctuary
- 10:45 a.m. Nursery Care - Rm 204
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
- 11:20 p.m. Kids-4-God - Rm 217
- 12:00 p.m. Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering Lunch

Monday, May 19, 2025

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

- 2:15 p.m. Staff Meeting - Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting - Parlor

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

- 12:00 p.m. Executive Commission

Thursday, May 22, 2025

- 10:30 a.m. VPK Preschool Graduation - Sanctuary & Gordon Hall

Friday, May 23, 2025

Saturday, May 24, 2025

Sunday, May 25, 2025

- 8:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion - Iona Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover: Nahum - Bob Bailey - Library
- 9:30 a.m. Multiply Sunday School: John 21:1-25 - Room 201
- 10:45 a.m. Nursery Care - Rm 204
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
- 11:20 p.m. Kids-4-God - Rm 217

Staff

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

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JOHN RAYL - png.1stpc@gmail.com

Head Sexton

TONY COGDILL

Sexton

MARGARET HILL



Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering Lunch

After worship today, Presbyterian Women present the 2025 Birthday Offering Lunch in Gordon Memorial Hall. Even if you can't stay for lunch, come to GMH to meet Debra Harris, Director of *Making Miracles*, Tallahassee, a 2023 Birthday Offering recipient. Your Birthday Offering gifts changed lives!



Summer Choir

This year, the Summer Choir will sing Sunday, June 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29. Guest conductors in June include Dr. Mark Coffey, Dr. Wendy Gunther, and Dr. Russell Robinson. Rehearsals are held on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. Join us! It is not necessary for members of the Summer Choir to attend every summer Sunday. For more information, please contact Mitch Rorick at music@1stpc.org.



Where to Park in Our Main Lot

We have entered into a parking lot rental agreement with Alachua County for approximately the next 2 years while they are constructing a parking garage next to the courthouse. During business hours Monday through Friday, please park in the spaces with WHITE numbers (101 and higher) on the east and north sides of the lot. Please do not park in the reserved spots with YELLOW numbers (1-100) during weekday business hours. All spots are available on Sunday mornings. Currently, the gates in our main lot are open on Sunday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. They are closed on Saturdays. If you are in the lot when the gates close, you can always get out. More updates and information to come. If you have any trouble, please call John Rayl at (352) 577-2082.



Share Your Ideas

Thank you for attending the congregational meeting in April. A presentation was given by the chairs of the Budget & Finance committee and Trustees, Dick Rauber and Ken Mears, with a focus on the challenges and opportunities for our church as we approach a new fiscal year. At this meeting, congregants began sharing ideas. If you would like to share an idea for supporting and growing our church, please either submit your idea at <https://www.1stpc.org/ideas> or in the suggestion box in Gordon Hall.

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



PLEDGE UPDATE

AS OF 5/14/2025

It is our hope that everyone in our congregation will
pledge this year.



\$236,790

in pledged funds



35

pledges



\$700,000

pledge goal

Thank you! Every gift makes a difference.

Stewardship Focus

What is stewardship? One writer has said,

“Christian Stewardship is the practice of systematic and proportionate giving of time, abilities, and material possessions; based on the conviction that these are a trust from God, to be used in His service for the benefit of all mankind in grateful acknowledgment of Christ’s redeeming love.”

Why give? Jesus said, *“Give and it will be given to you.”* When we give, we receive. When we give our thoughts become larger and more compassionate, and our souls expand. When we give, we improve our spiritual health. As we express our gratitude to God, we develop more gratitude, and we become what we do.

First Presbyterian Church can make a difference in God’s kingdom in downtown Gainesville and throughout the world. Let us remember in order to accomplish our mission, we have salaries to pay, property to maintain, equipment to replace, and worthwhile projects and committees to fund.

At this season let us all give - *“everyone according as he purposes in his heart . . . not grudgingly, nor of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver.”*

Faithfully,

Your Stewardship Committee

Weekly Figures

In-Person Attendance 5/11	160
Weekly Budget Requirement	\$38,129
Received Week of 5/11/25	\$93,503
Weekly Offering	\$17,209
Designated Offerings	\$55,192
Other Revenue	--
Preschool	\$21,103
<u>FPC Fiscal Year: July 2024-June 2025</u>	
YTD Budget Requirements	\$1,715,798
YTD Received	\$1,521,716
YTD Expenses	\$1,542,966


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  or MyTV 28.2 for over the air broadcasts

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

LOGOS 2024-2025 Thank You!

Greet and Snack/Welcome: Lorraine Barber, Eleanor Samuels, Scott Stuart

Recreation: Zack Conerly, Breezy Dowling, Connor Drake, Mimi Gray

Choirs: Mitch Rorick, Wendy Gunther, Alek Concepción, Mary Sharkey, Ross Teigen, Breezy Dowling

3-5 year old leadership team: Megan Conerly, Margaret Dowling, Victoria Bernard, Kathryn Richardson, Dr. Mark Coffey, Sydney Moore-Greulich

Dining room set up: Ross Teigen, Robin Rentz, Allison Stuart, Mary Sharkey

Bible study:

K-2nd Jessica Berger, Lilly Byrum, Carol Turner, Breezy Dowling, Mireille de Fretes

3rd grade Eileen Stephens, Amelia Guerry

4th-5th Evelyn Lewis, Scott Stuart, Connor Drake

7th-12th Mimi Gray, Matthew Morse, Connor Drake

Family Time:

Dinner Dean Evelyn Lewis; **helpers:** Mireille de Fretes, Carol Turner

Cook Teams (for over 100 weekly): Bob Richardson, Robert Richardson, Andy Vloedman, Carol Israel, Kate Vellis, Chris Sylvester & Deb DesForges, Fred Lewis, Peggy & David Carr

Clean-up Crew: Margaret Dowling, Laura Netardus, Rose Anna Rutledge, Tony Codgill

Communication: Jenny Chamberlain, Kaylee Bleeker

LOGOS served faith formation, fun, and food to 43 families weekly- averaging 85-120 Wednesday for Family time dinner. 56 Children and Youth, ages 3-18 participated weekly in Bible study, Recreation, Worship Skills, and Family time, and led worship throughout the year. Ask us about ways you may be called by God into this ministry!

LOGOS Committee: Bev Vloedman, Evelyn Lewis, Megan Conerly, Margaret Dowling, Jessica Berger, Megan Greer, and Mitch Rorick

