

GATHERING

Loving God, walk beside me through the joy and trouble of this day. Show me what you have for me, and what you would help me to avoid. Your plan for the day and the life you have given me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE (11 A.M.)

O God, Show Mercy to Us
Carol Ringers

G. Holst; arr. K. McChesney

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Brielle Genevieve Elizabeth Berger

* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

The Lord Jesus protects us in times of trouble.

He calls us to places of danger and strife.

God provides, even in situations where we are threatened.

The mission God gives us is not with out challenges.

* **HYMN 818**

By Gracious Powers

INTERCESSOR

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Lord, have mercy on us. We talk about love, but our actions betray us. We talk about love, but we neglect the poor. We talk about love, but we fail to love one another. Lord, have mercy on us. Forgive us, and abide in us by the power of your Spirit so that our lives may show our love for Jesus Christ, in whose body we live and 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 OF ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT READING

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Acts 19:21-41 (NRSV)

NT pg. 139

ANTHEM (11 A.M.)

Heartscape
Jubilate Ringers

D. K. Hakes

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES (11 A.M.)

Sarah Whitfield

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Esther 1 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

OT pg. 444

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Threat

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

Fleetwood Fleming

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (11 A.M.)

Festival Celebration

M. Helman

* **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

WORSHIP LEADERS: Fleetwood Fleming, Mark Hults, Fred Lundy, Scott Stuart, Sarah Whitfield

ELDER ON DUTY: Geoff Spiegel

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST: Mitch Rorick

CAROL RINGERS, JUBILATE RINGERS

CONDUCTORS: Andrew Netardus, Rebecca Ruescher

CHAPEL USHER: RoseAnna Rutledge; **11A.M. USHERS:** Tom Chamberlain, Louis Motz, Mary Lou Schubert

A/V TEAM: Kaylee Bleeker, Troy Bleeker, Frank Counts, John Rayl

THE FLOWERS IN WORSHIP are given to the glory of God and in memory of Bruce D. FitzGerald from the FitzGerald family.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JASON & JESSICA BERGER on the baptism of their daughter, Brielle Genevieve Elizabeth Berger, in the 11 a.m. worship service. Grace Berger is Brielle's big sister and her grandparents are Lyle & Julie Berger, Fred & Rev. Lynn Labs, and Dennis & Patty Ogorzaly. Many friends and family are celebrating with us in worship today.

By Gracious Powers

818

1 By gra - cious powers so won - der - ful - ly shel - tered,
 2 Yet is this heart by its old foe tor - ment - ed,
 3 And when this cup you give is filled to brim - ming
 4 Yet when a - gain in this same world you give us

and con - fi - dent - ly wait - ing, come what may,
 still e - vil days bring bur - dens hard to bear;
 with bit - ter suf - fering, hard to un - der - stand,
 the joy we had, the bright - ness of your sun,

we know that God is with us night and morn - ing
 O give our fright - ened souls the sure sal - va - tion
 we take it thank - ful - ly and with - out trem - bling,
 we shall re - mem - ber all the days we lived through,

and nev - er fails to greet us each new day.
 for which, O Lord, you taught us to pre - pare.
 out of so good and so be - loved a hand.
 and our whole life shall then be yours a - lone.

This text (made from the author's last poem) turns in the middle of stanza two, where broad affirmations yield to a prayer continuing through the rest of the hymn, a prayer that testifies to deep confidence. The minor tune helps to convey such tensions in the life of faith.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 19:21-41 (NRSV)

²¹Now after these things had been accomplished, Paul resolved in the Spirit to go through Macedonia and Achaia, and then to go on to Jerusalem. He said, "After I have gone there, I must also see Rome." ²²So he sent two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, to Macedonia, while he himself stayed for some time longer in Asia. ²³About that time no little disturbance broke out concerning the Way. ²⁴A man named Demetrius, a silversmith who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the artisans. ²⁵These he gathered together, with the workers of the same trade, and said, "Men, you know that we get our wealth from this business. ²⁶You also see and hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost the whole of Asia this Paul has persuaded and drawn away a considerable number of people by saying that gods made with hands are not gods. ²⁷And there is danger not only that this trade of ours may come into disrepute but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be scorned, and she will be deprived of her majesty that brought all Asia and the world to worship her." ²⁸When they heard this, they were enraged and shouted, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" ²⁹The city was filled with the confusion; and people rushed together to the theater, dragging with them Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians who were Paul's travel companions. ³⁰Paul wished to go into the crowd, but the disciples would not let him; ³¹even some officials of the province of Asia, who were friendly to him, sent him a message urging him not to venture into the theater. ³²Meanwhile, some were shouting one thing, some another; for the assembly was in confusion, and most of them did not know why they had come together. ³³Some of the crowd gave instructions to Alexander, whom the Jews had pushed forward. And Alexander motioned for silence and tried to make a defense before the people. ³⁴But when they recognized that he was a Jew, for about two hours all of them shouted in unison, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" ³⁵But when the town clerk had quieted the crowd, he said, "Citizens of Ephesus, who is there that does not know that the city of the Ephesians is the temple keeper of the great Artemis and of the statue that fell from heaven? ³⁶Since these things cannot be denied, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rash. ³⁷You have brought these men here who are neither temple robbers nor blasphemers of our goddess. ³⁸If therefore Demetrius and the artisans with him have a complaint against anyone, the courts are open, and there are proconsuls; let them bring charges there against one another. ³⁹If there is anything further you want to know, it must be settled in the regular assembly. ⁴⁰For we are in danger of being charged with rioting today, since there is no cause that we can give to justify this commotion." ⁴¹When he had said this, he dismissed the assembly.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

¹This happened in the days of Ahasuerus, the same Ahasuerus who ruled over one hundred twenty-seven provinces from India to Ethiopia. ²In those days when King Ahasuerus sat on his royal throne in the citadel of Susa, ³in the third year of his reign, he gave a banquet for all his officials and ministers. The army of Persia and Media and the nobles and governors of the provinces were present, ⁴while he displayed the great wealth of his kingdom and the splendor and pomp of his majesty for many days, one hundred eighty days in all. ⁵When these days were completed, the king gave for all the people present in the citadel of Susa, both great and small, a banquet lasting for seven days, in the court of the garden of the king's palace. ⁶There were white cotton curtains and blue hangings tied with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rings and marble pillars. There were couches of gold and silver on a mosaic pavement of porphyry, marble, mother-of-pearl, and colored stones. ⁷Drinks were served in golden goblets, goblets of different kinds, and the royal wine was lavished according to the bounty of the king. ⁸Drinking was by flagons, without restraint; for the king had given orders to all the officials of his palace to do as each one desired. ⁹Furthermore, Queen Vashti gave a banquet for the women in the palace of King Ahasuerus.

¹⁰On the seventh day, when the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha and Abagtha, Zethar and Carkas, the seven eunuchs who attended him, ¹¹to bring Queen Vashti before the king, wearing the royal crown, in order to show the peoples and the officials her beauty; for she was fair to behold. ¹²But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command conveyed by the eunuchs. At this the king was enraged, and his anger burned within him. ¹³Then the king consulted the sages who knew the laws (for this was the king's procedure toward all who were versed in law and custom, ¹⁴and those next to him were Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven officials of Persia and Media, who had access to the king, and sat first in the kingdom): ¹⁵"According to the law, what is to be done to Queen Vashti because she has not performed the command of King Ahasuerus conveyed by the eunuchs?" ¹⁶Then Memucan said in the presence of the king and the officials, "Not only has Queen Vashti done wrong to the king, but also to all the officials and all the peoples who are in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus. ¹⁷For this deed of the queen will be made known to all women, causing them to look with contempt on their husbands, since they will say, 'King Ahasuerus commanded Queen Vashti to be brought before him, and she did not come.' ¹⁸This very day the noble ladies of Persia and Media who have heard of the queen's behavior will rebel against the king's officials, and there will be no end of contempt and wrath! ¹⁹If it pleases the king, let a royal order go out from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes so that it may not be altered, that Vashti is never again to come before King Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal position to another who is better than she. ²⁰So when the decree made by the king is proclaimed throughout all his kingdom, vast as it is, all women will give honor to their husbands, high and low alike." ²¹This advice pleased the king and the officials, and the king did as Memucan proposed; ²²he sent letters to all the royal provinces, to every province in its own script and to every people in its own language, declaring that every man should be master in his own house.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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.

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.)

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

FOCUS ON STEWARDSHIP

This is the season for Stewardship (with a capital "S"). Stewardship with a small "s" is non-stop the year round. Today, we launch our big "S" Stewardship Campaign, the purpose of which is really to remind us all that stewardship is basic to our whole Christian understanding of life.

All too often, Stewardship is regarded as just another fundraising operation. However, it is not the claims of a budget, but rather the claim of Almighty God upon each one of our lives that we are called to reaffirm. We are reminded that we do not own the world, nor does the world owe us a living. Everything that we have is on loan, lent for our use by the providence of God. Reluctant though we might be to admit it, anything we have achieved in life is through Him whose we are and whom we are committed to serve.

When this fact of our total dependence upon God for our very existence and survival really grasps us, it totally changes our attitude toward our possessions. Instead of asking how much we can spare for God's work, we began to ask how much we dare keep back to spend upon ourselves. Our gifts should be the first claim upon our giving of money, time, and talents as part of the total offering of our lives to God.

As we enter this Stewardship season, may God grant that we may return some small part of the immense debt of gratitude we all owe to our Lord, who in Christ Jesus has given us the Gospel of His amazing love. "Give and it shall be given to you"

-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



GENERAL BUDGET OVERVIEW

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

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).

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

GLORIFY GOD

The Sights and Sounds of Space: This Friday, April 26 at 8 p.m. in the sanctuary. Bring your family for this 40-minute interactive concert. Enjoy an immersive experience using Webb telescope images and live music from our choirs, handbells, organ, piano, violin, and percussion. The concert features music from Disney, Star Wars, and Halo, as well as classical and modern collections. For more information, visit www.1stpcmusic.org.

Calling All Graduating Seniors: If you are graduating from high school, please let us know your plans for after graduation. Those of you who are graduating from college, please let us know what your degree is in as well as your post-graduation plans. Email communications@1stpc.org or call the church office at (325) 378-1527 by today, Sunday, April 21.

Thanks to all the volunteers who have helped bring the LOGOS ministry back this year: Kathryn Richardson, Holli Best, Mark Coffey, Margaret Dowling, Sydney Moore-Greulich, Megan Conerly, Evelyn Lewis, Scott Stuart, Jessica Berger, Lilly Byrum, Connor Drake, Jenny Chamberlain, Mimi Gray, Thomas Niemi, Matthew Morse, Rev. Mark Hults, Breezy Dowling, Oliver Dowling, Bob Richardson, Robert Richardson, Andy Vloedman, Fred Lewis, Chris Sylvester, Deb DesForges, Jennifer Clark, Lorraine Barber, Eleanor Samuels, Elizabeth Jenkins, Vi Asmath, Mimi Carr, Wendy Gunther, April Basiletti, Rebecca Ruescher, Heather Mears, Megan Greer, Trudy Bonerba, Mitch Rorick, and Megan MacPherson. The vow at baptism to nurture the faith of the next generation was fulfilled by your commitment this year. We have grown together in faith through recreation, Bible study, worship skills and the Family Time dinner where 70-80 happy Presbyterians have gathered weekly.

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.

The Church-wide Fellowship and Lake Day is Saturday, April 27 at Montgomery Center from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Swim, boat, eat, play, and connect with your church family. The cost is \$10/person or \$35/family. Everyone is welcome! Please **RSVP** to dvloedman@aol.com if you plan on being there for lunch so food can be purchased.

College Café: All college students are invited to join us in the Serving Room for lunch following 11 a.m. worship. Thank you to Coleen O'Brien for providing today's meal! If you are interested in serving a meal to the college students, please contact Scott Stuart.

Multiply Sunday Class: Meet upstairs in room 201 on the second floor of the Education Wing at 9:30 a.m. as we continue look back at Easter and Easter Monday.

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.


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| April 21 | 2 Corinthians 5 | Perry Foote |
| April 28 | 2 Corinthians 6 | Rick Palmer |

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.

FPC Weekly Figures

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| In-Person Attendance 4/7 & 4/14 | 170 & 181 |
| Weekly Budget Requirement | \$35,061 |
| Received Week of 4/7 & 4/14 | \$30,954 |
| Weekly Offering | \$16,555 |
| Designated Offerings | \$6,128 |
| Other Revenue | -- |
| Preschool | \$8,271 |
| FPC Fiscal Year: July 2023-June 2024 | |
| YTD Budget Requirements | \$1,472,544 |
| YTD Received | \$1,432,741 |
| YTD Expenses | \$1,302,529 |

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 and audio
as well as archives at 1stpc.org



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