

**GATHERING**

*God, in the freshness of the new day, help us to retain clarity of vision so that we might seek the honor of your kingdom rather than the honor of the world. Sustain us throughout the day so that we might return filled by the grace of your spirit. Amen.*

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**PRELUDE**

So Be It (If You Never) from the Prayer Project  
Prayer of Surrender

H. Sorenson

*Ava Neary, soprano*

*If You never part the sea, then I'll walk with You on water. If You never light my path, then I'll hold the hands of God. If You never grow my dreams, but grow my faith instead, You're the Living Bread; and You see what lies ahead. So be it. So be it, Lord. Lord, what You have in store is more than I've ever dreamed before. So be it. So be it, Lord. Trade my will for Yours. So lead me on the journey You see fit. So be it. If You never do the miracle I thought I'd see you do, if You never feed five thousand with the gifts I give to You, if the things I think I need will keep my heart from knowing the peace that comes from growing in You, then let me say: so be it. How I've proved You over again. Jesus, precious Jesus, oh, for grace to trust You more! So be it. So be it, Lord. Lord, what You have in store is more than I've ever dreamed before. So be it. So be it, Lord. Trade my will for Yours. So lead me on the journey You see fit; and in the valley, teach me to submit. My spirit, to You, Lord, I commit. So be it. If You never part the sea, then I'll walk with You on water. If You never light my path, then I'll walk at night with God. So be it.*

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

God calls us to prayer,  
**rather than honor.**

God call us to trust,  
**rather than to know.**

We come to this time of worship,  
**trusting in the grace of Jesus Christ, who meets us in what we cannot attain.**

**\* HYMN 465**

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

CONVERSE

**CONFESSION AND PARDON**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Lord, all that we have is a gift from you, yet we do not live lives of gratitude. We ignore opportunities to learn from you. We turn away from those in need. We seek honor for ourselves and allow pride to take root in us. Forgive our foolish ways, O God, and restore us to you, that we may walk in the way of love. 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

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 19:12b-14 (NRSV)

OT pg. 499

### ANTHEM (11 A.M.)

Baba Yetu

C. Tin, arr. R. Emerson

*Andrew Netardus, Payton Francis, soloists; Alison Barat, Norah Barat, Andrew Bernard, Nina Gunther,  
John Netardus, Andrew Osmun, percussion*

*Baba yetu, yetu-uliye Mbinguni yetu, yetu amina! Baba yetu, yetu-uliye Jina lako litukuzwe. Utupe leo chakula chetu  
Tunachohitaji utusamehe Makosa yetu, hey! Kama nasi tunavyowasamehe Waliotukosea usitutie Katika majaribu,  
lakini Utuokoe, na yule, muovu e milele! Ufalme wako ufike utakalo Lifanyike duniani kama mbinguni. (Amina)*

*Our Father, who art in Heaven. Amen! Our Father, hallowed be thy name. Give us this day our daily bread,  
forgive us of our trespasses as we forgive others who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one forever. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth as it is in heaven. (Amen)*

### TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES (11 A.M.)

Sarah Whitfield

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

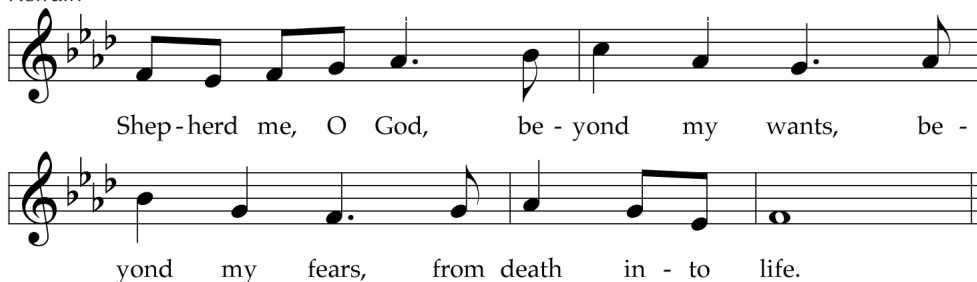
### \* HYMN 473

Shepherd Me, O God

SHEPHERD ME

## Shepherd Me, O God (Psalm 23)

Refrain



*Soloist sings the refrain first time only. Then Congregation sings the refrain and Soloist speaks the scripture.*

S: Refrain

**C: Refrain**

S: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

**C: Refrain**

S: He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

**C: Refrain**

S: Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

**C: Refrain**

### NEW TESTAMENT READING

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Colossians 4:2-9 (NRSV)

NT pg. 202

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

This I Pray from the Prayer Project  
Prayer for Others

H. Sorenson

*Payton Francis, alto*

*May your lifesong sing of God's amazing grace. May your feet be firm and steady in this race. When the world reflects your image through a mirrored facade, may you always see your beauty through the perfect eyes of God. This I pray, that you'd have God's best. Be strong and blessed. When your arms are empty, may your heart be full, and the mountains that you face seem possible. When the ground is dry, I pray that you'd have rain, and when the music starts to vanish, you would sing on through your pain. This I pray, that you'd have God's best. Be strong and blessed. And when God's voice is silent, you'd hold tighter to His hand, and trust He'll lead you safely on the journey He has planned. And if threadbare faith holds stillborn dreams, I pray the hurt would be redeemed. To hold on tightly to the Savior, grow in truth, and never waver. I pray your heart is warm when life can be so cold; and when scoffers mock your journey, you'd be bold. I pray for food on your table in times when it's lean, and that you'd share your meal with others so God's goodness can be seen.*

\* 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 37

Let All Things Now Living

ASH GROVE

\* BENEDICTION

\* POSTLUDE

Prayer of Worship from the Prayer Project

H. Sorenson

## TODAY IN WORSHIP

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

**ELDER ON DUTY:** Rachel Coffey

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST:** Mitch Rorick

**8:30 A.M. ORGANIST & COLLABORATIVE PIANIST:** Anait Piloyan

**CHANCEL CHOIR**

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

**A/V TEAM:** Owen Best, Dania Moreno, John Rayl, Elijah West

**THE FLOWERS IN WORSHIP** are given to the glory of God and in honor of Cretora Biggerstaff from family.

**TODAY'S SCRIPTURE AND SERMON FOCUS ON PRAYER.** Our gathering hymn, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," and hymn of the day, "Shepherd Me, O God," are from the PRAYER section of the *Glory to God Hymnal* (Hymns 464-474). The sending hymn, "Let All Things Now Living," connects with Colossians 4:2, one of our scriptural verses for today.

Our anthem, "Baba Yetu" is a Swahili-language setting of "The Lord's Prayer." This choral setting by Christopher Tin became the title song for the video game "Civilization IV" and was the first piece of video game music to be nominated for (and win) a Grammy Award.

The prelude, offertory, and postlude come from Heather Sorenson's "The Prayer Project." Below is the forward to her book: "I cry when I pray; God is listening to me. And so, when I was approached about doing a project on prayer, I immediately said, "yes." I'm not sure what my publisher had in mind when this album/book was first proposed, but I knew this was probably not going to be a "warm, fuzzy" project. I knew I was going to have to go deep. "So Be It" was especially difficult to write, as I was struggling at that time to reconcile my circumstances to the words that God was prompting me to write. When God wants me to pay special attention to what He is trying to tell me, He usually asks me to write a song about it. Funny how that works! I can look back on my repertoire and see lessons learned, tests I've yet to pass, and intense conversations with God.

As I immersed myself in *The Prayer Project* (we called it that for so long in production, that it eventually just became the official name), I struggled with prayer. It wasn't so much that I struggled with the act of praying - I struggled with the mystery of prayer. The summary of prayer goes beyond simply asking and receiving. Sometimes, we don't get what we expected, and at times, our prayers are met with seeming silence. Studying the broader scope of prayer in Scripture gives us a more complete picture; and yet still, there remains a mystery to prayer. You can find more of my thoughts on this topic in the downloadable content that goes with this book.

During my work on *The Prayer Project*, I carried some of my heaviest requests to God, and I wrestled deeply with this mystery of prayer. At the end of the project, my conclusion brought me back full circle to the first sentence of this foreword: "God is listening." Prayer is about the relationship. It's how I "draw near to God." He wants me to come to Him continually as I live my life. And, like a good Father, His response is always based on His love for me.

*Praying without ceasing, Heather"*

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**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](mailto:pastor@1stpc.org)

### Director of Music and Organist

Mitch Rorick - [music@1stpc.org](mailto:music@1stpc.org)

### Director of Young Adult & Family Ministry

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### Parish Associate, Director of College Ministry

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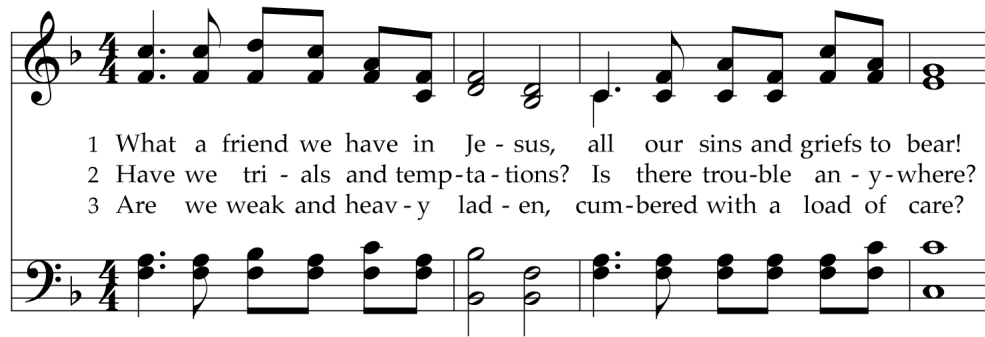
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Sexton - Margaret Hill

### Property Coordinator

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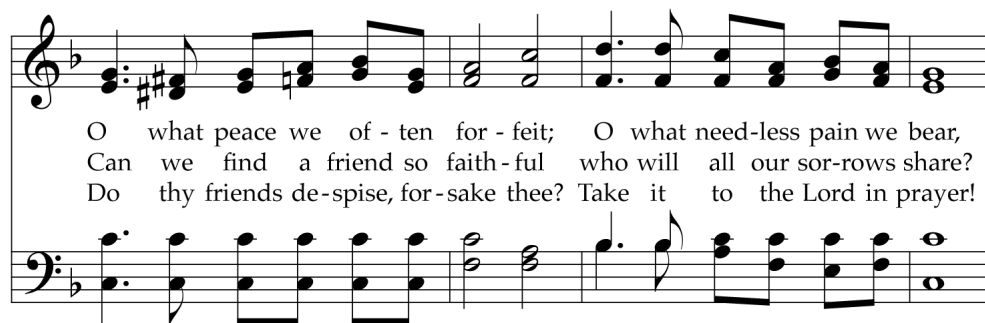
# 465 What a Friend We Have in Jesus



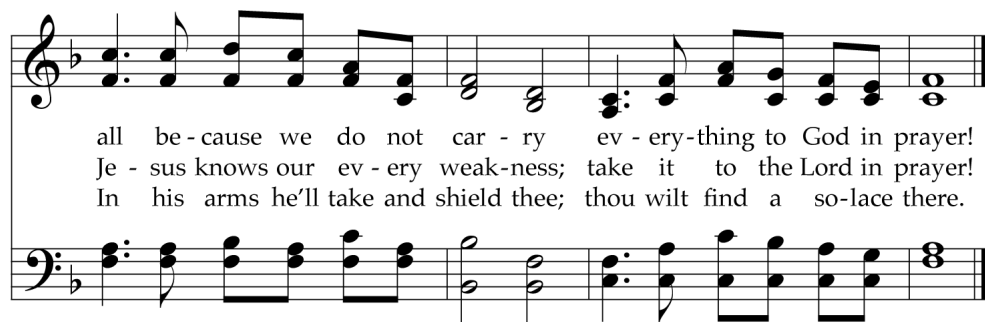
1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
 2 Have we tri - als and temp-ta - tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?  
 3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, cum-bered with a load of care?



What a priv-i-lege to car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!  
 We should nev - er be dis-cour-aged; take it to the Lord in prayer!  
 Pre - cious Sav-ior, still our ref - uge; take it to the Lord in prayer!



O what peace we of - ten for - feit; O what need-less pain we bear,  
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor-rows share?  
 Do thy friends de-spise, for-sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!  
 Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak-ness; take it to the Lord in prayer!  
 In his arms he'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a so-lace there.

This text was written by an Irish-born immigrant to Canada to comfort his mother in Ireland when she was going through a time of special sorrow. The role of prayer as a source of strength and consolation is underscored by its repeated use as a rhyme word in all three stanzas.

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Psalm 19:12b-14 (NRSV)

<sup>12b</sup> Clear me from hidden faults. <sup>13</sup> Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

<sup>14</sup> Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

Colossians 4:2-9 (NRSV)

<sup>2</sup> Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving. <sup>3</sup> At the same time pray for us as well that God will open to us a door for the word, that we may declare the mystery of Christ, for which I am in prison, <sup>4</sup> so that I may reveal it clearly, as I should.

<sup>5</sup> Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. <sup>6</sup> Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone.

<sup>7</sup> Tychicus will tell you all the news about me; he is a beloved brother, a faithful minister, and a fellow servant in the Lord. <sup>8</sup> I have sent him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts; <sup>9</sup> he is coming with Onesimus, the faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you about everything here.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



# 37 Let All Things Now Living

1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks-giv - ing  
 2 By law God en - forc - es, the stars in their cours - es,

to God our Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise;  
 the sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;

who fash-ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us,  
 the hills and the moun-tains, the riv - ers and foun-tains,

by guid - ing us on to the end of our days.  
 the depths of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

*Harmony* God's ban-ners are o'er us; pure light goes be - fore us,  
 We too should be voic - ing our love and re - joic - ing;

a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night:  
 with glad ad - o - ra - tion, a song let us raise,

till shad-ows have van - ished, all fear - ful - ness ban-ished,  
 till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks-giv - ing;

as for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.  
 to God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!

TEXT: Katherine K. Davis, 1939, alt.  
 MUSIC: Welsh folk melody; harm. Gerald H. Knight, 20th cent.  
 Text © 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company  
 Music Harm. © Royal School of Church Music

ASH GROVE  
 6.6.11.6.6.11.D

## Ministry Highlights

Visit our growing website  
for more about our church  
and ministries.



### Join us at College Cafe

All college students are invited to join us in the serving room for a delicious, homemade lunch! Bring your parents. Bring a friend. The menu changes weekly as it is chef's choice. Thank you to Jane Morris and John & Nancy Carswell for providing today's lunch!



### LOGOS Has Begun!

LOGOS is a mid-week ministry with worship arts, Bible time, recreation, and fellowship for children and youth age 3 through high school. We meet at the church this Wednesday, September 3 for *All Birthdays Celebration Night* from 3:30 to 6:45 p.m. Contact Bev Vloedman to RSVP for dinner at 6 p.m. by emailing [dvloedman@aol.com](mailto:dvloedman@aol.com). We hope to see you there!



### Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord

Don't like your seat in the sanctuary? FREE UPGRADE to the Chancel Choir! Please join us Sundays at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary and Thursdays at 7:15 p.m. in the choir room. For more information, contact Mitch Rorick.



### 8:30 Fellowship Time - Sunday, September 7

Stick around after the 8:30 worship service for a time of fellowship and light refreshments. We'll gather in the back of the chapel to connect, enjoy community together, and maybe even meet someone new. Let's take a few moments to share life and encourage one another in Christ.



### Our Favorite Hymns

Last Sunday morning was a beautiful time of praise and celebration. Thank you for your hymn stories and thank you to the Pfunds for leading us in song!



### Labor Day Holiday

The church office and preschool are closed tomorrow, Monday, September 1 for the Labor Day holiday.



### Senior Saints (aka 'The Olders') --- SAVE THE DATE!

On Friday, September 12, our distinguished group will meet at 1:30 at the Matheson Museum for a presentation about the Matheson House, a history of the house and its occupants, and its relationship to FPC, as well as information regarding the current restoration project. More details will appear in next week's worship guide.

*Children's worship guides are available at all entrances.*

## Online Contributions



Visit our website, [www.1stpc.org](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:jdmueller2009@gmail.com)

Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:music@1stpc.org)

## Additional Staff

### Senior Pastor

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### Property Coordinator

JOHN RAYL - [png.1stpc@gmail.com](mailto: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 31, 2025

- 8:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion - Iona Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover: Hebrews 7 - Perry Foote - Library
- 9:30 a.m. Multiply Sunday School Class: 1 Samuel 24 - Room 201
- 10:00 a.m. Chancel Choir - 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

### Monday, September 1, 2025

Office and Preschool Closed

### Tuesday, September 2, 2025

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Parlor
- 5:30 p.m. Circle 5 Presbyterian Women (PW) Bible Study  
Questions? Contact Bev Vloedman - [dvloedman@aol.com](mailto:dvloedman@aol.com)
- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting

### Wednesday, September 3, 2025

- 1:30 p.m. Chocolate Lovers PW Bible Study - Parlor  
Questions? Contact Betsy Berry - [betsypwberry@gmail.com](mailto:betsypwberry@gmail.com)
- 3:45 p.m. LOGOS
- 6:00 p.m. LOGOS Family Time - All Birthdays Celebration Night
- 6:30 p.m. Jubilate Ringers - Bell Room 215

### Thursday, September 4, 2025

- 7:00 a.m. YA&FM Men's Breakfast - Off Campus
- 6:00 p.m. Carol Ringers - Bell Room 215
- 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir - Choir Room

### Friday, September 5, 2025

### Saturday, September 6, 2025

### Sunday, September 7, 2025

College Sunday

- 8:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion - Iona Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover: Hebrews 8 - Tim Schubert - Library
- 9:30 a.m. Multiply Sunday School Class: 1 Samuel 25 - Room 201
- 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