



Service for the Lord's Day • September 20, 2026
Glorify God, Make Disciples of Jesus Christ, and Meet Human Needs

GATHERING

Lord, help me to remember You at all times. May my life be one where Your Holy Spirit cultivates thankfulness. May I be grateful for Your many blessings and trust Your good providence for the meeting of my needs. May I love, like You love, all those whose lives intersect my own. May I choose to serve rather than be served, to be wounded rather than to wound, and to bear patiently with the failing of others. May I extend the same kindness, mercy, and compassion that God in Christ so graciously offers. In His name I pray, Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound G. Shearing

* CALL TO WORSHIP

O children of the living God, what is your Father's greatest desire for you this day?

That we should love our eternal King with all our hearts

O children of the living God, what is your Father's greatest desire for you this day?

That we should love our eternal King with all our souls

O children of the living God, what is your Father's greatest desire for you this day?

That we should love our eternal King with all our minds

O children of the living God, what is your Father's greatest desire for you this day?

That we should love our eternal King with all our strength

* HYMN 440 Jesus, Lover of My Soul ABERYSTWYTH

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Father, we are continually swayed from the place of Your grace. We are swayed by shame, by error, by vanity, by pride, by the love of the praise of people. We are swayed to live as we choose instead of as You desire. We are swayed and choose sin instead of Your virtues. We are swayed to choose the flesh instead of Your character. Lord, please reveal our error, convict us, and bring us to quick repentance. And 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

Genesis 2:15-22 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

OT pg. 2

Thanks be to God.

J. Bertalot

Fred Lundy

IN BABILONE

NT pg. 21

Fred Lundy

RESPONDING

SENDING

L. Marchand

TODAY IN WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: Jonathon Haney, Mark Hults, Fred Lundy

ELDER ON DUTY: Rachel Coffey

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST: Mitch Rorick

EMERITUS DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST: Dr. Mark Coffey

COLLABORATIVE PIANIST: Shiyi Zhu

CHANCEL CHOIR

8:30 USHER: Rose Anna Rutledge; **SANCTUARY USHERS:** Maralyn Foote, Perry Foote, Steph Tyler

A/V TEAM: Kaylee Bleeker, Jack Harling, John Rayl, Robert Richardson

THE ROSE ON THE BAPTISMAL FONT TODAY is given to the glory of God and with joy and thanksgiving to announce the birth of Octavia "Ava" Mary Mitchell, who was born on September 16, 2026. She is the daughter of Matt Mitchell & Meredith Bauer-Mitchell and sister of big brother Leo.

THE FLOWERS IN WORSHIP are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Joseph Gilkey from Heather Gilkey.

TODAY'S PRIMARY SCRIPTURE IS MATTHEW 20:1-16, The Workers in the Vineyard. N.T. Wright's commentary on this passage reminds us that what people receive for serving God and his kingdom is not a "*wage*." When God keeps his promises, he is simply acting out of his overflowingly generous nature. The importance of God's grace is reflected in the three hymns, prelude, and anthem.

The prelude is by pianist and composer George Shearing (1919-2011), a British jazz musician who immigrated to the United States. His musical style blends swing, bop, and modern classical influences. Our anthem features another British composer, John Bertalot (1931-2026). After serving for many years as Director of Music and Organist at Blackburn Cathedral, he went on to become Director of Music at Trinity Church in Princeton, NJ. Louis Marchand (1669-1732), the composer of our postlude, was a French organist and composer. A child prodigy, he became organist of Nevers Cathedral at just 14 years of age.

ACTION FOR THIS WEEK: During our Time for Young Disciples this past Sunday, Fred Lundy invited everyone to pray the prayer printed at the beginning of the worship guide. This week, consider making today's worship guide prayer part of your morning routine. It begins with the words "Lord, help me to remember You at all times..."

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.

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

Director of College Ministry

Jonathon Haney - college@1stpc.org

Preschool Director

Lisa Hershkowitz - preschool@1stpc.org

Part-Time Youth Coordinator

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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

440 Jesus, Lover of My Soul

1 Je - sus, lov - er of my soul, let me to thy bos - om fly,
 2 Oth - er ref - uge have I none; hangs my help-less soul on thee.
 3 Thou, O Christ, art all I want; more than all in thee I find.
 4 Plen - teous grace with thee is found, grace to cov - er all my sin.

while the near - er wa - ters roll, while the temp - est still is high.
 Leave, ah! leave me not a - lone; still sup - port and com - fort me.
 Raise the fall - en, cheer the faint, heal the sick, and lead the blind.
 Let the heal - ing streams a - bound; make and keep me pure with - in.

Hide me, O my Sav - ior, hide, till the storm of life is past.
 All my trust on thee is stayed; all my help from thee I bring.
 Just and ho - ly is thy name; I am all un - righ - teous - ness.
 Thou of life the foun - tain art; free - ly let me take of thee.

Safe in - to the ha - ven guide. O re - ceive my soul at last!
 Cov - er my de - fense - less head with the shad - ow of thy wing.
 False and full of sin I am; thou art full of truth and grace.
 Spring thou up with - in my heart. Rise to all e - ter - ni - ty.

Originally titled "In Temptation," these four stanzas (of five) call to mind how a spiritual and emotional tempest can move from turmoil to tranquility. This tune was first used with this text in a cantata by the composer in 1910, and since then has become the standard one.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 2:15-22 (NRSV)

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die." ¹⁸ Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." ¹⁹ So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. ²¹ So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 19:23 – 20:16 (NRSV)

²³ Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly I tell you, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴ Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁵ When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astounded and said, "Then who can be saved?" ²⁶ But Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible."

²⁷ Then Peter said in reply, "Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?" ²⁸ Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹ And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. ³⁰ But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

¹ "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴ and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1 There's a wide - ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness
 2 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures

of the sea. There's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice,
 of the mind. And the heart of the E - ter - nal

which is more than lib - er - ty. There is no place where earth's
 is most won - der - ful - ly kind. If our love were but more

sor - rows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place
 faith - ful, we would glad - ly trust God's Word, and our lives re -

where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given.
 flect thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of our Lord.

These stanzas, excerpted from quite a few more, offer a reminder that the model for our dealings with others should be God's generosity rather than limited human tolerance. The text is effectively set to a broad and sturdy Dutch folk melody, probably from the 17th century.

307 God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry; bring its
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us free our
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in
 we de - plore. Let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss thy king - dom's goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing thee whom we a - dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

This stirring hymn used at the opening of Riverside Church in New York in 1930 was penned by its widely-known and influential pastor, and it has gained a firm place in English-language hymnals around the world. The Welsh tune name honors the Rhondda Valley in Glamorganshire.



Presbyterian Women

Did you save the date? Come to Gordon Hall for 20 minutes after worship today. Even if you are not a PW Circle member, this means YOU. We all have something to say about women's mission in our congregation.



UF Symphony Orchestra & Choirs Concert for a Cause - September 27 at 4 p.m.

Next Sunday, the University of Florida Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Tiffany Lu, and the UF Choirs, under the direction of Dr. Will Kesling, present *Down the River, Across the Pond* in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church. This first concert of our 2026-2027 season will include a free-will offering to benefit Family Promise, which provides families experiencing homelessness with compassionate care until they can transition to a home of their own. Visit www.1stpcmusic.org for more on the concert series.



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

This minimal effort and maximum impact service opportunity allows us to help folks feel welcome and comfortable as they join with us for Sunday worship. By arriving a little early, handing out worship guides, showing people where the nursery, restrooms, etc. are, and helping collect the offering during the service, your warm, smiling faces remind those with us that they are loved and cared for by our church and by God. Ushers are needed for the October team. Contact Laura Montgomery at assistant@1stpc.org or call the church office to fill this need.



Parking Around the Church

If you are not parking in the big church lot on 2nd Avenue, please be sure to check for signs regarding parking costs. Although the meters are gone, some of the spots require payment through a parking app. Also a reminder - if you park in the big lot during office hours, please park only in the white numbered spots.

Children's worship guides are available at all entrances.

Pick-up a calendar page at any entrance or click the calendar link in the weekly email for all this week's ministry events. Not receiving the weekly invite? Email communications@1stpc.org to be added to the email list.

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

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

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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, September 20, 2026

- 8:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion - Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir - Sanctuary
- 9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover: Job 27-31 - Laurie Shorter - Library
- 9:45 a.m. Multiply Class: Genesis - Room 201
- 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. Presbyterian Women Gathering - Gordon Hall

Monday, September 21, 2026

- 11:00 a.m. Trustees - Zoom

Tuesday, September 22, 2026

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting - Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Trinity Ringers - Room 215
- 6:30 p.m. Trajectory College Bible Study
- 7:00 p.m. Human Resource Committee - Zoom

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

- 3:30 p.m. LOGOS
- 6:00 p.m. LOGOS Family Dinner - Funny Hair Night
- 6:30 p.m. Jubilate Ringers
- 7:15 p.m. Session - Room 201

Thursday, September 24, 2026

- 6:00 p.m. Carol Ringers - Room 215
- 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

Friday, September 25, 2026

Saturday, September 26, 2026

Sunday, September 27, 2026

- 8:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion - Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover: Job 32-37 - Elizabeth Bolton - Library
- 9:45 a.m. Multiply Class: Genesis - Room 201
- 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. Fellowship Time - Gordon Hall
- 4:00 p.m. UF Symphony Orchestra & Choirs Concert for a Cause