

GATHERING

*God of daybreak, thank you for holding me through the night and awakening me to behold your likeness in this brand-new day. Go with me now as I walk with you. Show me the world and its people through your eyes of compassion. Bless me, break me, and move through me to heal and feed those who hunger for you.
In Jesus' name, Amen.*

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE

Cello Suite No. 2, BWV 1008: Prelude
Graham Gunther, viola

J.S. Bach

* CALL TO WORSHIP

We depend on you, O God.

Only you are constant.

Life is confusing and uncontrollable.

Teach us how to abandon worry, and cling to you.

* HYMN 12

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of compassion, we are sick. We have wrestled with worry instead of resting in you. We have asserted our own goodness instead of awakening to yours. We have turned away those hungry for your help. Forgive us, heal us, and help us to hold on to you. We call upon you, for you will answer us, O God, through Jesus Christ our Savior. 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

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

James 1:12-16 (NRSV)

NT pg. 229

ANTHEM (11 A.M.)

How Can I Keep from Singing

R. Lowry, arr. C. Ruck

Dr. Wendy Gunther, soloist

My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentation. I hear the real, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation. No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that rock I'm clinging. It sounds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing? What though the tempest 'round me rears, I know the truth, it liveth. What though the darkness 'round me close, songs in the night it giveth. No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that rock I'm clinging. Since love is lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing? When tyrants tremble, sick with fear and hear their death knells ringing; when friends rejoice both far and near, how can I keep from singing? In prison cell and dungeon vile our thoughts to them are winging, when friends by shame are undefiled, how can I keep from singing? No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that rock I'm clinging. It sounds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES (11 A.M.)

Sarah Whitfield

(Afterward, children will return to sit with their families.)

* **HYMN 174**

Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom

MADELEINE

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ecclesiastes 7:1-6 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

OT pg. 618

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Wisdom Literature Series: Ecclesiastes

Rev. Mark Hulst

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

Viola Concerto in G Major, TWV 51, Movement 1

G.P. Telemann

Graham Gunther, viola

* **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 450**

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

* **BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

M. Burkhardt

TODAY IN WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: Zack Conerly, Jonathon Haney, Mark Hults, Sarah Whitfield

ELDER ON DUTY: Rick Young

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST: Mitch Rorick

8:30 USHER: Jeanne Thomas; **SANCTUARY USHERS:** Maralyn Foote, Perry Foote, Louis Motz, Mary Lou Schubert, Steph Tyler

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

THE FLOWERS IN WORSHIP are given to honor of Nola H. Lentz, for making 65 years of marriage exceptionally grand, from Frank Lent and to God be the glory.

THE FLOWERS IN WORSHIP are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Ben Samuels, whose birthday would have been on August 3, by Eleanor Samuels.

TODAY CONTINUES OUR SERMON SERIES on Wisdom Literature. Last week we looked at Proverbs, and this week focuses on Ecclesiastes. Our gathering hymn, "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise," connects with the book of Ecclesiastes. Our hymn of the day, "Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom," and sending hymn, "Be Thou My Vision," are found in the WISDOM section of the *Glory to God* Hymnal Topical Index. Last week a soloist introduced "Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom" to the congregation, and this week the congregation joins in singing.

We are thankful to Graham Gunther and Dr. Wendy Gunther for leading us in worship. Graham has sung in the Senior Choir and rung handbells in the Jubilate Ringers. In the fall, he will attend Wheaton College (IL). Dr. Wendy Gunther has conducted a number of ensembles at First Presbyterian Church, as well as teaching at Santa Fe College and the University of Florida. Later this fall she moves to Austin, TX to join her husband, Karl Gunther, who is Associate Professor of Humanities at the Civitas Institute at The University of Texas at Austin.

The postlude is an arrangement of our gathering hymn that was written by Michael Burkhardt. Dr. Burkhardt is Artist-Professor of Organ at Eastern Michigan University and Founder-Artistic Director of Hearts, Hands and Voices Worship and Fine Arts Program for Children in Southeast Michigan. He has performed and led seminars for the American Guild of Organists, the Hymn Society, the Fellowship of United Methodists, the American Choral Directors Association, and the Presbyterian Association of Musicians. Some of our children sang with Dr. Burkhardt in 2025 when he was the Children's Choir Director at the Presbyterian Association of Musicians Worship and Music Conference at Montreat, NC.

ACTION OF THIS WEEK: As you pray this week, consider starting each prayer with "Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart" or "Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word," both of which are phrases from our sending hymn "Be Thou My Vision."

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: Marilyn Ast, 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

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Head Sexton - Tony Cogdill

Sexton - Margaret Hill

Property Coordinator

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Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 12

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small.
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light.

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might:
 In all life thou liv - est, the true life of all.
 Thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight.

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice, like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove;
 We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

The opening line of this hymn was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy 1:17 (King James Version), and it continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite existence. The text is well set to a Welsh melody shaped by many three-note units.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

James 1:12-16 (NRSV)

¹² Blessed is anyone who endures temptation. Such a one has stood the test and will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. ¹³ No one, when tempted, should say, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴ But one is tempted by one's own desire, being lured and enticed by it; ¹⁵ then, when that desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and that sin, when it is fully grown, gives birth to death. ¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ecclesiastes 7:1-6 (NRSV)

¹ A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death, than the day of birth.
² It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting; for this is the end of everyone, and the living will lay it to heart.
³ Sorrow is better than laughter, for by sadness of countenance the heart is made glad.
⁴ The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.
⁵ It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise than to hear the song of fools.
⁶ For like the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of fools; this also is vanity.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom 174

1 Come and seek the ways of Wis-dom, she who danced when
 2 Lis - ten to the voice of Wis-dom, cry - ing in the
 3 Sis - ter Wis - dom, come, as - sist us; nur - ture all who

earth was new. Fol - low close - ly what she teach - es,
 mar - ket - place. Hear the Word made flesh a - mong us,
 seek re - birth. Spir - it - guide and close com - pan - ion,

for her words are right and true. Wis - dom clears the
 full of glo - ry, truth, and grace. When the word takes
 bring to light our sa - cred worth. Free us to be -

path to jus - tice, show - ing us what love must do.
 root and rip - ens, peace and righ - teous - ness em - brace.
 come your peo - ple, ho - ly friends of God and earth.

Drawing on numerous scriptural images of Wisdom (Greek: *Sophia*), especially in Proverbs, this text offers an alternative perspective on Trinitarian theology. The Wisdom tradition has played a role in Christian mysticism for centuries, as witnessed by the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1993
 MUSIC: Donna Kasbohm, 1995
 Text © 1996 The Pilgrim Press
 Music © 1997 The Pilgrim Press

MADELEINE
 8.7.8.7.8.7

Be Thou My Vision

Capo 1: (D) E^b (G) A^b (D/F[#]) E^b/G (A7) B^b7 (D) E^b



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;
 4 High King of Heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

(A) B^b (D) E^b (G) A^b (A) B^b



naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

(G) A^b (D) E^b (F[#]m7) Gm7 (G) A^b (A) B^b



thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tower;
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

(Bm) Cm (D/F[#]) E^b/G (G) A^b (D) E^b



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heaven - ward, O Power of my power.
 High King of Heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

These stanzas are selected from a 20th-century English poetic version of an Irish monastic prayer dating to the 10th century or before. They are set to an Irish folk melody that has proved popular and easily sung despite its lack of repetition and its wide range.

TEXT: Irish poem; trans. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; vers. Eleanor Hull, 1912, alt.
 MUSIC: Irish ballad; harm. David Evans, 1927
 Music Harm. © 1927 Oxford University Press

SLANE
 10.10.10.10



Youth Gatherings



This Friday, August 7, the youth will be doing an end of summer dinner at Satchel's Pizza! We will meet there at 5:30. Dinner cost will be covered by the church. Hope to see you there! Questions? Email Katherine Whisler at katherinewhisler@yahoo.com.

Fall Kick-off is next Sunday, August 9. All middle and high school kids gather in the youth room for lunch after church. Sarah West is preparing a "make your own sushi" lunch, and we will have a time of games and seeing who is going to be joining youth group this year. See the back of the calendar for more events this month.



LOGOS Registration Table

LOGOS is an intergenerational, mid-week ministry during the school year with worship arts, Bible time, recreation, and family dinner for students age 3 through high school. If you would like to sign up your child or volunteer at for this ministry, please visit the table in Gordon Hall. Contact Beverly Vloedman with questions at dvloedman@aol.com.



School Dedication Sunday

Join us for Back to School Sunday at 11 a.m. on Sunday, August 9. Students, wear your school colors! We will pray for all those returning to school this fall - students, teachers, administrators, and more. Write down the school name on your pew and continue to pray as the new year begins.

Ring a Bell?



Sunday, August 16, from 10:00 to 10:45 a.m., *Ringing for the First Time Workshop* with Andrew Netardus. Come for some fellowship and breakfast treats, then ring handbells at the workshop. No prior music experience is needed-just bring your curiosity! Then, at 11:00 a.m., members of the First Presbyterian Church handbell ensembles, and those from the workshop desiring to ring, will provide special music at the worship service. Invite friends and family! Let Andrew know you're interested at events@1stpc.org.



Do You Have a Favorite Hymn?

Share your favorite hymn and a personal story about it with us. In August, we'll sing some of those hymns together. Complete the card at one of the boxes outside the sanctuary or submit answers at www.1stpcmusic.org/hymn. Let's celebrate the hymns of our faith together this summer.

Click the link in the weekly email for all this week's ministry events. Children's worship guides are available at all entrances.

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

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. **Contact:** Katherine Whisler - katherinewhisler@yahoo.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 & lunch and Tuesday Bible study at 7 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

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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, August 2, 2026

- 8:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion - Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover: Job 6-7 - Ross Teigen - Library
- 9:45 a.m. Multiply Class: Luke 11 - Room 201
- 10:45 a.m. Nursery Care - Room 204
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
- 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Time - Gordon Hall

Monday, August 3, 2026

Preschool Break All Week

Tuesday, August 4, 2026

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting - Parlor
- 6:30 p.m. Last Summer Trajectory Book Study

Wednesday, August 5, 2026

- 9:30 a.m. High School Breakfast - Bagel Bakery

Thursday, August 6, 2026

- 10:00 a.m. Preschool Meet the Teachers

Friday, August 7, 2026

Church Office Closed

- 5:30 p.m. Youth Connection Dinner - Satchel's Pizza

Saturday, August 8, 2026

Sunday, August 9, 2026

School Dedication Sunday

- 8:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion - Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover: Job 8-11 - Laurie Shorter - Library
- 9:45 a.m. Multiply Class: Luke 12 - Room 201
- 10:45 a.m. Nursery Care - Room 204
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
- 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Time - Gordon Hall
- 12:00 p.m. 6th-12th Grade Back-to-School Lunch

YOUTH EVENTS

August 2026

High School Breakfast
@The Bagel Bakery
9:30-11am

WED
5

FRI
7

End of summer dinner
@Satchels
5:30pm

Fall kickoff lunch
@the youth room
12-2pm

SUN
9

FRI
28

Karaoke, games, dinner
@the youth room
5:30-8:30pm



Contact Katherine with questions- katherinewhisler@yahoo.com