

# First Presbyterian Church

Cleveland, GA

July 7, 2024



“Growing together by sharing Christ’s love”

**First Presbyterian Church  
7th Sunday After Pentecost  
July 7, 2024**

**We Gather to Worship God**

**PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

Healing God, whose touch we have sought and known and whose compassion has surrounded us like a good shepherd's care for wandering sheep, show us once more the dimensions of wholeness that can restore us to faithful living and fruitful service. May we become reconcilers within and beyond the church. Amen.

**PRELUDE**

**GREETING**

This is the day that the Lord has made.  
**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come away and rest for a while.  
Leave behind your busyness to be fully present to God.  
**We have come for relief from life's turmoil.**  
**God gathers us as a shepherd gathers her sheep.**  
God's steadfast love surrounds us here.  
We are reminded of God's enduring faithfulness.  
**This is God's house, and we are God's children.**  
**God invites us to feel at home in this place.**  
We have a covenant with our Creator.  
This is a time for renewal of our promises.  
**God calls for righteousness and justice.**  
**God offers us goodness and mercy all our days.**

**\*GATHERING PRAYER**

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of all times and places,  
we confess that we have wandered  
after the false gods of this age.

**We have disobeyed your commandments,  
violated your covenant with us,  
and forsaken your ways.**

We have denied our need for you,  
and mistreated those whom you have called us to love.

**We have become strangers and aliens,  
plagued by false values that squeeze life from our souls.**

**Heavenly Father, hear your penitent children,  
and let us come home, we pray. Amen.**

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

...Let us join our spirits and our voices in giving thanks for God’s pardon and offer of healing.

**We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

\*SONG OF RESPONSE “Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me”

GTG #582

## We Hear the Word of God in Scripture and Song

### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Becky Clark

### SPECIAL MUSIC

EPISTLE

Ephesians 2:11-22

SERMON

“No Longer Strangers”

\*HYMN:

“O Christ, the Great Foundation”

GtG #361

## We Respond to the Word of God

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from *Confession of Belhar* (10.3)

**We believe that Christ’s work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY—A TIME FOR GIVING AND REFLECTION

\*SONG OF GRATITUDE

“May the Peoples Praise You” (Refrain)

*FPC Songbook #48*

**May the people praise You,  
Let the nations be glad!  
All Your blessing comes that we may praise,  
May praise the name of Jesus.**

HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy God, creator of the universe...

Therefore, we join our voices with all those who sing your  
praise:

**HYMN:** “Holy, Holy, Holy”

GtG #552

...Great is the mystery of faith.

**HYMN:** “Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen” GTG #553

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come a - gain.

...All thanks and praise to you, O triune God, now and forever.

**HYMN:** “Amen”

GTG #554

554

Amen

Capo 3: (G) (A) (Bm) (G) (D) (A) (Bm) (Em7) (A) (Dsus) (D)  
 B<sup>b</sup> C Dm B<sup>b</sup> F C Dm Gm7 C Fsus F

A - men, a - men, a - men.

Words of Institution  
 Communion of the People  
 Prayer After Communion

**\*HYMN** “Called as Partners In Christ’s Service”

GtG #761

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

“They’ll Know We Are Christians”

(Refrain) GTG #300

And they’ll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our  
 (Am) (Em) (Am) (Bm) (Em) (Am/E) (Em)  
 B<sup>b</sup>m Fm B<sup>b</sup>m Cm Fm B<sup>b</sup>m/F Fm  
 love; yes, they’ll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

**POSTLUDE**

## ***Announcements & Upcoming Events***

**Wednesday Book Study** will resume on July 10 at 12:00 p.m.

**Discipleship Team** will be meet on Wednesday, July 10, at 2:00 p.m.

Join us for the next **Family Night Supper** on Wednesday, July 17, at 5:30 p.m. This meal will be catered so no need to bring anything. After supper we will have FOCUS GROUPS to discuss the ideas our church family has submitted as part of our year of discernment. Your input is valuable, so plan to share your thoughts. \*Please sign up for supper in the Upper Narthex, we want to be sure to have enough food for everyone.

**In-House Food Pantry:** Our in-house food pantry is in dire need of ready to eat foods such as microwaveable soups, ravioli, beefaroni, spaghetti, individual cans or pouches of proteins such as tuna or chicken, small jars of peanut butter, crackers. We are also in need of toilet paper.

This is a difficult time of year for our brothers and sisters who find themselves in need of assistance. Thank you so very much in advance for your help with this important ministry.

### ***Devotion for Discernment***

**Scripture:** Isaiah 30:15-22

**Focus Text:** “And when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, ‘This is the way; walk in it’” (v. 21).

**Listening to God:** You may feel that you are alone, but you are not. Do not let the clamor of the world and the raging of your own spirit drown out the voice of my Spirit within you. You need to listen for me the most when situations are tense and competing voices are loud. As you begin to feel overwhelmed, take time out and let me do my work in you. Here is my promise, and I do not lie: “in returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and trust shall be your strength” (v. 15).

**My Prayer:**

## *The Week at a Glance*

### **Monday, July 8th**

Office Closed

### **Thursday, July 11th**

9:00 - 1:00 Office Hours

### **Tuesday, July 9th**

9:00 - 1:00 Office Hours

### **Friday, July 12th**

9:00 - 1:00 Office Hours

### **Wednesday, July 10th**

9:00 - 1:00 Office Hours

12:00 Book Club

2:00 Discipleship Team Meeting

### **Sunday, July 14th**

10:00 Coffee & Conversation

11:00 Worship Service

## *Remember in Your Prayers*

### *Members' Special Needs, at Home, or Hospitalized*

Roy Ficklin

### *Family and Friends*

**Claudette Price**, Friend of Rachel Romfo

### *In the Military*

Zack Ciriello.....Ciriello and Murdoch family

Greyson Ekdahl-McBride .....Ciriello and Murdoch family

Charlsie Maddox ..... Maddox family

Tyler Lovell ..... Royds family

**THE SESSION**  
Reverend Burnetta Armour, Moderator  
Bruce Morgan, Clerk of Session  
Jim Hiers, Clerk of Session, Emeritus



Class of 2024

Phil Baughman  
Worship

Jim Crawford  
Membership

Class of 2025

Bruce Morgan  
Administration & Finance

Hugh Walters  
Building & Grounds

Elaine Wiegert  
Discipleship

Class of 2026

Judy Massingale  
Membership

Nancy Webber  
Communications

**THE DIACONATE**

Rita Morgan, Moderator  
Judy Massingale, Session Liaison

Class of 2024

Viveca Cooper  
Debbie Wessely

Class of 2025

Rita Morgan  
Adele Page

Class of 2026

Kim Ciriello  
Bob Thomason

Pastor:

Director of Music:

Accompanist:

Organist

Ushers:

Greeters:

Liturgist:

Elder of the Month July:

Deacon of the Month July:

Rev. Burnetta Armour

David Arvold

James Geiger

Rachel Ficklin

Penny Murdoch

Charles Massingale

Hugh Walters

Collin Armour

Becky Clark

Elaine Wiegert

Adele Page