

# First Presbyterian Church

Cleveland, Georgia

August 25, 2024



*Growing together by sharing Christ's love*

# First Presbyterian Church

14<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

August 25, 2024

## We Gather to Worship God

### *Prayer of Preparation for Worship*

Most strong God, who is able to fight against you? I want you to help me fight against the flaming dragon of sin within me, that eats away my very soul. I want to have the strongest sword in my hand, fashioned by you, with the sharpest blade that will cut through the dragon's scales. And when I have slayed the dragon within myself, I want to offer a safe refuge for all, who like me, are frail and vulnerable. I will give them a sword to slay their own dragons, so that together we may live in joy and peace. Amen.

--Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)

### *Prelude to Worship*

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

(arr. John Carter)

### *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*

Psalm 8

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**You have set your glory above the heavens.**

**Out of the mouths of babes and infants**

**you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,  
to silence the enemy and the avenger.**

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars that you have established;

**what are human beings that you are mindful of them,  
mortals that you care for them?**

Yet you have made them a little lower than God,  
and crowned them with glory and honor.

**You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;  
you have put all things under their feet,**

all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,  
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,  
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

**O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

*\*Gathering Prayer*

*\*Hymn*

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

GtG #267

*Call to Confession*

*Prayer of Confession*

**Holy God, who made humankind and all creation,  
we confess that we have neglected to honor one another.**

**We have undervalued the worth of others.**

**We have begrudged them their blessings,  
and envied their gifts.**

**Forgive us, O God, for the ways we treat each other  
as subordinates rather than equals.**

**By the power of the Holy Spirit,  
transform our hearts**

**that our actions may follow. Amen.**

*Assurance of Pardon*

Do not fear, says the Lord, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name; you are mine.

God is doing a new thing; now it springs forth!

By the grace of Jesus Christ,  
we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God.**

*\*Song of Response*

“Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me”

GtG #582

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

*Prayer for Illumination*

*Old Testament*

Genesis 1:26-31

Becky Clark

*Anthem*

“Bless the Lord, O My Soul” (Douglas Wagner)

*Epistle*

Ephesians 5:21-33

*Sermon*

“Being Subject to One Another”

*\*Hymn*

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

GtG #366

## **We Respond to the Word of God**

*\*Affirmation of Faith*

from The Larger Catechism (7.241-7.242)

What are the duties of equals?

**The duties of equals are: to regard the dignity and worth of each other, in giving honor to go one before another, and to rejoice in each other’s gifts and advancement as their own.**

What are the sins of equals?

**The sins of equals are, besides the neglect of duties required, the undervaluing of the worth, envying the gifts, grieving at the advancement or prosperity of one another, and usurping preeminence one over another.**

*Prayers of the People and 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.**

## *Offering*

### *Offertory: A Time for Giving and Reflection*

“Make Me A Servant” (arr. Laura Bergquist)

### *\*Song of Gratitude*

“May the Peoples Praise You” (Refrain)

FPC Songbook #48

### *\*Prayer of Thanksgiving*

### *\*Hymn*

“Where Charity and Love Prevail”

GtG 316

### *\*Charge and Benediction*

### *\*Benediction Response*

“They’ll Know We Are Christians” (Refrain)

GtG #300

### *Postlude*

“When We All Get to Heaven” (arr. Mary Ellen Kerrick)

### *Devotion for Discernment*

**Scripture:** Ephesians 3:7-21

**Focus Text:** “Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory...” (vv. 20, 21).

**Listening to God:** It grieves me that you think in such cramped terms about what I can do. I am the God of the universe, and I have promised to do whatever you ask in my name. Where is your imagination? Why do you dream so small when the needs around you are so great? And why do you settle for so little of my grace and power in your life and in your church? If you can imagine it, I can do it and more. Spend time with me, getting in the flow of my will, then dream big!

**My Prayer:**

## *Remember in Your Prayers*

*Family, friends and those recovering will be kept on our pastoral care list for one month unless an extension of time is requested. Please notify the church office of any changes. **Bold** print indicates new prayer requests. You can call the church or send your new requests to [info@fpcleveland.org](mailto:info@fpcleveland.org).*

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

**Dale Williams**

### *Family and Friends*

**Michael Nix**, son of Dewayne Nix  
Bill Hayes, friend of Roy Ficklin  
Chloe Maddox and Family

### *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 Week at a Glance*

### **Monday, August 26**

Office Closed

### **Tuesday, August 27**

9 am - 1 pm Office Hours

8 am - 12 pm TGP

10 am - 3 pm Session Meeting

### **Wednesday, August 28**

9 am - 1 pm Office Hours

8 am - 12 pm TGP

12:30 pm Bible Study

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

### **Thursday, August 29**

9 am - 1 pm Office Hours

8 am - 12 pm TGP

### **Friday, August 30**

9 am - 1 pm Office Hours

### **Sunday, September 1**

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal

10 am Coffee & Conversation

11 am Worship Service

## *Announcements & Upcoming Events*

FPC will be hosting a **Crafts & Car Show** on Saturday, October 12, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you are interested in having a craft table or showing off your car, please fill out and turn in a registration form and payment to the church office. Registration forms and flyers are in the Upper Narthex for you to share.

The **photo booth** will be open in Fellowship Hall following today's service for those who would like to update their photos for the church directory.



The flowers in the sanctuary are given by Rebecca Wiegert  
in celebration of Elaine Wiegert's birthday.

# 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: .....	Rev. Burnetta Armour
Director of Music: .....	David Arvold
Accompanist: .....	James Geiger
Organist: .....	Rachel Ficklin
Usher: .....	Mary Ann Clyburn
Greeters: .....	Charles Massingale, Hugh Walters, Collin Armour
Liturgist: .....	Becky Clark
Elder of the Month for August: .....	Phil Baughman
Deacon of the Month for August: .....	Debbie Wessely