

# First Presbyterian Church

Cleveland, Georgia  
September 15, 2024



*Growing together by sharing Christ's love*

# First Presbyterian Church

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

September 15, 2024

## We Gather to Worship God

### *Prayer of Preparation for Worship*

God of love, you teach us a life journey that calls us to deny what is unhealthy and unloving. Lead us in that pathway. Awaken us to the ever-new abundance that is ours through your Word, in the name of the one who died and rose, Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

*Prelude to Worship* “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” (arr. Carol Tornquist)

### *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 from dullness and complacency.  
Wake up! God is calling us to listen and learn.  
**The heavens are telling the glory of God.**  
**The firmament proclaims God’s handiwork.**  
How long will we refuse the wisdom God offers?  
How long will we ignore God’s counsel and reproof?  
**The law of God is perfect, reviving the soul.**  
**The decrees of God are sure, making wise the simple.**  
Our waywardness separates us from God.  
Then, when we call on God, we hear no answer.

**We gather to renew our relationship with God.  
We seek enlightenment and the revival of our souls.**

***\*Gathering Prayer***

**\*Hymn**                    “When Morning Gilds the Skies”                    GtG #667

***Call to Confession***

***Prayer of Confession***

**Merciful God,  
you made us in your image,  
with a mind to know you,  
a heart to love you,  
and a will to serve you.  
But our knowledge is imperfect,  
our love inconsistent,  
our obedience incomplete.  
Day by day, we fail to grow into your likeness.  
In your tender love, forgive us  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon***

...The Lord God is a very present help  
to those who seek to follow in the way of divine things.  
**Let us go with God in joy as we take up our crosses, in Jesus’ name.  
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 for Illumination***

*Old Testament*

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Becky Wiegert

*Anthem*

“Be Thou My Vision” (Alice Parker)

*Gospel*

Mark 8:27-38

*Sermon*

“Who Do You Say I Am?”

*\*Hymn*

“Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said”

GtG #718

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

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

from Philippians 2:5-11

**Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord!**

*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*

“I Love You, Lord” (arr. Mark Hayes)

**\*Song of Gratitude** “May the Peoples Praise You” (Refrain) FPC Songbook #48

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**\*Hymn** “Will You Come and Follow Me? (The Summons)” GtG #726

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**\*Benediction Response** “They’ll Know We Are Christians” (Refrain) GtG #300

Refrain

And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our  
love; yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

**Postlude** “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

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

**Scripture:** Romans 5:1-11

**Focus Text:** “We also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us” (vv. 3-5).

**Listening to God:** You don’t have to go looking for suffering. Life will bring it your way. And if you are faithful to my call, you may have even more suffering than those who are not faithful. Don’t be afraid of it. I can do things for you in your suffering that I cannot do otherwise. Suffering strips you of your defenses, your pride, your ability to control things. I can do my best work in you when these things are taken away, I don’t send suffering to you or enjoy watching you go through it. But I am able to use it for your good and your growth in grace. Trust me when suffering comes. I will never leave you or forsake you. I will give you gifts as you come through the fire.

**My Prayer:**

## *Remember in Your Prayers*

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

**Sandi Nellis and Family** - Garry

Nellis passed away

**John McGee**

Becky and Tony Clark

Mil Clyburn

Mary Ann Clyburn

Jim Hiers

Bill Hines

Betty Goswick

Betty Sloop

### *Family and Friends*

**Cookie Mathis**

Pepper Haywood, friend of Penny Murdoch

Barbara Russell, Betty Royd's niece

Rev. Roe Calloway

Rev. Rindy Trouteaud, her husband, Bob, passed away

### *The Week at a Glance*

**Monday, September 16**

Office Closed

**Tuesday, September 17**

9 am - 1 pm Office Hours

8 am - 12 pm TGP

12:00 pm PM Luncheon

**Wednesday, September 18**

9 am - 1 pm Office Hours

8 am - 12 pm TGP

12:30 pm Bible Study

2 pm Knit'n'Stitch

5 pm Catered Supper

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, September 19**

9 am - 1 pm Office Hours

8 am - 12 pm TGP

**Friday, September 20**

9 am - 1 pm Office Hours

**Sunday, September 22**

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal

10 am Coffee & Conversation

11 am Worship Service

4 pm PYM at FPC

## *Announcements & Upcoming Events*

**Presbyterian Men's** monthly luncheon meeting is on Tuesday, September 17, at noon.

**Knit'n'Stitch** next meeting is Wednesday, September 18, at 2 p.m. Come join this active group that will be busy preparing for their booths at Agrifest and the Crafts & Cars event. Bring your ideas!

**Wednesday Night Supper** - Please join us on September 18 at **5 p.m.** for supper and updates on the Year of Discernment. **Note the change in time**, we want choir members to have time to participate. The dinner will be catered. The menu, a nod to a Summer Supper, is baked ham, squash casserole, black-eyed pea salad, broccoli cornbread, and banana pudding. **Please sign up in the upper narthex so that we have enough food for everyone.**

**Change Sunday** - Change Sunday is September 29. The offering will help to support the Joyful Women's Sewing Circle. See the display in the Upper Narthex for further information about this ministry.

**Peace and Global Witness Offering** - The PC (USA) Peace and Global Witness Offering is one of the four annual special offerings. The offering helps to support systems of injustice in our own community and around the world. 25% of the offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation efforts in our own community; 25% of the offering goes to our mid council to support peacemaking and reconciliation efforts; and 50% of the offering goes to support Presbyterians across the globe. This offering is collected on World Wide Communion Sunday, which October 6th.

FPC will be hosting a **Crafts & Car Show** on Saturday, October 12, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 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 for you to share are in the Upper Narthex.

# 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: .....	Roy Ficklin
Greeters: .....	Charles Massingale, Hugh Walters, Collin Armour
Liturgist: .....	Becky Wiegert
Elder of the Month for September: .....	Hugh Walters
Deacon of the Month for September: .....	Bob Thomason