

First Presbyterian Church

Cleveland, Georgia
September 22, 2024



Growing together by sharing Christ's love

First Presbyterian Church

18th Sunday After Pentecost

September 22, 2024

We Gather to Worship God

Prayer of Preparation for Worship

God of the first and the last, give us strength of mind, that we might walk the path of obedience and discipleship without wasting our thinking about who is more important. Instead, guide our thoughts and our emotions that we may be like children, totally dependent on you, welcoming all with hospitality and love. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Prelude to Worship “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High” (arr. Mark Hayes)

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*

Draw near to God, and God will draw near to you.

Happy are those who find delight in God’s law.

God is always nearer than our next breath.

We gather to become more aware of that presence.

Knowledge of God is a delight to the righteous.

They seek to grow in wisdom and understanding.

There is always more to discover than we know.

God is our teacher and helper and judge.

Put your trust in God as you prepare to serve.

Learn to be peaceable, gentle, and merciful.

We seek to do good and not harm all our days.

We would open our hands to the poor and needy.

****Gathering Prayer***

****Hymn***

“Here in This Place (Gather Us In)”

GtG #401

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

All wise and understanding God, hear our prayer as we confess our sin. Have mercy upon us, for we are deceitful and foolish. Ambition controls our relations with others; cheating and lying help us gain more control. We are surrounded by values that bring disorder. We are victims of selfishness that distorts your truth. Save us from boasting and serving unworthy ends; save us for Christ, in whom alone abides peace.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. (*Col. 1:19–20*) “For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of the cross.” In the peace that Christ won abides our assurance of pardon. Know that we are forgiven and be at peace.

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 for Illumination

Old Testament

Jeremiah 11:18-20

Nancy Webber

Anthem

“He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”

(arr. Hal H. Hapson)

Gospel

Mark 9: 30-37

Sermon

“Who is the GOAT?”

**Hymn*

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

GtG #203

We Respond to the Word of God

***Affirmation of Faith**

Heidelberg Catechism (Q&A 32, 34)

I am called Christian

**because by faith I am a member of Christ
and so I share in his anointing.**

I am anointed to confess his name,

to present myself to him as a living sacrifice of thanks,

**to strive with a good conscience against sin and the devil in this life,
and afterward to reign with Christ over all creation for all eternity.**

We call him “our Lord” because—

Not with gold or silver, but with his precious blood—

**He has set us free from sin and from the tyranny of the devil,
and has bought us, body and soul, to be his very own.**

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

“O How He Loves You and Me” (arr. Faye Lopez)

**Song of Gratitude*

“May the Peoples Praise You” (Refrain)

FPC Songbook #48

**Prayer of Thanksgiving*

**Hymn*

“Together We Serve”

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

“Come, Thou Almighty King” (arr. Mark Hayes)

Devotion for Discernment

Scripture: Acts 3:1-10

Focus Text: “I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk” (v. 6).

Listening to God: Your lack is never the end of the story. When your resources run out, if you are in the flow of my will, all the resources of heaven are available to you. It grieves me when you forget that I am your source of supply. Praying in the name of Jesus is not magic. It means that you surrender yourself to my will and are willing to be used for my purposes. Let me work through you to do miracles in the lives of others! Together, we can do more than you could ever ask or imagine.

My Prayer:

The Week at a Glance

Monday, September 23

Office Closed

Tuesday, September 24

9 am - 1 pm Office Hours

8 am - 12 pm TGP

Wednesday, September 25

9 am - 1 pm Office Hours

8 am - 12 pm TGP

12:30 pm Bible Study

2 pm Knit'n'Stitch

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 26

9 am - 1 pm Office Hours

8 am - 12 pm TGP

Friday, September 27

9 am - 1 pm Office Hours

Saturday, September 28

9 am - 3 pm Agrifest

Sunday, September 29

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal

10 am Coffee & Conversation

11 am Worship Service

12 pm Potluck Lunch

Remember in Your Prayers

Members' Special Needs, at Home, or Hospitalized

Hugh Walters

Eric Wall

Sandi Nellis and Family -

Gary Nellis passed away

John McGee

Mil Clyburn

Mary Ann Clyburn

Family and Friends

Cookie Mathis

Pepper Haywood, friend of Penny Murdoch

Barbara Russell, Betty Royd's niece

In the Military

Zack Ciriello.....Ciriello and Murdoch family

Greyson Ekdahl-McBrideCiriello and Murdoch family

Charlsie Maddox Maddox family

Tyler Lovell..... Royds family

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Presbyterian Women is in need of assistance with setup (7:30am) and take down (2:30pm) of their booth at Agrifest on Saturday, September 28. Please let Judy Winski know if you can help out.

Fifth Sunday Lunch - A potluck lunch will immediately follow church service on Sunday, September 29. Please bring a dish to share and enjoy in some fellowship.

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. This offering is collected on World Wide Communion Sunday, which October 6.

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 flowers in the sanctuary are provided
by Retha and Doug Puvogel,
“Just because we love you all!”

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:	Penny Murdoch
Greeters:	Charles Massingale, Hugh Walters, Collin Armour
Liturgist:	Nancy Webber
Elder of the Month for September:	Hugh Walters
Deacon of the Month for September:	Bob Thomason