

*Welcome to First Presbyterian Church!
We are thrilled to have you here.*

Gathering Around the Word

Centering Prayer

Holy God, why is it that we look, but do not see? Bring us again and again into your light until your ways become visible to us, and bear fruit in us. Touch us so that we are utterly changed, a “before” and “after”, a “now” and then”; that we may also say, “One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” Lord, we believe; help our unbelief. In Christ’s light, we pray. Amen.

Prelude *Love Divine That Dwells Serene* ARR. MARGUERITE WOOD

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome, Concerns and Celebrations of the Church

*Call to Worship: (responsive)

On your worst days,

God is good.

On our best days,

God is good.

When life is consistent,

God is good.

And when life turns on its head,

God is good.

Day and night, Monday through Sunday,

God is good. God is here. God is love.

Hold tight to that good news. Let us worship God!

*Morning Prayer

***Opening Hymn** *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* #39/FAITHFULNESS

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession: (unison)

Holy God, we often find ourselves moving through a world that does not make sense. Like Peter, we want to yell out, *“This should not happen!”* We want to control scenarios beyond our reach. We want to hold your world in our hands. Forgive us for the moments when we lead with declarations instead of curiosity. Forgive us for arguing when we could listen. Forgive us for fixating on one truth, when we could open ourselves up to many. Soften our hard edges and teach us how to listen. With hope in our hearts we pray, amen.

(Our prayer continues in silence)

*Words of Forgiveness (responsive)

Friends, no matter how many times you have dug your heels in, no matter how many fights you have wanted to pick with God, no matter how many times you have disagreed, raged, or clung to what you know instead of embracing holy change – we worship a God of grace.

Nothing can separate us from God’s love, not even a stubborn attitude or a tense heart.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel: God’s love for us will always be deeper than we can imagine.

We are seen. We are loved. And we are forgiven. Amen.

*Gloria Patri GLORIA PATRI

*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, Amen.*

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination Ron Zimmerman

First Lesson: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Choral Anthem *For the Beauty of the Earth* BY JOHN RUTTER

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us, lies: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise. For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vail and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child; friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise. For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given, graces human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven: Lord of all, to the we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

Children’s Sermon Pastor Andy

All preschool and elementary children are invited to come down front.

Second Lesson: Matthew 16: 21-23

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon Rev. Andy S. Chambers

Responding to the Word

*Affirmation of Faith The Apostles’ Creed

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; 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.

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.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory *Draw Me Nearer, Lord* BY HUGH S. LIVINGSTON, JR.

*Doxology OLD HUNDREDTH

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.

*Prayer of Dedication

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

***Closing Hymn** *O for a Closer Walk with God* #739/CAITHNESS

***Charge and Benediction** Rev. Andy S. Chambers

***Choral Benediction** *What Wondrous Love Is This* WILLIAM WALKER

***Postlude** *Praise the Almighty, My Soul, Adore Him* BY PAUL MANZ

Thank you to Ron Zimmerman for serving as liturgist and to Emily Holder for live streaming at Presbyterian Communities.

Prayers for the Week

Morning Prayer: *Good morning, Lord. The day has dawned with the gift of sunlight, and I awaken from sleep into the light and grace of Christ. Thank you for this new day. Stay with me, I pray, shepherding me through all that the day will hold. Lead me into pleasant places, and give me the provisions I will need if I find myself in difficulty or danger. Whenever the cup of gladness overflows, help me to recognize that it is filled with your goodness and mercy. In praise and anticipation, I begin this day; in Jesus' name. Amen.*

Evening Prayer: *With the night, Good Lord, comes, rest, and a chance for my soul to be restored. You are with me in this and every darkness, so I will not be afraid. For all I have seen with my own eyes today, for all others have helped me to see, I give you thanks. For those things that I did not notice: signs of beauty and kindness, evidence of your grace, I pray that you will improve the eyes of my faith so that I can see you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly tomorrow, and all my tomorrows. In the name of your Son, my Savior, I pray. Amen.*

Please Remember in Prayer

<u>Church Family</u>	<u>Friends of Church</u>	<u>Bereavement</u>
Margaret Addison	Stuart Britt	The Wardlaw family
Laura Ashley	Sarah Cockrell	The Threatt family
Neile Chambers	Andy Dill	Latha Gearheart & family
P-Nut Dowdle	Nancy Hope	Cindy Jacobs & family
Kathy Hamer	Julie Young Keadle	Sonya Atkinson & family
Linda Hunter	Kim Purcell	Pam Warren & family
Gin Jacobs	Trecie Davis Richey	Marvine & Bill Tyler
Liz Pinzon		Danny & Hunt Cook
Kim Randall		
Dot Smith		

Please continue to hold our Global Missionaries in prayer: Donald Marsden (US); Pam (Turkey); Ellen Smith (US); Larry and Inge Sthreshley (Congo).

The Session of First Presbyterian Church

<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>	<u>Class of 2028</u>
Marty Ademy	Lee Atkinson	Austin Barnes
Emily Holder	Danny Cook	Cyndi Coker
Bob Link	Amanda Donley	Charlie Gustafson
Holbrook Raynal	Chad Gambrell	Harold Nichols
Andy Sullivan	Jean Johnson	Ashley Powell
Stan Walsh	Bob McLean	Jettie Young

This Week at FPC

Sunday, March 15

- 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School for all ages (Adults & Youth meet in Fellowship Hall)
- 10:30 a.m. – Sunday Worship Service
- 5:00 p.m. – Christian Education Committee meeting (library)
- 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. – Combined Youth Group (CLC Classroom)

Monday, March 16

- 9:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. – Women's Evening Book Study (parlor)

Tuesday, March 17

- 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. – The Classics CLC Gym walk
- 4:00 p.m. – Deadline to submit information for Steeple People Newsletter
- 5:30 p.m. – Congregational Care Committee meeting (library)

Wednesday, March 18

- 4:00 p.m. – Deadline to submit announcements for Sunday bulletin
- 5:30 p.m. – Budget & Finance Committee meeting (library)
- 5:30 p.m. – Handbell Choir practice
- 6:30 p.m. – Adult Choir practice

Thursday, March 19

- 4:00 p.m. – Deadline to submit announcements for Worship News

Friday, March 20 – Church office closed



Scan the QR code with your mobile device to be directed to OnRealm, where you may make your offering or tithe. (Text/Data rates may apply).

Church Staff

Rev. Andy S. Chambers, Pastor
 Lisa Keen, Office Manager
 Carolyn Payne, Financial Secretary
 Mac McDougal, Director of Music
 Dr. Karen Buckland, Organist
 Sheryl Owens, Custodian

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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
 CHURCH**



CLINTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

4th Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026