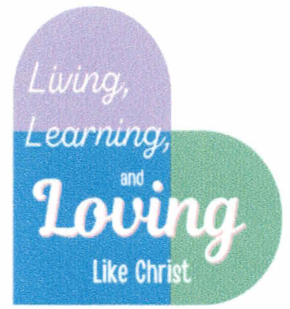


First Presbyterian Church

Clinton, SC

August 2, 2026

10th Sunday after Pentecost



Centering Prayer

Life-changing God, you have touched us and transformed us to reach out to all who hunger for what only you can give. Keep our feet in your paths and bless us to multiply blessings to others, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer and Lord. Amen.

Prelude

Let All Things Now Living

GILBERT M. MARTIN

Welcome, Announcements, and Minute for Mission

***Call to Worship** (responsive)

Calling all children of the Living God: the gospel is good news for every age and every stage.

Let us worship together, the young and the old.

The good news is proclaimed in God's words, and also with crayons, snacks, recess, and rest time.

Let us worship together, every generation.

We come together with different abilities and disabilities, learning in a rainbow of ways and styles.

Let us worship together, with our family of faith.

All are welcome in the arms of Christ who proclaimed, "Let the children come!"

Let us worship together, united in our eternal hope.

***Morning Prayer**

***Morning Hymn**

God is Here!

#409/ABBOT'S LEIGH

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession:** (unison)

What then are we to say about our lives, Searcher of our hearts? We know how often we have duped others with our deceit. We remember how often we promise one thing, only to do the opposite. We struggle to trust you, while we so easily listen to the promises of those who would pull us away from you.

Forgive us, Heart overflowing with mercy. Your grace is more powerful than any of our sins, your hope is more durable than our silly choices, your love will traverse anything, and everything, which separates us from you. In the name of Jesus, our Lord, we pray. Amen.

(Our prayer continues in silence)

***Assurance of Pardon** (responsive)

Hear the good news: the One who could accuse us, saves us from sin and death. The One who could condemn us, cradles us in grace. The One who could punish us, prays for us.

Now we know, there is nothing, not a thing, that can separate us from God. Thanks be to the One who forgives us. Amen.

***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.*

GLORIA PATRI

Choral Anthem

He Is Exalted

BY STAN PETHEL

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high, I will praise Him. I will praise His name! He is the Lord, forever His truth shall reign. Heaven and earth rejoice in His holy name. He is exalted; the King is exalted on high. O for a thousand tongues to sing, my great Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and King, and the triumphs of His grace. My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim, to spread through all the earth abroad all the honors of Your name.

Children's Sermon

"Blessing of the Backpacks"

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson

Mark 10:13-16/pg. 822, pew bible

Sermon

Rev. Andy S. Chambers

*Affirmation of Faith (unison)

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.

Celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

The Great Thanksgiving (responsive)

God is here.

God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give thanks to you, creating God, breath of all being.....Amen.

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer (responsive)

Loving God, with you, every transition and new start is a reminder of your goodness, for you are always creating fresh, amazing things in us and through us. Though we are sad about the summer ending, we are grateful for this school year. We appreciate the opportunity to learn and grow, knowing it is one of the biggest privileges we have. With thanks and love, we now offer everything we are to you, asking for your blessing.

We pray as and for students of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.

We pray for our hearts and all they hold—excitement and nervousness, disappointment and hope. We give you all our loves and fears. We pray for steady self-esteem and deepening resilience.

Loving God, hold us and our prayers.

We pray for our minds, that they will expand in wonder and celebration, learning not just from the books studied but the people beside us. Open our minds with a willingness to be changed in unexpected ways, and settle our thought loops in peaceful places.

Loving God, hold us and our prayers.

We pray for our hands, that they will reach out to help, welcome and care. Bless our hands with patience and dedication as they grip pencils and type on keyboards, swish paint brushes and clap in song, grip monkey bars and lunch box handles, and these our backpacks.

Loving God, hold us and our prayers.

We pray for our mouths, that they will speak words bringing life and connection. Help us use our mouths to honor the dignity and beloved-ness of all. Remind us to open our mouths for deep belly breaths when we're feeling anxious or afraid.

Loving God, hold us and our prayers.

We pray for our feet, that they will move toward those different from us and help others in safe ways. Plant our feet next to those who feel alone, and bless our steps down hallways and sidewalks. We know you are with us wherever our feet go or stay.

Loving God, hold us and our prayers.

We pray for our eyes, that they may see ourselves and others with compassion. Point our eyes toward those who are forgotten or struggling. Grow us in flexibility to see from all kinds of angles. Bless what and how we see, whether we're looking at a screen, a whiteboard, or the beauty of a person's face. And help us see with the most important eyes—the eyes of the Spirit within us.

Loving God, hold us and our prayers.

We pray for our ears, that they will genuinely listen to all voices, especially those that haven't been listened to much. When things get noisy, help us listen extra carefully for your voice. Help us hear with the most important ears—the ears of the Spirit within us.

Loving God, hold us and our prayers.

We say a special prayer for parents, as the start of a new school year is always another leap of faith. Wrap them with your reassuring love as they entrust their children and trust in you. When questions remain unanswered, and the realm of control is finite, bless them with peace and the promise you are right there with their child, whether heading to preschool or driving to college.

Loving God, hold us and our prayers.

We also pray now for teachers, staff and administrators. Bless these faithful servants with courage and confidence, knowing you are in their classroom with a steady hand on their shoulder. Give them peace, patience, and balance in the pressures they face, and bravery to build structures and systems which justly serve all your children. Give them delight in the young ones before them, and recognition of the sweet ways children are also teachers.

Loving God, hold us and our prayers.

We pray for health and wholeness, fun and growth, surprise and amazement, for this school year ahead, knowing you will hold us all the way through. We thank you, God, and love you. Through Christ, our Lord, who teaches us to pray together, saying

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

Offertory

BY GORDON YOUNG

***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**

***Hymn of Mission**

Jesus Loves Me

#188/JESUS LOVES ME

***Charge and Benediction**

*Children, families, and all who love them,
go out into the beautiful world that God has made!*

Go and play!

Go and learn!

Go and love others!

*May you be filled with lovingkindness for yourself and everyone around you.
May the prayers of your faith community keep you safe, healthy, and full of joy. Amen.*

***Benediction Response**

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

#582/GLORY TO GOD

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.*

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

***Postlude**

Classical Postlude

ARR. THOMAS CHESTERTON

Thank you to Laurie Counterman for serving as liturgist; to the streaming team of Craig Powell (soundboard) and Holly Cody (Pres. Comm.); and to Maecy Burton for hosting Lemonade on the Lawn.

Prayers for the Week

Household Prayer: Morning

God of daybreak, thank you for holding me through the night and awakening me to behold your likeness in this brand-new day. Go with me now as I walk with you. Show me the world and its people through your eyes of compassion. Bless me, break me, and move through me to heal and feed those who hunger for you. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

O God, tonight I lay my failures, anxieties, struggles, and unfinished business at your feet. Hold me, bless me, and change me as I rest in you. Amen.

Please Remember in Prayer

Church Family

Margaret Addison
Laura Ashley
Neile Chambers
P-Nut Dowdle
Kathy Hamer
Linda Hunter
Gin Jacobs
Dot Smith
Danny Wardlaw

Friends of Church

Stuart Britt
Neal & Lynda Counterman
Andy Dill
Julie Young Keadle
Alan Pinson
Kim Purcell
Trecie Davis Richey
Joe House
Lannie Finley
Moonyeen Smith

Bereavement

Cindy Jacobs & family
Sonya Atkinson & family
Pam Warren & family
Marvine & Bill Tyler
The Goodbar family
Laurie Addison & family
Bebe Ademy & family

This Week at FPC

Sunday, August 2

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School for all ages - Praying at the Movies – Fellowship Hall

10:30 a.m. - Worship Service

11:30 a.m. - Lemonade on the Lawn

Monday, August 3

9:30 a.m. - Staff meeting

Tuesday, August 4

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. – The Classics CLC Gym Walk

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – MahJongg – CLC/Room 110

5:30 p.m. – Administration Committee (library)

7:00 p.m. – Global Mission Committee (library)

Wednesday, August 5

12:00 p.m. – Deadline to RSVP for Rally Day catered breakfast

4:00 p.m. - Deadline to submit items for the Sunday bulletin

6:30 p.m. – Choir practice

Thursday, August 6

4:00 p.m. - Deadline to submit items for the emailed Worship News

5:30 p.m. – Worship & Music Committee (library)

Friday, August 7 – 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)

Announcements

The Session has called a congregational meeting for **Sunday, August 9**, immediately following worship, to receive and act on a report from the 2026 Officer Nominating Committee presenting nominations for the Session Class of 2029.

The slate of nominees to be presented are Holbrook Raynal – returning for 2nd term; Emily Holder – returning for 2nd term; Leigh Ann Bryant – previously served on FPC session; Kay Cleveland – previously served on FPC session; Elizabeth “Woodie” Robinson – never served on FPC session; Lee Counterman – never served on FPC session.



**First Presbyterian
Church**

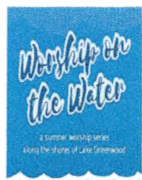


Please scan the QR code above with your mobile device to be directed to our YouTube channel, where you may livestream any of our worship services. (Text/Data rates may apply)



Join us in the Fellowship Hall at **9:30 a.m.** on **August 9th** for Rally Day! We will roll out the Fall curriculum and enjoy a catered breakfast by Stoddard's of eggs, bacon, grits, coffee & juice. Please RSVP to the church office by **noon Wednesday, August 5th.**

Announcements cont'd.



August 16th, join us for “Worship on the Water at 10:00 a.m. @ Camp Fellowship. FPC will serve as host church and Pastor Andy will deliver the message. Please RSVP to the church office by **Aug. 6** if you are planning to stay for lunch. A suggested donation of \$15 will cover the cost of lunch, which will include BBQ/chicken fingers, mac & cheese, green beans, dessert, lemonade, tea and water. Come, bring your family and enjoy this wonderful time of waterfront worship and dining with your church family.



Congregational Care is preparing to show love and care to our FPC college students. If you have a college student, please send their address for the upcoming school year to the church office. We are also collecting \$10 gift cards to send to college students throughout the year. A basket will be in the workroom to collect any gift cards. Ideas include gas cards, restaurants, or shopping at Walmart, Target, Amazon or grocery stores. We have over 20 college students in schools all over South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. Please remember these young people in your prayers as they prepare for another year.



The Racial Equity Subcommittee is sponsoring a “supply drive” to help replenish the food and school supply pantries at Presbyterian College. We have been working with the Director of the PresbyFIRST and Jacob's Scholars programs to identify the needs of the pantries, and we would like to start a “supply drive” with the support of the FPC congregation. The following is the list of supplies that they are asking for: *Peanut butter, Jelly, Oatmeal, Hormel Compleats, Poptop Chef Boyardee, tuna kits and Easy Mac. Laundry detergent (pods or small bottles), toilet tissue, paper towels, toothpaste, body lotion, body wash. (Scent and Dye-free items are encouraged.)*



On Sunday afternoon, **August 23rd**, we will welcome the incoming freshman class of Presbyterian College to our church and our community at our **Rise Against Hunger** food packaging event in the Christian Life Center. Together, we will pack 25,000 meals for people in need around the world. We will do this in shifts: **Shift #1** from 2:00 – 3:15 and **Shift #2** from 3:30 - 4:45. Registration is strongly encouraged to help us be ready for all our volunteers but can also be done at the door.

Registration: <https://act.riseagainsthunger.org/event/e788247>

You can sign up for either shift. Set-Up will be done by volunteers from the PC Men's Wrestling team. You are also welcome to sign up to help with Clean-Up at 4:45. Please plan to join us for this opportunity for Christian service and to extend a warm welcome to the new freshman class of PC.

The Session of First Presbyterian Church

Class of 2026

Marty Ademy
Emily Holder
Bob Link
Holbrook Raynal
Andy Sullivan
Stan Walsh

Class of 2027

Lee Atkinson
Danny Cook
Amanda Donley
Chad Gambrell
Jean Johnson
Bob McLean

Class of 2028

Austin Barnes
Cyndi Coker
Charlie Gustafson
Harold Nichols
Ashley Powell
Jettie Young

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

Email

achambers@fpccclinton.org
lisa@fpccclinton.org
carolyn@fpccclinton.org
macmcdougal@gmail.com
kbuck@presby.edu

Phone: 864-833-1062

X 102
X 101/575-937-1641 (cell)
X 103
803-524-6101
864-833-8467

First Presbyterian Church - 410 E. Carolina Ave. - P.O. Box 29 - Clinton, SC 29325

www.fpccclinton.org
