

19th Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church. We are so happy that you are here today to share in our service of worship of the Living God!

Gathering Around the Word

The congregation is asked to make use of the prelude as a time of preparation, meditation, and prayer.

\*All who are able, please stand.

Prelude:

Prelude on “Brother James’ Air”

James Denton

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome, Announcements, and Celebrations of the Church

Moment for Stewardship

Austin Barnes

\*Call to Worship

Psalm 119:97-104

Leader:

Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all day long. Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is always with me.

All: I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your decrees are my meditation. I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts.

Leader:

I hold back my feet from every evil way in order to keep your word. I do not turn away from your ordinances, for you have taught me.

\*Opening Prayer

As we enter into this time of worship, remind us, O God, that you are a God of justice and mercy. We thank you for the gift of the law and all the scriptures. We thank you for establishing justice and for dealing with us not according to our faithfulness, but according to your mercy. Put you persistent Spirit within us so that we may work tirelessly, and cry out day and night, until your will is done in all the earth. We pray to you who helps us, in the name of your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

\*Hymn:

12

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

\*Prayer of Confession

Leader:

In spite of our best efforts to live faithfully, we fall short of what God intends for us. Because God has already promised to be merciful, we dare to tell the truth about our lives. In humility and trust, let us confess our sin.

All: O God, our Judge and Redeemer, we confess that we have failed in our ministry to others. We listen for teachings to our own liking. We yearn for doctrines that boost our egos. We follow those who flatter us. We seek comfort and not challenge from our confessions of faith. Renew a right spirit within us, O God, and train us in righteousness as you forgive our sin. Amen.

A time for silent prayers of confession.

\*Confessional Response:

572 (Old Book)

arr. Healy Willan

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us (Kyrie Eleison)

Lord, have Mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

\*Assurance of Pardon (responsively)

Leader:

Brothers and sisters, continue in what you have learned and firmly believe, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

All: For the truth of the gospel abides. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

\*Response to God’s Grace:

581

GLORIA PATRI

Glory Be to the Father

Proclaiming the Word

Time with the Young Disciples

Charli Holder

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

Prayer of Illumination (unison)

Holy God, the words of Scripture are God-breathed words that are inspired by you and give life through the power of your Holy Spirit. By your Spirit breathe your word into us, so that we become proficient in the languages of faith and equipped to proclaim the message we receive, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Living Word. Amen.

1st Lesson:

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Leader:

This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Choral Anthem

Sweet By and By

by Joseph Webster

There’s a land that is fairer than day, and by faith we can see it afar, for the Father waits over the way to prepare us a dwelling place there. In the sweet by and by, we shall meet on that beautiful shore. We shall sing on that beautiful shore the melodious songs of the blest; and our spirits shall sorrow no more, not a sign for the blessings of rest.

In the sweet by and by, we shall meet on that beautiful shore. To our bountiful Father above we will offer our tribute of praise, for the glorious gift of His love and the blessings that hallow our days. In the sweet by and by, we shall meet on that beautiful shore.

2nd Lesson:

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Leader:

This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Understanding the Bible”

Dr. Duke Dixon

Responding to the Word

\*Hymn:

451

Open My Eyes, That I May See

OPEN MY EYES

\*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.

Please be seated as we prepare for prayer.

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.”

The Offering

Offertory Sentences

Offertory: My Jesus, I Love Thee

by Janice James and Lani Smith

\*Offertory Response

606

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

\*Prayer of Dedication (unison)

God of generous providing, you have given us so many gifts that enrich our lives. The sacred writing that provides instructions, correction, and training; the gift of the church; covenantal love and faithfulness; your own dear Son, Jesus Christ our Savior; the gift of the Spirit, our Advocate. We belong to you, and all that we have belongs to you. Use these offerings, we pray, in service of the justice you are establishing through your kingdom in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

\*Closing Hymn:

463

How Firm a Foundation

FOUNDATION

\*Charge and Benediction

Dr. Duke Dixon

Choral Benediction:

80

THE TREES OF THE FIELD

You Shall Go Out with Joy

(The congregation is invited to sing along with the choir)

\*Postlude:

The Singing Trumpet

by Edward Broughton

Thank you to Ron Zimmerman for serving as today’s liturgist and to Charli Holder for leading Time with the Young Disciples.

Please Remember in Prayer

Church Family

Laurie Addison

Margaret Addison

Nancy Arnold

P-Nut Dowdle

Steve Floyd

Nancy Goodbar

ShaSha Gower

Gin Jacobs

Liz Pinzon

Dot Smith

Friends of Church

Stuart Britt

Andy Dill

Sherry Dishman

Nancy Hope

Julie Young Keadle

Kim Purcell

Bereavement

Donna Jackson & family

George Copeland & family

The Frey family

The Wardlaw family

The Threatt family

Family of Mary Nell Askew

Lawrence Coleman & family

Family of Chris Branham

The Tribble family

Kathy Hamer & family

Family of Marian Link

Latha Gearheart & family

Cindy Jacobs & family

The congregation extends love and sympathy to Cindy Jacobs and family at the passing of Cindy’s mother, Mary Jo Holsonback, on October 12, 2025.

Core Values of FPC Clinton

- ❖ UNITED IN CHRIST
- ❖ INSPIRED IN WORSHIP
- ❖ EQUIPPED IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
- ❖ ENGAGED IN ACTS OF LOVE THROUGH SELFLESS SERVICE
- ❖ JOINED IN FELLOWSHIP

This Week at FPC

Sunday, October 19  
9:30 a.m. – Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. – Sunday Worship Service  
6:00 -7:00 p.m. – Sunday Night Youth Group (CLC Classroom)

Monday, October 20  
9:15 a.m. – Staff meeting  
10:00 a.m. – The Classics Hike (Laurens County Park)  
7:00 p.m. – Evening ladies’ book group (parlor)

Tuesday, October 21  
9:30 a.m. – The Classics Walking group – CLC gym  
4:00 p.m. – Deadline to submit announcements for Steeple People newsletter

Wednesday, October 22  
4:00 p.m. – Deadline to submit announcements for Sunday bulletin  
5:30 p.m. – Budget & Finance Committee (church library)  
5:30 p.m. – Handbell practice (Room 217)  
6:30 p.m. – Choir practice (choir room)  
6:30 p.m. – Pints with the Pastor (The Lumberyard)

Thursday, October 23  
4:00 p.m. – Deadline to submit announcements for Friday morning Worship News  
Friday, October 24– 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).

The Session of First Presbyterian Church

Class of 2025

Derrick Adair  
Katherine Addison  
Austin Barnes  
Maecy Burton  
Cyndi Coker  
Van Mattison  
Harold Nichols  
Jackie Waldron

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

Church Staff

Dr. Duke Dixon, Interim Pastor  
Lisa Keen, Front Office/Communications  
Carolyn Payne, Financial Secretary  
Mac McDougal, Director of Music  
Dr. Karen Buckland, Organist  
Sheryl Owens, Custodian  
Missionaries: Donald Marsden (US); Pam and Emre (Turkey); Ellen Smith (US); Larry and Inge Sthreshley (Congo)

Email

duke@fpcclinton.org  
lisa@fpcclinton.org  
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macmcdougal@gmail.com  
kbuck@presby.edu  
sasowens1961@gmail.com

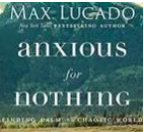
Phone: 864-833-1062

X 102  
X 101  
X 103  
803-524-6101  
864-833-8467

Announcements



A nursery is available (baby – 3 yrs. of age) during the worship hour. If you would like to volunteer to keep the church nursery, please contact the church office. Based on church policy, two adults or one adult and one senior high youth are required to be present in the nursery during this hour.



The evening ladies' group will meet tomorrow evening, October 20, in the church parlor at 7:00 p.m. We will be discussing the first section of the book, *Anxious for Nothing*, by Max Lucado. All ladies are welcome to attend and bring a friend.



Put on your hiking shoes and let's go for a Hike!

The Classics will be hiking tomorrow, October 20<sup>th</sup>! They will meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Laurens County Park (409 State Road S-30-854) at the picnic shelter at the end of the road, where they will hike the May White Azalea Loop Trail. This 1.7-mile trail winds through a hardwood forest, a pine grove, by a creek and a pond.

Bob Bryant will be leading the hike, so please let Bob know if you will be participating ([rbryant@presby.edu](mailto:rbryant@presby.edu)).



Pints with the Pastor has been moved up a week. We hope you all will join us for lively and spirited conversations this coming Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Lumberyard. This will be Duke’s last “Pints with the Pastor” so we hope to see as many of you there as are able to attend!



CALLING ALL BBQ AFICIONADOS: The Fall Festival is almost here! Whether you're a griller, a smoker or a crock-potter, we need YOU! Bring your best BBQ or your appetite! If you would like to share your BBQ, please email [lisa@fpcclinton.org](mailto:lisa@fpcclinton.org). The church will provide slider buns, baked beans, slaw,

dessert, and tea. Everyone is invited to come, bring a chair, eat and fellowship with one another!



The Presbyterian Community is seeking volunteers to help with a "Christmas Market" Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup> - Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup>.

ITEMS NEEDED: Inexpensive handmade items such as knitted hats and scarves; wooden crosses; crocheted blankets; Christmas or Thanksgiving-themed cakes, pies, nuts or cookies (to be frozen for the holidays); handmade bookmarks; small pieces of artwork or pottery; homemade notecards with original artwork pictured on them, etc.

ALSO NEEDED: Volunteers to help on November 19<sup>th</sup> to arrange items and price them ahead of time; morning helpers on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> to help "man" a table and collect money for gifts, and helpers to wrap Christmas presents purchased at the Market. All proceeds will be given to missions. Please let the church office know (833-1062) if you can help.

First Presbyterian Church  
Clinton, South Carolina

October 19, 2025



“Living, Learning, and Loving Like Christ.”