

23rd 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

It Is Well With My Soul
(For Pastor Duke)

arr. Mark Hayes
Mac McDougal, piano and Karen Buckland, organ

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome, Announcements, and Celebrations of the Church

*Call to Worship

Leader: He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him.

All: He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Leader: He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.

All: For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

*Opening Prayer

Gracious and loving God, you are the creator of all things. You are mighty and loving. We gather now as your people to worship you and praise your name. Pour your Holy Spirit upon this place. Empower and equip us to be about the work of your kingdom. Encourage us in matters of faith as we seek to be faithful in loving and following you. We pray this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

*Hymn: 310

ST. THOMAS

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

*Prayer of Confession

Leader: We acknowledge that we are sinners and we recognize that there is forgiveness of our sins found in the work of Jesus. With that knowledge we confess our sins.

All: We sometimes do the wrong things. We sometimes don’t do the right things. Often we are selfish, looking out only for our best interests and not for the corporate good, especially those on the margins of society. Forgive us when we fail to live lives that love you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and when we fail to love our neighbors as ourselves. Thank you for the forgiveness found in Jesus.

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: We are sinners that are forgiven and saved by grace.

All: Our true identity is that we are God’s beloved children who sometimes sin. May we live into the identity.

*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 for Illumination (unison)

Open our ears to hear your Word, O God. Open our minds to understand your Word. Open our hearts to receive your Word. Amen.

1st Reading: Jeremiah 29:4-15

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Choral Anthem

Praise the Lord, All the Earth

by Donald Busarow

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, all the earth; He made them stand fast forever; He praise Him above, ye heavens gave them a law which shall not pass Hallelujah! Praise him, angels of his; away. Let them praise the name of the praise Him, all his host! Praise him, sun Lord, for His name only is exalted, His and moon; praise Him, shining stars. splendor is over earth and heaven. He Praise Him, heaven of heavens, and ye has raised up strength for His people waters above the heavens. Let them and praise for all His loyal servants; the praise the name of the Lord; for He children of Israel, a people who are near Him. Hallelujah! commanded and they were created.

2nd Reading: Matthew 22:34-40

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The State of the Church

Dr. Duke Dixon

Responding to the Word

*Hymn: 839

Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine!

ASSURANCE

*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

Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

arr. Raymond H. Haan

*Offertory Response 606

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

*Prayer of Dedication (unison)

All that we have comes from you, O God. In gratitude we give a portion back to support the work of this church and its ministries. May it be used for your kingdom’s sake and for the glory of your name. Amen.

Special Recognition

Music and Worship Committee

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

*Closing Hymn: 157

LORD OF THE DANCE

I Danced in the Morning

*Charge and Benediction

Dr. Duke Dixon

Choral Benediction: 80

You Shall Go Out with Joy

THE TREES OF THE FIELD

*Postlude

Harvest Fanfare

by Gilbert M. Martin

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

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Pastor Duke and J. Lynne Dixon for their time of service at First Presbyterian Church Clinton.

Please Remember in Prayer

Church Family	Friends of Church	Bereavement
Laurie Addison	Stuart Britt	Donna Jackson & family
Margaret Addison	Andy Dill	George Copeland & family
Nancy Arnold	Sherry Dishman	The Frey family
Laura Ashley	Nancy Hope	The Wardlaw family
Neile Chambers	Julie Young Keadle	The Threatt family
P-Nut Dowdle	Kim Purcell	Family of Mary Nell Askew
Steve Floyd		Lawrence Coleman & family
Nancy Goodbar		Family of Chris Branham
ShaSha Gower		The Tribble family
Gin Jacobs		Kathy Hamer & family
Liz Pinzon		Family of Marian Link
Dot Smith		Latha Gearheart & family
		Cindy Jacobs & family

This list will be updated quarterly. If you would like to be added to or removed from the prayer list before that time, please let the church office (833-1062) know.

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, November 16

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School
10:30 a.m. – Sunday Worship Service
11:30 a.m. – Session Meeting (church library)
5:00 p.m. – Christian Education Committee meeting (church library)
5:00 - 6:00 p.m. – Sunday Night Youth Group (CLC Classroom)

Monday, November 17

7:00 p.m. – Women’s Evening Book Study (parlor)

Tuesday, November 18

9:30 a.m. – The Classics walking group – CLC gym
4:00 p.m. – Deadline to submit announcements for Steeple People newsletter

Wednesday, November 19

4:00 p.m. – Deadline to submit announcements for Sunday bulletin
5:30 p.m. – Handbell practice (Room 217)
6:30 p.m. – Choir practice (choir room)

Thursday, November 20

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

Friday, November 21 – 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)

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Phone: 864-833-1062

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

Announcements



The Presbyterian Community is seeking volunteers to help with a "Christmas Market" Thursday, November 20th, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Friday, November 21st, 10:00 a.m. until noon.

If you are planning to donate items for the market, please drop them off to Pastor Debby’s office (on left in foyer before entering chapel) at the Community. If you are bringing baked goods, please drop off to the chapel at Presbyterian Community on Wednesday, November 19th at 2:00 p.m. to ensure freshness.

Volunteers are needed to help on the afternoon of November 19th to arrange items and price them ahead of time; helpers on the 20th and 21st 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.



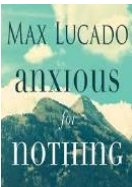
Thornwell Sunday is next Sunday, November 23rd. Join us for a special service of worship with the Rev. Myron W. Wilkins, president of Thornwell Home for Children, serving as our guest preacher.



The Angel Tree will be in the Narthex through Nov. 23rd. Residents at Memorial Home and The Open Door will receive the gifts. The youth will shop for those who prefer to turn in money and Angels to the office. If the youth will be shopping for you, please bring your angel to the church office or place it in Lisa’s mailbox in the workroom with your name by Thur., Nov. 27th. Those doing their own shopping should wrap their gifts and place them on the pew in the church office hallway by Sun., Dec. 7th.



On behalf of United Ministries, The Community Outreach Committee will be collecting items for the upcoming winter season. Please consider donating gently used or new jackets, gloves, hats, blankets, and socks. A bin is placed under the bulletin board in the church office. We will be collecting these items through January.



The Women’s Evening book club group will meet tomorrow evening at 7:00 p.m. in the church parlor. Participants do not have to be FPC members. We welcome anyone who wants to fellowship and grow in Christ! We will be discussing Section 2 of Max Lucado’s book Anxious for Nothing. Please come in through the courtyard doors.



Broad Street UMC is seeking volunteers to assist with their annual community-wide Thanksgiving dinner. If you would like to volunteer in any way, you can sign up at their website: www.broadstreet-umc.org/thanks24 or call their church office: 833-0177 to let them know you’d like to volunteer.



The Classics are planning a Christmas tour of the SC governor’s mansion on Tuesday, December 9th. We will meet in the CLC parking lot at 9:30 a.m. and travel to Columbia for an 11:00 a.m. tour. The tour is free to all. We will eat lunch in Columbia after the tour, and each person will be responsible for the cost of their lunch. If you would like to go, please email lisa@fpcclinton.org by Dec. 1st. If you are willing to drive your car, please let Lisa know that as well.



LAST CHANCE: As Pastor Duke cleans out his office, if you are interested in adding books to your library, please come by the office this week, peruse his collection, and help yourselves to what remains on the bookshelves.

First Presbyterian Church
Clinton, South Carolina
November 16, 2025



“Living, Learning, and Loving Like Christ.”