

October 13, 2024

21th Sunday after Pentecost



First Presbyterian Church Aiken, South Carolina

A community actively seeking ways to continue

... writing new chapters in an old story ...



A Stephen Ministry Congregation.

First Presbyterian Church of Aiken extends a simple and unqualified welcome, in Christ's name, to all who seek to join us. We affirm that there can be no exclusiveness within the body of Christ, and, therefore, we invite all children of God into our worship, study, mission, and fellowship as we together seek ways to live in grace and respond with gratitude. We would be happy to answer any questions about our mission, ministry, and membership.

We invite you to please join us again in worship.

Call To Worship

Gathering Music: The people are called to worship God through the Gift of Music.

Congregational: The people are called to worship God. Words from scripture are spoken or sung to proclaim who God is and what God has done. We are thus reminded that our worship centers in God and not in ourselves. "Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth." (Psalm 124:8).

Prayer Of Confession

is intended to encourage people to lay down any burdens of guilt, regret, sense of failure, or inadequacy, and to reaffirm their trust in Christ's unfailing love and forgiveness.

Assurance Of Pardon

in the waters of baptism, God claimed you and named you a child of God. In the waters of baptism, we receive God's forgiveness, healing, and love.

Gloria Patri giving glory to the Good Father in thanksgiving for grace and forgiveness.

✦ Please rise in body or spirit.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

STRIKING OF THE HOUR

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME

One: The Lord be with you.
All: **And also with you.**

GATHERING MUSIC

CONGREGATIONAL CALL TO WORSHIP

One: O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good,
All: **for God's steadfast love endures forever.**
One: O give thanks to the God of gods,
All: **for God's steadfast love endures forever.**
One: O give thanks to the Lord of lords,
All: **for God's steadfast love endures forever.**
One: Let us worship God!

✦ **HYMN 645**

SING PRAISE TO GOD WHO REIGNS ABOVE

✦ **INVITATION TO CONFESSION OF SIN**

(Silent Confession)

Gracious and merciful God, we often wonder what we must do to be right with you. The gospel tells us what you have done for us in Jesus Christ to make us right with you. We establish rules and try to follow them to win your love. You call us to trust in your grace and promises in Jesus Christ. We strive for security by piling up the things of this life. Jesus says, "Come, follow me." Lord, forgive our self-centeredness that seeks our well-being while we ignore the needs of others. Forgive our relying on ourselves rather than accepting fully Jesus's call to discipleship. Help us to seek your kingdom and righteousness first in our lives. Through Jesus Christ, amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

✦ **GLORY TO GOD 581**

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther
and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;
as it was in the be - gin - ning,
is now, and ev - er shall be,
world with out end A - man a - man.

✠ **PASSING OF THE PEACE - WELCOMING OUR NEIGHBORS**

TIME WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH

Tamra Erde

4K-5th please head out with Mrs. Tamra for the JAM! Worship Experience

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYERS

**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.**

✠ **HYMN 13**

THE MIGHTY GOD WITH POWER SPEAKS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

AMOS 5:6-7, 10-15

SECOND READING

HEBREWS 4:12-16

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Beth Yarborough

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

✠ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

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 sits 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.**

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES, GIFTS, AND OFFERINGS

Please sign and pass the friendship register on your pew during this time.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL

Sanctuary Choir

Passing of the Peace

worshippers may share signs of Christ's peace welcoming each other i.e. "The peace of Christ be with you" response "and also with you".

Prayer For

Illumination is a prayer seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to lead us to a deeper understanding of the reading, hearing, and proclaiming of God's word.

Sermon Or

Meditation when the Bible has been read, its message is proclaimed in a sermon or other form of exposition of God's Word. The God who speaks in scripture speaks to us now. The God who acted in biblical history acts today. Through the Holy Spirit, Christ is presented in the sermon, offering grace and calling for obedience.

Affirmation of Faith

the congregation speaks as one, affirming essential tenets of the reformed Christian faith.

The Offering is a

significant part of our response to the Gospel. As we present the financial gifts that represent our commitment to the work of the church. We resolve to maintain this community of worship, fellowship, and service.

The Doxology is sung, ascribing glory to God in three persons - praising Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

♠ **DOXOLOGY 607**

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow;
 | praise Christ, all peo - ple here be low;
 praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more;
 praise Tri - une God whom we a - dore A - men

Charge And Benediction are delivered from the pulpit, font, or table. The charge is a challenge to take the lessons learned in worship, and apply them to our lives. The benediction concludes the worship service, and confers the Triune God's blessing upon the congregation.

♠ **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

♠ **HYMN 543** GOD, BE THE LOVE TO SEARCH AND KEEP ME

BEARING AND FOLLOWING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL BLESSING 306

Congregational Blessing we join hands and voices as we acknowledge God's blessing which binds us together in ministry.

Blest be the tie that binds
 Our hearts in Chris - tian love
 The fel - low - ship of kin - dred minds
 is like to that a - bove

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP NOTES

The flowers in the Sanctuary today are given by Rob and Amy Gray to the glory of God and in honor of all of the teachers in our lives past, present, and future.

Lay Reader: Margot Salzman

Head Usher: Dave Clerc

Large print hymnals, bulletins, and wireless assisted hearing receivers are available from any usher.

Childcare is available during Sunday school and worship for our youngest members ages 0 - 5 . Join us in Room 6.

Worship Bags are available in the Narthex for children through 5th grade.

Offering Cards have been added to the pews for our online givers. Please use these during the offering as the plates are passed.



CHURCH AT WORK

2025 Stewardship Kick Off

Stewardship is the practice of managing and using our time, talents, and resources in a way that is consistent with God's will.

We are asking each of you to prayerfully consider how you can best use your time, your talents, and your treasures, to serve God and our church. The budget proposal and time and talent sheets will be presented during the church services on October 20th. We will be asking you to return your time and talent sheets and pledge card on Commitment Sunday November 3rd.

Sunday Night Youth - Will meet today 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM for all 6th–12th Graders. Join us for food, fun, and fellowship while we grow our faith together

Family Promise - Needs Your Stuff! We are collecting clean, useable items for our Rummage Sale; please no clothing or shoes. Today is the last day to drop off items. Proceeds benefit Family Promise of Aiken County and will help families with children regain housing stability. Contact Kendall Buchanan (803-348-5672 or kendallbuchanan@gmail.com) with donation questions or to volunteer for the sale.

Preview Sale: Thursday October 17th 6-8 PM

Sale Dates: Friday October 18th, and
Saturday October 19th, 8 AM- 2 PM

at St Paul's Lutheran Church

A Day of Service: Mission in a Mile - Save the date for Saturday, October 26 to help in our community. People of all ages are encouraged to participate. This year, we have ten mission projects in the works. Sign up sheets are available in the Narthex or on the church home website page.

New Spiritual Enrichment Opportunities

Join Rev. Dr. Beth Yarborough Thursdays 10:30-11:30 AM In the Fellowship Hall October 24 & 31, November. 7 & 14 “From Judgement to Hope: A Study on the Prophets” By Walter Brueggemann *If you would like a copy of the book, please contact Tamra Erde

&

Join Rev. Dr. Chris Erde the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM Beginning October 8th - In the Fellowship Hall Chris will address different topics monthly The first gatherings are entitled: “Presbyterian Questions – Presbyterian Answers”

Formula For Life Matching Donation - The need for formula at Mwandu continues mainly to feed babies whose mothers are HIV positive, and to feed babies who lack food due to a severe drought in that part of Africa. The amount of money that we send quarterly depends upon the number of babies on formula and the price of formula, which has significantly increased recently.

Because of low sales of our FFL products, we have had successful \$5,000 matching donation offers for the last 3 years. This year we have \$7,500 pledged to match donations. Please continue to support this important mission project.

On Sunday, October 20th at our Sunday Potluck, you will see some photos that our recent Mwandu mission team took of teenagers whose lives were saved by the FFL project.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, October 13, 2024

8:20 AM - 09:15 AM Men'
Breakfast
9:15 AM - 9:30 AM Coffee
9:30 AM - 10:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship
10:45 AM - 11:30 AM JAM! Worship
Experience
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Indoor Soccer
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Youth Group
7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Men's
Basketball

Sunday, October 20, 2024

9:15 AM - 9:30 AM Coffee
9:30 AM - 10:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Sunday Potluck
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Indoor Soccer
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Youth Group
7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Men's
Basketball

Monday, October 14, 2024

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Pickleball
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Diaconate
Committee
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Stephen
Leaders
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Covenant Britt

Tuesday, October 15, 2024

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Prayer Shawl
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Pickleball
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM BSA Pack 110
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Stephen
Ministry
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Boy Scouts
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM BSA Girls

Wednesday, October 16, 2024

8:45 AM - 9:15 AM Morning
Prayer
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Staff Meeting
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Handbells
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Session
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Choir

Thursday, October 17, 2024

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Pickleball

CHURCH OFFICERS AND STAFF

First Presbyterian Church

224 Barnwell Ave. NW Aiken, SC 29801 (803) 648-2662

E-mail: aikenpresbyterian@aikenpresbyterian.org

Website: www.aikenpresbyterian.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/aikenpres>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/aikenpres/>

Office hours Monday- Thursday 9:00 AM- 3:00 PM

Friday 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

The Church Organized For Work

Pastor/Head of Staff	Rev. Dr. Christopher Erde
Parish Associate	Rev. Dr. Beth Yarborough
Director of Operations and Media	Joanna Hamilton
Director of Christian Education	Tamra Erde
Director of Music	Daniel Hamilton
Director of Finance	Cassie Buchanan
Office Manager	Debby Dugan
Organist/Accompanist	Kathy Clark
Preschool Director	Mary Maddrey
Finance	Suzanne McLeod

The Session

Moderator: Rev. Dr. Christopher Erde

Clerk of Session: Clark McCants

Class of 2024

Katie Brown
Robin Callicott
Chuck Dynarski
Jennifer Feraldi
Katie Kucharski
Connor Patterson
Jerry Shumpert
Chick Warner

Class of 2025

Trey Brown
Suzanne McLeod
Melissa Patterson
Graham Reynolds
Wayne Rickman

Class of 2026

Richard Abney
Dub Bankes
Wallace Fraser
Martha Funk
Sharon Rodgers
Bill Tucker

The Deacons

Class of 2024

Dave Clerc
Mary Fran Crook
Kathy Kent

Class of 2025

Barbara Bower
Anne Elkins
Mary Hunter

Class of 2026

Mike Anderson
Gail Ebner
Brock McLeod

The Trustees

Class of 2024

Reggie Ebner

Class of 2025

David Keisler

Class of 2026

Bob Buchanan

Stephen Ministry

Rob Gray, Kathy Kent, Mary Maddrey,
Carol Mondschein, Lucy Sutter, and Vic Sowers

If you are wanting a Stephen Minister assigned please contact:
Gayle Gordon (803) 507-7725, Karalee Kludzuweit(803) 335-8632,
or Julie Taylor (803) 979-9919

Presbyterian Women

Moderator:

Sandy Evans

Gathering Contacts:

Amy Gray, Barb Magrath, Margot Salzman

Church Officers the congregation of the PCUSA operate using a model of shared leadership and responsibility. Ordained Ministers of Word and Sacrament work along side men and women called to serve in the ordained officers of Elders (the Session) and Deacon (the Diaconate). In the PCUSA, the gifts of leadership and ministry are affirmed and celebrated in all people and the service of all is appreciated.

