



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# THE WONDERS OF HIS LOVE

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 29, 2020

# WELCOME

November 29, 2020

Thank you for joining us for worship.

**To decrease the risk of COVID for all gathered, please observe the following:**

- Wear a mask and remain seated
- Maintain social distance from other worshipers
- Place offering in plates in the narthex
- **Child Care during worship is now open for very young children in Room 110/111 in Education Wing. If you need assistance in finding the room, please ask an usher.**

## GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SIGNIFICANCE OF BELLS

CHIMING OF THE BELLS

PRELUDE

SIGNIFICANCE OF SYMBOLS

THE MEANING OF ADVENT

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

Many: **Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.**

One: We rejoice in the hope of Christ's coming.

Many: **Let us worship God!**

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING HYMN 107

*Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

REJOICE, REJOICE

*Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,  
for angels herald its dawning.  
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,  
behold! the Child of our longing.  
Come as a baby weak and poor,  
to bring all hearts together,  
he opens wide the heavenly door  
and lives now inside us forever.*

*To us, to all in sorrow and fear,  
Emmanuel comes a-singing;  
his humble song is quiet and near,  
yet fills the earth with its ringing;  
music to heal the broken soul  
and hymns of loving-kindness.  
The thunder of his anthems rolls  
to shatter all hatred and violence.*

Worship is at the heart of who we are as God's people. We enter this time ready to focus on God and God's word to us; offering our time and attention as a form of worship.

*In darkest night his coming shall be,  
when all the world is despairing,  
as morning light so quiet and free,  
so warm and gentle and caring.  
Then shall the mute break forth in song,  
the lame shall leap in wonder,  
the weak be raised above the strong,  
and weapons be broken asunder.*

*Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night.  
Though dark the winter and cheerless,  
the rising sun shall crown you with light;  
be strong and loving and fearless.  
Love be our song and love our prayer  
and love our endless story;  
may God fill every day we share  
and bring us at last into glory.*

#### SIGNIFICANCE OF PARAMENTS

HYMN 82

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

HYFRYDOL

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.*

*Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.*

*Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a king,  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.*

*By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.*

#### SIGNIFICANCE OF CANDLES

##### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Loving God, even in Advent, we confess that you can seem far away. You are hidden when we need you near. In our hurt, doubt, and fear, we do not try to draw closer to you; against you, our neighbor, even those we love. Forgive us, we pray, and come to save us! Let your face shine until our tears are dried, our sins are faded, and our hope is restored. After all, we belong to you, and in your hands, we can be made new. In Jesus' name we pray.**

*(Let us now continue our confession in silence.)*

KYRIE

*Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison.  
Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy.*

HOPSON

Our God longs for honesty and holiness within the promise-based relationship God has established with us in Christ. In a culture that avoids talk of sin and culpability, regular prayers of confession foster honesty and openness in our relationship with God.

Having confessed our sin, we remember the promises of God's redemption, and the claims God has on all human life. The assurance of God's forgiving grace is declared in the name of Jesus Christ. We accept God's forgiveness, confident that in dying to sin, God raises us to new life.

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Brothers and sisters, by the mercy of Christ, your sins are forgiven, for salvation is at hand for all who turn to God.

Many: **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

#### HYMN 581

*Glory Be To The Father*

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.*

#### SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ADVENT WREATH

#### LIGHT THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

#### RESPONSIVE READING

One: In Childhood, Christ is a magical Christmas gift.

Many: **Let us accept the gift of Jesus' birth and remember the joy and freshness of Christmas as a child.**

One: In adulthood, Christ is a role model and teacher who answers our questions.

Many: **Let us follow Jesus as our teacher and remember the foundation of our faith when our beliefs are shaken.**

One: In old age, Christ gives us hope for the future.

Many: **Let us live our lives with calm assurance and rejoice as we remember our lives. Christ was with us at every turn and every struggle. Christ will be with us in eternity.**

#### SIGNIFICANCE OF GARLAND, WREATHS, AND SANCTUARY EVERGREENS

#### FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

#### ANTHEM

*Carol for Advent*

ARR. DON BESIG

Katie Buckner, soprano-Clinton Garrison, baritone

*Amid the winter's cold embrace, clothed in a shroud of white,  
an anxious world in silence waits through the dark of night.  
As the lonely song of a dove echoes across the sky above,  
we can feel the moment is near; soon the Child of Peace will appear.  
What child is this the world awaits with quiet expectation?  
When will He come, the promised one, to bring us peace and salvation?  
Raise, raise your prayers on high. Prepare His way, the time is nigh.  
Come, come Emmanuel, O Child of Love and Peace.  
The air grows colder, the light grows dim with darkening sky above us.  
But soon the chill of the winter wind will warm with God's gift of love.  
Star will brighten the sky, and songs of joy will echo in heaven on high!  
We will know the moment is here; the Child of Love and Peace will appear.*

## SIGNIFICANCE OF CHRISMONS

And the people said with one voice,

**Savior of the nations, come, Like Peter and Andrew may we learn to follow Jesus.**

And the people said with one voice,

**Savior of the nations, come. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead raises us out of fear and defeat. Like the butterfly, we are transformed by God's power--for if Christ lives in us, we are new creatures.**

And the people said with one voice,

**Savior of the nations come. Fill us with your Creative love, your Saving grace and your Sustaining power.**

And the people said with one voice,

**What wondrous love is this? Christ laid aside his crown for my soul. With angels and all creation, we worship Jesus as Lord and King.**

## PRESENTATION OF CHRISMONS

THE FISH

THE CROSS

THE EPIPHANY STAR

THE BUTTERFLY

THE TRIANGLE

THE CROWN

## SECOND LESSON

MARK 13: 24-37

"But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: **Thanks be to God.**

HOMILY

*"Wonders of His Love"*

THE REV. BRETT GUDEMAN

Our offering is a gift in response to God's love and care for each of us. This offering is used to support our staff, maintain the church property and to offer resources to our community, among other things. Your giving is deeply appreciated.

HYMN 347

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

PICARDY

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
and with fear and trembling stand;  
ponder nothing earthly minded,  
for with blessing in his hand  
Christ our God to earth descendeth,  
our full homage to demand.*

*King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
as of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture,  
in the body and the blood,  
he will give to all the faithful  
his own self for heavenly food.*

*At his feet the six-winged seraph,  
cherubim, with sleepless eye,  
veil their faces to the presence,  
as with ceaseless voice they cry,  
"Alleluia, alleluia,  
alleluia, Lord most high!"*

#### SIGNIFICANCE OF POINSETTIAS

#### OFFERTORY

DR. LOIS K. LEE, ORGAN

#### DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

*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 105

*People Look East*

BESANCON

*People, look east. The time is near  
of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able;  
trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Guest, is on the way.*

*Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
one more seed is planted there.  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
that in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Rose, is on the way.*

*Birds, though you long have ceased to build,  
guard the nest that must be filled.  
Even the hour when wings are frozen  
God for fledging time has chosen.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Bird, is on the way.*

*Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim  
one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather,  
bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Star, is on the way.*

*Angels, announce with shouts of mirth  
Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Lord, is on the way.*

#### Benediction

One: You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor does one light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to God, who is in heaven.

Many: **Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light. As we leave this place may the spirit of Christ lead us to share with others the joy we have felt and the good news we have heard. May we leave this place filled with light and radiance, for we have been in the presence of God. May our souls be peaceful, for we have been cleansed by the healing power of God. May we leave this place empowered and strengthened, may we leave this place having worshiped God, and having our hearts and souls mended by the blood of Christ, who was born to set us free. Glory to God in the highest! Savior of the nations, Come!**

#### POSTLUDE



#### Worship Resources Adapted From:

Feasting on the Word Worship Companion Series, the Book of Common Worship, and EntertheBible.org  
CCLI 1345744 One License: A-722711

#### WORSHIP LEADERSHIP:

The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger,  
Senior Pastor

The Rev. Brett Gudeman,  
Associate Pastor

Dr. Patricia Hacker,  
Director of Music

Dr. Lois K. Lee,  
Pianist/Organist

Clinton Garrison, Baritone  
Katie Buckner, Soprano

Kathy Gillmore,  
Director of Christian  
Education

Ushers:  
Barbara Rahrer, Roy and  
Marilyn McCorkle, Bob  
Frank Smith, Bo Lundy

Video and Sound:  
Mike Hyatt, Tom Stroud,  
Brian Bulger, Jack Phillips

# THIS WEEK AT FPCHSV

November 29-December 6

## Sunday, November 29, 2020

First Sunday of Advent

8:30 am Worship Service SAN

9:00 am - 9:30 am Godly Play Zoom

9:30 am - 10:30 am Feasting on the Word FH or Zoom

9:30 am - 10:30 am Charles Danner Seminar LIB or Zoom

9:30 am - 10:30 am Youth Sunday School Zoom

10:30 am - 10:45 am Peepers Sunday School Zoom

11:00 am Worship Service SAN

5:00 pm - 6:30 pm Presbyterian Youth Connection all ages (off site)

## Monday, November 30, 2020

9:00 am - 1:00 pm First Friends Preschool

## Tuesday, December 1, 2020

9:00 am - 1:00 pm First Friends Preschool

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm Worship Committee Meeting LIB

## Wednesday, December 2, 2020

7:00 am - 8:00 am Men's Bible Study FH

9:00 am - 1:00 pm First Friends Preschool

1:30 pm - 3:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry LIB

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Live Chancel Choir Rehearsal CR

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Zoom Chancel Choir Rehearsal

## Thursday, December 3, 2020

9:00 am - 1:00 pm First Friends Preschool

11:00 am - 12:00 pm Prayer Group Zoom

## Friday, December 4, 2020

9:00 am - 1:00 pm First Friends Preschool

## Saturday, December 5, 2020

8:30 am - 10:30 am PYC Service Project

## Sunday, December 6, 2020

Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 am Christmas Cantata SAN

9:00 am - 9:30 am Godly Play Zoom

9:30 am - 10:30 am Feasting on the Word FH or Zoom

9:30 am - 10:30 am Charles Danner Seminar LIB or Zoom

9:30 am - 10:30 am Youth Sunday School Zoom

10:30 am - 10:45 am Peepers Sunday School Zoom

11:00 am Christmas Cantata SAN

5:00 pm - 6:30 pm Presbyterian Youth Connection all ages

### Calendar Legend:

**BR** - Bell Room

**CH** - Carriage House (GBH)

**CER** - Christian Ed Resource upstairs

**CR** - Choir Room

**FH** - Fellowship Hall

**GBH** - Gideon Blackburn House

**HR** - Historical Room

**JAH** - John Allan Hall (GBH)

**LIB** - Library

**SAN** - Sanctuary

**SMR** - Stephen Ministry Room (GBH)



First Presbyterian is a Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and a Stephen Ministry Congregation.

We welcome you as a participant in worship today. We pray that you will find this service meaningful. Worship is but one of the many ministries of First Presbyterian Church.

If you would like to receive our Weekly E-News, please send your name and email address to [communications@fpchsv.org](mailto:communications@fpchsv.org).

### FLOWER GUILD HONORS AND MEMORIALS

*The flowers this morning are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Bill Foreman, former long-time Chancel Choir member, from the Chancel Choir.*



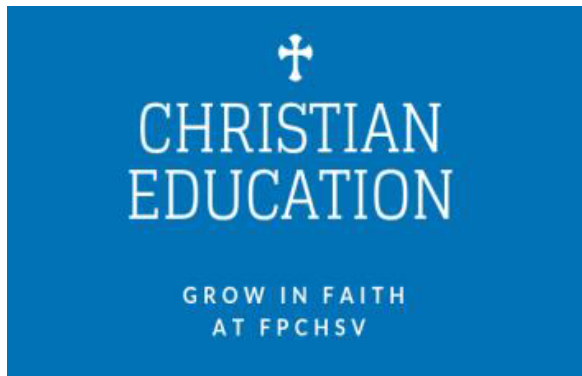
### Mission of the Month for November: Santa for Seniors

For November FPC will partner with TARGOG-Area Agency on Aging to provide Christmas gifts for 75 low income, disabled, homebound seniors. This year, due to the uncertainty of COVID-19, TARGOG will only be accepting MONETARY DONATIONS, rather than gifts.

If you are able, please consider making a donation by mailing or taking a check made out to FPC and on the memo line, note that it is for Santa for Seniors.

**For more information please visit [fpchsv.org](http://fpchsv.org) and click on the Missions tab.**





Sundays- Godly Play Zoom 9:00 am - 9:30 am  
 Feasting on the Word Zoom or FH 9:30 am - 10:30 am  
 Charles Danner Seminar Zoom or LIB 9:30 am - 10:30 am  
 Youth Sunday School via Zoom 9:30 am - 10:30 am  
 Peepers Sunday School Zoom 10:30 am - 10:45 am

Wednesdays- Men's Bible Study FH 7:00 am - 8:00 am

Thursdays- Thursday Prayer Group Zoom 11:00 am

Please register for the Zoom communities on our website under the Registration section.

Join us for our Live Nativity Drive-Thru on December 13 from 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm! Travel down Lincoln street to Gates Avenue, then turn into the church parking lot for this wonderful adventure brought to you by our children, youth, volunteers, and wonderful members of our Chancel Choir and the Huntsville Master Chorale.



Worship of the Living God is not confined to one place or time. We encourage you to take this bulletin home and use it to guide you in private moments of worship for the next week.

Discuss: What do most look forward to about the Christmas season?

Read:

Mon. Luke 20:1-8

Tue. Luke 20:9-18

Wed. Luke 20:19-26

Thur. Luke 20:27-40

Fri. Luke 20:41-21:4

Sat. Luke 21:5-19

Pray: In the business of this holiday season, ask for God to help you keep your focus on the gift of Christ.



Youth Sunday School via Zoom, Sunday, November 29  
 9:30 am - 10:30 am

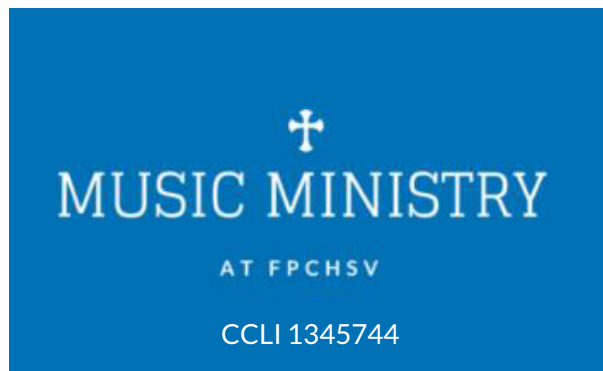
PYC Sunday, November 29  
 All Ages, 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm off site

Service Project Saturday, December 5  
 8:30 am - 10:30 am

Youth Sunday School via Zoom, Sunday, December 6  
 9:30 am - 10:30 am

PYC Sunday, December 6  
 All Ages, 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm off site

Please contact Anne Dillon Loflin at [youth@fpchsv.org](mailto:youth@fpchsv.org) with questions or more information.



#### Music Ministry Schedule for this coming week

Sunday, November 29  
 8:00 am Rehearsal  
 10:30 am Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 2  
 Rehearsal 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Sunday, December 6  
 8:00 am Rehearsal  
 10:30 am Rehearsal

# PRAYER LIST

To add a prayer request, please visit our website

To remove a prayer request, please email [communications@fpchsv.org](mailto:communications@fpchsv.org)

New prayer requests are in bold print

In case of a pastoral emergency, you may contact Dr. Bulger at 256-655-1818

## **Church Members:**

Ginny Bouldin  
Chuck Hooker and family  
Barbara (Bonny) Morris  
Lou Horn  
Cay Lambert  
Mary Lou Danner

## **Friends and Family:**

### **Family of John and Barbara Loflin for the death of John's father, Bob Loflin**

Family of Janel Bates  
Shirley Forbes  
Tim Jackson  
Tammy Turner - friend of Rick and Sherry Smith  
Josh Saliba - nephew of Donna and John Basore  
Marcos Servin - brother-in-law of Patricia Hacker  
Calvin Ronald Dahl - nephew of Peggy Galloway  
Family of Madelyn Hereford  
Caitlin Greiner - granddaughter of Cay Lambert  
Richard Lehmer - friend of Janice Fowler  
Jack Bolton - grandson of Bill and Miriam Bolton  
Laurel Maples and family - friends of George and Eleanor Harsh  
Billy H. Wallace - brother of Beverly Wills  
John and Maryetta Bitzer - friends of Peggy and Dave Galloway  
Family of Pat Golley  
Kathy Winfree - sister of Bill Bolton  
Pat Richeson - friend of Glen Adams  
Stella Fair - sister of David Galloway  
Beverlee Leo - mother of Lori Smith  
Diana Rose - mother of Serena Neely  
Scott Sedlitz - stepson of Annwhite Fuller  
Leigh Vincent - friend of Linda and Woodward Howard  
Paige Olmo - daughter of Paula Weider  
Sean Larkin - friend of Linda Howard and Bryce Connor  
Dylan Greiner - son of Cay Lambert  
Dale Brown - brother of Doug Brown  
Nell Pike - mother of Charlie Pike  
Margaret Bruce Walker - friend of Janis Williams  
Leigh Steele - goddaughter of David Hatch  
Rachel Beard - friend of Tam Bevel

## **Members and Relatives in Specialty Care:**

Marge Sharp (Birmingham)  
Dolly Shuey (WBC @ Magnolia Trace)  
Jean Walker (Regency)

## **The Church:**

The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger and her family  
The Rev. Brett Gudeman and his family  
First Presbyterian Church, the Session, the Board of Deacons, the North Alabama Presbytery, and for all the church staff  
NAP seminary student Joe Lundy (First, Huntsville).

## **Military & International:**

All those serving in the armed forces; particularly ENS Connor Howard, U.S. Navy Flight School

**Our Nation:** President Trump and our representatives.

## **First Presbyterian Missions & Ministries:**

Appalachia Service Project (ASP)  
Good Samaritans  
International Missionary Fellowship (HaitiHospital.org)  
The Vine Pastoral Counseling Center  
The Presbyterian Home for Children  
Second Mile Preschool  
The CUP program  
Camp Maranatha  
Mission Aviation Fellowship

## **Other Prayers:**

Let us pray for all those struggling with health and economic hardship during this pandemic. Let us also pray for communities as they express the deep hurt they feel, as well as for safety and peace for all.

# Leadership at First Presbyterian Church

## Ministry Team and Staff

(256) 536-3354

The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger, *Senior Pastor*.....ext 122  
Cell: (256) 655-1818      seniorpastor@fpchsv.org

The Rev. Brett Gudeman, *Associate Pastor*.....ext 127  
associatepastor@fpchsv.org

The Rev. Dr. James Roberts, *Parish Associate*  
parishassociate@fpchsv.org

Dr. Patricia Hacker, *Director of Music*.....ext 126  
music@fpchsv.org

Kathy Gillmore, *Director of Christian Education*.....ext 129  
dce@fpchsv.org

Lacey Guthrie, *First Friends Director*.....ext 128  
ffdirector@fpchsv.org

Anne Dillon Loflin, *Interim Youth Director*.....ext 131  
youth@fpchsv.org

Gary Whited, *Facilities Coordinator*.....ext 136  
facilities@fpchsv.org

Ellen DeAngelo, *Director of Finance & Administration*.....ext 121  
finance@fpchsv.org

Kelsey Worley, *Communications Director*.....ext 132  
communications@fpchsv.org

Dr. Lois K Lee, *Organist/Pianist*

## ELDERS:

### Class of 2020

Mary Adams, Christian Education Committee  
Karen Madison, Mission and Outreach Committee  
Mac Martinson, Worship Committee  
Marshall Schreeder, Finance Committee

### Class of 2021

Michael Lastovic, Christian Education Committee  
Andrew Bevel, Mission and Outreach Committee  
Al Steenwyk, Worship Committee  
Angela Rawls, Finance Committee

### Class of 2022

Bob Frank Smith, Christian Education Committee  
Vicky Goodwin, Mission and Outreach Committee  
Lori Smith, Worship Committee  
Brian Clayton, Finance Committee

## DEACONS:

### Class of 2020

Paula Hatch, Care Committee  
Ed Green, Hospitality Committee  
Stephanie Hyatt, Fellowship Committee

### Class of 2021

Willie Anderson, Care Committee  
Marilyn McCorkle, Hospitality Committee  
Karen Clayton, Fellowship Committee

### Class of 2022

Rob Wermuth, Care Committee  
Dale Gillmore, Hospitality Committee  
Patrick Rentz, Fellowship Committee

## TRUSTEES:

### Class of 2020

Sara Graves  
Andy Watson

### Class of 2021

Dag Rowe  
Gary Tucker

### Class of 2022

Wayne Bonner  
Doug Madison

## Presbyterian Women

Patty Conley, Moderator

**First Presbyterian**

**Church**

307 Gates Ave SE

Huntsville, AL 35801