



First Presbyterian Church

August 23, 2026

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God, in the self-giving love of Christ you have revealed the path of salvation; give us courage to deny our selfish desire and bear the cross of discipleship, that we may live as those who have no fear of death and receive the joy of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Welcome

to First Presbyterian Church of Huntsville, Alabama!
We are a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

*An asterisk denotes standing-in body or spirit. The congregation is invited to recite bold text together.

August 23, 2026

8:30am and 11:00am

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Chiming of the Bell

Prelude

Make His Praise Glorious!

Tracey McKibben

Words of Welcome

Please sign in on the pew pads found at the end of each row and share those with your neighbor. We thank God for your presence this day!

*The Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also, with you.

Take a moment to greet one another in the peace of Christ and extend a special welcome those who are new to our church community.

*Call to Worship

Adapted from Psalm 138

One: We give thanks to God with our whole heart.

All: We give thanks for God's steadfast love and faithfulness!

One: Though high above all things, God sees the lowly.

All: Even when we are deeply troubled, God makes us live again.

The love of the Lord lasts forever; Let us worship God!

*Hymn 826

Lift High the Cross

CRUCIFER

Call to Confession

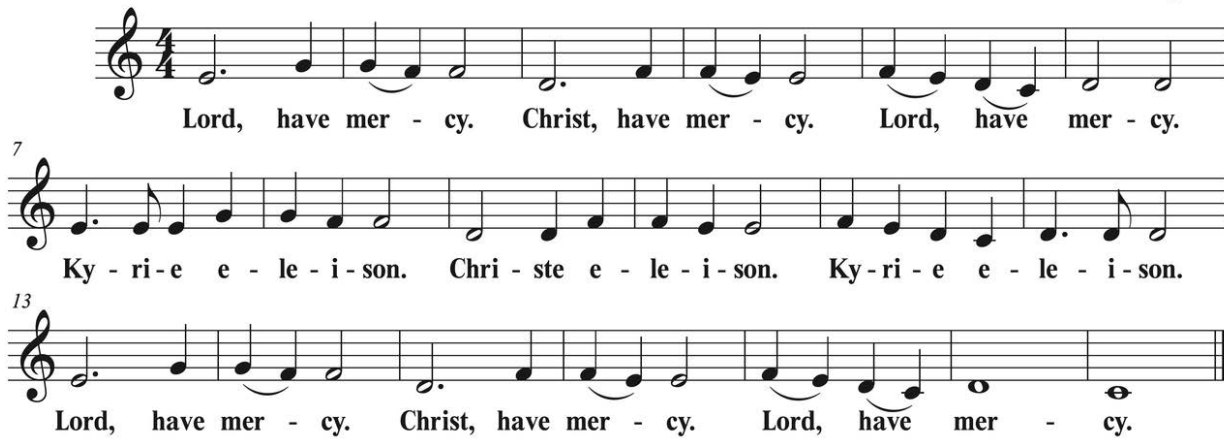
Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, like the disciples, we have not set our minds on divine things but on human things. Doubting your loving care, we grab for more than we need. Doubting your loving purposes, we shrink from living as your followers. Doubting your loving plan, we become stumbling blocks in your creation. Forgive us that we may gain new life in you. Free us from fear of the power of evil, and help us trust in the power of your everlasting goodness; through Jesus Christ. (A time of silent confession) Amen.

KYRIE

Lord Have Mercy

Hal H. Hopson



© Commissioned by First Presbyterian Church-Huntsville, AL 2018

Assurance of Pardon

One: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*Hymn 582

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me 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.***

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Time for Young Disciples

*All children are invited to come forward during Jesus Loves Me
for a message and prayer. Children may then join Kathy Gillmore
in the Youth Room in the GBH basement for Children's Church.
Infant and toddler care is also available between 8:15 and 12:00.*

Hymn 175

Seek Ye First

LAFFERTY

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP:

Rev. J. David Randolph,
Senior Pastor

Dr. Patricia Hacker,
Director of Music

Dr. Lois Lee, pianist

Chancel Choir

Ushers:
8:30 am:
Glen Adams
Barbara Rahrer

11:00 am:
Jim Slate
Patty Frierson

Lay Liturgist:
8:30:
Roy McCorkle

11:00:
Melissa Rowe

Video and Sound:
Tom Stroud
Dave Young
Maxwell R. Carter



If you would like to give
your offering via credit card,
please scan the QR code.

**Those who are
able, please stand.*

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading

Matthew 16:13-20, NRSV

Anthem

8:30

I'd Rather Have Jesus
Jonathan Pride, baritone

George Beverly Shea

*I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold,
I'd rather be His than have riches untold;
I'd rather have Jesus than houses or lands,
I'd rather be led by His nail-pierced hand.*

*(chorus) Than to be the king of a vast domain or be held in sin's dread sway;
I'd rather have Jesus than anything this world affords today.*

*I'd rather have Jesus than men's applause,
I'd rather be faithful to His dear cause;
I'd rather have Jesus than world-wide fame,
I'd rather be true to His Holy name. (to chorus)*

*He's fairer than lilies of rarest bloom,
He's sweeter than honey from out the comb;
He's all that my hungering spirit needs,
I'd rather have Jesus and let Him lead. (to chorus)*

11:00

Lead Me, Lord
Chancel Choir

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

*Lead me, Lord, lead me in Thy righteousness,
Make Thy way plain before my face.
For it is Thou, Lord,
Thou, Lord, only that makest me dwell in safety.*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 16:21-28, NRSV

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Setting Your Mind on Divine Things

Moment for Silent Meditation

*Affirmation of Faith

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.

Serving God with our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory.

8:30

On Eagle's Wings

arr. Mark Hayes

11:00

I'd Rather Have Jesus

George Beverly Shea

Jonathan Pride, baritone

*Doxology.

Hymn 606

***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 Thanksgiving and Dedication

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.

SENDING OURSELVES INTO THE WORLD WITH GOD'S LOVE

*Hymn 187

Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us

BRADBURY

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Benediction 549

May the Love of Our Lord

SOON TI

***May the love of the Lord rest upon your soul.
May God's love dwell in you throughout every day.
May God's countenance shine upon you and be gracious to you.
May God's spirit be upon you as you leave this place.***

Postlude

Toccata

James Bastien

*To all who mourn and need comfort, to all who are weary and need rest -
to all who are homeless, and want sheltering love, to all who pray, and
to all who do not but ought - to all who sin and need a Savior, and to whomsoever will -
this church opens wide its doors as a safe place in the name of Jesus.
The Lord says, **"ALL ARE WELCOME!"***

Fellowship Time will be hosted by the Chancel Choir from 9:30-10:45 in the Carriage House.

Sunday School meets between the two services at 9:30. Speak with Kathy Gillmore to learn more.

Children and Youth Sunday School is from 9:30 to 10:30am in GBH Basement.

Join us for hands-on, mission-based classes for preschoolers, elementary students, and youth.

PYC Youth Group (6th-12th graders) meets Sunday evenings from 5:00pm-6:30pm.

The Session has called a congregational meeting after the 11:00 service for the purpose of approving:
1) a slate of 4 Elders for the class of 2029, 2) a slate of three Deacons for the class of 2029, 3) a slate of two Trustees for the Class of 2029, and 4) a slate of four members to serve on the 2027 Nominating Committee.

Confirmation journey begins (8th grade and up) with a youth and parent lunch today, GBH Youth Room.

Rally Month concludes Sunday, August 30, with a special communion service followed by a congregational lunch at noon. Kids Club kicks off from 12:30-2:00 pm for K- 5th graders, and childcare is available for our littlest Presbyterians. Join us for a fun filled afternoon of faith, fun, friends, and music!

Church Calendar

Sunday, August 23, 2026

8:15am –12:00pm Nursery Room GBH Basement
8:30am –9:30am Worship Service GBH
8:45am –9:30am Children's Church GBHYR
9:30am –10:30am Charles Danner Seminar GBHLR
9:30am –10:30am Children and Youth Sunday School GBH Basement
10:30am –11:00am Chancel Choir Rehearsal JAH
11:00am –12:00pm Worship Service GBH
11:15am –12:00pm Children's Church GBHYR
12:00pm –12:15pm Congregational Meeting JAH
12:15pm-1:15 Confirmation Youth & Parent Lunch
5:00pm –6:30pm PYC GBHYR

Monday, August 24, 2026

9:00am –1:00pm First Friends
5:30pm –6:30pm Mission and Evangelism Meeting CH

Tuesday, August 25, 2026

9:00am –1:00pm First Friends
10:00am –11:00am Church Staff Meeting GBHLR
10:00am –11:00am DAR Committee Meeting GBH
5:30pm –6:30pm CE Committee Meeting CH
5:30pm –8:30pm Cub/Boy Scouts GBH

Wednesday, August 26, 2026

7:00am –8:00am Men's Bible Study CH
9:00am –1:00pm First Friends
9:30am –10:30am Construction Meeting CH
1:30pm –3:00pm Prayer Shawl Group CH
6:00pm –7:30pm Chancel Choir Practice JAH

Thursday, August 27, 2026

9:00am –1:00pm First Friends
10:15am –10:30am First Friends Chapel Basement Rm 10
11:00am –12:00pm Prayer Group GBHB
12:00pm –1:00pm Al-Anon CH
4:30pm –6:00pm Maranatha Board Meeting GBHLR

Friday, August 28, 2026

9:00am –1:00pm First Friends
Church Office Closed

Sunday, August 30, 2026

Sacrament of Communion
8:15am –12:00pm Nursery Room GBHB
8:30am –9:30am Worship Service GBH
8:45am –9:30am Children's Church GBHYR
9:30am –10:30am Charles Danner Seminar GBHLR
9:30am –10:30am Children & Youth Sunday School GBHB
10:30am –11:00am Chancel Choir Rehearsal JAH
11:00am –12:00pm Worship Service GBH
11:15am –12:00pm Children's Church GBHYR
12:00pm –1:00pm Garden Party - Fellowship Lunch
12:30pm –2:00pm Kid's Club
5:00pm –7:00pm PYC Off site Pool Party

Calendar Legend:

CH- Carriage House (GBH)

FH- Fellowship Hall

GBH- Gideon Blackburn House

GBHB- Gideon Blackburn House Basement

HR- Historical Room

JAH- John Allan Hall (GBH)

GBHLR- Gideon Blackburn House Living Room

GBHYR- Gideon Blackburn House Youth Room

PRAYER LIST

Please take the bulletin home to add these names to your daily prayers.
Prayer requests should be emailed to Kristin Pepper, Administrative Assistant,
at admin@fpchsv.org.

Church Members:

Thomas Causey, Anne Michael Causey, Eleanor and George Harsh, Alice Gardner, Stella Wilson, Sandra Stewart, Frances Byrd, Anne Whitfield, Bob Monroe, Ed Green, Becky Buckner, Alicia Beam, Charlie Watkins, Barbara (Bonny) Morris, Sheree Adams, Family of Brian Weems (brother of Sharon Hudson), Virginia Bailey

Friends and Family:

Sam Eidt (friend of Ed and Betty Green), James Neely (grandson of Serena Neely), Family of Charles Trainosky (son of Julie Trainosky), Wendy Remple (family member of Diann Berry), Ann Crigler, Joan Mitchell and family (grandmother of Mitch Carroll), Harper Grace Rice (daughter of Mindy and Alan Nettles), Randy Miller (friend of the Lee family), Ashley McCrary (friend of Leigh Brown), Family of Bettie Lewter (friend of Bob and Genie Miller), Rusty Skinner (Uncle of Lindsay & Thomas Birchfield), Roger Holliday (father of Hamilton Holliday), Mary Streecter, Sarah Hankins, Tate Grueling (friend of Harriet Bibb), Jan Thompson (sister of Gail Sparks), Misty Short Anderson and family and friends, Maggie Day & Josie (cousins of George Harsh), Marlene Stark (mother of Lisa Everett), The Wilmer Family (friends of Katy Bryan), Chet Johnston (friend of Frederick Wessel), Melinda Thompson (daughter of Mary Edith Thompson), Rob Klouw & Katherine Randall (friends of Rachel Harrod), Family and friends of Maxwell Carter, Kyser family (friends of Tam Bevel & Judy Howard), Deborah Lamb (aunt of Kaitlyn Huaroto, sister of Pam Huaroto), Nathan Harsh Brown Chitty (cousin of George Harsh), Bennie Jacks (friend of George & Eleanor Harsh), Grant Adams (brother of Glen Adams), Emily Neely (daughter-in-law of Serena Neely), Patty Monnett (friend of Katy Bryan), Marie Mitchell (mother of Libby Smith), Antony Leo (brother of Lori Smith), Claudia Fahrner, David, Jessi, and Emma Grace Hill (friends of Davis Carter), Hislana Servin (sister of Patricia Hacker)
Trusting in God's grace, we pray for our enemies

Members and Relatives in Specialty Care:

Hoyt Harris (Brookdale), Cay Lambert (Huntsville Health & Rehab), Annewhite Fuller (Whitesburg Gardens)

Military & International:

Prayers for Haiti and our mission partners. This is a critical time as the civil unrest there may undermine all humanitarian work.

All those serving in the armed forces; LT Connor Howard, U.S. Navy Pilot, Allen Pepper

Leadership at First Presbyterian Church

Ministry Team and Staff

(256) 536-3354

Rev. J. David Randolph, *Senior Pastor*.....david@fpchsv.org
Lora Bohan, *First Friends Director*.....ffdirector@fpchsv.org
Ellen DeAngelo, *Director of Finance & Administration*.....finance@fpchsv.org
Kathy Gillmore, *Director of Christian Education*.....dce@fpchsv.org
Dr. Patricia Hacker, *Director of Music*.....music@fpchsv.org
Dr. Lois K. Lee, *Organist/Pianist*
Anne Dillon Loflin, *Youth Director*.....youth@fpchsv.org
Kristin Pepper, *Administrative Assistant*.....admin@fpchsv.org
Gary Whited, *Facilities Coordinator*.....facilities@fpchsv.org

CHURCH OFFICERS

Elders:

Class of 2026
Caitlin Thomas, Christian Education Committee
Houston Matthews, Finance Committee
Diann Berry, Mission and Evangelism Committee
David Young, Worship Committee

Class of 2027
James Lee, Christian Education Committee
Hamilton Holliday Sr., Finance Committee
Erin Cobb, Mission and Evangelism Committee
Nicole Schroer, Worship Committee

Class of 2028
Daniel Carter-Finance/Personnel
Nancy Lundy-Missions/Evangelism
Libbie Rentz-Christian Education
Sherry Smith-Worship

Deacons:

Class of 2026
Katy Bryan, Care Committee
Hudson Cornelius, Fellowship Committee
Courtney Allen, Hospitality Committee

Class of 2027
Ginger Bryant, Care Committee
Jenny Schreeder, Fellowship Committee
Vicky Goodwin, Hospitality Committee

Class of 2028
Marian Bevel-Care Committee
Dave Goodwin-Hospitality Committee
Brent Cobb-Fellowship Committee

Trustees:

Class of 2026
Roy McCorkle
Angela Rawls

Class of 2027
Ryan Parker
Melissa Rowe

Class of 2028
Mac Martinson
Andy Watson

Church Nominating Committee:

Erin Cobb- Chair, Session
Nicole Schroer- Session
Lucinda Shreeder
Glen Adams
Patty Conley
Bob Frank Smith
Jenny Schreeder- Deacons

Presbyterian Women:

Stella Wilson, Moderator

