

Running the Race



In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

First Presbyterian Church
8:30 Gideon Blackburn House
11:00 Fellowship Hall
May 3, 2026

Welcome

to First Presbyterian Church of
Huntsville, Alabama

*We are a congregation of the
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

Notes About Our Worship Bulletin:

- An asterisk denotes standing--in body or Spirit.
- Bold text means the congregation is invited to recite the text together.
- There are margin notes to increase understanding of the service.
- Children of all ages are a welcome blessing in worship! They are an important part of our church community, and we would love for them to stay for the whole service. Wiggles and giggles will not bother us; tears and fears remind us we're human. Ushers can provide you with worship notebooks to engage your children during worship.
- Nursery care is available anytime between 8:15 am and 12:00 pm for infants and toddlers in Youth Room of GBH as needed.
- All children are invited to come forward during *This Little Light of Mine* for a message and prayer.
- Children are welcome (but never required!) to go to Youth Room in GBH for Children's Church after the Time for Young Disciples. Parents may escort them, or Children's Ministry Assistants are available to walk with them.
- Members, having children worship is a gift and a sign of health and vitality for our church. Please welcome children and offer parents a smile of encouragement.

Want more information about the church?
Speak with an usher in the narthex, or visit our website at fpchsv.org,
or listen to sermons later in the week, at:



FOR APPLE



FOR ANDROID

WELCOME

May 3, 2026
8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

CHIMING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* Arr. Bob Walters

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Dr. Karl Kling

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!

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Jesus Christ is the starting point for our faith.

People: We hear his call to love one another.

Leader: Jesus Christ is the One who completes our faith.

People: He calls us to love with our words and actions.

Leader: Let us worship God!

*OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN OF PRAISE 260

Alleluia Sing to Jesus
(verses 1&4)

HYFRYDOL

1 *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone!
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of every nation
has redeemed us by his blood."*

4 *Alleluia! King eternal,
Lord omnipotent we own;
Alleluia! born of Mary,
earth your footstool, heaven your throne.
As within the veil you entered,
robed in flesh, our great high priest;
here on earth both priest and victim
in the eucharistic feast.*

CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

Anthony Joseph (AJ) Wermuth, son of Rob and Leigh Wermuth
Elizabeth Howerton (Tizzy) Perkins, daughter of Allen and Katie Perkins

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP:

Dr. Karl Kling,
Transitional Pastor

Dr. Patricia Hacker,
Director of Music

Dr. Lois K. Lee,
Pianist
Chancel Choir
Sherry Smith

Ushers:
8:30 am -
Barbara Rahrer
Susan Lewis

11:00 am -
Marian Bevel
Melissa Rowe

Communion
Preparer:
Dave Young
& Doug Fee

Communion Servers:
8:30 am-
Dave Young

11:00-
Diann Berry,
Dave Young,
Houston Matthews,
Nancy Lundy,
Marian Bevel,
Serena Neely

Lay Liturgist:
8:30 am & 11:00
Stephanie Hyatt

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

**Those who are
able, please stand.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

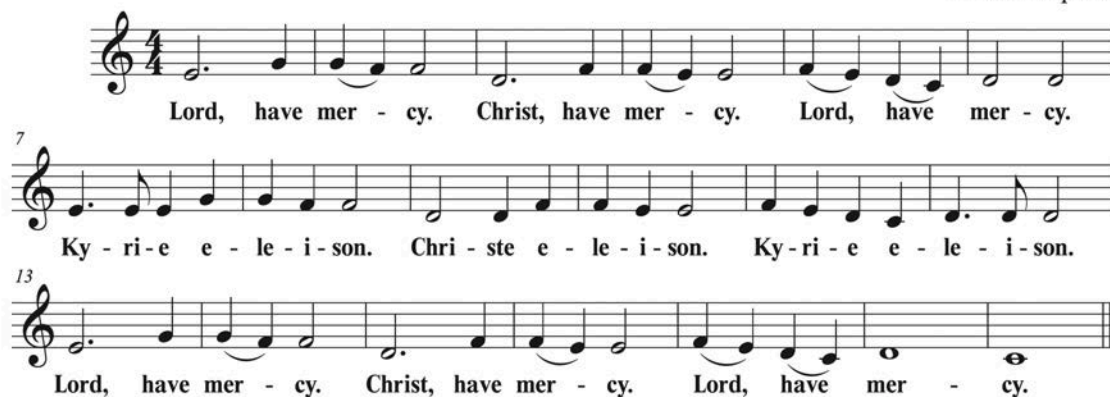
Holy God, there were times this past week when we disappointed you, our loved ones, or other people. We did things that were wrong or missed opportunities to do what is right. We closed our eyes to the needs of others by focusing on ourselves. Please forgive our sin and renew us through your Spirit. We pray this in Christ's name, Amen.

(Let us now continue our confession in silence.)

KYRIE

Lord Have Mercy

Hal H. Hopson



Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

7
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

13
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, all who humbly confess their sin are filled with God's mercy and cleansed by his grace. Hear and receive the good news. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: Thanks be to God.

*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.*

*THE PASSING OF PEACE

Leader: May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: 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.)

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

All children are invited to come forward during
This Little Light of Mine for a message and prayer.

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Following the Time for Young Disciples, children are invited to join Kathy Gillmore in the Youth Room in GBH basement for Children's Church. Infant and toddler care is available there as needed.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Proverbs 3:3-6

³ Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. ⁴ So you will find favor and good repute in the sight of God and of people. ⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

ANTHEM

Beautiful Savior
Chancel Choir

Robert Lee

*Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
O Thou of God and Man the Son,
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy and crown.*

*Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.*

*Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be Thine.*

Having been reconciled to God in Jesus Christ, the people are invited to share signs of reconciliation and the peace of Christ. In sharing the peace, we express the reconciliation, unity, and love that come only from God, and we open ourselves to the power of God's love to heal our brokenness and make us agents of that love in the world.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 12:1-3

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

PRAYER FOR THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

SERMON

Dr. Karl Kling

SILENT MEDITATION

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

CONFIRMATION CLASS of 2026

MEMBERS CONFIRMATION CLASS 2026

Harper Suzanne Allen: (Mentor: Garrett Schreeder, Prayer Partner: Theresa Case)
Jesse Kwesi Asiedu (Mentors: Janis and Bruce Williams, Prayer Partner: Bert Moore)
Emily Grace Bevel (Mentor: Tam Bevel, Prayer Partner: Sharron Abernethy)
Grant Charles Bevel (Mentor: Tam Bevel, Prayer Partner: Scott Heffington)
Jenny Dare Bryant (Mentor: Chris Anne Causey, Prayer Partner: Mary Kate Viall)
Katherine Vivian Carter (Mentor: Angela Rawls, Prayer Partner: Bobbie O'Farrell)
Anne Michael Causey (Mentor: Caitlin Thomas, Prayer Partner: Ginger Bryant)
Charlotte Grace Guthrie (Mentor: Erin Cobb, Prayer Partner: Diane Case)
Parker Lane Howard (Mentor: Judy Howard, Prayer Partner: Ashley Connor)
Megan Lenore Lind (Mentor: Kathy Gillmore, Prayer Partner: Helen Heffington)
Benjamin Robert Matthews (Mentor: Bo Lundy, Prayer Partner: Patricia Hacker)
Elizabeth Howerton (Tizzy) Perkins (Mentor: Charlotte Wessel, Prayer Partner: Abigail Nkansah)
William Marshall Roath (Mentor: Marshall Corlew, Prayer Partner: Alan Mitchell)
Louis Daniel Schreeder (Mentor: Houston Matthews, Prayer Partner: Bob Frank Smith)
Sarah Margaret Schreeder (Mentor: Courtney Allen, Prayer Partner: Leigh Brown)
Sierra Grace Sparks (Mentor: Anne Dillon Loflin, Prayer Partner: Mary Darsey)
Anthony Joseph (AJ) Wermuth (Mentor: Woodward Howard, Prayer Partner: Lori Smith)

Confirmation is a journey in which students learn about the church, faith, theology, and spiritual engagement. Each one of these students has actively participated in a confirmation class since January, they have participated in church life through worship and meeting with their confirmation mentors since September. Finally, they went on a weekend long retreat where they articulated what they believed by writing a personal faith statement and presented these statements to session. They have made the decision to join FPC as full members. The church is greater because of their presence!

**Those who are able, please stand*

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY 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.*

OLD HUNDREDTH

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also, with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Our Gracious God, we worship you for creating and redeeming the world through your never-failing love. We glorify your name and lift our voices in joyful praise with all your people saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Want to give your offering via credit card? Scan below.



FOR ONLINE GIVING

The Lord's Table, having been set, the one presiding then leads the people in the great prayer of thanksgiving. This prayer, with its emphasis on thankful praise, has been of central importance to this sacrament from very early centuries in Christian worship. Thanksgiving is so important to this sacrament that it has been given the name of Eucharist (from the New Testament Greek word *eucharistia*, meaning thanksgiving).

We praise you for Jesus Christ, who ate with sinners and taught ordinary people. He visited the sick, sent harvesters into the fields, and invited all people to receive his grace. He calls all people who open their hearts to meet him at this table.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

And so, he shared himself in bread and cup with his followers and now with us. As we remember Christ's death and resurrection, we proclaim the miracle of faith saying:

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

Merciful God, we ask you to pour out your Spirit so this meal will unite us as your people. Make all who share this bread and cup one with Christ. And now, as your daughters and sons, help us to pray with confidence the prayer that Jesus taught us:

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.

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP
(Communion bread is gluten-free.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, in deep gratitude we give ourselves to you. Help us to live as transformed people because we have shared this bread and cup together. Give us your love and joy to share with others. We pray this in Christ's name, Amen.

SHARE GOD'S LOVE WITH THE WORLD

*HYMN of SENDING 377 *I want to Walk as a Child of Jesus*

HOUSTON

1 *I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.*

2 *I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on
my path, and show me the way to the
Father. (Refrain)*

*Refrain:
In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*


3 *I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the
race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.
(Refrain)*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Dr. Karl Kling


*POSTLUDE

The Solid Rock



**Celebrating our FPC
GRADUATES!**
Sunday, May 17th is
High School Senior Recognition Sunday!
All High School Seniors will be recognized and receive a special blessing
at the 11am worship service. Come celebrate these outstanding FPC high
school graduates!

College/Post-Grad Graduates!
We want to recognize YOU in our next newsletter! Email Anne Dillon at
youth@fpchsv.org by Friday, May 22nd to submit info for our June First Word! If
possible, please provide a cap & gown or recent photo, undergrad or postgrad
degree, name of the university or college, and any future plans you wish to share!



Leadership at First Presbyterian Church

Ministry Team and Staff

(256) 536-3354

Dr. Karl Kling, *Transitional Senior Pastor*.....seniorpastor@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 Libby 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 Church Nominating Committee: Erin Cobb Nicole Schroer Lucinda Shreeder Glen Adams Patty Conley Bob Frank Smith	Trustees: Class of 2026 Roy McCorkle Angela Rawls Class of 2027 Ryan Parker Melissa Rowe Class of 2028 Mac Martinson Andy Watson Presbyterian Women: Stella Wilson, Moderator
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PRAYER LIST

Names added to the prayer list will be removed after *six weeks*.

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:

Stephens family and friends
Daughtry family and friends
Barbara Martin and Evelyn Hurdle families
Alice Gardner
Betty Loeb
Paula Weider
Stella Wilson
Sandra Stewart
Frances Byrd
Anne Whitfield
Bob Monroe
Ed Green
Becky Buckner
Alicia Beam
Charlie Watkins
Barbara (Bonny) Morris
Cay Lambert
Amelia Beimrohr
Friends and Family:
Rusty Skinner-Uncle of Lindsay & Thomas Birchfield
Kirby and Shelia Stevenson - friends of Peggy and Dave Galloway
Charles Johnson- friend of Bo and Nancy Lundy
Bettie Lewter - friend of Genie and Bob Miller
Roger Holliday- father of Hamilton Holliday
Mary Streecter
Sarah Hankins
Tate Grueling - friend of Harriet Bibb
Jan Thompson- sister of Gail Sparks
Tonya Carano- friend of Bruce & Janis Williams
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
Melinda Thompson - daughter of Mary Edith Thompson
Rob Klouw & Katherine Randall - friends of Rachel Harrod
Chet Johnston - friend of Frederick Wessel
Family and friends of Maxwell Carter
Trusting in God's grace, we pray for our enemies.

Frances Kyser - friend of Tam Bevel & Judy Howard
Deborah Lamb - aunt of Kaitlyn Huaroto, sister of Pam Huaroto
Emily Loeb Locke - daughter of Betty Loeb
Nathan Harsh Brown Chitty - cousin of George Harsh
Bennie Jacks - friend of George & Eleanor Harsh
Emily Neely - daughter-in-law of Serena Neely
Katie Little Pickle - great niece of Dave & Peggy Galloway
Marie Mitchell - mother of Libby Smith
Antony Leo - brother of Lori Smith
Charles Trainosky - grandson of Charlie Watkins
Grant Adams - brother of Glen Adams
David, Jessi, and Emma Grace Hill-friends of Davis Carter
Claudia Fahrner
Sam Eidt - friend of Betty and Ed Green
Patty Monnett- friend of Katy Bryan

Members and Relatives in Specialty Care:

Hoyt Harris (Brookdale)
Marlyn Harris (Flemming Farms Memory Care)
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; particularly LT Connor Howard, U.S. Navy Pilot

THIS WEEK AT FPCHSV

May 3- May 10

Sunday, May 3, 2026

Holy Communion
Confirmation Sunday
8:15am –12:00pm Nursery Room GBHB
8:30am –9:30am Worship Service GBH
8:45am –9:30am Children's Church GBH Youth room
9:30am –10:30am Charles Danner Seminar Class GBH Living RM
9:30am –10:30am Westminster Ringers JAH
9:45am –10:30am Combined Sunday School GBHB
9:45am –10:30am Faith & Life Adult Class CH
10:30am –11:00am Chancel Choir Rehearsal JAH
11:00am –12:00pm Worship Service FH
11:15am –12:00pm Children's Church GBH Youth Room

Monday, May 4, 2026

9:00am –1:00pm First Friends Preschool
10:00am –12:00pm PW All Circles FH
5:30pm –6:30pm Worship Committee Meeting CH

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

9:00am –1:00pm First Friends Preschool
9:30am –10:30am First Friends Theater FH
10:00am –11:00am Church Staff Meeting GBH Living Room
5:30pm –8:30pm Cub/Boy Scouts GBH

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

7:00am –8:00am Men's Bible Study FH
9:00am –1:00pm First Friends Preschool
11:30am –12:30pm Moms at the Well GBHB
1:30pm –3:00pm Prayer Shawl Group CH
7:00pm –8:30pm Chancel Choir Practice JAH

Thursday, May 7, 2026

7:00am –8:00am Men's Bible Study FH
9:00am –1:00pm First Friends Preschool
11:30am –12:30pm Moms at the Well GBHB
1:30pm –3:00pm Prayer Shawl Group CH
7:00pm –8:30pm Chancel Choir Practice JAH

Friday, May 8, 2026

Church Office Closed
9:00am –1:00pm First Friends Preschool
12:00pm –1:00pm Mother's Day Art Show in classrooms

Sunday, May 10, 2026

8:15am –12:00pm Nursery Room GBHB
8:30am –9:30am Worship Service GBH
8:45am –9:30am Children's Church GBH Youth room
9:30am –10:30am Charles Danner Seminar Class GBH Living RM
9:30am –10:30am Westminster Ringers JAH
9:45am –10:30am Combined Sunday School GBHB
9:45am –10:30am Faith & Life Adult Class CH
10:30am –11:00am Chancel Choir Rehearsal JAH
11:00am –12:00pm Worship Service GBH
11:15am –12:00pm Children's Church GBH Youth Room

Calendar Legend:

CH - Carriage House (GBH)	HR - Historical Room
FH - Fellowship Hall	JAH - John Allan Hall (GBH)
GBH - Gideon Blackburn House	GBHDR - Gideon Blackburn House Dining Room
GBHB - Gideon Blackburn House Basement	

Due to space limitations during construction, we are currently not accepting flower donations. Any donations made since the beginning of the year will be used when we return to the sanctuary.