Welcome to Worship

GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, August 9, 2026 | 10:30 A.M.

ORDINARY TIME

Welcome to worship! *We are glad you are here. If you need any assistance, please notify an usher. Please take a moment to register your attendance with us by using the friendship register located in each pew. We welcome the opportunity to learn more about you.*

The congregation of Government Street Presbyterian Church*, as the people of God called to worship and work in downtown Mobile, pursue our mission to use our unique resources and opportunities to love, to honor, and to glorify God and to give hope, comfort, instruction and inspiration to all persons that they may become joyful disciples of Jesus Christ.*

Government Street Presbyterian Church, *founded in 1831, is a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and participates in the work of the Presbytery of South Alabama.*

Please silence *all cellular devices for the duration of the service.*

Congregational responses *are in* ***bold*** *text.* ✠*is an indication to rise in body or in spirit as you are able.*

Despite our best efforts, *we continue to sin against God and others. We begin our worship with corporate and individual prayers of confession, trusting that God will grant forgiveness as promised in scripture.*

We pass the peace *by greeting one another and saying, "The peace of Christ be with you," to which one replies, "And also with you." The ancient ritual of the church reminds us that Christ offers us peace that passes understanding.*

Preparation for Worship

PRELUDE *Prelude and Fugue in G Major (BuxWV 147)*
D. Buxtehude

WELCOME **CASI CALLAWAY**

✠**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Responsive)* **CASI CALLAWAY**

Happy are those who delight in the law of the Lord.
Happy are those who consider God's word day and night.
They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit each season.
Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.
Lord, give us ears to listen to your word, so our lives may reflect your goodness.
Let us worship God!

✠**HYMN 41** *O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!*
LYONS

✠**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(Unison)* **CASI CALLAWAY**

Creator God,

Every good and perfect gift comes from you. We confess that we have squandered the blessings of this earth and neglected our call to be stewards. We have been selfish in our actions, forgetting that we belong to you. We have not cared for our neighbors and have sown resentment and distrust rather than compassion and justice. Forgive us, Lord, and hear our silent prayers.

(Silence)

Have mercy on us, Lord, and help us to grow as your faithful disciples. Lead us in paths of righteousness and make us ambassadors for your kingdom of justice and peace. Through Christ, we pray. Amen.

✠**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**
✠**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

✠**RESPONSE | HYMN 447** *We Are Forgiven*
WE ARE FORGIVEN

Children ages three *and older are invited to the front for the Children's Sermon. Children ages 3 through kindergarten may go to Wee Worship following the Children's Sermon. They may be picked up from the Sunday School classroom following worship. Children under 3 are welcome in the nursery. Older children may return to sit with their parents.*

Wee Worship sign-in slips *are available next to the bulletins at the front and back of the church as well as in the children's worship totes. Children may bring these filled out slips with them when they go to Wee Worship.*

Children's worship totes *are available for children in the sanctuary. These totes include children's bulletins and other items to help children engage in the worship service.*

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination — **Casi Callaway**

First Reading: Genesis 2:4b-9

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children's Sermon — **John Moses**

Wee Worship leaders: Emily Watson and Katherine Ogburn

Second Reading: Revelation 22:1-5

Sermon: "Life Between the Trees" — **Rev. Robert E. Madsen**

✠Hymn 305 — *Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!*
DARWALL'S 148TH

Thanksgiving

Affirmation of Faith *(The Apostles' Creed*) — **Marlyn Ogburn**

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.

Offering

Offertory — *Dona Nobis Pacem (Grant Us Peace)*
arr. Hal H. Hopson

The Sanctuary Choir

✠Response | Hymn 606 — *Doxology*
OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host, praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer is a place we bring ourselves fully before God. *In the Prayer of Intercession, we hold the needs of our hearts and of the world before a powerful and loving God.*

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.

Visiting? Welcome to GSPC, *where we hope you'll find our worship meaningful, our fellowship warm and our ministry exciting. Come again! Be sure to sign the Registry booklet that you will find in your pew. If you are considering membership, we'd love to have you. You may join us through transfer of letter, re-affirmation of faith or profession of faith.*

Prayer requests: *Please scan the QR code below to share your joys and concerns so that we may share them with our church family in the newsletter and bulletin.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving **Marlyn Ogburn**
Prayer of Intercession and the Lord's Prayer **Marlyn Ogburn**

Sending

✠Hymn 375 *Shall We Gather at the River*
HANSON PLACE

✠Benediction **Rev. Robert E. Madsen**

Postlude *God of Grace and God of Glory*

Thanks to Dr. Randall Sheets for serving as our guest organist today.

Sunday, August 16

Join us next Sunday as the Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar begins a new sermon series, "I'm a Christian. Now What?" She will preach on Philippians 3:7-14 with a sermon on discipleship titled "Pressing On Toward the Goal." Music will be offered by Dr. Randall Sheets and the GSPC choir. Children are invited to participate in the Blessing of the Backpacks, and Sunday School for all ages will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Prayer Requests

Your GSPC family would like to pray and rejoice with you. Please share your joys and concerns so that we can share them with our church family in the weekly newsletter. Your prayer requests can be general requests for a family, community, country, or world. They can be personal, for someone in the church, or someone you know. If you are making a request for someone else, please make sure they are comfortable being included and named. You can always omit a name and make a general request for prayers or celebrations. Please scan the QR code to access the Prayer Request form. Each prayer request will remain on the list for one month and then be removed.

Prayers for Healing:

- Sarah Hale, mother of Carter Hale, is at Palm Gardens Nursing Home on hospice care.
- Bill Chappelle, brother of Dorothy Morrison, is recovering from heart surgery.
- John Peebles requests continued prayers for his good friend, who is recovering from pancreatic surgery.
- Shelley Hood is recovering at home after a hospital stay.
- Shelia Smith, longtime Director of Food Services, is recovering at home after a hospital stay.
- Charlotte Crockett is receiving medical treatment in Tuscaloosa.
- Prayers are requested for Ellen Sheedy, Sallye Irvine's cousin. Ellen lost her daughter, Margaret, in the Camp Mystic flood last summer. She is now pregnant with a baby girl. Please pray for a safe delivery and peace for her family.
- Prayers are requested for Dan English, Sallye Irvine's cousin and Ellen Sheedy's father, who is struggling with a terrible cancer.
- Sallye Irvine requests prayers for her lifelong friend, Jane Stephens. Jane's sister, Julia, died on July 1 after a long illness, and Jane, who was her caregiver, is devastated.
- Charlie and Stella Jackson request prayers for Edward Meacham, a family friend, who is recovering from an injury to his left eye and other injuries from a fireworks accident.
- Vivian Ash is recovering after a hospital stay.

Prayers of Gratitude:

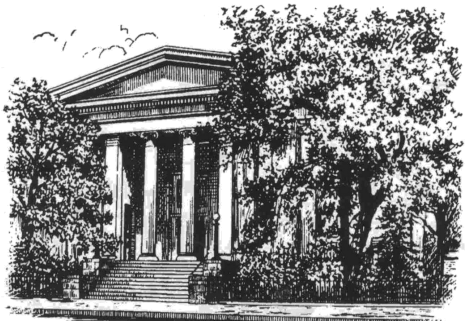
- The Riis family offers prayers of thanksgiving for Grant Carlisle Riis, born June 25, 2026, to Burruss and Carly Riis. His big brother is John Burruss and his grandparents are Buzzy and Nicole Riis**.**

Prayers for Safety and Strength:

- We pray for Dorothy Morrison as she makes the move to assisted living at Seagrass Village in Daphne.
- Jane and Lee Welch request prayers for Lee, who is a volunteer helping the displaced people in Texas, and for Jane, who misses him when he is away.

Prayers for Support:

- The congregation extends Christian sympathy to the family of William J. Cutts, who died on July 11 after a long illness. A memorial service was held on July 16 at GSPC. Please keep Bill's family in your prayers.
- Paula Spath asks for prayers for Travis, who is going through a difficult time.
- Erin Killian asks for prayers for Palestinians and Lebanese victims of military violence, occupation, and dehumanization by the Israeli government. Erin's best friend's family lives in the West Bank, so this is personal to her and many friends. Pray that God would change the hearts of Israel's leaders and bring justice and reconciliation to Palestinians and Lebanese. She asks that God would show us Americans how to be faithful representatives of the kingdom of God and how we can stop the mass destruction and killing (which more and more groups are labeling as genocide in Gaza) and help us to be peacemakers.
- Prayers are requested for the family and friends of Kristen Delaney, who died in a boating accident.
- Prayers are requested for the family and friends of James Monroe (J-Roe) Hand, a young man who died in a boating accident in Mobile Bay.



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CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Rebekah Abel Lamar
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Director of Food Services
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Marilyn Mills
Arthur Lewis
Sexton(s)

Send news for the e-newsletter or bulletin to Sally Ericson at sallyericson23@gmail.com.

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers on the pulpit are given
to the glory of God
by John and Jessica Mostellar.

Calendar of Events

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9
Second Sunday Lunch: The congregation is invited to enjoy lunch together after worship in Fellowship Hall.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11
Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays at 9 a.m. at the home of Ann Adams.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16
Blessing of the Backpacks: All students are invited to bring their backpacks to church for a special blessing during the worship service.

NEWS AND NOTES

Officer nominations: The Nominating Committee asks for your prayerful consideration as you submit nominations for Elders, Deacons and Trustees in the Class of 2029. Please use the QR code here to make your nominations.

Here is the list of current officers:

Elders: Class of 2026: Sage Arnold, Julie Otts, Sally Pearsall, Dave Trent, Scott Weldon
Class of 2027: Travis Goodloe, Neal Horner, George Oswalt, LeAnne Tamblyn, Meredith Wilson
Class of 2028: Casi Callaway, Kendall Dexter, Joy Gardner, John Peebles, Buzzy Riis
Clerk of Session: Bo Perry

Deacons: Class of 2026: David Ericson, Sallye Irvine, John McLeod, Knox McMurphy, Sandy Thomason, Richard Tippy
Class of 2027: John Ashbee, Amanda Dexter, Charlie Jackson, Marlene Jones, Dewey Parsons, Jeanie Schottgen
Class of 2028: Walt Ogburn, Betsy Otts, Elizabeth Ray

Trustees: Henry Morrissette, Chandler Ogburn, Julie Otts, Beth Rouse, Scott Weldon

McKemie Place: Each month on the second Friday, volunteers provide a light lunch for about 24 residents at McKemie Place, a women's shelter. Please call Lisa DeShazo at 251-591-1077 or Mary DeWitt Dukes at 504-920-1918 to volunteer on August 14, September 11 or October 9.

Flower dedications: To place flowers in the Sanctuary in memory of or in honor of a loved one, please contact Ann Adams at Adams-marion@att.net or 251-591-8586.

Calling all cooks: The Congregational Care Committee is asking for volunteers to help prepare food for Memorial Receptions, Take Them A Meal, and other GSPC events. If you are interested in preparing food for our congregation, please call the church office.

About Government Street Presbyterian Church

Government Street Presbyterian Church, known as the mother of Presbyterianism in Southern Alabama, was founded in 1831. This vibrant congregation has a long tradition of servant leadership and urban mission work in the heart of downtown Mobile. We welcome all to join us in responding to the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ. Worship has continued on this site since 1836, when the sanctuary, now a National Historic landmark, was completed.