



First Presbyterian Church

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

August 23, 2026, 11:00 AM



* Indicates that those who are able may stand

Bold type is spoken by the people.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

Facilities

VOLUNTARY:

Simple Gifts

Russell Schulz-Widmar

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Ann Hayes, Liturgist

ONE: Let First Presbyterian Church say,

ALL: If the Lord had not been on our side, where would we be?

*OPENING HYMN:

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

#65

CALL TO & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ONE We seek the will of God, but still find ourselves conformed to this world, instead of being transformed into God's image. Let us seek forgiveness for the ways we have turned away from justice and mercy, saying...

ALL: Almighty God, When faced with earthly powers that seem overwhelming, we crumble. We fear this world. We fear losing our status, our stability, our station more than we fear you. Forgive our shortcomings and teach us to trust in you when we take a risk for what we know is right.

SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

*RESPONSE HYMN:

Lord Have Mercy Upon Us

#575

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: If God was not on our side, we could not stand in the judgment. But God is with us, steadfast and faithful, as we seek to live in peace.

ALL: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

*GLORIA PATRI

#581

ALL: 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!

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Rev. Katie Long

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Exodus 1:8-2:10

P.47

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Romans 12:1-8

P.151

ANTHEM: Wade In the Water

African-American Spiritual
Roger Emerson, arr.

Wade in the water; wade in the water children.
Wade in the water; God's a-gonna trouble the water.
River Jordan is chilly and cold. Chills the body but not the soul.
If you get up there before I do, just tell my friends I'm comin' too.

THIRD SCRIPTURE LESSON: Matthew 16:13-20

P.17

ONE: Keep these words in your heart. The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Michael McLaughlin

*SERMON HYMN: Comfort, Comfort Now My People

#87

COMMUNAL 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.

*GREETINGS

After an exchange of Peace between the Pastor and the Congregation, we encourage you to greet one another. The Greetings will conclude with the first verse of *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*.

ONE: ...The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

ONE: Let us pass the peace...

**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

#306

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ONE: ... Lord, in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

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.

INVITATION TO GIVING

OFFERTORY: O Come and Mourn With Me Awhile

Evelyn Morrison

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

#606

**ALL: 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 OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN: I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

#700

*BENEDICTION

ONE: ... Alleluia!

ALL: Amen!

POSTLUDE:

Waltz Intermezzo

Dmitri Kabalevsky

REGULAR WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY

- **Higher Grounds Café** – 9:30am-11am, in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Religion & Culture Class** – 9:30am-10:30am, in room 6.
- **Nursery** – 9:30am-12:15pm - Ages 5 and under.
- **Children’s Sunday School** – 9:45am in Room 16
- **Faithful Living Class** 10am-10:45am, in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Adult Morning Bible Study** – 10am-10:45am, in the Library
- **Worship Service** – 11am, in the Sanctuary
- **Children’s Church** - 11:15am, in Fellowship Hall.

WEDNESDAY

- **Wednesday Night Book Study** – Dinner 5:15pm, study 6pm, *Inspired*, by Rachel Held Evens, Led by Rev. Long.
- **Wednesday Night Bible Study** – Dinner 5:15pm, study 6pm, Book of *Revelation*, Led by Rev. McLaughlin.
(Children’s church and nursery provided, 6pm.)
- **Choir Rehearsal** – 7:30pm, in the Sanctuary.

ELDERS:

2026: Cade Arnold, Josh Doré
2027: Sidonie Sansom, Dee Tompkins
2028: Ben Marsee, Donna Simpson

CLERK: Chris McCormick

DEACONS:

2026: Michelle Doré, Ron Ledbetter, Stacey Trent
2027: Kelly Appleton, Ann Hayes, Tony Lawson,
Colleen Mestayer, Gabrielle Pate, Shelley
Wiley
2028: Missy Moore, Liz Tompkins, Pat Wilhelm

BIRTHDAYS:

Smith, Eric 08/05
Fulcher, Katie 08/08
Wilhelm, Albert 08/11
Koci, Ezra 08/12
McGee, John 08/12
Duryee, Graham 08/16

Pate, Wyrick 08/16
Lawson, Tony 08/21
Chisam, Dustin 08/29
Remmert, Ava 08/29
Brady, Robert 08/30
Randolph, Bill 08/31

STAFF:

The Rev. Michael D. McLaughlin.....Pastor & Head of Staff
The Rev. Katie Long.....Dir. TTU PSA, Community Life Minister
Paul Thurmond..... Director of Music
Michelle Dore´Interim SoulSong Coordinator
Amy Ainsley.....Office Administrator

Website: www.firstprescookeville.org, Church Office: Tue.-Thur. 9:00am-3:00 pm,
Telephone: (931) 526-4424, E-Mail: office@firstprescookeville.org