



First Presbyterian Church

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 27, 2026, 11:00 AM



* Indicates that those who are able may stand

Bold type is spoken by the people.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTARY: O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

Larry Shackley

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Bobby Young, Liturgist

ONE: Listen, people of God!

ALL: Hear the wonders of our Creator!

ONE: God split the sea;

ALL: walls of water towered above.

ONE: God guided our ancestors in faith:

ALL: clouds by day, lightning by night.

ONE: God split open the rock;

ALL: water flowed like rivers.

ONE: God split open the heavens and met earth.

ALL: God meets us still.

*OPENING HYMN: People of the Lord

#632

CALL TO & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ONE God does not take pleasure in our suffering or delight in our failures but bids us to turn back to God's way and find eternal life. Let us make our confession, saying...

ALL: Holy God, we confess to you: We are not of the same mind. We do not share the same love. We act in selfish ambition and do not regard others as better than ourselves. We have not looked to the interests of others instead of ourselves. We do not embrace the humility of Jesus Christ. Forgive us. Continue to be at work in us, that we might serve each other as you served us, and reflect your glory in this world.

SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

*RESPONSE HYMN: Lord Have Mercy Upon Us

#575

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

ONE: When we lift up our souls to God, God does not put us to shame. God forgives us, leads us in the truth, and leads us in what is right.

ALL: Thanks be to God! Amen.

***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. Michael McLaughlin

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Exodus 17:1-7 P.61

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Philippians 2:1-13 P.186

ANTHEM: River in Judea *John Leavitt, arr.*

Often times I dream of music, of the river that freely flows.
And it sings a song sweeter than honey, one ev'rybody knows.
Late at night I hear it singing, then again when I wake at dawn.
And it fills me up with hope and goodwill, the will to go on.
There is a river in Judea that I heard of long ago.
And it's a singing, ringing river that that my soul cries out to know.
May the time not be too distant when we meet by the river shore.
'Til then dream of that wonderful day as we sing once more.

THIRD SCRIPTURE LESSON: Matthew 21:23-32 P.22

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: Change My Heart, O God #695**

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:

Anthem in G Major

Alexandre Guilmant

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:

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

#738

*BENEDICTION

ONE: ... Alleluia!

ALL: Amen!

POSTLUDE:

Fughetta

Domenico Zipoli

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:

Thurmond, Paul 10/01
Smith, Andrew 10/09
Kirby, Charlotte 10/11
Kumar, Katie 10/15

Burgess, Lois 10/17
Perkins, Jackson 10/25
Ledbetter, Ron 10/31

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

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