



First Presbyterian Church

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 13, 2026, 11:00 AM



* Indicates that those who are able may stand

Bold type is spoken by the people.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTARY: Rondo in C Major

Anton André

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jonathan Wiley, Liturgist

ONE: We bow with the rolling rocks.

ALL: God is our strength and our salvation.

ONE: We sing with the roaring rivers.

ALL: God is our justice and our joy.

ONE: We will never stop telling God's story.

ALL: God is the hope of our ancestors.

ONE: With all that we have and all that we are, we say:

ALL: God is so good!

*OPENING HYMN: Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

#234

CALL TO & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ONE We are not here to pass judgment on each other: all of us have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Therefore, let us go before God as we offer our confession, saying...

ALL: God our Judge, we admit we have double standards. We seek forgiveness for ourselves, but fail to forgive others. We seek relief for ourselves, but fail to seek relief for others. We seek leniency for ourselves, but fail to show that mercy to others. Forgive us, mighty God, and help us to forgive, showing others the same grace and mercy that you have generously shown to us.

SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

*RESPONSE HYMN: Lord Have Mercy Upon Us

#575

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

ONE: People of God, hear and believe: God does not deal with us according to our sins, but according to God's own steadfast love for us.

ALL: **As far as the east is from the west, so far God removes our sins from us. 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 15:1b-11, 20-21

P.59

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Romans 14:1-12

P.152

ANTHEM: There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Maurice Bevan

Text: Frederick William Faber

There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in his justice which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven;
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.
For the love of God is broader than the measure of man's mind;
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
But we make his love too narrow by false limits of our own;
And we magnify his strictness with a zeal he will not own.
There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed;
There is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.
There is grace enough for thousands of new worlds as great as this;
There is room for fresh creations in that upper home of bliss.
If our love were but more simple we should take him at his word;
And our lives would be all gladness in the joy of Christ our Lord.

THIRD SCRIPTURE LESSON: Matthew 18:21-35

P.19

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:** There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

#435

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: All Glory Be to God on High

James Coe

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: When We Are Living

#822

*BENEDICTION

ONE: ... Alleluia!

ALL: Amen!

POSTLUDE: Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

Robert Buckley Farlee

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:

Dore, Evangeline	09/04
Tompkins, Elizabeth	09/10
Mestayer, Colleen	09/12
McLaughlin, Michael	09/13
Reames, Tokuhiko	09/17

Abbot, Al	09/20
Reames, Kanako	09/20
Vanatta, Bill	09/22
Williams, Amber	09/27
Fillers, Virginia	09/29

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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