



First Presbyterian Church Macon

200 Years of God's Faithfulness

*First Presbyterian is a Welcoming Church in Downtown Macon
Committed to Knowing Christ and Making Him Known.*

August 23, 2026 · 9:00 · 11:15 AM

Welcome

TO OUR GUESTS

We want to welcome you today! More information about our church is available on our website at fpcmacon.org.

CHILDREN'S BIBLE LESSON

We provide a Bible lesson and music for children in Pre-K through second grade during the services. Children will be dismissed from the service and escorted to their classroom before the sermon. Please pick up your children after the first service or Sunday school on the second floor of Cornerstone. If this is your first Sunday at FPC, please walk your child to the Bible lesson to check them in.

NURSERY

Nursery is provided for 3K and under from 8:45 AM-12:15 PM. We also provide a mother/infant room located in the nursery with a live video feed of the service, as well as a "cry room" downstairs from the sanctuary for parents of "fussy" children with an audio feed. Ushers are available to direct you.

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given today to the glory of God and in loving memory of Richard A. Smith, M.D. by his wife, Betty Smith.

YOUR PRESENCE

Please let us know that you're here today by scanning the QR code.



Worshippers read text in bold.

FPC 200TH ANNIVERSARY (1826-2026): A MOMENT FROM OUR PAST

The 1950's in our nation was marked by post-war boom, the dawn of the Cold War and the Civil Rights Movement in the United States. It seemed to paraphrase the late British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, "the United States seemed to stand at the summit of the world." Like much of America, Macon experienced the post-war boom and many societal changes during this time too. The First Presbyterian Church was also changing. In 1952, the Building Improvement Fund was established. With the money raised the sanctuary was air-conditioned and the old ceiling fans were removed. In 1956 the church's roll was purged. The adjusted membership was 859. In that same year, because of the pressing need for more Sunday School space, a Planning Committee was commissioned to "make a thorough study of the church - its facilities, programs and personnel - and to make long-range recommendations for church development." This truly was a time for growth, and dreams and changes that still impact us today.

Corporate Worship

*Welcome to First Presbyterian! We are thankful you have chosen to worship with us today.
It is our hope and prayer that through the reading of God's Word, prayer,
the corporate singing and readings, and the preached Word, you
will see Christ clearly and desire to know Him more.*

Rise with the Sun

Thompson, Robinson, & Challies

1. There's a song that's sung through the na - tions, of joy - ful thanks to the king,
2. Hear the an - them sung in the is - lands, where sun first touch - es the earth.
3. I will add my voice to the cho - rus of man - y peo - ple and tongues,

where the count - less saints who are res - cued praise Je - sus who set them all free. (to v2)
O - ver land and sea it ad - vanc - es, now joined by the saints of this church. →
for we share the gift of sal - va - tion and share in the life yet to come. →

*Rise with the sun, lift up his name. All through the earth we sing out his praise.

East to the west, night to the day, join in the song and sing out his praise.

And the church will sing: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you Lord.
And the church will sing: Shèng-jíé, San-to, Ka - dosh are you Lord.

You're the glo - ri - ous one, we lift up your name. And the church will sing: Ta-bu, ^
You're the king who was raised, we lift up your name. And the church will sing: Ho - ly,

Hei - lig, O - li are you Lord. You're the lamb who was slain, we lift up your name.
ho - ly, ho - ly are you Lord. Now you reign ev - er - more, we lift up your name. *

^Fijian, German, Australian Creole, Mandarin, Spanish, & Hebrew

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 103:1-4

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,
who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.

PRAYER FOR GOD'S PRESENCE

HYMN OF PRAISE 77 - *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*

Verses 1-3, 5

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; to His feet your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who, like me, his praise should sing?
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King!

Praise Him for His grace and favor to our fathers in distress;
Praise Him, still the same forever, slow to chide and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious in His faithfulness!

Fatherlike, He tends and spares us; well our feeble frame He knows.
In His hands He gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely as His mercy goes.

Angels, help us to adore him: you behold Him face to face.
Sun and moon, bow down before Him; dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Hebrews 1:1-4

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,
but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son,
whom he appointed the heir of all things,
through whom also he created the world.

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature,
and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited
is more excellent than theirs.

****Seating Interlude****

CALL TO CONFESSION

Isaiah 1:16-18

Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;
remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes;
cease to do evil,
learn to do good;
seek justice,
correct oppression;
bring justice to the fatherless,
plead the widow's cause.

“Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD:
though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red like crimson,
they shall become like wool.

CORPORATE CONFESSION

O most just and gracious God,
 we confess that we have sinned and fallen short of your holiness.
We have hated our brother in our hearts.
We too easily bear grudges against those made in your image.
We walk away from our neighbors in need, wrapped up in our own concerns.
We have not loved others well but have sought our desires above others.
Be merciful toward us Father.
Grant that we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness;
 through Jesus our Redeemer.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

SCRIPTURE OF GRACE

Romans 5:1-2

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM 86

What is faith in Jesus Christ?

Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace,
 whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation,
 as he is offered to us in the gospel.

There is One Gospel

J. Robinson and R. Thompson



1. There is one Gos-pel on which I stand for all e - ter - ni - ty.
2. *There is one Gos-pel to which I cling, all else I count as loss.*
3. There is one Gos-pel where hope is found, the emp - ty tomb still speaks.



It is my sto - ry, my Fa - ther's plan, the Son has res - cued me.
For there, where jus - tice and mer - cy meet, He saved me on the cross.
For death could not keep my Sav - ior down, He lives and I am free.



Oh, what a Gos-pel, oh what a peace. My high-est joy and my deep - est need.
No more I boast in what I can bring, no more I car - ry the weight of sin.
Now on my Sav - ior I fix my eyes, my life is His and His hope is mine.



Now and for - ev - er, He is my light. I stand in the Gos-pel of Je - sus Christ.
For He has brought me from death to life. I stand in the Gos-pel of Je - sus Christ.
For He has pro - mised I too, will rise. I stand in the Gos-pel of Je - sus Christ.



4. And in this Gos-pel, the church is one, we do not walk a - lone.



We have His Spi - rit as we press on to lead us safe - ly home.



*And when in glo - ry still I will sing of this old sto - ry that res - cues me.



Praise to my Sav - ior, the King of life, I stand in the Gos-pel of Je - sus Christ.*

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PASTORAL PRAYER

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Online giving may be done by texting **fpcmacon** to 73256 or visiting the church website at www.fpcmacon.org.

Run to Jesus D. Zimmer & N. Stiff

*Has your grief brought you low? Has your faith lost its hold?
Your Deliverer knows what your need is.
He endured every test; He has felt your distress.
As you weep, He has wept; run to Jesus.*

*Is your shame all you see? Are your sins dark and deep?
Your High Priest lives to plead your forgiveness.
What you owed, He has paid. What was dead, He has raised.
All your guilt for His grace; run to Jesus.*

*He will lift your head; He will be your rest.
What you owed, He has paid; What was dead, He has raised.
All your guilt for His grace, run to Jesus.*

*Though the journey is long, Though the night tarries on,
Your Redeemer is strong in your weakness.
He will carry you through; He is faithful and true.
He will make all things new; run to Jesus.*

Children K4-second grade are welcome to leave the worship service for a Bible Lesson in Cornerstone (BLC). We encourage children third grade and above to continue in corporate worship with their parents.

HYMN OF PREPARATION 535 - *O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus*

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free;
Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me.
Underneath me, all around me, in the current of thy love;
Leading onward, leading homeward, to thy glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Spread his praise from shore to shore;
How he loveth, ever loveth, changeth never, nevermore;
How he watches o'er his loved ones, died to call them all his own;
How for them he intercedeth, watcheth o'er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Love of ev'ry love the best:
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing, 'tis a haven sweet of rest.
O the deep, deep love of Jesus! 'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;
And it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts me up to thee.

PREACHING OF GOD'S WORD - Justin Leslein

Pressing On

Philippians 3:7-16

BENEDICTION

DOXOLOGY 731

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PASTORAL STAFF

Parker Agnew
Interim Pastor
Assistant Pastor to Senior Adults
pagnew@fpcmacon.org

Justin Leslein
Executive Pastor
jleslein@fpcmacon.org

Elliott Everitt
Assistant Pastor to Middle Adults
eeveritt@fpcmacon.org

STAFF

Annie Burriss
Interim Nursery Coordinator
aburriss@fpcmacon.org

Mercy Chamberlin
Administrative Assistant
mchamberlin@fpcmacon.org

Chris Gerwig
Director of Young Adult Ministry
cgerwig@fpcmacon.org

Alan Harris
Facilities Manager
aharris@fpcmacon.org

Tammy Jones
Pastoral Assistant
tjones@fpcmacon.org

April Kitchell
Missions Secretary
missions@fpcmacon.org

Rebecca Lanning
Choir Director
Rebecca.s.lanning@gmail.com

Landis Mauldin
Youth Assistant
lmauldin@fpcmacon.org

Michael McGhee
Music Director/Organist
michaelclarkmcghee@gmail.com

Wade Miller
Financial Director
wmiller@fpcmacon.org

Calleene Newberry
Administrative Assistant
Communications Director
cnewberry@fpcmacon.org

David Newberry
Director of Student Ministries
dnewberry@fpcmacon.org

Spring Rawlings
Director of Children's Ministry
srawlings@fpcmacon.org

Tom Rule
Pianist
tom@tomrule.info

Mary Anne Shipley
Director of Women's Ministry
maryanneshipley1@gmail.com

Mary Frances Stanford
Children's Music
mstanford@fpcmacon.org

Mary Margaret Williams
Children's Ministry Assistant
mwilliams@fpcmacon.org

Susanne Young
Interim Nursery Coordinator
syoung@fpcmacon.org

Leading in Worship Today
Justin Leslein, Executive Pastor
Elliott Everitt, Assistant Pastor
Michael McGhee, Music Director/Organist
Ashleigh Nottingham, Soloist

CHURCH OFFICERS

The Session

Class of 2026 - Chuck Duggan, Mike Hall, Bobby Newman, Nick Rios, Tony Rodriguez, Blake Sullivan

Class of 2027 - Ves Berry, Kevin Bridges, John Carey, Hal Foshee, Mike Peed, Kim Thompson

Class of 2028 - Adam Blakely, Julian Hutchins, Chris Inhulsen, Bob Johnson, Wynne Pearson, Alfred Sams, Robert Stamps, Will Stanford, Jay Strickland, Bill Taylor

The Diaconate

Class of 2026 - Dave Grant, Darrell Hallman, Jeremy Johnson, John David Miller, Gray Widstrom, Jeff Wilhelm, Calder Willingham

Class of 2027 - Chris Anderson, Cameron Garvin, Jeff Hill, Kevin Lennon, Jim Self, Brian Stone

Class of 2028 - Rickie Baucom, Phil Clark, Michael Garud, John Kitchens, Phillip Leonhard, Troy Nash, Joey Rogers

Trustees

Rob Danner, Bruce Jones, Ray Pearson, Buddy Ponder, Lowry Tribble

YOUTH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Class	Description	Topic	Room Location
Nursery & Special Needs		New Testament	Nursery
Children	4K-5th Grade	New Testament	Cornerstone
Middle School Youth	6-8 Grades	God's Promises	Education Building 2nd Floor
High School Youth	9-12 Grades	Christian Doctrine	Education Building 3rd Floor
Young Adults	College/20s-30s	Joshua & Judges	Basement M102
Foundations	20s-30s	Romans	Education Building
Immanuel	Mid 40s-50s	Lamentations	Education Building E102
Shepherds	50s-60s	Mark	Brickyard M102
Trinity	60s+	Equipping Yourself	Education Building E103
Covenant	70s+	John 4	Education Building E105
Canterbury	70s-80s	Studies in the Psalms	Education Building E104
Connections	Mixed Ages	Reformed Church History	Gathering Place
Generations	Mixed Ages	Romans	Basement M100
Pathways	Mixed Ages	Genesis	Brickyard M103

Announcements



Small Group Leader & Volunteer

Training. All of our small group leaders and ministry volunteers are invited to join us for Small Group Leader Training on August 26. Dinner will be catered by Panda Express. Dinner 5:15-6PM | Training: 6-7:30PM. \$8/Adult | \$6/Child | \$30 family max. Childcare will be provided. Scan QR code to register and pay.



Wednesday Night Kickoff Dinner

Join us September 2 at 5:15 PM in the Fellowship Hall for our first Wednesday Night of the Fall Semester. Dinner will be FREE of charge and catered by Margarita's Mexican Grill. Registration is REQUIRED. Please register by Tuesday, September 1 at noon. Scan QR code to register.



Women of all ages are invited to join us at **6:30 PM** on **Sunday, August 23**, at the **home of Terri Harper** (1435 Twin Pines Drive) for our **Ladies Fall Kickoff!** It's a wonderful opportunity to make new friends, learn about

ways to get involved, and build community. Bring a friend and an appetizer to share!



Women's Bible Study

Women of all ages are invited to study the Psalms of Ascent together beginning September 2. Choose from Wednesday mornings, 9:30-11:30AM, or evenings, 6:15-7:30PM.

Contact Mary Anne Shipley at 478-719-7306 for more information.



Join us for our Inquirer's Class

- New to First Presbyterian Church?
- Interested in church membership?
- Wondering what Christianity is all about?

The Inquirer's Class is an informative 6 week course, taught by Executive Pastor Justin Leslein that will help you assimilate into church life at FPC.

The Inquirer's Class begins Sunday, September 13 at 10:10AM. Location TBA. *Please let us know if you're coming by calling Tammy Jones at 746.3223 or by emailing tjones@fpcmacon.org.*



Men's Fall Bible Study

Join us Thursdays beginning September 17 from 7:00-8:00 AM in the Connections Classroom (Gathering Place). This 13-week study will walk through the book of

Ephesians using *Let's Study Ephesians* by Sinclair Ferguson. Coffee and donuts will be available beginning at 6:30 AM, and the first 20 attendees on September 17 will receive a free study guide. We hope you'll join us!

Upcoming Events

August 17 - September 4 - *Sanctuary closed*
August 30 - 3rd - 5th *Grade Pool Party @ the Stamps*
September 2 - *Wednesday Activities Begin*
September 6 - *Sr. High Youth Kickoff*
September 18-20 - *Equip Conference*
October 2-4 - *Jr. High Fall Retreat*
October 4 - *Outdoor Worship (9 AM Only)*
October 9-11 - *Young Adult Fall Retreat*
October 10 - *Men's Day Hike*
October 18 - *Fall Picnic*
October 25 - *Proclaim*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

682 Mulberry Street · Macon, GA 31201 · 478.746.3223 · www.fpcmacon.org