



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.*

September 20, 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.

SPIRITUAL CARE

If you would like to speak to someone about what it means to know Jesus Christ or you have any spiritual need or question, please speak to one of the pastors after the service.

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 Mr. and Mrs. R.A. Bowen, Mrs. Connie B. Hart, Mrs. Ann M. Bowen, Brian Bean and Lois Bowen by the family.

YOUR PRESENCE

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



SCAN ME

Worshippers read text in bold.

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

On September 14, 1972, the First Presbyterian Church was entered on the National Register of Historic Places. A few weeks later, on October 12, Ed Corson, a writer for the Telegraph, described his first visit to First Presbyterian Church in a series written for the paper entitled, "A Stranger in Church." He relates that the sermon on that day he and his family visited was "How to Prosper." The recipe, wrote Corson, was "Give for the glory of God, sacrificially."

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.*

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

1 Peter 1:3-5

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,
who by God's power are being guarded through faith
for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

In this greatly rejoice!

PRAYER FOR GOD'S PRESENCE

HYMN OF PRAISE 181 - *We Come, O Christ, to You*

Verses 1-4

We come, O Christ, to you, true Son of God and man,
By whom all things consist, in whom all life began:
In you alone we live and move, and have our being in your love.

You are the Way to God, your blood our ransom paid;
In you we face our Judge and Maker unafraid.
Before the throne absolved we stand, your love has met your law's demand.

You are the living Truth! All wisdom dwells in you,
The Source of every skill, the one eternal TRUE!
O great I AM! In you we rest, sure answer to our every quest.

You only are true Life, to know you is to live
The more abundant life that earth can never give:
O risen Lord! We live in you: in us each day your life renew!

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****

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 3:1-7

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM 20-22

What is the misery of man's fallen condition?

**By their fall all mankind lost fellowship with God
and brought his anger and curse on themselves.**

**They are therefore subject to all the miseries of this life, to death itself,
and to the pains of hell forever.**

Did God leave all mankind to die in sin and misery?

**From all eternity and merely because it pleased him,
God chose some to have everlasting life.**

**These he freed from sin and misery by a covenant of grace
and brought them to salvation by a redeemer.**

Who is the redeemer of God's elect?

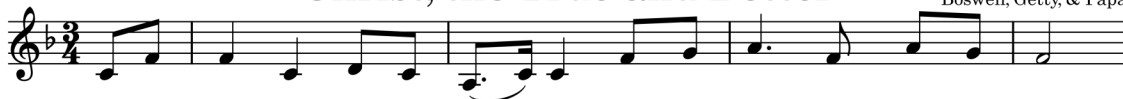
**The only redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ,
the eternal Son of God, who became man.**

**He was and continues to be God and man in two distinct natures
and one person forever.**

HYMN OF RESPONSE

Christ, the True and Better

Boswell, Getty, & Papa



1. Christ, the true and bet-ter A - dam, Son of God and Son of man,
2. Christ, the true and bet-ter I - saac, hum - ble Son of sac - ri - fice,
3. Christ, the true and bet-ter Mo - ses, called to lead a peo - ple home,
4. Christ, the true and bet-ter Da - vid, low - ly shep - herd, might - y king.



who, when tempt - ed in the gar - den, nev - er yield - ed, nev - er sinned.
who would climb the fear - ful moun-tain, there to of - fer up his life.
stand - ing bold to earth - ly pow - ers, God's great glo - ry to be known.
He the cham - pion in the bat - tle; where, O death, is now thy sting?



He who makes the man - y right - eous brings us back to life a - gain.
Laid with faith up - on the al - tar, fath - er's joy and on - ly son;
With his arms stretched wide to heav - en, see the wa - ters part in two;
In our place he bled and con - quered; crown him Lord of maj - es - ty.



Dy - ing, he re - versed the curse; then ris - ing crushed the ser - pent's head.
there sal - va - tion was pro - vid - ed, oh, what full and bound - less love. →
see, the veil is torn for - ev - er, cleansed with blood we pass now through.
His shall be the throne for - ev - er; we shall e'er his peo - ple be. →



Chorus: A - men, a - men, from be - gin - ning to end.



Christ the sto - ry, his the glo - ry; al - le - lu - ia, a - men.

MINISTRY REPORT

Tim Grider

Reformed University Fellowship

Columbus State University

PASTORAL PRAYER

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

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

What God Ordains Is Always Good arr. Dan Forrest

*What God ordains is always good: His will is just and holy.
As He directs my life for me, I follow meek and lowly.
My God indeed in ev'ry need knows how well He will shield me;
To Him, then, I will yield me.*

*What God ordains is always good: He is my friend and Father;
He suffers naught to do me harm though many storms may gather.
Now I may know both joy and woe; someday I shall see clearly
That He has loved me dearly.*

*What God ordains is always good; this truth remains unshaken.
Though sorrow, need, or death be mine, I shall not be forsaken.
I fear no harm, for in His arm, He shall embrace and shield me;
So to my God I yield me.*

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 521 - *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil. (*Refrain*)

His oath, his covenant, his blood
Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay. (*Refrain*)

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found;
Dressed in his righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne. (*Refrain*)

PREACHING OF GOD'S WORD - Ligon Duncan

Pardon for Sin, and a Peace that Endureth: A Prayer You Need
Exodus 34:1-9

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.

Dr. J. Ligon Duncan III is the Chancellor & CEO of Reformed Theological Seminary and the John E. Richards Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology. He served as Senior Minister of the historic First Presbyterian Church (1837) in Jackson, MS for 17 years (1996-2013). He is co-founder of Together for the Gospel, Senior Fellow of the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood (having served as both Chairman of the Board and President), and was President of the Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals from 2004-2012. Duncan served as the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America (2004-2005).

He studied at Furman University, Greenville, SC (BA); Covenant Theological Seminary, St. Louis (MDiv, MA, cum laude); and the University of Edinburgh, Scotland (Ph.D.). Duncan has edited, written, and contributed to numerous books. Ligon and his wife Anne reside in Jackson, MS. They have two adult children.

PASTORAL STAFF

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Leading in Worship Today
Elliott Everitt, Assistant Pastor
Ligon Duncan, Guest Preacher
Michael McGhee, Music Director/Organist
Rebecca Lanning, Choir Director
Tom Rule, Pianist
Chancel Choir

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	30s-40s	Ruth	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	Brickyard M103
Connections	Mixed Ages	Reformed Church History	Gathering Place
Generations	Mixed Ages	Hebrews	Basement M100
Pathways	Mixed Ages	Genesis	Education Building E104

Announcements

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER



FIVE DOLLARS



Wednesday Night Dinner

Join us for Wednesday Night Dinner on **September 23** from 5:15-6 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

Menu: Publix Subs, Chips, Fruit, Cookies

Cost:

- \$8/adult, \$6/child, \$30 family max.

Scan QR code to register.



Outdoor Worship Service | Oct 4

We will have an **outdoor worship** service on **October 4** (weather permitting) during the **9 AM service ONLY**. Please remember to bring your chair!



Church Wide Fall Picnic | Oct. 18

Join us for our Fall Church-Wide Picnic on **Sunday, October 18, from 4:00-7:00 p.m.** at the First Presbyterian Day School Soccer Field! Enjoy an afternoon of

fellowship, games, music, inflatables, a free dinner, and more. **Please bring a dessert to share.**



Save the Date | Proclaim! | Oct. 25

Join us Sunday, October 25, at 5PM in the Sanctuary for Proclaim! An evening of congregational singing. This year's theme is "The Joy of Being God's People."

Upcoming Events

- October 2-4 - Jr. High Fall Retreat
- October 4 - Outdoor Worship (9AM Only)
- October 9 -11 - Young Adult Fall Retreat
- October 10 - Men's Day Hike
- October 14 - NO Midweek Fellowship
- October 18 - Church Wide Fall Picnic
- October 25 - Missions Refresh Sunday
- October 25 - Proclaim
- November 7 - Men's BBQ Cookoff



Young Adult Fall Retreat | Oct 9-11

All young adults are invited to join us for our annual Fall Retreat in **Pine Mountain, Georgia!** Come enjoy a weekend away filled with fellowship, fun, and time together.

Cost: \$75/person and includes lodging, breakfast and dinner on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday.



Men's Day Hike | October 10

Join us for a day hike at **Providence Canyon State Park** on **Saturday, October 10!** All experience and hiking levels are welcome. We'll carpool from FPD at 7:00 AM, enjoy the hike, and then head to Columbus for lunch together.

This is a **FREE** event
Scan QR Code to Register



Men's Ski Trip | January 14-18

Men of all ages are invited to join us for our annual **Men's Ski Trip to Park City, Utah!** The **cost is \$375 and includes lodging**; participants are responsible for travel and skiing expenses. All experience levels are welcome! Come enjoy a great weekend of fellowship, adventure, and fun with the men of FPC. **Spots are limited! Scan QR code to register.**



Sr. High Ski Trip | Feb. 13-16

Sr. High Ski Trip Registration is Now Live! **Current 9th-12th grade students** are invited to join us for our annual Sr. High Ski Trip to **Winterplace, West Virginia, February 13-16** over Presidents' Day weekend! Enjoy two days on the slopes along with worship, teaching, and a great weekend of fellowship.

Scan QR code to register today!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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