



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 27, 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 Louis and Mary Verner Philhower by the family.

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 most significant event that would affect the First Presbyterian Church of Macon, GA occurred in 1973. Growing concerns over the liberal drift of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. in matters of biblical purity and fidelity, reformed doctrine and distinctives, peace among brethren, mission efforts, and property ownership led to the members' discontent with the church's affiliation with the P.C.U.S. denomination. On Easter Sunday in 1973 the congregation of First Presbyterian voted to separate from the Augusta-Macon Presbytery and withdraw from the P.C.U.S. to become a part of the Continuing Presbyterian Church movement. This led to the formation of the new denomination, The National Presbyterian Church which was formed in December 1973. The next year, this new denomination was renamed to the Presbyterian Church in America. Today our denomination has over 400,000 communicant members. The stated goal of the PCA is to be "faithful to the Scriptures, true to the Reformed Faith and obedient to the Great Commission."

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.*

GATHERING SONG 660 - *O God Beyond All Praising*

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
And sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
For we can only wonder at every gift you send,
At blessings without number and mercies without end:
We lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
We honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
That we who know your favor may serve you as our King,
And whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
We'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:
To marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
And make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 47:1-2, 6-8

Clap your hands, all peoples!
Shout to God with loud songs of joy!
For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared,
a great king over all the earth.

Sing praises to God, sing praises!
Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
For God is the King of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm!
God reigns over the nations;
God sits on his holy throne.

HYMN OF PRAISE - *Crown Him With Many Crowns*

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless king through all eternity.

Crown him the Son of God before the worlds began,
And ye, who tread where He hath trod, crown him the Son of Man;
Who every grief hath known that wrings the human breast,
And takes and bears them for His own, that all in him may rest.

Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,
And rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save;
His glories now we sing who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of heaven, enthroned in worlds above;
Crown him the king, to whom is given the wondrous name of Love,
Crown him with many crowns, as thrones before him fall.
Crown him, ye kings, with many crowns, for He is King of all.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Philippians 2:5-11

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God,
did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself,
by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

****Seating Interlude****

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

David Emery Carter

Covenant Child of David and Carly Carter

CALL TO CONFESSION - Isaiah 55:1-3, 6-7

"Come, everyone who thirsts,
 come to the waters;
and he who has no money,
 come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
 without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
 and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,
 and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
 hear, that your soul may live;
and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
 my steadfast, sure love for David.

"Seek the LORD while he may be found;
 call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake his way,
 and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,
 and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much the evil desires of our own hearts.
We have willingly broken your holy laws.
We have left undone those things which we ought to have done;
 and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.
Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive us all of our sins.
Turn our wandering hearts back to you,
 and lead us by your Holy Spirit in the way of righteousness, holiness, and truth.

SILENT CONFESSION

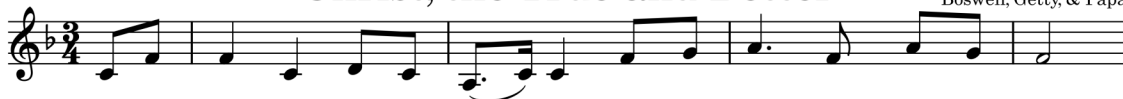
WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT - Romans 5:18-19

Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

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.

PASTORAL PRAYER

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

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

Sing a New Song H. Schütz/arr. C. Jennings

*Sing a new song to God the Lord. Sing and give praise with one accord.
For His salvation He doth give, that through His mercy we may live.*

*Worship the Lord in holiness, hymns of great joy to Him address.
Honor His works and bless His name. His grace and truth to all proclaim*

*Heaven above and earth below, ocean and fields His glories show.
All of God's creatures sing His praise, Let us now, too, our voices raise.
Glory and thanks to Him belong. Honor Him evermore in song.*

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.

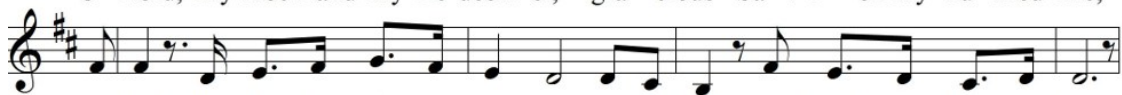
HYMN OF PREPARATION

O Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer

Nathan Stiff



O Lord, my Rock and my Re-deem-er, great - est trea-sure of my long-ing soul,
O Lord, my Rock and my Re-deem-er, strong de - fend-er of my wea - ry heart,
O Lord, my Rock and my Re-deem-er, gra - cious Sa - vior of my ru - ined life,



my God, like You there is no oth - er; true de-light is found in You a-lone.
my sword to fight the cruel de-ceiv-er and my shield a-gainst his hate-ful darts,
my guilt and cross laid on Your shoul-ders, in my place You suf-fered, bled, and died.



Your grace, a well too deep to fath - om, Your love ex-ceeds the heav-ens' reach;
my song when en - e-mies sur - round me, my hope when tides of sor-row rise,

*You rose, the grave and death are con-quer-ed. You broke my bonds of sin and shame.



Your truth, a fount of per-fect wis-dom, my high-est good, and my un-end-ing need.
my joy when tri - als are a-bound-ing, Your faith-ful-ness, my ref-uge in the night.

O Lord, my Rock and my Re-deem-er, may all my days bring glo-ry to Your Name*.

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PREACHING OF GOD'S WORD - Marlin Harris

Revelation 3:14-22

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.

Marlin Harris is our guest preacher today. Marlin is the RUF campus minister at Mercer University. He grew up on the mission field in Paraguay before moving to Alabama in 1999. He attended Mercer University and Reformed Theological Seminary. Marlin and his wife, Caroline, married in 2011 and have three children, Marlin IV, Elizabeth, and Mack.

PASTORAL STAFF

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Leading in Worship Today
Justin Leslein, Executive Pastor
Marlin Harris, 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

Join us for Wednesday Night Dinner on **September 30** from 5:15-6 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

Menu: Chick-Fil-A, fruit, chips
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