



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 6, 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 Don Blackburn 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

In Macon, Georgia's Central City, Kristina Simms writes, "In Macon the relatively quiet and constructive 1950's were to be followed by massive changes in the 1960's and 1970's. Through the upheavals, each decade held within itself positive trends that would be seen to reach fruition later." (Macon, Georgia's Central City, page 79) What was true of Macon and the nation in general, was also true for the First Presbyterian Church. The era of the 1960's was a time of building, a time of growth and a time of continuing change. By 1962, church membership had grown to 1,125. During this period, the Session and the Diaconate faced many challenges with facilities and improvements had to be made. There were changes in election procedure, changes in ministers, changes in the church property and grounds, there were many, many changes. But God does not change and he kept the church on track and moving forward.

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

Psalm 117

Praise the LORD, all nations!

Extol him, all peoples!

For great is his steadfast love toward us,

and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

Praise the LORD!

PRAYER FOR GOD'S PRESENCE

HYMN OF PRAISE 165 - *Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim*

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,
And publish abroad his wonderful name;
The name, all victorious, of Jesus extol;
His kingdom is glorious and rules over all.

God ruleth on high, almighty to save;
And still he is nigh - his presence we have.
The great congregation his triumph shall sing,
Ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.

Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!
Let all cry aloud and honor the Son.
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
Fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.

Then let us adore, and give him his right,
All glory and pow'r, and wisdom and might,
All honor and blessing, with angels above,
And thanks never ceasing for infinite love.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Colossians 1:15-20

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.
For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth,
 visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities -
 all things were created through him and for him.
And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
And he is the head of the body, the church.
He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,
 that in everything he might be preminent.
For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
 and through him to reconcile to himself all things,
 whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

****Seating Interlude****

SCRIPTURE READING

John 6:43-59

Jesus answered them, "Do not grumble among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me - not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever." Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.

PASTORAL PRAYER

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

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

We RememberStiff, Zimmer, and Shive

*Hear the invitation: "Come to mercy's banquet," taste and see;
Where the poor and empty trade their lack for plenty, taste and see.*

*Jesus, we remember, Your sacrifice for sin, we take and eat and live
And remember, no greater love than this, we take and drink and live and remember.*

*Grace for our betrayal, set at Calvary's table, taste and see.
Streams of pardon opened, bread from Heaven broken, taste and see.*

*Jesus, we remember, Your sacrifice for sin, we take and eat and live
And remember, no greater love than this, we take and drink and live and remember.*

*All by Your grace we now draw near, we come in faith to meet you here.
We will proclaim the love you've shown until the day You bring us home.*

*Jesus, we remember, Your sacrifice for sin, we take and eat and live
And remember, no greater love than this, we take and drink and live and remember.*

*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.*

PREACHING OF GOD'S WORD - Elliott Everitt

Meeting Christ In Forgiveness

2 Corinthians 2-5-11

⁵ Now if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but in some measure - not to put it too severely - to all of you. ⁶ For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, ⁷ so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. ⁸ So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him. ⁹ For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything. ¹⁰ Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, ¹¹ so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

HYMN OF PREPARATION - *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*

Jesus, keep me near the cross; there a precious fountain
Free to all, a healing stream, flows from Calv'ry's mountain
In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever.
Till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

Near the cross my trembling soul heard the Savior calling.
There He died that I may know grace and peace abounding
In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever.
Till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me.
Help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me.
In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever.
Till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

HYMN OF RESPONSE

Jerusalem

Robinson, Thompson, and Kleyn



See Him in Je - ru - sa - lem, walk - ing where the crowds are.
See Him there up - on the hill; hear the scorn and laugh - ter.
See Him there up - on the cross, now no long - er breath - ing.
See the emp - ty tomb to - day; death could not con - tain Him.

Once these streets had sung to Him, now they cry for mur - der.
Si - lent as a lamb He waits, pray - ing to the Fath - er.
Dust that formed the watch - ing crowds, takes the blood of Je - sus.
Once the Ser - vant of the world, now in vic - t'ry reign - ing.

Such a frail and lone - ly Man hold - ing up the hea - vy cross.
See the King who made the sun and the moon and shin - ing stars
Feel the earth is shak - ing now, see the veil is split in two.
*Lift your voic - es to the One, who is seat - ed on the throne.

See Him walk - ing in Je - ru - sa - lem on the road to save us.
let the sold - iers hold and nail him down, so that he could save them.
And He stood be - fore the wrath of God, shield - ing sin - ners with His blood.
See Him in the new Je - ru - sa - lem, praise the One who saved us!*

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BENEDICTION

*As you exit, deacons will be at the door to receive the Deacon's Fund Offering.
Funds received are used for deeds of mercy for members of our congregation.*

*Leading in Worship Today
Justin Leslein, Executive Pastor
Elliott Everitt, Assistant Pastor
Michael McGhee, Music Director/Organist
Mary Frances Stanford, Soloist*

PASTORAL STAFF

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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	Education Building E104
Connections	Mixed Ages	Reformed Church History	Gathering Place
Generations	Mixed Ages	Romans	Basement M100
Pathways	Mixed Ages	Genesis	Brickyard M103

Announcements



Equip Conference 2026

Sept 18-20 | "Living Life with God"

Join us for Equip 2026 as **Dr. Ligon Duncan** explores how Covenant Theology helps us better understand Scripture, find assurance of salvation, rest in God's grace and forgiveness, and faithfully live the Christian life. We'll kick off the conference with dinner and one session on Friday evening, followed by two sessions on Saturday.

On Sunday, Dr. Duncan will join us for a special Q&A during the Sunday School hour. **Scan QR code to register today!** Visit www.fpcmacon.org/equip for more information.



Jr. High Fall Retreat | Oct. 2-4

Current 6th-8th grade students are invited to join us for our Jr. High Fall Retreat in Copper Hill, Tennessee! Centered around "Pressing On," the weekend will include fellowship, teaching, and time together in God's Word. The group will go white water rafting on the Ocoee River, with a choice of paintball, a high ropes course, or horseback riding. **Cost: \$175.**



Wednesday Night Dinner

Join us for Wednesday Night Dinner on **September 9** from 5:15-6 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

Menu: Fatty's pizza, salad, fruit

Cost:

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

Scan QR code to register.



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 in Room E106. Please let us know if you're coming by calling Tammy Jones at 478-746-3223 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!



**NO KID SLEEPS
ON THE FLOOR
IN OUR TOWN!**

Jeremiah Project Bedding Drive

Jeremiah Project is partnering with Sleep in Heavenly Peace to provide safe, comfortable beds for children in our community. **Help us fill the display bed in the Brick Yard with new twin-size sheets, pillows, comforters, and other bedding for local children in need.** Learn more by contacting **Jeff Wilhelm** at jeffwilhelm13@gmail.com or by visiting www.shpbeds.org/chapter/ga-macon

Upcoming Events

- September 6 - Sr. High Kickoff
- September 18-20 - Equip
- 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 18 - Church Wide Fall Picnic
- October 25 - Proclaim

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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