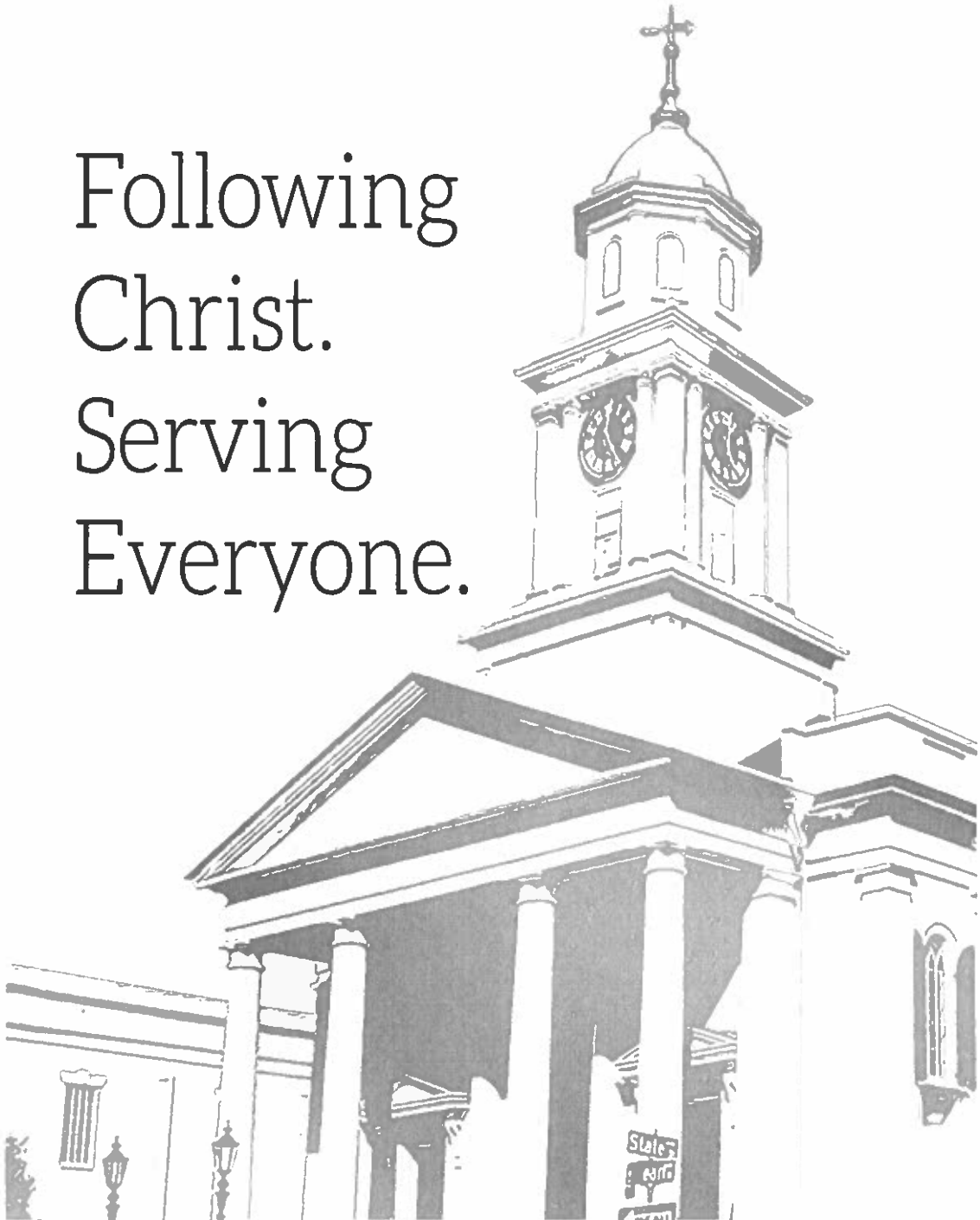




First Presbyterian Church of Natchez

Following
Christ.
Serving
Everyone.



First Presbyterian Church Natchez

Morning Worship

Third Sunday in Lent

March 3, 2024 ~ 10:30 a.m.

The Rev. Dr. Joan W. Gandy, Minister

The Rev. Chase Caldwell, Ministry Assistant

Mr. Vincent Bache III, Director of Music and Organist

THE GATHERING

Westminster Chimes

The chiming of the hour signals to us that it is time to be seated.

Now let us direct our hearts to the One who calls us here!

Prelude

Prelude on 'Ellers'

Robert Hebble

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Joan Gandy

Call to Worship

Deuteronomy 6:4-7

The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.

Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart.

Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

Praise the Lord!

The Lord's name be praised!

*Processional Hymn 667: *When Morning Gilds the Skies*

LAUDES DOMINI

667 When Morning Gilds the Skies

1 When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing
 2 Does sad - ness fill my mind? A so - lace here I
 3 Let earth's wide cir - cle round in joy - ful notes re -
 4 Be this, while life is mine, my can - ti - cle di -

cries: may Je - sus Christ be praised! A -
 find: may Je - sus Christ be praised! Or
 sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let
 vine: may Je - sus Christ be praised! Be

like at work and prayer to Je - sus I re -
 fades my earth - ly bliss? My com - fort still is
 air and sea and sky from depth to height re -
 this the e - ter - nal song through all the a - ges

pair: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 this: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 ply: may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 long: may Je - sus Christ be praised!

This is not just a morning hymn, though this excerpt from an English translation of an early 19th-century German text may not convey how thoroughly the original deals with different kinds of time throughout the day. The tune was composed as a setting for this English text.

Offering our lives in the life of Christ's church

Join in the ministries of your church as God calls you!

Confession of Sin

The congregation joins in Call to Confession and Unison Prayer of Confession.

After silent prayer, all sing the *Kyrie* (*Lord, Have Mercy*)

Call to Confession

from Ambrose of Milan (c. 339-397)

Merciful God, save us from our sin and let your Holy Spirit burn in us.

Take away our hearts of stone and give us hearts of flesh – to love and adore you, to follow and enjoy you, to delight in you forever.

Unison Confession of Sin

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not always loved you with a pure heart or loved our neighbor as we promise to do; we have fallen short in doing justice and loving kindness and walking in humble submission to your way. Have mercy on us, O God. Cleanse us and restore us to the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.

Time for Silent Confession

Lord, Have Mercy upon Us
(Choir and congregation sing.)

Kyrie

Cantor: All:

Lord, - have - mer - cy. Lord, - have - mer - cy.

The first line of musical notation is on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It is divided into two parts. The first part, labeled 'Cantor:', contains the melody for 'Lord, - have - mer - cy.' The second part, labeled 'All:', contains the melody for 'Lord, - have - mer - cy.' The notes are quarter notes with a slur over the entire phrase.

Cantor: All:

Christ, - have - mer - cy. Christ, - have - mer - cy.

The second line of musical notation is on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It is divided into two parts. The first part, labeled 'Cantor:', contains the melody for 'Christ, - have - mer - cy.' The second part, labeled 'All:', contains the melody for 'Christ, - have - mer - cy.' The notes are quarter notes with a slur over the entire phrase.

Cantor: All:

Lord, - have - mer - cy. Lord, - have - mer - cy.

The third line of musical notation is on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It is divided into two parts. The first part, labeled 'Cantor:', contains the melody for 'Lord, - have - mer - cy.' The second part, labeled 'All:', contains the melody for 'Lord, - have - mer - cy.' The notes are quarter notes with a slur over the entire phrase.

Declaration of Forgiveness

*Response Hymn 581

Gloria Patri

GREATOREX

**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. Amen.**

* Greeting and the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with all of you today.

All: **And also with you.**

THE WORD

Special Music

His Eye Is on the Sparrow

Played and Sung by Ora Reed

Story and Prayers for Young Disciples

Afterwards, children may return to their seats or go to children's class.

Prayer for Illumination

Sammy Gore, Reader

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

Pew Bible Page 82

A Reading from Psalms: Psalm 19

Pew Bible Page 613

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Pew Bible Page 202

*Gospel Hymn 274, verses 1 & 2:

You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd

PICARDY

You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd 274

Capo 5: (Am) Dm (F) B \flat (C) F (Em) Am (Am) Dm (A7) D7

1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep-herd. You, Lord, are both
 2 Clothed in light up - on the moun-tain, stripped of might up -
 3 You, who walk each day be - side us, sit in pow - er
 4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus! Wor - thy is our

(Dm) Gm (G) C (C) F (F) B \flat (Em) Am (Dm) Gm (Am) Dm

prince and slave. You, peace-mak - er and sword-bring - er
 on the cross, shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
 at God's side. You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
 cos - mic Christ! Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - tory;

(B \flat) E \flat (F) B \flat (E) A (A/C \sharp) D/F \sharp (Dm) Gm

of the way you took and gave. You, the ev - er - last - ing
 beg-gared by a sol - dier's toss, you, the ev - er - last - ing
 have a love that reach - es wide. You, the ev - er - last - ing
 wor - thy still your peace and strife. You, the ev - er - last - ing

(Am) Dm (G) C (Am) Dm (Dm) Gm (Em) Am (Am) Dm

in - stant; you, whom we both scorn and crave.
 in - stant; you who are both gift and cost.
 in - stant; you, who are our pil - grim guide.
 in - stant; you, who are our death and life.

When it was first published, the author called this text "Christus Paradox," because so many attributes of Christ stand in tension with each other. Mindful of the works of Søren Kierkegaard, she drafted it on a commuter bus after "a particularly bad day" of prison ministry.

Gospel Reading: John 2:13-22

Pew Bible Page 113

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“Slogging Toward Holy Love”

Rev. Gandy

Affirmation of Our Faith

*Nicene Creed

Traditional

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE THANKSGIVING

Call for the Offering

*The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
the world and those who live in it.*

Psalm 24:1



Scan FPC QR code here to give online

Offertory

O Taste and See

Text: Psalm 34:8

Music: Timothy Flynn

O taste and see, O taste and see.
See how gracious is the Lord, how gracious is the Lord.
How blest are they who hope in the Lord.
O taste and see, O taste and see.

Response Hymn 606

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye Heavenly Host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Prayer of Thanksgiving after the Offering

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the celestial choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

(Minister continues in prayer.)

...Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

(Minister continues in prayer.)

The Lord's Prayer

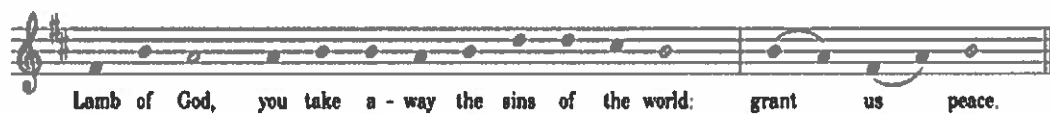
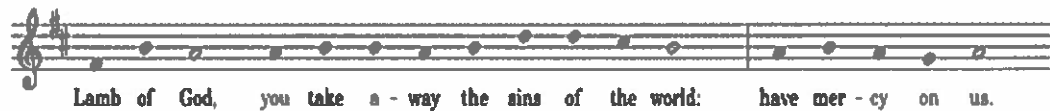
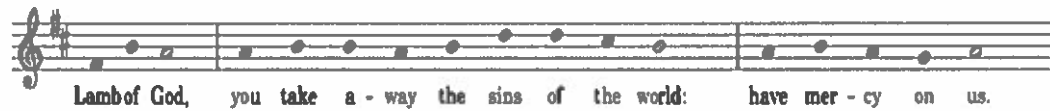
(debts/debtors)

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.

Breaking the Bread

"The gifts of God for the people of God"

All sing: *Lamb of God*



Communion of the People

Prayer of Thanksgiving after the Meal (unison)

Illumine our lives, O God, with the radiance of Christ's love, and inspire us to shine in faith and witness as his holy disciples. Give us strength to serve you faithfully until the promised day of resurrection, when the redeemed of all the ages will feast with you at your table in glory. Amen.

THE SENDING

*Hymn 320, verses 1 & 2: *The Church of Christ in Every Age*

WAREHAM

*Benediction

*Postlude

Chaconne

Louis Couperin

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Edna R. Howard by Catherine and Everette Ratcliffe.

320 The Church of Christ in Every Age

1 The church of Christ in ev - ery age, be - set by
 2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
 3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
 4 For Christ a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
 5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -

change but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
 of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
 church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
 fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
 be - dience to our Lord: to care for all, with -

her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
 bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
 sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
 share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
 out re - serve, and spread Christ's lib - er - at - ing word.

In this challenging text by a British Methodist minister, the odd-numbered stanzas develop the image of "the servant church," while the second surveys the many needs and the fourth describes the true source of strength for the task.

Music Notes: The Prelude this morning is a lush setting of the Hymn Tune *Ellers* (Savior, again to thy dear Name) by American organist and composer Robert Hebble (1934-2020). Our special guest this morning, Ora Reed, will present her rendition of *His Eye Is on the Sparrow* before the Word. Ms. Reed is a 2017 inductee into the Mississippi Musicians Hall of Fame, and has previously received the Mississippi Trail Blazers Legacy Award, the State Institutions of Higher Learning Diversity Award, and has served as a Mississippi's Cultural Ambassador to Asia and Europe. We are pleased to have a dear friend of First Presbyterian Church with us again to share her faith with us through music. The Anthem at the Offertory is a new setting of *O Taste and See* by American composer Timothy Flynn. The Postlude is *Chaconne* by early French Baroque composer Louis Couperin (1626-1661).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spring Day Camp: We are excited to announce "Camp Create!," a youth day camp for all students ages 8-16, coming March 12-13. We will enjoy a variety of mini-art master classes, a field trip to outdoor adventures, and great fellowship and fun. To find out more or to sign-up your student, please reach out to Rev. Caldwell.

TLC Revival: The old favorite and very effective ministry called TLC is being revived to give prepared food to members who are struggling with daily meals. Please search your hearts and decide how you can help! Leigh Anderson, fellowship deacon, will be in charge of the program. It is simple for you to take part: Prepare a meal that is enough for two servings. Put it in a freezer container. Place a label on top of the container that says "TLC" and gives the name of the dish (It can just say "beef stew" or "baked chicken") and your name as cook; write directions on the label for heating or cooking the dish. Please choose dishes that are simple with simple ingredients, not too salty or sweet. Place your dishes in the freezer in the hall outside the kitchen door in the education building. And thank you! Call the church office with any questions.

Congregational Meeting: The congregation will meet immediately after 10:30 worship on March 10 to approve the terms of call for Rev. Chase Caldwell to fill the position of Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian. The process of preparation has almost been completed! Tentative date for the installation of Rev. Caldwell is Sunday, March 17, at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary at First Presbyterian. This is a Presbytery event and will be a service all are urged to attend. A celebration in Stratton Chapel will take place afterwards.

Presbytery of Mississippi Meeting: FPC will host the Presbytery of Mississippi meeting on Thursday, March 7. Registration starts at 9:30 with a worship service and meeting afterward. Lunch will be provided in Fellowship Hall for participants.

Deacons: The deacons meet on Thursday, March 7, at 5:30 p.m. in the library.

Session: Session meets on Monday, March 11, at 5 p.m. in the library.

Coffee and Conversation: Come enjoy fellowship and coffee between Sunday School and church. Let's get together in Stratton Chapel to visit and enjoy each other's company!

Organ Update Fund: A fund-raising effort is under way to update and upgrade our beautiful organ at First Presbyterian. Gifts may be made in honor of the organist and choir or in honor or memory of others. Every gift is important!

You may put a check in the offering plate, send or take a check to the church, use a generic envelope in the pew to give cash, or use the QR Code you find here (This is a different code from the one for general donations):

Give to the Organ Fund:



New Member Class: New Member Class continues to meet at 9:15 a.m. in the church library. Classes will continue through March 17 and are open to all who are interested in information about the denomination as a whole; and in First Presbyterian Church in particular. Topics of study include faith and beliefs; worship and sacraments; and prayer and spirituality.

Pastor's Bible Study: Bible study will meet on Tuesday, March 5, at 11 a.m. in the parlor at Stratton Chapel. Scriptures for study will be Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107: 1-3;17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; and John 3:14-21.

Handbell Choir: The Handbell choir meets Tuesdays at 5:15 p.m. upstairs in the sanctuary.

Sanctuary Choir: The Sanctuary Choir meets Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

PW Basket of Joy: Donate something for an infant in the basket on the table in Stratton Chapel. Our Presbyterian Women have an on-going project to bring baby items to Merit Hospital to welcome our newest Natchez children into the world!

Wonderful Wednesday: Wonderful Wednesday begins with the youth meeting with Rev. Chase Caldwell at 4:15. At 5:15 all come and enjoy a hearty meal in Fellowship Hall, with a program for adults, Bible study for youth, and games for children afterwards at 6 p.m. Come and take part in good study and fellowship. And bring friends!

Monday Prayer: Community prayer in the Prayer Room, located adjacent to the sanctuary, is held Mondays at 11:30 a.m. This prayer time is informal and offers opportunity to pray with and for others.

AA Meetings: Open Gates AA Meeting meets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 12 noon in the downstairs meeting room in Stratton Chapel. These are open discussion meetings.

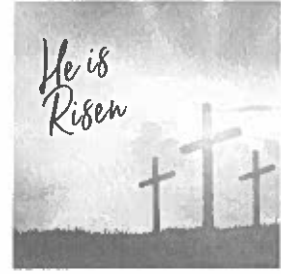
Pastoral Visits: Rev. Gandy is available for you when you have needs!

Call the church for an appointment or just stop by the church office if it is an emergency. When there are burdens on your heart, problems you are trying to solve, questions about your faith you want to resolve, or any other reasons for your wanting support from the pastor, do not hesitate to call and seek that help. You are important!

New Members Welcomed: If you are interested in becoming a member of First Presbyterian, you will be warmly welcomed. The first step is to let Rev. Gandy know of your interest. You may see her before or after worship; or call the church at 601-442-2581 to speak with her.

Photo Gallery: Please consider donating a couple of hours to the museum as a docent. The exhibit is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. You may call Rosemary Hall or the church office to sign up.

MAR 2024



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					01	02
					Noon AA	10:30 Wild Faith
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
Communion 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 worship service	8:30 Exercise 10 Staff Meeting 11:30 Prayer group Noon AA 7 Scout Troop #157	11 Bible Study 5:15 Handbell Rehearsal	8:30 Exercise Noon AA Wonderful Wednesday: 4:15 Youth 5:15 Supper 6 Choir, Bible Study	9:30 FPC hosts Presbytery meeting 5:30 Deacons' meeting	Noon AA	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Daylight Saving Time begins 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 worship service	8:30 Exercise 10 Staff Meeting 11:30 Prayer group Noon AA 5 Session meeting 7 Scout Troop #157	10-2 Camp Create 11 Bible Study 5:15 Handbell Rehearsal	8:30 Exercise 10 Food Boxes 10-2 Camp Create 10 Rebekah Circle Noon AA Wonderful Wednesday 4:15 - 7	Noon Lenten Program and Luncheon	Noon AA	PW Spring Gathering- Pineview
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:15 Sunday School 10:30 worship service 4 pm Installation for Rev. Chase Caldwell	8:30 Exercise 10 Staff Meeting 11:30 Prayer group Noon AA 7 Scout Troop #157	11 Bible Study 5:15 Handbell Rehearsal	8:30 Exercise Noon AA Wonderful Wednesday: 4:15 Youth 5:15 Supper 6 Choir, Bible Study	7 Music program	Noon AA	
Palm Sunday 24	25	26	27	Maundy Thursday 28	Good Friday 29	30
9:15 Sunday School 10:30 worship service	8:30 Exercise 10 Staff Meeting 11:30 Prayer group Noon AA 7 Scout Troop #157	11 Bible Study No Handbell Rehearsal 7 Music program	8:30 Exercise Noon AA Wonderful Wednesday: 4:15 Youth 5:15 Supper 6 Choir, Bible Study	5:30 Maundy Thursday worship service	Noon AA Noon Good Friday worship service Playschool Closed	
Easter 31	April 1					
9:15 Sunday School 10:30 worship service	Church Offices are closed for Easter.					

Church Staff

The Rev. Dr. Joan W. Gandy, Pastor
The Rev. Chase Caldwell, Ministry Assistant
Mr. Vincent Bache III, Director of Music and Organist
Aretha Davis, Playschool Director
Pam McNeil, Office Administrator
Mary Ann Peoples, Financial Secretary
Deon Buford, Sexton

Officers of the Church

ELDERS

Class of 2024: George Bates, Stratton Bull, Bobby Meason, Cara Moody
Class of 2025: Chuck Borum, Sandra Burkes, Marc Doyle, Jay Fitch, Sammy Gore
Class of 2026: Mary Lessley, Helen Smith, Anne Vidal Suen

DEACONS

Class of 2024: Kristen Abney, Everette Ratcliffe, Hubert Smith
Class of 2025: Edie Christian, Rusty Jenkins, and Randy Smith
Class of 2026: Leigh Anderson, Ken Price

Thank you to Charles Hall (Director), Lance Harris, Ryan Sharp, and
Jon Borum for livestreaming and video services.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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