



First Presbyterian Church

Welcome Home!

Order of Worship

14th Sunday after Pentecost September 15, 2019 11 AM

PREPARATION

A Prayer of Preparation

O God, whose Son Jesus is the Good Shepherd of your people; Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Welcome

Rev. Shon Peppers

Ministry of Friendship

Please pass the friendship register so all may sign it; pass it back so you may become acquainted with those sitting on your pew.

Prelude

Prelude on "Neumark"

Craig Phillips

ADORATION

*Call to Worship (based on Psalm 63)

Leader: Your steadfast love, O Lord, is better than life.

People: Therefore our lips will praise you.

Leader: We will bless you as long as we live.

People: We will lift up our hands and call on your name.

Leader: For you have been our help,

People: and in your presence we sing for joy.

Leader: Let us worship God!

*Hymn 718

Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said

BOURBON

CONFESSION

Large print bulletins are available. Please let an usher know if you would like one.

The **11 am service** is streamed live at www.fpcga.org and later is available on our website. Sunday sermons are also broadcast on WDUN AM 550 each Sunday following the 8:30 am news.

We give thanks to God for the musical gifts of our **Chancel Choir**, proclaiming the good news in song this morning.

Hope Testament conducting

FPC is reading the entire Bible together in 2019! The reading plan is available through the Bible in One Year app or on the FPC website at fpcga.org. This week we are reading days 258 through 264 in the reading plan.

Prayer of Confession

O Holy God, we call to you and name you as eternal, ever-present, and boundless in love. Yet there are times, O God, when we fail to recognize you in the dailyness of our lives. Sometimes shame clenches tightly around our hearts, and we hide our true feelings. Sometimes fear makes us small, and we miss the chance to speak from our strength. Sometimes doubt invades our hopefulness, and we degrade the possibility of new life within us. Holy God, in the daily round from sunrise to sunset, remind us again of your holy presence hovering near us and in us. Free us from shame and self-doubt. Help us to see you in the moment-by-moment possibilities to live honestly, to act courageously, and to speak and believe the promise of new life.

(Silent Prayers of Confession)

Assurance of Forgiveness

*Celebration of Forgiveness

The King of Love My Shepherd Is (Hymn No. 802, stanza 1)

ST. COLUMBA

**The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever.**

Time with Our Children

Rev. Lee Koontz

All children are invited to come forward. When dismissed, children (ages three through second graders) may participate in Children's Church in the Sonshine Lodge in the Children's Wing.

PROCLAMATION

Old Testament Reading

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Isaiah 35:1-2, 5-10
(Pew Bible page 678)

Anthem

Be Not Afraid

Craig Courtney

Be not afraid: for I have redeemed you. Be not afraid: I have called you by name. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you. When you pass through the floods, they will not sweep o'er you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be consumed. You are mine, you are precious in my sight. My love for you is everlasting. My love for you shall have no end. You are mine, you are precious in my sight. (Isaiah 43:1-4)

New Testament Reading

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

2 Corinthians 12:1-10
(Pew Bible page 177)

Sermon

Thorns

Rev. Koontz

Moment of Reflection on God's Word

RESPONSE

*Affirmation of Faith, *The Apostles' Creed* Rev. Dr. Margaret Turney-Ayer
I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People, concluding with *The Lord's Prayer*

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.

Offertory *Lead Me Lord* S.S. Wesley
Lead me, Lord. Lead me in Thy righteousness. Make Thy way plain before my face. For it is Thou, Lord, only, that makest me dwell in safety.

*Presentation Hymn *Doxology* OLD HUNDREDTH
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

SENDING FORTH

*Closing Hymn 840 *It Is Well with My Soul* VILLE DU HAVRE

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude *"Hallelujah' has been restored..."* Dan Locklair

TODAY'S SERVANTS
Chancel Flower Guild
Carolyn Mahar, Anne
Chenault, Gina Miller, and
The Autumn Group
Sound and Lighting
Rick Plummer
Greeters and Ushers
John Testament, Head Usher;
Nancy Alexander, Haydee
Anderson, Ida Cook, Lee Ann
James, Jeff Pierce, Ushers;
Roger and Molly Drake,
Greeters

* Please stand as you are able.

Welcome, guests!

Your presence is a wonderful blessing to this church family! If you would like to know more about the church or would like to ask for prayer, please speak with one of the pastors following the service. We would love the opportunity to get to know you and minister to you!

Our Staff

Lee Koontz
Senior Pastor
lkoontz@fpcga.org

Shon Peppers
Associate Pastor
speppers@fpcga.org

Margaret Turney-Ayer
Interim Director of Faith Development
mturneyayer@fpcga.org

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Benji Stegner
Choir Director | Organist

Sophie Tolar
Contemporary Worship Leader

Dallas Thompson
Director of Youth Ministry
dthompson@fpcga.org

Ali Thompson
Director of Children's Ministry
athompson@fpcga.org

Ronny Childs
Audio/Visual Coordinator

Pastor on call

If you have a pastoral emergency outside of regular church hours, dial 770-718-8584.

800 South Enota Drive
Gainesville, GA 30501
www.fpcga.org
770-532-0136

Give blood today!

The bloodmobile will be in the FPC parking lot 9:00–1:00.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Tonight 5:30 Youth Choir
6:00 Youth Fellowship

Saturday, September 28 Lock-In
4pm–10am Sunday, September 29
(Bring \$30 for Top Golf and food.)

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Dave Ramsey's 9-week program of learning God's ways of handling money—work a plan, rewrite your story, and change your future. Classes begin **tonight**, 6:00-7:30 in M303.

SEPTEMBER 18 WOW!

First Presbyterian Youth Summer 2019 Experiences

Join us for dinner (5:45) as our youth share details from their summer trips! Hear stories and see pictures from High School Montreat, Asheville Youth Mission, and Middle School Montreat. Come and witness what God has done!

E.A.G.L.E. Tour



Mercedes-Benz Stadium
Tuesday, September 24
The church bus will be leaving at 9:30 am.
The cost is \$20 each, plus lunch.

BAKERS OF BREAD We are looking for baked loaves of bread representing different parts of the world for **World Communion Sunday, October 6**. If you like to bake bread from other countries/cultures, we would appreciate displaying it as part of the World Communion Sunday table displays. Please contact Margaret at mturneyayer@fpcga.org or see her after worship for details. We would need the bread brought to the church office by Thursday, October 3 at noon.

Adult Fall Retreat

Tuesday, November 19
thru **Friday, November 22**
Montreat Convocation Hall



Cost includes 3 nights and 7 meals:
\$450 per couple
\$225 per roommate
\$350 per single room

Contact the church office to sign up.

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

9:00am Blood Drive
9:00am Morning Light Worship SH
10:00am Sunday School
11:00am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
5:00pm Chancel Ringers
5:30pm Youth Choir, Choir Room
6:00pm Financial Peace M303
6:00pm Youth Fellowship

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

2:00pm Gentle Yoga SH503
6:00pm Stephen Ministry Training M303
6:30pm Beginners Sq Dancing Class, Gym
7:00pm Boy Scouts, Lakehouse

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

9:00am Yoga SH503
10:00am Prayer Group, Cabin 1
1:30pm Endow Grants Cmte CR*
3:00pm Operating Budget Cmte CR*
5:30pm AA Group, Lake House
7:00pm Young Adult Bible Study, Dallas' Home

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

10:45am Primetime Singers
12:00pm Gentle Yoga SH503
5:15pm Andrew Ministry, Cabin 1
5:45pm WOW Supper & Activities
7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

9:00am Yoga SH503
10:00am Wonderful Works M303
2:00pm PEO Setup SH
5:00pm Phoenix, Lake House
6:00pm Lakeshore Squares Dance

6:00pm Faith Development CR*

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

9:00am PEO Fall Fling SH

*Committee Meeting

CR-Conference Room, SH-Swetenburg Hall