

GATHERING

Lord God, in this season of Lent we look forward to our remembrance of Jesus' death and our celebration of his resurrection. We pray that your Spirit will renew in us today our anticipation for these events and our awareness that Jesus' death and resurrection are a sure source of hope and life. In the power of Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME

PRELUDE Siciliana from Sonata in A Minor G. P. Telemann
John Netardus, oboe

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

We will give thanks to you, O LORD, with our whole heart;

We will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

We will be glad and exult in you;

We will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

*** HYMN 65** Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah CWM RHONDDA

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Now, O Lord, transform us as we continue our confession in silence.

KYRIE (HYMN 551) Lord, Have Mercy LAND OF REST
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, Believe the Good News of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 27 (NRSV)

OT pg. 503

ANTHEM (11 A.M.)

Take Me to the Water

R. Dilworth

Take me to the water. Take me to the sea. Take me to the river so that my spirit can be free. Gonna lay my burdens down by the riverside. Gonna wade in the water, the water that flows both deep and wide. Oh, take me to the water. Gonna lay down my burden, down by the riverside. Oh, take me, take me, take me, to the water. Gonna lay down my sword and shield, down by the riverside. Oh, take me, take me, take me, to the water. Wade in the water. Wade in the water, children. Wade in the water. God's a-gonna trouble the water. Oh, oh, oh! Take me to the water! Take me to the sea! Take me to the water! Set my spirit free! Oh! Wade in the water, children and set my spirit free! Oh! Down by the riverside, I'll set my spirit free! Oh! Take me, take me, take me to the water!

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES (11 A.M.)

Lizzy Tobener

(Afterward, children in kindergarten through 2nd grade will be dismissed to Kids-4-God.)

* HYMN 435

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

IN BABILONE

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 62:1-5 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

OT pg. 692

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Good News" for Hard Times

Rev. Dr. Don McGarity

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONDING

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on 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.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Come, Ye Sinners

arr. D. A. White

Chancel Choir; John Netardus, oboe

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore; Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love, and pow'r. I will arise and go to Jesus; He will embrace me in His arms; in the arms of my dear Savior, oh there are ten thousand charms. Come, ye weary, heavy laden, lost and ruined by the fall; if you tarry till you're better, you will never come at all. Let not conscience make you linger, nor of fitness fondly dream; all the fitness He requireth is to feel your need of Him.

* DOXOLOGY

Hymn 606

*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.*

* 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.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (8:30 A.M.)

(Gluten-Free Bread)

SENDING

* HYMN 816

If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

* BENEDICTION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

May Almighty God bless you the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Go in peace.

Thanks be to God.

TODAY IN WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: Rev. Dr. Don McGarity, Coleen O'Brien, Scott Stuart, Lizzy Tobener

ELDER ON DUTY: Coleen O'Brien

ACOLYTE: Annabel Stuart

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST: Mitch Rorick

COLLABORATIVE PIANIST: Anait Piloyan

CHANCEL CHOIR

CHAPEL USHER: Tom Chamberlain; **SANCTUARY USHERS:** Roger Bachmann, Paul Bennett, Matthew Morse, Carol Turner

A/V TEAM: Kaylee Bleeker, Kim de Fretes, Jack Harling, Dink Henderson, John Rayl

THE FLOWERS IN WORSHIP are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of my sister, Mabel, by Cora Kurtz.

THE FLOWERS IN WORSHIP are given to the glory of God and in memory of my sister, Maribeth Peachey, and my dad, Rev. Ned Peachey, by Sara LeMaire.

CHURCH TRIUMPHANT: We extend our sympathy and offer the prayers of our congregation to the family of Carol Hayes-Christiansen, who joined the Church Triumphant on March 19, 2025.

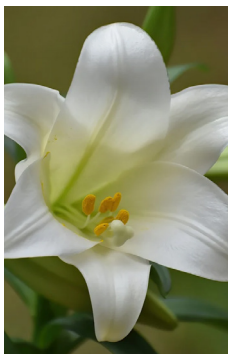
Thank you for joining us in worship today. We pray that you experience Christ's presence in our midst and that His presence will sustain you in the week ahead. Visitors are welcome to participate in the worship and the work of First Presbyterian Church. You can find a "Three Steps to Membership" card with information about how to join the church in the pew racks. If you feel a call to commit your life to Jesus Christ and His Church, please speak to the pastor or an elder after worship.

Let Us Remember in Prayer and Correspondence: Marilyn Ast and Leon & Jayne Fox. Our men and women in the services: Ashley Dace, Matt Gowdy, Brian Hill, and Dan Williams; and first responders: Nick Gonzalez and Paul Samala.

Senior Pastor
Rev. Mark Hults - pastor@1stpc.org
Director of Music and Organist
Mitch Rorick - music@1stpc.org
Director of Young Adult & Family Ministry
Fred Lundy - youngadult@1stpc.org
Parish Associate, Director of College Ministry
Rev. Scott Stuart - college@1stpc.org
Preschool Director
Lisa Hershkowitz - preschool@1stpc.org

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Jenny Chamberlain - communications@1stpc.org
Event Sexton and Music Clerk
Andrew Netardus - events@1stpc.org
Head Sexton - Tony Cogdill
Sexton - Margaret Hill
Property Coordinator
John Rayl - png.1stpc@gmail.com

EASTER LILIES



On Easter morning our sanctuary will be decorated with lilies. Flowers are available to purchase in honor or in memory of a family member or loved one. The lilies are \$15 each and can be ordered by filling out the form below to place in the offering plate or mail it to the church office by Sunday, April 6. The flowers will be available to take home after the 11 a.m. Easter worship service.

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given By: _____

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah 65

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me
 stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
 be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

Few Welsh hymns are as well known or loved as this 18th-century text that did not gain its popular tune until the early 20th century. In both its original text and in English translation, it is a stirring hymn of pilgrimage filled with vivid imagery from Hebrew Scripture.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 27 (NRSV)

¹The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? ²When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh— my adversaries and foes— they shall stumble and fall. ³Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident. ⁴One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple. ⁵For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock. ⁶Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord. ⁷Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me! ⁸“Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!” Your face, Lord, do I seek. ⁹Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation! ¹⁰If my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up. ¹¹Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies. ¹²Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence. ¹³I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. ¹⁴Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 62:1-5 (NRSV)

¹For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. ⁴You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. ⁵For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

FORGIVENESS

435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1 There's a wide - ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness
 2 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures
 of the sea. There's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice,
 of the mind. And the heart of the E - ter - nal
 which is more than lib - er - ty. There is no place where earth's
 is most won - der - ful - ly kind. If our love were but more
 sor - rows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place
 faith - ful, we would glad - ly trust God's Word, and our lives re -
 where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given.
 flect thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of our Lord.

These stanzas, excerpted from quite a few more, offer a reminder that the model for our dealings with others should be God's generosity rather than limited human tolerance. The text is effectively set to a broad and sturdy Dutch folk melody, probably from the 17th century.

If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee 816

1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee, with hope - ful
 2 On - ly be still, and wait God's lei - sure in cheer - ful
 3 Sing, pray, and swerve not from God's ways, but do thine

heart through all thy ways, God will give strength, what - e'er be -
 hope, with heart con - tent to take what - e'er thy Keep - er's
 own part faith - ful - ly. Trust the rich prom - is - es of

tide thee, to bear thee through the e - vil days. Who trusts in
 plea - sure and all - dis - cern - ing love hath sent. No doubt our
 grace; so shall they be ful - filled in thee. God nev - er

God's un - chang - ing love builds on the rock that nought can move.
 in - most wants are clear to One who holds us al - ways dear.
 yet for - sook at need the soul se - cured by trust in - deed.

This hymn is a testimony of experience. The original seven-stanza German text (based on Psalm 55:22) and its tune were created by the author/composer at the age of twenty in thanksgiving for finding employment many weeks after being left almost penniless following a robbery.



Concert for a Cause



Thank you to all who attended the recent Concordia Choir concert. Our appreciation to the Hospitality and Meal Teams who welcomed the choir and served them a delicious meal before the concert: Mark & Karen Coffey, Kathy Counts, Margaret Dowling, Laura Netardus, Susan Roland, Andy & Beverly Vloedman, and Beth Wood. The donation of \$3,085 from the concert will support Gainesville Community Ministry. If you were unable to attend the concert, you may still contribute to Gainesville Community Ministry. Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church, memo "Gainesville Community Ministry." Thank you for your continued support!

40 Days of Caring



During this Lenten season, as we focus on what Christ has done for us in His death and resurrection, let us also share with others who are in need. We are collecting food for Gainesville Community Ministries and soft-sided Bibles (used or new, but no writing inside) to distribute at the Alachua County Jail. We have a blue bin in Gordon Hall for your donations. You may also provide donations or gift cards (Walmart, Target, or gas cards) for families at Family Promise and St. Francis House. Please label and place in the offering or bring to the church office. Thank you!

Family Promise Hosting



Also, during the week of March 30–April 5 our congregation is providing meals to four families that Family Promise is sheltering while they transition to more permanent affordable housing. This is a great opportunity for a family or group to share God's love in a practical way. Sign up with Jane Smith in Gordon Hall after the 11 a.m. worship service today or use the link below or in the weekly invite:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904094AA4A629A4FA7-55590871-family>

Immediate Help Needed in the Nursery



We have a small team of volunteers who serve regularly in our nursery on Sunday mornings. If one of the team is unable to be there, it is challenging to staff the nursery. Please consider serving during the 11 a.m. worship service. Contact Evelyn Lewis (citytr122@gmail.com) or Jenna Mueller (jdmueller2009@gmail.com) to learn more.

Pick-up a calendar page from the ushers for all this week's ministry events or print one from the weekly invite email. Children's worship guides are available at all entrances.

Weekly Figures

In-Person Attendance 3/16	85
Weekly Budget Requirement	\$38,129
Received Week of 3/16/25	\$11,531
Weekly Offering	\$1,568
Designated Offerings	\$3,384
Other Revenue	\$45
Preschool	\$6,533
FPC Fiscal Year: July 2024-June 2025	
YTD Budget Requirements	\$1,410,767
YTD Received	\$1,268,531
YTD Expenses	\$1,252,216

Online Contributions



Visit our website, www.1stpc.org, to make an online donation. Click the GIVE button at the top of the page. You can contribute to the General Budget or use the drop-down menu, change to Other, and specify the designated ministry in the memo section. Text contributions, bill pay through your bank, and electronic funds transfers are also options. Contact Trudy Bonerba.



T-Coil installed in the sanctuary, and Hearing Assist devices available in the Narthex.

Tune in to Cox Channel 11 **now from 9-10 a.m.** for our televised broadcast  or MyTV 28.2 for over the air broadcasts

Current Worship video and audio as well as archives at 1stpc.org

CCLI License #2742913 & CCLI Streaming #CSPL091568

Ministries

At **First Presbyterian Preschool**, children are fully prepared for school in a caring, Christian environment. Classes are offered 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Early Childhood Accredited.

Our **Children and Youth Ministries** provide a multi-generational approach of Christian example as the church family comes alongside parents to lead children to become fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ.

Nursery Care during worship for children 6 weeks through pre-kindergarten. Contact: Jenna Mueller - jdmueller2009@gmail.com

Kindergarten through 2nd grade children are released from worship for **Kids-4-God** to spend time growing their faith. After the service, families meet in Gordon Hall. Contact: Evelyn Lewis - citytr122@gmail.com

LOGOS is a mid-week ministry with worship arts, Bible time, recreation, and family dinner for students age 3 through high school. Contact Bev Vloedman to RSVP for 6 p.m. dinner at dvloedman@aol.com.

Youth Connection meets for fellowship and food with Bible study and mentoring for students in grades 6-12.

Our **College Ministry** seeks to launch students into a life of pursuing Christ, trusting in Him, and growing with others. Join us for Sunday worship & lunch and Tuesday Bible study. Bring a friend!

Young Adult & Family Ministry (YA&FM) is for marrieds and singles, with or without kids, in grad school or in vocation. We gather for Bible Studies and to get to know each other better and would love the chance to do life with you.

With choirs for ages three and above, our **Music Ministry** welcomes everyone to sing or ring and to dedicate their music to God. Our concert season includes Concerts for a Cause, which support local and global mission partners.

Staff

Senior Pastor

REV. MARK HULTS - pastor@1stpc.org

Director of Music and Organist

MITCH RORICK - music@1stpc.org

Director of Young Adult & Family Ministry

FRED LUNDY - youngadult@1stpc.org

Parish Associate, Director of College Ministry

REV. SCOTT STUART - college@1stpc.org

Preschool Director

LISA HERSHKOWITZ - preschool@1stpc.org

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ANDREW NETARDUS - events@1stpc.org

Property Coordinator

JOHN RAYL - png.1stpc@gmail.com

Head Sexton

TONY COGDILL

Sexton

MARGARET HILL

Glorify God
Make Disciples of Jesus Christ
Meet Human Needs



Weekly Calendar

Sunday, March 23, 2025

- 8:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion - Iona Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover: 1 John 5 - Ross Teigen - Library
- 9:30 a.m. Multiply Sunday School - Lent: Mt 21:18-27 - Room 201
- 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir - Sanctuary
- 10:45 a.m. Nursery Care - Rm 204
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
- 11:20 p.m. Kids-4-God - Rm 217
- 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Time - Gordon Hall
- 12:00 p.m. College Cafe - Serving Room

Third Sunday in Lent

Monday, March 24, 2025

- 5:30 p.m. Local Missions serves dinner at St. Francis House

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

- 2:15 p.m. Staff Meeting - Parlor
- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting - Parlor
- 7:00 p.m. College Trajectory Bible Study - Gordon Hall

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

- 12:15 p.m. Zoom Bible Study - *Who Is Jesus? Questions? Contact Betsy Berry - betsypwberry@gmail.com*
- 3:45 p.m. LOGOS
- 5:45 p.m. LOGOS Family Time - Movie Night
- 6:30 p.m. Jubilate Ringers

Thursday, March 27, 2025

- 6:00 p.m. Carol Ringers -Room 215
- 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir - Choir Room

Friday, March 28, 2025

Saturday, March 29, 2025

Sunday, March 30, 2025

Third Sunday in Lent Family Promise Hosting Begins

- 8:30 a.m. Worship and Holy Communion - Iona Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Gordon Hoover: 2 & 3 John - Serendipity Rinonos - Lib.
- 9:30 a.m. Multiply Sunday School - Lent - Room 201
- 10:00 a.m. Chancel Choir - Sanctuary
- 10:45 a.m. Nursery Care - Rm 204
- 11:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary
- 11:20 p.m. Kids-4-God - Rm 217
- 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Time - Gordon Hall
- 12:00 p.m. College Cafe - Serving Room

Visit www.1stpc.org/lent for information on our special services and ministry activities during the Lent and Easter Season at First Presbyterian Church.