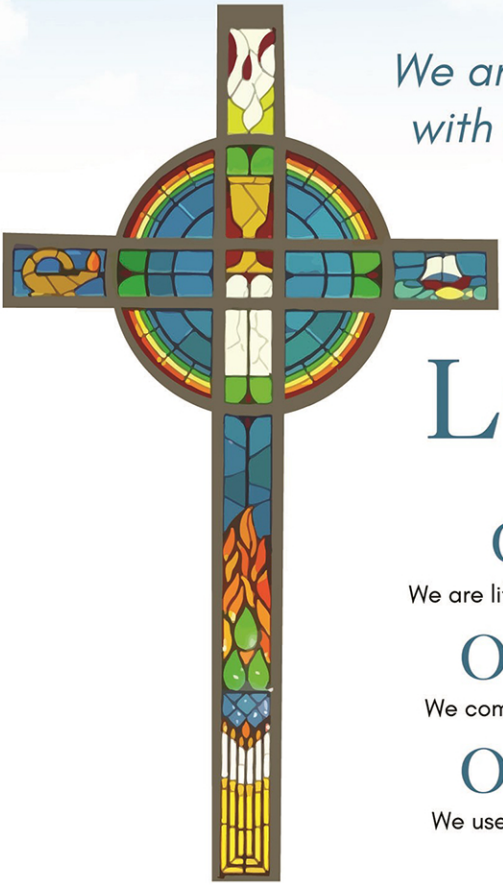
# First Presbyterian

FLORENCE ✦ SOUTH CAROLINA

11 a.m. November 22, 2026



*We are called to love God with our head, our heart, and our hands*

## LOVING *with*

### OUR HEAD

We are lifelong learners shaped by God's Word

### OUR HEART

We commit to loving God and loving people

### OUR HANDS

We use our God-given gifts to serve others

700 Park Avenue ✦ Florence, SC 29501

843.662.2583 ✦ 843.662.1726 Fax

www.florencefirst.org

Enter Reverently. Meditate Quietly. Worship Devoutly.
Leave Gracefully. Serve Christ Faithfully.

## *Order of Worship*

**PRELUDE**
*Now Thank We All Our God* — Johann Sebastian Bach
from Cantata No. 79

**GREETINGS**

**MOMENT FOR MINISTRY**

**INTROIT**
*Praise We Sing to Thee* — St. Anthony Chorale
Franz Joseph Haydn
arr. Morton J. Luvaas

Praise we sing to Thee, Thou mighty Ruler King forever,
Praise we sing to Thee dear Father, we will fail Thee never.
All the joys of nature tell us ever of Thy wondrous power.
Still Thy tender grace and mercy keep us every hour,
Praise we sing to Thee most Holy, Praise forever more!
Grateful hymns of thanks we raise for all the gifts Thou dost ordain.
Lord of Hosts who over the wondrous realm of heaven doth reign.
Praise we sing to Thee most Holy, Praise forever more.
Jane Lewis McKnight

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

***HYMN OF PRAISE** — No. 81
*Festival Hymn of Thanksgiving* — NETHERLANDS
*We Gather Together* — setting by Paul Sjolund

(Verse 4)
With voices united our praises we offer; to Thee in thanksgiving, glad anthems we raise. Thy strong arm will guide us; Through all thou art beside us:
To Father, Son, and Spirit, forever be praise!
Julia C. Cory

Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**
*The Apostles' Creed* — front of hymnal

***THE GLORIA PATRI**
*Glory Be to the Father* — MEINEKE
Christopher Meineke

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.
second century Gloria Patri

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**
O Lord, **at times we stir the pot when we could offer peace. We wander tempting paths instead of following You. We hate our enemies and refuse to break bread with them. We see scarcity even when You offer us abundance. We ask Your forgiveness. Remind us that Your mercy is offered every day.**
(Time of silent prayer and confession) In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: We claim God's forgiveness with the Psalmist:

**All:** **Praise the LORD, my soul,**
**and forget not all his benefits—**
**who forgives all your sins**
**and heals all your diseases,**
**who redeems your life from the pit**
**and crowns you with love and compassion,**
**who satisfies your desires with good things**
**so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.** (Psalm 103: 2-5)

## ANTHEM

*With Heart and Hands* — John Rutter

For all the blessings you have granted us, Lord, give us thankful hearts, we pray:
For life and health and happiness, And for the gift of each new day;
For all our families and loved ones, The friends we meet along our way.
We thank you, Lord, they are your gifts: Lord, we praise you, Lord we bless you,
In your service let us all your love repay. Look all around you:
You'll see a miracle or two; Every valley, hill and mountain is calling to you.
For all the wonders of creation, A world whose marvels we behold:
Where winter turns to spring again; The changing scenes of life unfold,
But there is One who never changes: Through all eternity the same:
Be with us, Lord, forevermore: Alleluia, Lord, we praise your Holy Name.

*Congregation

Now thank we all our God, With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, In whom his world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms Hath blessed us on our way With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today. Amen.

Martin Rinkart

## MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES/ MOMENT OF DEDICATION

Dr. Stuart Bond

Children in 3K-first grade are invited to go with a worship caregiver to attend *Children in Worship.* Children who attend *Children in Worship* must check in prior to dismissal from worship by using the QR code. Parents, please pick up your children at *Children in Worship* at the end of the service.

## MUSICAL MEDITATION

*Thanksgiving* — Early American tune, arr. John Ness Beck, transcribed by Craig Courtney

For seedtime and harvest and the good will of men,
We give thanks to God the Father once again; For shelter in winter,
for the thaw in the spring, Our praise and thanksgiving to the Lord now we bring.
For those we have loved who have gone on before
Through that shining bright celestial door; For all who shall follow in their place,
We impore Thy continuing saving grace. 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.

John Bess
Thomas Ken

## PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

Elder Richie Wilhoit

**PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

*Prayer of Gratitude* — Mary McDonald

Father, we lift our prayer to thank You; We thank You for the love You gave.
For granting unto us Your blessing; strength and wonder beyond Your grace.
We thank You, Lord, for tender mercies; the comfort of Your peace.
May our lives reflect the joy in You we know; may Your love within us grow.
We offer You our prayer of gratitude, and to You, we lift our hearts in praise;
Father, hear our prayer; keep us in Your care. A prayer of gratitude we raise.
We offer You our prayer of gratitude, and to You, we lift our hearts in praise;
Father, hear our prayer; keep us in Your care.
A prayer of gratitude we raise, O Lord. Amen!

*The 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.

**SERMON** — Dr. Stuart Bond

**Deal or no Deal?**
Exodus 33:1-17
(Pew Bible pages 87-88)

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** — No. 359

*Give Thanks* — Henry Smith

***BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

*Benediction and Sevenfold Amen* — K. Lee Scott

Now unto Jesus Christ, the humble servant, the King of angels and Lord of glory,
be honor and praise through endless ages. Amen.

***POSTLUDE**

*Now Thank We All Our God* — NUN DANKET ALL GOTT
setting by Sigfrid Karg-Elert

This morning's worship is led by
Dr. Stuart Bond, Senior Pastor
Richie Wilhoit, Elder
Ann Rodgers Chandler, Director of Music and Organist
The Chancel Choir
Dr. Fran Coleman, soprano
Hanna Ward, soprano
Emily Lake, soprano
Laura Anne Hofler, alto
Daniel Hubbs, tenor
Dr. Curt Boswell, baritone
Jennifer Foxworth, violin
Randy Oswalt, timpani

*Congregation is invited to stand if able.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The harvest arrangement** is given by the McLean and Marechal families to the glory of God and with Thanksgiving for our church family.

## Associate Pastor Nominating Committee Prayer Request

*"For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives. ..."*
*— Colossians 1:9-10*



We seek prayer for and with the committee this week as we are shifting our prayer focus to the candidate and their family in hopeful completion to accepting our Associate Pastor position. Pray with the committee for the details and concerns of the candidate and their family in this change of life and position.

**Welcome guests!** If you're visiting us for the first time this morning, we would like to give you a small gift. As you leave the sanctuary, deacons (with name tags on) will have a Jesus Calling book ready for you. We are glad you're with us.

**Lord, Hear Our Prayer.** Those in need of prayer include Berta Allen; Aubrey Crawford; Joyce Dalsbo; Evans Holland; Mary Kirkpatrick; Dave and Linda Lawson; Mary Ann Nash; Ginger Owen; Lyllian Scott; Linda Smiley; Ginger Sullivan; Mary Watts; and Ronnie Welch.

**Today is Commitment Sunday!** As part of worship services today all Covenant Partners will have the opportunity to come forward and place a stewardship commitment card on the Communion Table as a sign of our commitment to Christ and what He is doing through First Presbyterian Church. This act is about far more than collecting "pledge" cards; it is our opportunity to recommit our lives to Christ and be a part of what He is doing in our community and the world. Commitment cards and envelopes are at the end of each pew. Please prayerfully consider how God is leading you to financially support the ministry and mission of First Presbyterian Church.

**College and Career Ministry:** Sunday School at 10 a.m. in The Lounge. Fellowship events for Thanksgiving and Christmas to be announced.

**Handbell Concert:** Ring in the Advent season at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 2, with our talented Chancel Handbell Choir! This is a First Presbyterian tradition rich with Christmas melodies from around the globe.

**Calling all Men of the Church**, please join us at noon Wednesday in the fellowship hall for the monthly "Hey Buddy," a Men's Fellowship Group luncheon. Lunch (fried turkey for sandwiches) will be provided at a cost of $5 to be paid at the door, and our guest speakers will be Jon Weiss Jr. and a few gentlemen from House of Hope. RSVP is not required but requested. Men are welcome to bring family members in town for the holiday. If you have any questions, contact: Travis Blayton, 803-360-3796; Jason Coker, 843-260-4786; or Chris Scott, 803-606-2500.

**Christmas Centerpieces:** Join Women in Ministry for a workshop from 6 to 7:30 p.m. December 1 in the fellowship hall. Materials will be provided. Bring your own container or pick one. Light refreshments will be served, and there will be a Christmas lesson. Cost is $5. Register using QR code.

**Stewardship Update:** First Presbyterian Church relies on the generosity of our covenant partners to fund our ministry activities. The information below is a snapshot of our giving through the end of October. Giving for October was better; however, our average monthly giving is below our monthly budget need.

| Monthly Giving Need | October Giving | YTD Surplus/(Deficit) |
|---|---|---|
| $163,667 | $155,120 | ($57,289) |

## CALENDAR

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22** **Commitment Sunday**

9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
10:00 AM First Connections: Jenkins Fellowship Hall
10:00 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
3:30 PM 8U Basketball practice: CLC
4:30 PM 10U Basketball practice: CLC
5:00 PM Youth: Small Groups

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23**

2:30 PM Prayer Group: Price Classroom
5:00 PM Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal
5:30 PM Selah Yoga: CLC
7:00 PM Boy Scouts: Scout Room
7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:00 PM Men's Bible Study: Room 203

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24**

7:00 AM Men's Prayer Meeting: Room 100
10:00 AM Staff meeting
5:30 PM 8U Basketball practice: CLC
6:30 PM Session: JFH

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25**

12:00 PM Men's Ministry luncheon: JFH

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26** **Thanksgiving**

*CDC and church office closed*

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27**

*CDC and church office closed*

5:30 PM Greek Orthodox church basketball practice

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29** **First Sunday of Advent**

9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
10:00 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
3:30 PM 8U Basketball practice: CLC
5:00 PM Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal
5:00 PM Youth: Outdoor Movie

**A Taste of Generosity** – Five Weeks. Open Hearts. A Whole New Way to Live! What if generosity is above more than what we give – what if it's about how we live? Join Kelly Hickey from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. Wednesdays, January 6 – February 3, in the Fellowship Hall for a five-week journey to discover the joy of living generously through our time, relationships, and resources. Register by December 14 so we can order your participant book and come ready to discover how generosity can transform your heart and everyday life! Please contact Kelly at 843-799-1263 or khickey@florencefirst.org to register or use the QR code at right.

ECO
A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians