

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 2, 2026

THE CHURCH GATHERS

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Variations on "Duke Street"

James Mansfield

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Laura Perry Johnson, Liturgist

Leader: God we walk in darkness and cannot see

People: Reach out to us so that we know you are with us

Leader: We are afraid and our fear tempts us away from love,

People: Wrestle our hearts God so that we once again are drawn towards love.

Leader: Let us wrestle you until the daylight breaks and we see your salvation,

People: You will never leave nor forsake us, your goodness is the embers which stoke our hope!

*HYMN #49 *(see bulletin)*

"Holy God, We Praise Thy Name"

Franz/Walworth

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Life is hard and messy. So much of our world doesn't make sense to us, and so often our faith leaves us with more questions than answers. We long to hold on to a God we cannot always see, and to be honest about the fear and doubt that pull us toward letting go. Yet we belong to a God who wrestles with us rather than abandoning us, who says, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." Let us hold on and confess our sins, our failures, our fears, and our hopes to the very source of all that is good, and beautiful, and just.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

God who fully knows and loves us, you know the weight we carry, the doubts we have, and our continuous failures to love our neighbors as ourselves. Yet, you cling to us in love. You wrestle with us in our doubts, our questions, our anger, and our fears. Even though we experience darkness, we will not let go of you Lord until we experience the new creation you promise us. Help us to walk in the ways of your love, even when that path is difficult. Forgive us when we stumble, and remind us always that your love never leaves or forgets us.

Our prayers continue in silence...

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Leader: Hear the good news: Our God will never leave nor forsake us. God's love wears down our stubborn hearts, and calls us into newness of life

People: We have been given a new identity in Christ, the old has passed away and the new has come! Hallelujah! Amen!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Share the peace of Christ with one another.

*HYMN #833 *(see bulletin)*

"O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"

Matheson/Peace

WE RESPOND TO GOD WITH OFFERINGS AND PRAISE

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Vignette”

Franklin Ritter

***DOXOLOGY**

OLD HUNDREDTH

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God, before your word is spoken, wrestle with us until we cannot look away. Open our ears to hear what we would rather not hear, and our hearts to hold what we cannot yet understand. Speak to us now, and do not let us go until we have received your blessing. Amen.

FIRST READING:

Genesis 32:22-32

ANTHEM

“Lord of the Morning”

Joseph Martin

SECOND READING:

Matthew 26:36-46

SERMON

“We Who Wrestle With God”

Austin Pounds

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

The Apostles’ Creed

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; 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.

***HYMN #338** (*see bulletin*)

“How Firm A Foundation”

Caldwell’s *Union Harmony*

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Leader: Go now and wrestle well

People: With our doubts, with our neighbors, with the God who will not let us go.

Leader: Do not let go until you have received the blessing

People: Of a life poured out in love.

Leader: May the God who wrestled with Jacob in the dark meet you in yours.

People: May the love that wears down stubborn hearts wear down our resistance to grace.

Leader: Go in peace, and go limping if you must

People: For we go blessed, carrying the peace of Christ into all our days. Amen.

POSTLUDE

“Kyrie”

Boëly

(*) *We stand as we are able*

*The flowers in the sanctuary today were placed to the Glory of God
and in honor of all our teachers as we begin the new school year,
from the Strickland Family.*

NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 9TH RESONANCE SERVICE AT 3:30 P.M.:

A DISCUSSION ON NEURODIVERGENCE AND FAITH

Guest Speaker: Mikhaela “Kai” Smith has a background in Psychology and nearly a Masters of Divinity. She currently serves at First Presbyterian and the Moultrie Library. When Kai discovered she was neurodivergent as an adult, it changed everything, including how she understood her faith journey. Join us Sunday, August 9th for an honest discussion about church spaces, mental health and what it means to belong when your brain doesn’t fit the mold.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elders of the Month: Laura Hall & Aileen McNair

Sunday, August 2 at Noon – THRIVE youth fun park trip

Monday, August 3 at 7 a.m. Biscuits & Blessings – *youth gathering at Chick-fil-A*

Tuesday, August 4 at 9 a.m. Shalom Bible Study

(5-week study using *Second Thoughts About Hell* by Allen & Cornwall)

Wednesday, August 5 SOUP KITCHEN – *serving volunteers needed*

Saturday, August 8 at 3 p.m. OUR TIME – GAMES!

Sunday, August 9 at 3:30 p.m. RESONANCE – alternative worship, fellowship & discussion

Monday, August 10 at 7 a.m. Biscuits & Blessings – *youth gathering at Chick-fil-A*

Monday, August 10 at 10 a.m. Christian Service

Monday, August 10 from 5-7 p.m. OPEN HOUSE FOR FPC PRESCHOOL

Tuesday, August 11 at 9 a.m. Shalom Bible Study

Wednesday, August 12 FIRST DAY OF FPC PRESCHOOL

Wednesday, August 12 at 1 p.m. Finance

Wednesday, August 12 at 4 p.m. Prayer Shawl

Wednesday, August 12 at 5:30 p.m. WATCH SUPPERS RESUME!! (choir moves back to 7 p.m.)

GET YOUR FALL STUDY BOOKS THIS WEEK!

IN THE COMING WEEKS, WE WILL BE STARTING TWO DIFFERENT STUDIES. The first one will be at **Shalom on Tuesday mornings** starting on August 4th at 9 A.M. We are reading *Second Thoughts About Hell* which explores all the ways Christians have thought about eternal judgment. The second study is our **WATCH study** and we are doing *Appreciate These Things: 8 Ways of Cultivating Compassion*. Both books are \$10 each.

Contact Austin to get your book: dcefirstpresmoultrie@gmail.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS & BUY TICKETS FOR THE MISSIONS DINNER

This year’s Missions Dinner to benefit the Fellowship for Disadvantaged Peoples in Bangladesh will be held at noon **Sunday, September 20th**. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased from Patty June or the office. The menu for eat-in or take-out meals is Fried Chicken, Creamed Corn, Green Beans, Roll and Peach Cobbler.

BACKPACKS FOR HOPE

Our church will be supporting our Backpacks ministry to local children during this quarter with the Helping Hands Box donations in the Fellowship Hall. At the end of the last school year, our Alice Griner Backpacks for Hope Ministry was serving 24 families, which included 82 kids, with bags of food weekly to help them get through the weekend.

The ladies who prepare the bags of food can stretch every dollar by purchasing items that are on sale each week of delivery. **So, as we prepare for the new school year, the BEST thing you can do to support the ministry is make a financial donation** by writing a separate check to First Presbyterian and put “backpacks” in the memo line. You can bring/send the check to the office or put it in the collection plate.

If you prefer to donate food items, please **only bring select items from this list in September** to ensure freshness: Peanut butter, Vienna sausages, Individual packaged fruit (raisins, fruit cups), breakfast bars, granola bars, spaghetti sauce (ONLY can or plastic containers - no glass) and Spaghetti noodles.