

# ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 9, 2026

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## THE CHURCH GATHERS

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

Ellen Jane Lorenz

## GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Connie Fritz, Liturgist

Leader: Father we are scared children calling out to you

**People: You whisper to our hearts, “Do not be troubled, I am here”**

Leader: Father we want to reach out to you, but our storms surround us and we lose sight of you

**People: You promise us that we will pass through the waters and they will not overcome us. You whisper to us once again, “Do not be troubled, I am here”**

Leader: Father we are being swept under the waves of chaos and are drowning in our troubles

**People: You reach out and pull us up, declaring “Do not be troubled, I am here!”**

### \*HYMN #53 *(see bulletin)*

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Van Dyke/Beethoven

### \*CALL TO CONFESSION

Often we want to follow Jesus, but are overwhelmed with the darkness of this world. We become unsteady because of the storms raging around us and the winds of our anxiety and fear pushing and pulling us in all directions.

Yet, our God calls us toward love. His voice is a beacon of hope guiding us toward sturdy ground. Let us confess the ways we have taken our eyes off of him, and the fear that has kept us from reaching for his hand.

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

*Father, we are all like Peter, taking our eyes off of you when storms hit us. The chaos in our lives, in our communities, in our world seeks to pull us under. And we give into that chaos. We turn from love. We cause harm instead of bringing healing. We promote shame over acceptance. We listen to the voice of the powerful over the voice of the weak. Forgive us, Father, and remind us that you love us just as much when we fall into the waves as you do when we are walking on the water. Reach out to us once again, and remind us that you are with us.*

Our prayers continue in silence...

### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Leader: God meets us in our storms and holds us in our darkness

**People: We will rejoice, for we will pass through the chaotic waters and will not be overcome.**

### \*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 #393 *(see bulletin)*

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

Palmer/Mason

## WE RESPOND TO GOD WITH OFFERINGS AND PRAISE

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Abide With Me”

Setting: Hal H. Hopson

**\*DOXOLOGY**

OLD HUNDREDTH

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

## WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 43:1-13

ANTHEM

“I Love You, My Jesus”

Harlan

SECOND READING:

Matthew 14:22-33

SERMON

“You of Little of Faith”

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 #340** (*see bulletin*)

“The Solid Rock”

Mote/Bradbury

### **\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Leader: Go now and walk toward him

**People: Through wind, through waves, through every fear that tells us to sink.**

Leader: Do not take your eyes from him

**People: Even when the water rises higher than our courage.**

Leader: May the God who calls you by name steady you when you falter.

**People: May the hand that reached for Peter reach for us in our sinking.**

Leader: Go in peace, and go trusting even when you doubt

**People: For we go being held by God’s steadfast love, carrying the presence of Christ into all our days. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

“Postlude in E Minor”

George Blake

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(\*) *We stand as we are able*

*The flowers in the sanctuary today were placed to the Glory of God  
and in honor of our choir.*

*From Marie’s Flower & Gift Shoppe*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Elders of the Month:** Laura Hall & Aileen McNair

**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.*)

### **RESONANCE SERVICE AT 3:30 P.M. THIS AFTERNOON** **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.

### **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](mailto:dcefirstpresmoultrie@gmail.com).**

### **MISSIONS DINNER: SEPTEMBER 20TH**

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 Helping Hands Box is focusing on donations for the Backpacks ministry. 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. **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.