

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 12, 2026

THE CHURCH GATHERS

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Variations on "Ashgrove"

Arr.: Lani Smith

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from Psalm 119)

Connie Fritz, Liturgist

Leader: All who walk in shadow, come into the light!

People: God's Word lights the way for us.

Leader: God has promised to abide with us.

People: So let us commit to walk in God's ways.

Leader: All who are afflicted, ensnared by the world, come give praise to God.

People: God is the joy of our heart, our sure and certain comfort, come what may! Let us worship God!

***HYMN #64** (see bulletin)

"Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

C.H. Bateman

*CALL TO CONFESSION

God does not promise us a life without struggle or hardship; yet how often do we make what is already difficult even more so? Yet the grace of God is that the sorrows we inflict upon ourselves cannot last forever; so, let us unburden ourselves, confessing the ways in which we struggle against God that we may receive that grace anew. Let us pray...

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

*Gracious Creator, you created this world and called it good, and out of it called a pilgrim people, chosen to abide with you and to bear witness to your reality. Yet we, who have been called "Beloved" by you, often find ourselves making peace with what does not give peace. Meet us in our weakness; turn our unwilling eyes upon our unruly hearts. Draw us away from our love of power, our tolerance of injustice, our ignorance of suffering. Drive us towards what is fearfully and wonderfully made, so that we may inspire hope, offer forgiveness, and love our neighbors through faithful living, according to the way of Jesus Christ...
Our prayers continue in silence...*

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Leader: For those who are in Christ, there is no condemnation; for by Christ's death and resurrection, God has done what the law and works of human righteousness alone could not: breathed new life through the Holy Spirit into the world, turning it upside down. Believe this scandalous, joyous good news: through Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and restored to new life.

People: Alleluia! 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 #35** (see bulletin)

"Come, Thou Fount"

Robinson/Wyeth

WE RESPOND TO GOD WITH OFFERINGS AND PRAISE

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Andante Semplice”

Ernest Tomlinson

***DOXOLOGY**

OLD HUNDREDTH

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING:

Romans 8:1-11

ANTHEM

“At the Name of Jesus”

Berry

SECOND READING:

Matthew 13:18-23

SERMON

“A Grace-Filled Life”

Austin Pounds

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***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 #58** (see bulletin)

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

Adapted: R.S. Willis

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Leader: Go forth from this place as a witness of God’s glory. Be an instrument of God’s grace, knowing that Christ goes before you, to make a way out of no way. And may the Lord bless you and keep you; may God make God’s face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

People: May the Lord turn his face toward us, and grant us peace, both this day and forevermore.
Alleluia! Amen!

POSTLUDE

“A Festive March”

Anne A. Davis

(*) *We stand as we are able*

*The flowers in the sanctuary today are to the glory of GOD
and in loving remembrance of Bobby L. Harnage
by his wife and daughter, Poolé Harnage and Michele Rodgers.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elders of the Month: Elaine Barber & Aileen McNair

Wednesday, July 15 at 5 p.m. DINNER at FIVE at Dalton's

Monday, July 20 at 1 p.m. Cornerstones Meeting at Dairy Queen

NO SESSION IN JULY

Tuesday, July 21 at 4 p.m. MISSIONS

Wednesday, July 22 at 5 p.m. DINNER at FIVE at Margarita's

Sunday, July 26 following the 11 a.m. service—CONGREGATIONAL MEETING to elect church officers

Mark Your August Calendars:

Saturday, August 1 FLINT RIVER PRESBYTERY MEETING at our church!

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

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

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

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

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

Wednesday, August 12 at 5:30 p.m. WATCH SUPPERS RESUME!!

DINNER AT FIVE

This Wednesday, July 8, our Dinner at Five crew will meet up at the Dalton's at 5 p.m.. Please let the office know by tomorrow (Monday) afternoon if you are interested: firstpresmoultrie@gmail.com.

DONATE SCHOOL SUPPLIES BY THE END OF JULY

August 1st, we will be hosting the Flint River Presbytery meeting. FRP is collecting school supplies for refugees in partnership with New American Pathways. Help us by donating items listed on the bulletin in the Fellowship Hall.

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.