

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 14, 2025

THE CHURCH GATHERS

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

INTROIT

“Ein’ Feste Burg”

Setting: Johann Pachelbel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Beth Sheahan, Liturgist

Leader: Come, let us take refuge in God’s steadfast love

People: We will rejoice in our identity as God’s beloved children

Leader: By God’s grace, let us bring love’s light to the depths of our darkness

People: We will refuse to wound others as we have been wounded

Leader: It is through love that we are being transformed, and it is love that our Father calls us towards

People: The world will know us by our love, so we vow to love one another in Christ

*HYMN #359 *(see bulletin)*

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

Williams/Hughes

*CALL TO CONFESSION

God’s love is like a lighthouse that sends a beacon of hope in the middle of the darkest storms. It beckons us towards new life, but we do not draw near. We are stubborn and easily afraid of the depths of God’s love. We are afraid it may lead us to face our own brokenness. Let us confess to God our need for forgiveness and his spirit’s empowerment to chase love even at great cost.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Unison)

You, O Lord, did not forsake love’s call to take on the cross for our sake. What was an instrument of death you turned into a symbol of hope and new life. We have scars from the pain of this life. We confess that we have wounded others and multiplied our pain. Yet, your scars brought healing. We confess that we have failed to bring healing. We have not imitated you in this life, but we know you are steadily calling us to turn to love. By your love, we will also use our scars to bring healing. Like you, we will become wounded healers. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

All of us have a call from God and we miss out on the divine purpose of our lives if we do not journey with God to discover it. Let us come to God. Let him open our ears to hear the promise:

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

*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 #83 *(see bulletin)*

“Jesus the Very Thought of Thee”

John B. Dykes

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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 kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WE RESPOND TO GOD WITH OFFERINGS AND PRAISE

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Draw Us to You”

Setting: Michael Burkhardt

*DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

CHILDREN'S CHURCH (5th grade or younger)

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING:

Deuteronomy 8:6-8

ANTHEM

“Holy Lord of Hosts”

Hallquist and Harlan

SECOND READING:

Ephesians 1:3-10

SERMON

“Walking with Nouwen: Chosen and Beloved”

Austin Pounds

*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 #346 (see bulletin)

“For the Healing of the Nations”

Fred Kaan/J.F. Wade

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

“Procession”

Edvard Grieg

(*) *We stand as we are able*

*The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Bill Lyons, Diane's stepfather.*

Given by Jim and Diane Lowry

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELDERS OF THE MONTH: Laura Hall and Dan Jeter

MISSIONS DINNER AFTER CHURCH TODAY

Monday, September 15 at 12:30 p.m. CORNERSTONE'S MEETING

Tuesday, September 16 at 5:15 p.m. SESSION

Wednesday, September 17 at 5:30 p.m. WATCH SUPPER

Thursday, September 18 at 1 p.m. Card Playing

Thursday, September 18 at 2 p.m. OFFICE WILL CLOSE EARLY—homecoming parade day

Friday, September 19 at 4:45 p.m. MISSIONS MEETING

Wednesday, September 24 at 5:30 p.m. WATCH SUPPER

Thursday, September 25 at 11 a.m. CORNERSTONES LUNCH ON THE ROAD

Saturday, September 27 from 12 p.m.- 3 p.m. MUSIC IN MOULTRIE GATHERING

Sunday, September 28 from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. CONFIRMATION CLASS

DONATE TO HELP MISSIONARIES MOVE TO A NEW MINISTRY LOCATION

The Christian Service/Missions Committee is asking you to consider donating to help Emre, missionary Pam's colleague who visited with us in July. Emre and his family have been dealing with government obstructions and targeted constraints in the country where they have been serving. However, God has opened up an avenue for them to continue their ministry in another country. If you can contribute to their resettlement expenses by next Sunday, September 21, **please make out a check to FPC** and put "**Emre**" in the memo line so it gets designated for this special purpose.

MUSIC IN MOULTRIE GATHERING (with ice cream social)

Join us Saturday, September 27th from 12-3 p.m. for live music, a cookout & homemade ice cream!

Six churns of homemade ice cream are needed for the church social on Saturday, Sept. 27. If you are willing to make a churn, please sign up with Nancy Coleman (29-891-1525 or rosehillfarms@windstream.net) If you're willing to make some ice cream but don't have a churn, the church has three churns available for you to borrow.

HELPING HANDS DONATIONS: ALICE GRINER BACKPACKS FOR HOPE MINISTRY

During the last school year, Alice Griner Backpacks for Hope Ministry served 52 kids in 14 different families 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. The BEST thing you can do to help is give money: write a check to FPC and put "backpacks" in the memo line. If you prefer to donate food items, please **only bring select items from this list**: 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.

WATCH RESERVATIONS

MENU: Wednesday, September 17

Everyone: Breakfast Bar (Sausage Breakfast Casserole, Grits, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage Patties, Bacon, Biscuits)

Desserts: Cinnamon Rolls & Cookies & Ice Cream

Contact Penny to make your reservation: 229-985-3158 or firstpresmoultrie@gmail.com