

First Presbyterian Church

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Celebrating 175 Years



May 18th, 2025

We welcome you not as strangers but as a part of God's family! We are a community of faith that gathers to praise our Lord and Savior, serve others, search for answers, and enjoy the fellowship of one another. We hope today you will be challenged and discover encouragement. The peace of Christ be with you!

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

5th Sunday of Easter

May 18th, 2025

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

*Worship begins with the Prelude. Please use this time for **silent** preparation.*

PRELUDE

George Frederick Händel

"Danke sei dir, Herr"

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

CHORAL INTROIT

Gerhard Tersteegen

“God Himself is with Us”

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: Have you ever wondered: Is anyone beyond the love of God?

People: *Although our sins are many and doubt persistent, God has extended his love to us even before we knew his name.*

Leader: Who are the chosen ones who are beloved of God?

People: *We believe that God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. So it is stated that we are all loved and God grants us faith, no one excluded.*

Leader: If God welcomes all who believe, will we do likewise?

Unison: *God has given to outsiders the repentance that leads to life, who are we to stand in God's way?*

PRAYER OF PRAISE

*HYMN OF ADORATION # 610

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

God of the clean and the unclean, when You created the earth and all that is in it, You called it good. Although creation is marred by sin, teach us that all You touch is holy and beloved. Is it true that when we exclude others, we exclude You? When we hold grudges, we are hating You? When we show contempt, we are contemptuous of those You love? How dare we call unclean that which You have made clean! Forgive our arrogance. May we be made holy in truth, loving as You love, for we are, clean and unclean alike, in need of Your grace for Jesus's sake. Amen.

*DECLARATION OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI

*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.*

A MOMENT WITH OUR CHILDREN

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Acts 11:1-18, Page 130

ANTHEM

Marty Haugen

“Here in this Place”

GOSPEL LESSON

John 13:31-35, page 109

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

MEDITATION

The Rev. Laura Lupton

“Expanding Grace”

*HYMN OF PREPARATION # 14

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving 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 the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.*

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

Katharina von Schlegel

“Be Still, My Soul”

*DOXOLOGY

Hymn # 606

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING GOD’S WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT # 749

“Come! Live in the Light!”

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Christopher Walker

“Celtic Alleluia”

*POSTLUDE

Jean-Joseph Mouret

“Rondeau”

**Please stand if able.*

Opportunities for the Week of May 18th – May 25th

Today:	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School (last day for our children and youth)
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service / Communion / PW Birthday
	12:10 p.m.	Handbell Practice
Monday:	6:30 p.m.	175 Anniversary Committee Meeting
Tuesday:	6:15 p.m.	Men’s Group, <i>conference room</i>
Wednesday:		Deadline for Church Mouse / Newsletter
	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Sunday:	10:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service

Announcements

We welcome back Rev. Laura Lupton, who has a new and expanded position in our Presbytery. She is now our Bridge Associate General Presbyterian for Mission Coordination & Associate Stated Clerk serving the entire Presbytery rather than just the West Community. She lives in Fayetteville and her office is now in Elizabethtown. She is also on the Board of Directors for Camp Monroe in Laurel Hill.

The Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering will be collected today. The recipients this year are United States organizations. Leland Presbyterian Church in Leland Miss. to build a housing facility at the church and to Red Cloud Renewable in Pine Ridge, S. D. to build Dome homes for persons needing housing. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Sunday School's last date for our children and youth is today.

We begin our 10 a.m. summer worship schedule (June, July, and August) starting June 1st.

Contact Paul White if you are interested in placing flowers in the sanctuary. Thank you to all who provide flowers throughout the year!

We have numerous "ministry baskets" in the Family Life Center. For the month of May, we are collecting nonperishable foods and plastic grocery bags for Robbins Food Bank.

If you are interested in being a lay reader during worship, contact Paul White. You will read the Old or New Testament lesson.

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God by Carol & Paul White.