

The cornerstone of our church building

FIRST 
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Fifth Sunday
of Easter
Sunday, May 7, 2023
10:30 A.M.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We come together as the church;
not a building of wood or stone, but a spiritual house.
We will be the living stones
that shout praise even when others are silent.
God redeems us, joins us together, and builds us up.

*OPENING PRAYER

O God, form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

*HYMN 321

The Church's One Foundation

AURELIA

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Andi Wallace

May God be with you in worship here.
May God be with you in worship there.

Children may depart the sanctuary with their teacher for Worship & Wonder. They will return to the sanctuary before communion.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Whoever believes in Christ will not be put to shame. Confident in this promise, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

1 Pet. 2:1, 2, 7

Almighty God, your word offers freedom from sin, but we confess that we have not obeyed your word. We have harbored malice toward our enemies; we have been deceitful in our relationships; we have been insincere in our commitments; through gossip we have slandered our friends. Forgive us our sins and lead us to genuine repentance. Help your children long for your pure, spiritual milk that we may grow into the joy of salvation through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silence is kept.

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

1 Pet. 2:10

Siblings in Christ, once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. In the name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven. **Amen.**

*GLORIA PATRI

GREATOREX

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.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Since we have been reconciled to God, let us also be reconciled to one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

*Why should I feel discouraged? Why should the shadows come?
Why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home,
When Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is he:
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.
I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,
For his eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me.*

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, as we listen to your holy Word, open our hearts to the power of your Spirit, call us out of darkness, and lead us into your marvelous light. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Acts 7:55-60 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

1 Peter 2:2-10 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“What’s the Old Testament Got to Do With It?”

Rev. Matt Curry

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from a Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation* Dale Wood

*THE DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606) 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. Amen.*

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise...
...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest!*

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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All who seek God are invited to the table, regardless of church affiliation or any other condition or identity. You may take communion by taking a small piece of bread and dipping it in the cup.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, we give you thanks that by the witness of your word and the sharing of this meal you have opened our hearts and eyes to the presence of Christ among us. Now send us forth from this place by the power of your Spirit to tell this good news to the world: The Lord has risen indeed! Amen.

THE SENDING

*HYMN 819

Be Still, My Soul

FINLANDIA

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*POSTLUDE

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Matt Curry*

Liturgist: *Patti Price*

Communion Servers: *Creda Heffelfinger & Marilyn Van Winkle*

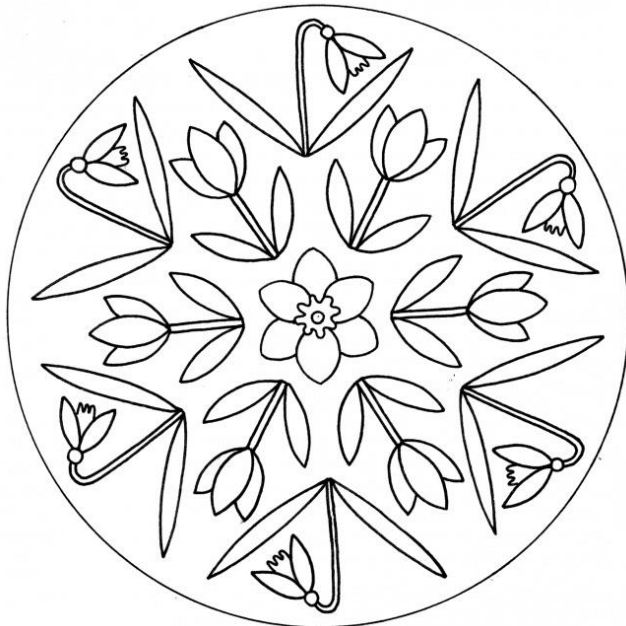
The Life of the Church

Committee Meetings are being held today following worship. Christian Education will meet in the work room. Worship & Music will meet in the parlor. Finance Committee will meet in the library.

A Potluck Picnic and Kite Flying event will be held at Panther Creek Park on Sunday, May 21 at 1:00pm. Bring a dish to share and meet us at the Kuegel North shelter for an afternoon of fellowship. Conditions permitting, we will fly the kites we made in April as we anticipate Pentecost, our celebration of the Holy Spirit coming in the rush of wind.

Tuesday Night Bible Study will not meet this week. We will continue on May 16 at 6pm in the library. This group is geared toward those who are newer to studying the Bible and want to know more about how a book that can seem a little intimidating fits into our lives today. Jeff Moles leads the group, which is using podcasts, videos, and other freely available resources as tools for our exploration. Most of the group is on the young-ish (emphasis on the *ish!*) side of the congregation, but anyone is welcome!

Hearing Assistance Devices are available. Please see an usher if you would like to use one.





First Presbyterian Church is an inclusive community of faith called to proclaim the good news of the love of Jesus Christ for all people, and to join God in the building of a just, peaceful, and compassionate world.



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Rev. Matt Curry, Pastor
Jeff Moles, Director of Christian Education & Mission
Stephanie Dube, Director of Children's & Youth Ministries
Dennis Jewett, Director of Music
Tyler Simpson, Organist
Sasha O'Bryan, Office Manager & Pastoral Assistant
Gabriel Lovelace, Staff Accountant
Dylan Schroader, Custodian
Emmy Voyles, Nursery Care Provider