

# Pickens Presbyterian Church



311 WEST MAIN STREET  
PICKENS, SOUTH CAROLINA 29671

*“To the Glory of God, and the Service of People”*

October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025

19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Eleven o'clock

## **The Church Gathers**

**Chiming of the Hour**  
**Choral Introit**

*“Grace”*

*Carolyn Hamlin*

**Friendship Pads**

*Please print your name(s), and contact information, pass the pad, pass it back, note the names of those worshipping with you and greet them by name after worship.*

**Concerns in the Life of the Church**

*Elder Jo Anne Gessell, Liturgist*

**Prelude**

*“What a Friend We Have In Jesus”*

*Charles Converse, arr. Shackley*

**\*Call to Worship**

We lift up our eyes to the hills — from where will our help come?

*Our help comes not from the hills, but from the Lord who made heaven and earth.*

I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable;

*The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.*

With endurance, expectation, and joy, let us worship the living God!

*ALL: Come, Let us worship God!*

**\*Prayer of Praise**

**\*Hymn #454**

*“Blessed Jesus, at Your Word”*

## **The Church Confesses**

**Prayer of Confession**

*God of the covenant, you promise to write your law in our hearts, that we might be faithful people who know you and your will for us. Still we stray from your ways, we fail to tell the truth, we mirror the world around us more than the good news of the gospel, and we fail to acknowledge that you are our God. Forgive us, and by your Spirit renew us. Engrave your covenant upon us once more. Grant us courage and faith that we might begin again to live what it is we say we believe. . . . (silent, personal confession) Amen.*

**Kyrie**

*You are the Lord, Giver of mercy.*

*You are the Christ, Giver of mercy. You are the Lord, Giver of mercy.*

**Assurance of Pardon** . . . in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. *Thanks be to God.*

**\*Passing of the Peace** Peace be with you. *And also with you.*

*(Please turn to the person in front of you, behind you, and beside you to share Christ's peace with them)*

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*\*You are invited to stand in spirit or in body.*

**\*Gloria Patri #579**

*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.*

## **The Church Proclaims God's Word**

**Prayer for Illumination**

Elder JoAnne Gessell

**1<sup>st</sup> Scripture Reading**

Jeremiah 31.27-34

The Word of God for the People of God. *Thanks be to God.*

**Time with Young Disciples**

Elder Tina LaFoy

**2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture Reading**

Luke 18.1-8

The Word of God for the People of God. *Thanks be to God.*

**Anthem**

"Grace"

Carolyn Hamlin

**Sermon**

"Pests"

Dr. David Torrey

## **The Church Responds in Faith**

**\*Hymn # 384**

*"O Love, That Wilt Not Let Me Go"*

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

(The Confession of 1967, Inclusive Language edition)

*The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for women and men when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ.*

*The new life takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace.*

*The new life does not release people from conflict with unbelief, pride, lust, and fear. They still have to struggle with disheartening difficulties and problems. Nevertheless, as they mature in love and faithfulness in their life with Christ, they live in freedom and good cheer, bearing witness on good days and evil days, confident that the new life is pleasing to God and helpful to others.*

**Offering**

(Use the QR Code to the right for Online Giving)



GIVE NOW

**Offertory**

"Cornerstone"

Lari Goss, arr. Carol McMillian

**\*Doxology #592**

*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.*

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer** (debts/Debtors)

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

Lift up your hearts. *We lift them up to the Lord. . . .*

*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.*

**\*Hymn #698 (Insert)**

*"Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am"*

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude**

*"God's Wonderful People"* Lanny Wolfe, arr. Carolyn McMillian

(Please remain seated until worship ends after the Postlude)

## **The Church Enters the Mission Field**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**In the name of Jesus the Christ, “Welcome Home” to the House of the Lord.** *If you are visiting, we offer a special welcome and invite you to participate with us in mission and ministry. If you would like to become a member of our congregation, please speak to the Pastor.* We invite you to visit our website ([www.PickensPresbyterian.org](http://www.PickensPresbyterian.org)) to register for our newsletter.

### PRAYER CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

*Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. – Philippians 4:6 (NRSV)*

**REQUESTS:** Share prayer concerns in worship, on the pew cards (*place in the offering plates*), or email the church office [admin@pickenspresbyterian.org](mailto:admin@pickenspresbyterian.org).

*(Prayer concern list policy: Names will remain on the list for 4 weeks, after which they may be either renewed for another 4 weeks, or moved to the Long-Term Prayer Concern List)*

### CONCERNS

Name (relationship)	Concern
*Nigerian Christians	
*Mike & Shirley (Deb Holtel's cousin).....	health concerns
10/12/25.....	
Brenda Fishpaw (Tina LaFoy's aunt) .....	health concerns
Shirley (Cousin of Deb Holtel).....	health concerns
Mike and David Goldsmith .....	health concerns
10/5/25.....	
Heather Sciorelli (friend of Kathy Chamlee).....	health concerns
Jeannie Bowen.....	health concerns
9/21/25.....	
Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza	
*new this week	

### CELEBRATIONS

#### LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERN LIST

**Bert Allison, John Blackwood, Caroline Bowen, Katherine Acker Brooks, Barbara & Joe Christopher, Margaret Dawkins, Steve Ellison, Shawn Erickson (Ron & Sylvia's son), Jane Gillespie, Howard Harden, Samuel Hood (John & Jana Holland's nephew), Beverly & Burnett Kelly, Drema LaFoy (Tina's mother) & Tina, Brad Michael (Bob Michael's Son), Hank Owens, Susan Steedman (Sarah Mahanes' Mother), Kay Tilley, Bev Timerding (Deb Holtel's sister), Melvin Tolliver (Deb Holtel's uncle), John & Tiffanie Torrey (David's brother & Sister-in-law).**

#### EXTRA GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

**Peace in Ukraine.** PDA support: gifts to [DR000156](#).

**Humanitarian Aid to Gaza.** Text PDAIP to 41444, or gifts to “[DR000081-Israel/Palestine](#)”.

**US Flood Relief.** PDA support: gifts to [DR000191](#).

\*Make checks payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with DR support number on memo line.

**CHURCH EVENTS THIS WEEK:** Online calendar: <http://PickensPresbyterian.org/Calendar>

**IMPORTANT NOTE FROM THE CDC:** As of September 30<sup>th</sup>, the CDC will no longer be using a P.O. Box for their regular mail delivery.

Please use their street address going forward for all mail: 338 W Cedar Rock Street.

**DONATIONS NEEDED:** The CDC will once again participate in Trick or Treat Down Main, Friday, October 31st. This will be great opportunity to market the center to the Pickens public. Chasity is asking for donations of candy or small party favors (stickers, bugs, spider rings, etc.) that will fit into a small candy bag to offset cost as much as possible. Donations may be dropped off at the CDC or at the main Church Office. Please call Chasity at the CDC if you have any questions: (864) 878-9953.

**WARMTH & COMFORT MINISTRY: September - November Drive:** Items of warmth: hats, gloves, scarves, blankets, socks, lap quilts, or monetary donations to purchase items for the residents. **Items must be new or handmade due to state regulations.** **Due November 10<sup>th</sup> in Office Collection Box.** Questions: Tammy Ferguson @ 864-238-4652 or [warmthandcomfortfortheelderly@gmail.com](mailto:warmthandcomfortfortheelderly@gmail.com)

**SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP TIME:** All Saints' Hall at 10:30am for food and fellowship. **Sign up at:** <https://tinyurl.com/FellowshipSnacks> or via the QR code in the CliffNotes.

# **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Last Sunday's Giving: **\$1,916.**

Weekly Amount Needed to meet Budget: **\$6,148.**

2025 Budget: **\$319,714.**

## **SERVING:**

## **TODAY (October 19th)**

## **October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Elder of the Week:	Starla Taylor	Sharon Stark
Liturgist:	Jo Anne Gessell	Ivy Stoddard
Sanctuary Guild:	Deb Holtel	Deb Holtel
Ushers:	Ivy and Roy Stoddard	Ivy and Roy Stoddard
Refreshments:	TBD	TBD
Camera Operation:	Ginger Chastain	Anna Chastain
Sound Board:		
Nursery Volunteers:		
Sanctuary Flowers:	<i>In-House Arrangement</i>	Deb Holtel
Communion Set-up:		
Communion Servers:		
<b><u>Lectionary readings for today:</u></b> Liturgist: Jo Anne Gessell Jeremiah 3.27-34 Psalm 119.97-104 Timothy 3.14-4.5 Luke 18.9-14		<b><u>Lectionary readings for next Sunday:</u></b> Liturgist: Ivy Stoddard Joel 2.23-32 Psalm 65 2 Timothy 4.6-8,16-18 Luke 18.9-14

## 698 Take, O Take Me as I Am

Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall

be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

The brevity of this text and tune invite repeated singing, either as a sustained chain of sound or as a sung response in a series of prayers. It offers a more reflective approach to the same theme of self-dedication evident in older hymns such as "Just as I Am" (see no. 442).

TEXT and MUSIC: John L. Bell, 1995  
 Text and Music © 1995 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

TAKE ME AS I AM  
 7.7.7.4