

Pickens Presbyterian Church



311 WEST MAIN STREET
PICKENS, SOUTH CAROLINA 29671

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

October 26th, 2025

20th Sunday after Pentecost

Eleven o'clock

Reformation Sunday ***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

Ivy Stoddard, Liturgist

Prelude

“If You Will Only Let God Guide You”

arr Derry Billingsley

***Call to Worship**

(based on Luke 18:14)

*All who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.
We humble ourselves before our God, ready to hear and receive God’s truth.*

ALL: Come, Let us worship God!

***Prayer of Praise**

***Hymn #260**

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

The Church Confesses

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, your truth is so often sharp and unsettling. We confess the ways we skirt the hard edges of your Word, turn up the volume on lesser noises, and lean into the comfort of our own certainty rather than submit to the discomfort of your challenge. You send us messengers, and we sidestep them; you challenge us, and we defend ourselves. Again and again, Holy God, we resist what we do not want to hear. And yet you keep calling. Have mercy on us. Interrupt our evasions. Soften what pride has hardened in us. Let us hear and receive your truth. . . . (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)

***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

Ivy Stoddard

1st Scripture Reading

Joel 2.23-32

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

Time with Young Disciples

Elder Tina LaFoy

2nd Scripture Reading

Luke 18:9-14

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

Anthem

"Gracious Spirit, Dwell With Me"

arr. by K. Lee Scott

Sermon

"Making the Grade"

Dr. David Torrey

The Church Responds in Faith

***Hymn # 376**

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

***Affirmation of Faith**

(Creed, Book of Confessions reference)

ONE:

(The Nicene Creed; The Apostles' Creed, 2.3)

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

ALL:

(The Scots Confession, 3.01)

We confess and acknowledge one God alone, distinct in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, to whom alone we must cleave, and in whom alone we put our trust.

Choir:

(The Heidelberg Catechism, 4.001)

We believe that, we belong – body and soul, in life and in death – not to ourselves but to our faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

Men:

(The Second Helvetic Confession, 5.029)

We believe that, all things are governed by the Providence of God.

Women:

(The Westminster Confession of Faith, 6.039)

We believe that, the Lord our God was pleased to make a second covenant of grace, wherein he freely offered unto sinners life and salvation by Jesus Christ.

ONE:

(The Shorter Catechism, 7.001)

We believe that, the chief end of humankind is to glorify God, and to enjoy God forever.

ALL:

(The Larger Catechism, 7.117)

We believe that there is but one only, the living and true God. God is a Spirit, in and of himself infinite in being, glory, blessedness and perfection, all-sufficient, eternal, unchangeable, incomprehensible, everywhere present, almighty, knowing all things, most wise, most holy, most just, most merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.

Choir:

(The Theological Declaration of Barmen, 8.26)

The church's commission, upon which its freedom is founded, consists in delivering the message of the free grace of God to all people in Christ's stead, and therefore in the ministry of his own Word and work through sermon and Sacrament.

Men:

(The Confession of 1967, 9.32)

We believe that, the life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission.

Women:

We believe that unity is both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ. Through the work of God's Spirit, unity is a binding force. At the same time, unity must be earnestly pursued and sought. Our unity must become visible to the world.

ONE:

(The Confession of Belhar, 10.3)

We believe that separation and hatred between people and groups is sin, already conquered by Christ. Anything threatening our unity has no place in the church.

ALL:

(A Brief Statement of Faith, 11.5-6)

With believers in every time and place we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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Offering

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



GIVE NOW

Lowell Mason

Offertory

“Nearer, My God, to Thee”

*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 #383

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

“Jesus Loves Me”

arr. Joel Raney

(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) 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.

(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
*Bill Ranson	health concerns
*Bev Timerding (Deb Holtel's sister)	health concerns
10/26/25.....	
Nigerian Christians	
Mike & Shirley (Deb Holtel's cousin)	health concerns
10/12/25.....	
Brenda Fishpaw (Tina LaFoy's aunt)	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>

NOTE TO THE CONGREGATION: Margaret Dawkins will be 95 this Tuesday, October 28th! Louise Hope will be hosting a celebration at Louise's home this afternoon. It will be a drop-in from 2:00-5:00pm. See Thursday's Cliffnotes for more detail and directions.

VETERANS EVENT: On Sunday, November 9th, we will hold our annual Veterans Day Breakfast and Program that will begin at 9:00am in All Saints' Hall. If you are a veteran, we would like to recognize you by listing your name in the program. This celebration is open to all, so if you plan to attend we need for you to sign up also to help determine our breakfast needs. **To list a veteran or to attend the breakfast, please use the tear-off below and place in the offering plate, or call the church office at ext. 0. Volunteers are needed** to help cook, serve food, and clean up, contact Nancy Goldsmith, or Vickie Swaynham.

IMPORTANT NOTES FROM THE CDC: As of September 30th, the CDC no longer uses a P.O. Box for their regular mail delivery.

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

Also, to find out how to Qualify and Apply for The Child Care Scholarship Program, supported by the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS), please go the link: <https://www.scchildcare.org/families/child-care-scholarships/>

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.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Last Sunday's Giving: \$5,105.

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

2025 Budget: \$319,714.

VETERANS DAY EVENT – Sunday, November 9th @ 9:00am:

→→→**If you are a veteran or plan to invite a veteran to attend**, please use this tear-off and place in the offering plate, or call the church office at 864-878-9422, ext 0, to sign up:

Veteran's Name: _____

Service Branch: _____

→→→**If you plan to attend the Veterans Day breakfast...(same as above)**

Name: _____ **Number attending #:** _____

SERVING:**TODAY (October 26th)****November 2nd, 2025**

Elder of the Week:	Sharon Stark	Ken Townsend
Liturgist:	Ivy Stoddard	Sharon Stark
Sanctuary Guild:	Deb Holtel	Deb Holtel
Ushers:	Ivy and Roy Stoddard	Dianna and Butch Morris
Refreshments:	Debbie Teeple	TBD
Camera Operation:	Anna Chastain	Carole Reed
Sound Board:		
Nursery Volunteers:		
Sanctuary Flowers:	Deb Holtel	JoAnne Gessell
Communion Set-up:		Sharon Stark
Communion Servers:	David Mc, Starla, Jeff, Mark, Ken T	
<u>Lectionary readings for today:</u> Liturgist: Ivy Stoddard Joel 2.23-32 Psalm 65 2 Timothy 4.6-8,16-18 Luke 18.9-14		<u>Lectionary readings for next Sunday:</u> Liturgist: Sharon Stark Habakkuk 1.1-4, 2.1-4 Psalm 119.137-144 2 Thessalonians 1.1-4, 11-12 Luke 19.1-10