

Pickens Presbyterian Church



311 WEST MAIN STREET
PICKENS, SOUTH CAROLINA 29671

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

June 28th, 2026

5th Sunday after Pentecost

Eleven o'clock

The Church Gathers

Chiming of the Hour

Choral Introit

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

Folk Melody

Friendship Pads

Please print your name(s), & contact information, pass the pad, pass it back, note the names of your neighbors and greet them by name after worship.

Concerns in the Life of the Church

Elder Austin Townsend, Liturgist

Prelude

“Praise the Lord, Alleluia!”

Thurlow Weed

***Call to Worship**

(based on Psalm 89)

Let us sing of God's steadfast love forever;

With my mouth I will proclaim God's faithfulness to all generations.

Let us declare that God's steadfast love is established forever;

God's faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

ALL: Come, let us worship God!

***Prayer of Praise**

***Hymn #275**

“God of Our Life”

The Church Confesses

Prayer of Confession

God of the risen Christ, you broke the power of sin and evil. And yet we still live in the tombs of forgetfulness, anxiety and fear. We have failed to love you as we should. We have neglected to love our neighbor. Indeed, we have even failed to love ourselves. Release us from the tombs that terrify us, so that we can see your image in one another and in your good creation. Indeed, free us from the graves of self-hatred, so that we can see ourselves as your children. . . . (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 and wave Christ's peace to our folks joining us via live-stream, then 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.*

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

The Church Proclaims God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

1st Testament Reading

Genesis 22.1-14

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

Elder Austin Townsend

Time with the Children of God

Elder Tina LaFoy

2nd Testament Reading

Matthew 10.40-42

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

Special Music

"For the Beauty of the Earth"
Ashley Dodgens & Doc Giddings – Vocal Duet

John Rutter

Sermon

"So, Why Do It?"

Dr. David Torrey

The Church Responds in Faith

*Hymn #387

"Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"

*Affirmation of Faith

from the 2026 Proposed Confession of Faith

Across the ages, we have all forsaken the love of the triune God, following instead gods of our own making. God is faithful still. Though we have turned away again and again – from God, from creation, and from our neighbors – the Holy One has never turned away from us. As the ultimate act of love, in Jesus God became flesh and walked this earth with us. Drawing in people from the margins, Jesus welcomed strangers, those labeled unworthy, healed the physically afflicted and those deemed unclean, and embraced the socially and religiously rejected. Jesus suffered and died refusing to submit to the unjust powers of worldly empire and religious authority. On the cross he revealed both the depth of human sin and the greater depth and power of divine love. Out of this overflowing love, God raised this Jesus to new life, triumphing over sin and death, forgiving our failings, showing that God continues to make a way out of no way. The righteous Way of Jesus is the loving Way of God. Through his life, death, and resurrection, Jesus embodied and enabled reconciliation between God and all of creation.

Offering

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

GIVE NOW



Offertory

"Gentle Savior"

Paul F Page

*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 #408

"Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

arr. Amy Potter

(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)

Name (relationship)	Concern
<small>6/21/26</small> *James Couch, David Brown, Luis Macron (friends of Darrell Cook)	health concerns
<small>6/21/26</small> Franklin Lesley (Chasity's son).....	health concerns
<small>6/07/26</small> David Berky (brother of Doug Berky)	health concerns
Tom Pettigrew (son-in-law of Jo Ann Taylor).....	health concerns
<small>Continual</small> Ty Mayes	life issues
Nigerian Christians	
Humanitarian Crisis in Cuba, Gaza, Lebanon & Iran	
<i>*new this week</i>	

CELEBRATIONS

The red rose on the pulpit is for the birth of **Molly Mae Francis** born on Wednesday, June 17, 2026, daughter of Evan and Mckensie Francis of Abbeville grandparents Alan & Angela Francis of Simpsonville, and proud great-grandmother Chil Francis.

LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERN LIST

Bert Allison, John Blackwood, Martha Brooks, Caroline Bowen, Katherine Acker Brooks, Barbara & Joe Christopher, Margaret Dawkins, Shawn Erickson (Ron & Sylvia's son), Jane Gillespie, David Goldsmith, Howard Harden, Samuel Hood (John & Jana Holland's nephew), Beverly & Burnett Kelly, Drema LaFoy (Tina's mother), Hank Owens, Bev Timerding (Deb Holtel's sister), Melvin Tolliver (Deb Holtel's uncle), Troy Tolliver (Deb Holtel's cousin), 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".

**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>

2026 VBS: Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make VBS happen this year!

MISSIONS COMMITTEE: Thank you to those that have already volunteered for the Emergency Cooling Center this summer. We do need more if you can volunteer a morning or afternoon on a Monday-Thursday between 8:30 am- 4:30pm. The Center will open in ASH if the Day Heat Index is 95 degrees or higher and it is forecasted for two consecutive days, in June-August. See Sharon to sign up or sign up on sheets in ASH or on the Mission's Bulletin board (outside the Parlor).

SEEKERS SUNDAY SCHOOL: Come to the church parlor on Sunday mornings 9:30-10:30 and join our discussion of a new book – *“Being Presbyterian in a Dysvangelical America: A Guide to Reclaiming the Good News of God's Grace”* (2025) by Ted V. Foote Jr. and P. Alex Thornburg. The book addresses the challenge of holding to Reformed theology amidst distorted, fear-based, and exclusionary Christian rhetoric and acts as a guide to reclaiming a theology of grace, community, and hope.

WARMTH & COMFORT MINISTRY: Summer Drive: July 4th items, flags, hats, visors. Please deliver to the Church Office Collection Box. **Questions: Contact Tammy Ferguson @ 864-238-4652 or 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.**

CAFÉ JUSTO COFFEE: See Jonathan Holder to purchase. 1-pound bags are \$15.00ea, and 5-pound bags are \$70.00ea. Make checks payable to the church with coffee in the memo line or pay through our online Realm system, text info below or QR code above next to "Offertory."

CHURCH CALENDAR: To Prevent Space / Time Conflicts, please check the calendar link above or the QR code in the weekly Cliffnotes for availability, and contact the office to schedule an event or meeting, admin@pickenspresbyterian.org

SET UP YOUR GIVING ONLINE using our secure Realm system. **SET UP A SINGLE OR RECURRING CONTRIBUTION, Pantry and Morris fund, or Youth Conference! Text your donations to 73256, using the message PICKENSPRES, OR simply scan the QR Code above in the worship service order next to "Offertory."**

SERVING:

TODAY (June 28th)

July 5th, 2026

Elder of the Week:	Tina LaFoy	Vickie Swaynham
Liturgist:	Austin Townsend	Tina LaFoy
Sanctuary Guild:	Debbie Hendricks	Cindy Wood
Ushers:	Tammy & Randall Ferguson, Vickie Swaynham, Tina LaFoy	Della Black, Jan Sparks, Austin & Cindy Townsend
Refreshments:	TBD	
Camera Operation:	Robert Simms	Anna Chastain
Sound Board:		
Nursery Volunteers:		
Sanctuary Flowers:	Jo Anne Gessell	Liza Holder
Communion Set-up:		Jan Sparks
Communion Servers:	Ken T, Jan, Roy, Nancy, Starla	
Lectionary readings for today: Liturgist: Austin Townsend Genesis 22.1-14 Psalm 13 Romans 6.12-23 Matthew 10.40-42		Lectionary readings for next Sunday: Liturgist: Genesis 24.34-38, 42-49, 58-67 Psalm 45.10-17 or Song of Solomon 2.8-13 Romans 7.15-25a Matthew 11.16-19, 25-30