

Pickens Presbyterian Church



311 WEST MAIN STREET
PICKENS, SOUTH CAROLINA 29671

"To the Glory of God, and the Service of People"

September 20th, 2026

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Eleven o'clock

The Church Gathers

Chiming of the Hour

Choral Introit

"Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"

Rosamond E. Herklots

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 Tina LaFoy, Liturgist

Prelude

"Israel, Israel, God Is Calling"

arr. Keith D. Rowley

***Call to Worship**

(inspired by Psalm 145:1-8)

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised. **God's greatness is unsearchable.**

From generation to generation, we sing of your righteousness.

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

ALL: Come, let us worship God!

***Prayer of Praise**

***Hymn #310**

"Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee"

The Church Confesses

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, when we follow the path of Jonah and allow our anger and frustration to cut us off from others, you sit next to us and call us back to your way of mercy, love and redemption. It is one thing to accept these gifts for ourselves; it is another to extend them to those who frustrate us. Forgive us for our anger, resentment, and desire to hoard. We lay these impulses at your feet and ask that you create a new heart within us, one modeled after your steadfast love and generosity. Help us to see the world in new ways. . . . (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 in our farthest pew, 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

Elder Tina LaFoy

1st Testament Reading

Jonah 3.10 – 4.11

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

Time with the Children of God

Elder Tina LaFoy

2nd Testament Reading

Matthew 20.1–16

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

Anthem

"Somebody's Knocking at Your Door"

African-American Spiritual

Sermon

"It's Not Fair?"

Dr. David Torrey

The Church Responds in Faith

***Hymn #393**

"Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said"

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering

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

GIVE NOW



Offertory

"I Will Arise and Go to Jesus"

arr. Amy Potter

***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 #298**

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

"His Eye Is On the Sparrow"

arr. Dino Kartsonakis

(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
^{9/06/26} *Bob Allison.....	health concerns
Jeff Taylor (Jo Ann Taylor's oldest son)	health concerns
^{8/23/26} Gene Gerald (Colby's grandfather).....	health concerns
Grace Anderson (Ginger Chastain's mother).....	health concerns
Pat Fisher (Donna Owens' mother)	health concerns
Ann McDonald (family friend of Steve).....	health concerns
^{Continual} Nepal flood victims	
Venezuela & Japan Earthquake victims & families	
Humanitarian Crisis in Cuba, Gaza, Lebanon & Iran	
*new this week	

CELEBRATIONS

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, Howard Harden, Samuel Hood (John & Jana Holland's nephew), Beverly & Burnett Kelly, Drema LaFoy (Tina's mother), Ty Mayes, Hank Owens, Tom Pettigrew (son-in-law of Jo Ann Taylor), 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".

Venezuela earthquakes. Gifts to "DR999999 – designate Venezuela earthquakes"

**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>

A printed copy of the **Weekly Calendar of Events and the list of Church Leadership and Contacts is always available in the Narthex and Parlor Hallway next to the bulletins.*

CHURCH WORK DAY: The Building & Grounds Committee has scheduled a Church Workday for **Saturday, October 10th, from 9am to 12:30pm.** There will be a list of tasks ready and listed on the white board in All Saints' Hall. Please bring work gloves and hand pruners, shears, loppers, clipping collection bags, blowers, and anything you may need to help out that day.

SIGN UP HERE TO BRING REFRESHMENTS: For Sunday fellowship time in All Saints' Hall at 10:30am for food and fellowship. Sign up at: <https://tinyurl.com/FellowshipSnacks> or via the QR code or link in the CliffNotes.

WARMTH & COMFORT MINISTRY: Ongoing until Fall: word search books, large print Bibles, puzzles (less than 1000 pieces), toiletries, and items of warmth (hats, scarves, socks, fleece throws) are always welcome. Please deliver to the Church Office Collection Box. **Questions: Contact Tammy Ferguson @ 864-238-4652 or warmthandcomfortfortheelderly@gmail.com**

CAFÉ JUSTO COFFEE: See Jonathan Holder to purchase. 1-pound bags - \$15.00ea, and 5-pound bags - \$70.00ea. Make checks payable to PPC 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. 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, Offering, Pantry, Morris fund, or Youth Conference! **Simply scan the QR Code above in the worship service order next to “Offertory.”**

Financial Update as of August 31, 2026

Income	Expenses	Budget YTM
\$186,241.65	\$194,649.47	\$216,398.56
Previous Month's Giving:		\$ 20,967.00
Previous Month's Expenses:		\$ 20,944.85
Previous Month's Budget:		\$ 27,049.92
Net Total (Revenue:Expenses):		- \$ 8,407.82

SERVING: TODAY (September 20th) September 27th, 2026

Elder of the Week:	Vickie Swaynham	Nancy Jo Owens
Liturgist:	Tina LaFoy	Liza Holder
Sanctuary Guild:	Debbie Teeple	Debbie Teeple
Ushers:	Della Black, Tina LaFoy, Austin & Cindy Townsend	Della Black, Tina LaFoy, Austin & Cindy Townsend
Refreshments:		
Camera Operation:	Robert Simms	Anna Chastain
Sound Board:		
Nursery Volunteers:		
Sanctuary Flowers:	Cindy Wood	<i>In-House Arrangement</i>
Communion Set-up:		
Communion Servers:		
Food Pantry (M & W)		
Morris Fund (1 st & 3 rd) Tue		Debbie Teeple – 9/29

<u>Lectionary readings for today:</u>	<u>Lectionary readings for next Sunday:</u>
Liturgist: Tina LaFoy Exodus 16.2–15 Psalm 105.1–6, 37–45 Philippians 1.21–30 Matthew 20.1–16	Liturgist: Liza Holder Exodus 17.1–7 Psalm 78.1–4, 12–16 Philippians 2.1–13 Matthew 21.23–32