Pickens Presbyterian Church

311 WEST MAIN STREET
PICKENS, SOUTH CAROLINA 29671

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

September 27th, 2026 | 18th Sunday after Pentecost | Eleven o'clock

The Church Gathers

Chiming of the Hour

Choral Introit *"Christ Be Beside Me"* *James Quinn*

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 Liza Holder, Liturgist

Prelude *"O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"* *Albert Peace, arr. Lutes*

***Call to Worship** *(inspired by Psalm 145:1-8)*

Why do you come to this place? ***We seek the path of righteousness and truth.***
Do you come ready to hear and learn giving attention to God's Word?
We come with open hearts and minds seeking to learn from the one whose authority is founded on God's love.
Friends, lend your ears and open your hearts because this is God's house, built by love and sustained by hope, where God seeks to align our work and witness.
ALL: Come, let us worship God!

***Prayer of Praise**

***Hymn #392** *"Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord"*

The Church Confesses

Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, we come before you aware that you know the truth of our hearts before we can utter a word. You know when our good intentions exceed our capacity for gospel living. You know when we embrace the good news of liberation with our lips but don't change our actions. We imprison ourselves with the assumption that you will judge us as mercilessly as we often judge ourselves and one another.

Forgive our shortcomings and the times we have failed to live the words we say. Restore us in the confidence of people who have heard good news and remind us that even when we arrive late, there is still work to be done. . . . *(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.

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

(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.

The Church Proclaims God's Word

Prayer for Illumination Elder Liza Holder

1st Testament Reading Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32

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 21.23-32

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

Anthem *"I'll Fly Away"* *Albert E. Brumley*

Sermon *"Actions Over Words"* Dr. David Torrey

The Church Responds in Faith

***Hymn #521** *"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"*

Some Responses to God's Call

Jo Ann Taylor, Marianne Holland, Mark Taylor, Ivy Stoddard

***Affirmation of Faith** *(adapted from A Declaration of Faith)*

Jesus' involvement in the human condition is God's involvement. His compassion for all kinds of people is God's compassion. His demand for justice, truth, and faithfulness is God's demand. His willingness to suffer rejection is God's willingness. Jesus' love for the very people who reject him is God's love.

We acknowledge that Christ chooses to be known in the world through this community of ordinary people, therefore we dare not despise or abandon the church. Christ is the head of the church, therefore we are responsible to Christ when we make policy and decisions in the church. Christ is the foundation of the church, therefore it will not fall despite our weakness. We are confident that the Lord of the church will judge and defeat our sinful intentions and actions, help us in our weakness and blindness, and use the church to accomplish his purposes.

Throughout its history the church has struggled to be faithful to God in political situations: under persecution, or as an established arm of the state, or in separation from it. God rules over both political and religious institutions. We must confuse neither with the kingdom of God. We must not equate the Christian faith with any nation's way of life or with opposition to the ideologies of other nations. The church must be free to speak to civil authorities, neither claiming expert knowledge it does not have, nor remaining silent when God's Word is clear.

We testify God is at work here and now when people obey Christ's commission to witness to him and make disciples of all nations, when they spread the good news by their words and embody it in their lives. Amen.

Offering *(Use the QR Code to the right for Online Giving)* *GIVE NOW*

Offertory *"No One Ever Cared for Me Like Jesus"* *Charles Weigle, arr. Smith*

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 #535** *"Go With Us Lord"*
***Charge and Benediction**
Postlude *"Come, Thou Almighty King" Felice de Giardini, arr. Bonam*
(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

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.

SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE LOSS SUPPORT GROUP: You are not alone on this journey. If you have had a loved one die by suicide, we invite you to join us for a safe, confidential, and compassionate space to share, heal, and find comfort among others who understand this unique grief. **Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday night of each month from 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM at Pickens Presbyterian Church (311 W. Main Street, Pickens).** For questions, please reach out to **Tina LaFoy or Kathy Chamlee at 864-402-9737**.

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."**

SERVING:	TODAY (September 27th)	October 4th, 2026
Elder of the Week:	Nancy Jo Owens	Jeff Price
Liturgist:	Liza Holder	Jeff Price
Sanctuary Guild:	Debbie Teeple	Debbie Teeple
Ushers:	Della Black, Tina LaFoy, Austin & Cindy Townsend	Roy & Ivy Stoddard
Refreshments:		
Camera Operation:	Anna Chastain	Ginger Chastain
Sound Board:		
Nursery Volunteers:		
Sanctuary Flowers:	*In-House Arrangement*	Marian Osborne Berky
Communion Set-up:		Nancy Jo Owens
Communion Servers:		Sharon, Betsey, Nancy Jo, Deb Teeple, Cindy T
Food Pantry (M & W)		
Morris Fund (1st & 3rd) Tue	Debbie Teeple – 9/29	

Lectionary readings for today:	Lectionary readings for next Sunday:
Liturgist: Liza Holder Exodus 17.1–7 Psalm 78.1–4, 12–16 Philippians 2.1–13 Matthew 21.23–32	Liturgist: Jeff Price Exodus 20.1–4, 7–9, 12–20 Psalm 19 Philippians 3.4b–14 Matthew 21.33–46