



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A Congregation of a Covenant Order
of Evangelical Presbyterians
323 Main Street, Greenville, PA



“Freedom in Christ is not the right to do what we want,
but the power to do what we ought.”

~ Adrian Rogers

THE LORD'S DAY
JULY 6, 2025 - 10:00 AM

GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE- "Allegretto"Vivaldi/Hopson

ENTERING INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

One Voice: God had scattered the good news among all the nations of the world.

All Voices: We hear the good news and plant it in our hearts.

One Voice: God continues to water and nourish it.

All Voices: We provide good soil so that it will flourish within us.

One Voice: As His word grows within us, we become more Christ-like.

All Voices: Then, we share the fruits of the harvest with others so that they, too, can be saved.

CONVENING PRAYER

*HYMN – “God of Our Fathers”

Daniel C. Roberts

NATIONAL HYMN
George W. Warren

Trumpets before each stanza

1 God of our fathers, whose al-might-y hand
2 Thy love di-vine hath led us in the past,
3 From war's a-larms, from dead-ly pes-ti-lence,
4 Re-fresh Thy peo-ple on their toil-some way,

1 Leads forth in beau-ty all the star-ry band
2 In this free land by Thee our lot is cast;
3 Be Thy strong arm our ev-er sure de-fense;
4 Lead us from night to nev-er end-ing day;

1 Of shin-ing worlds in splen-dor through the skies,
2 Be Thou our rul-er, guard-ian, guide, and stay,
3 Thy true re-li-gion in our hearts in-crease,
4 Fill all our lives with love and grace di-vine,

1 Our grate-ful songs be-fore Thy throne a-rise.
2 Thy word our law, Thy paths our cho-sen way.
3 Thy boun-teous good-ness nour-ish us in peace.
4 And glo-ry, laud, and praise be ev-er Thine! A-men.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Grace and Glory. We go through life trying to be good Christians. We thank others for answering our questions, holding doors for us, giving us directions and keeping us safe. Yet, we all too often forget to thank you for similar things. You answer all of our questions, yet we fail to thank you. We find locked doors and you open them without any acknowledgement from us. You keep us out of harm's way and on the right track, still we fail to express our gratitude. Lord, you know that deep down inside, we love you and appreciate all you do for us. Forgive us when we find ourselves too busy to show how grateful we are for all you do. Give us the awareness to take time to thank you each and every day. Amen

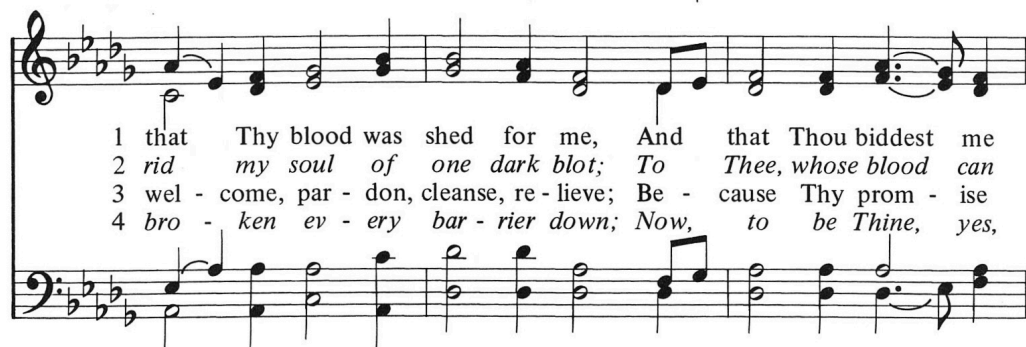
*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*OUR GRATEFUL RESPONSE – “Just As I Am, Without One Plea”

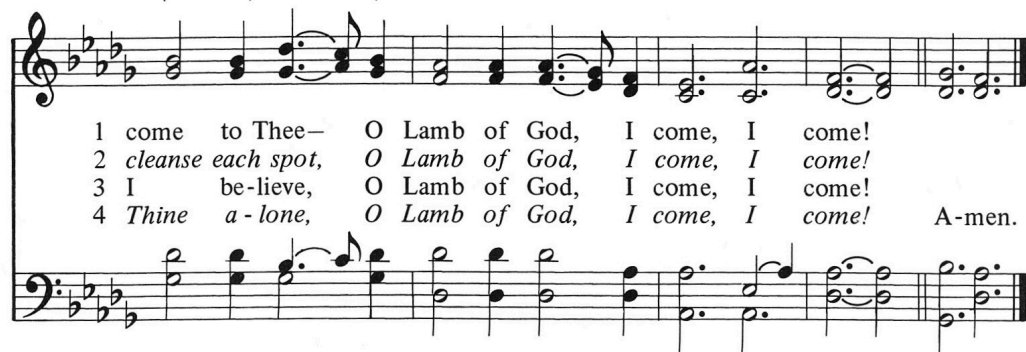
Kids please come forward for the children's message during the final vs



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, But
2 Just as I am, and wait - ing not To
3 Just as I am, Thou wilt re - ceive, Wilt
4 Just as I am, Thy love un - known Hath



1 that Thy blood was shed for me, And that Thou biddest me
2 rid my soul of one dark blot; To Thee, whose blood can
3 wel - come, par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; Be - cause Thy prom - ise
4 bro - ken ev - ery bar - rier down; Now, to be Thine, yes,



1 come to Thee— O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
2 cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
3 I be-lieve, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!
4 Thine a-lone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come! A-men.

CONVERSATION WITH THE YOUNGER CHURCH.....Diane Curtis

SPECIAL MUSIC -.....Randy Curtis, piano
“America the Beautiful”.....Carol Tornquist

SERVICE OF GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION.....Elder Linda Camlin

HOLY SCRIPTURE

Old Testament – Isaiah 6:9-10

⁹ He said, “Go and tell this people: “Be ever hearing, but never understanding;
be ever seeing, but never perceiving.’

¹⁰ Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.”

New Testament – Romans 1:16

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

PREACHING TEXT

Gospel – Matthew 13:1-13

The Parable of the Sower

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake.

² Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore.

³ Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed.

⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.

⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow.

⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.

⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants.

⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

¹⁰ The disciples came to him and asked,

“Why do you speak to the people in parables?”

¹¹ He replied, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them.

¹² Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance.

Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.

¹³ This is why I speak to them in parables: “Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand.

One Voice: The word of the Lord!

All Voices: Thanks be to God!

SERMON – “What Kind of Soil Are You”.....Timothy Rausch

PASTORAL PRAYER/The Lord’s Prayer

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING - God’s Tithes/Our Offerings

OFFERTORY – “Andante”.....Telemann/Wolff

*DOXOLOGY – “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*WE AFFIRM OUR 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, died, and was buried; he descended to 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.

*SENDING HYMN – “Hear I Am Lord”

Unison

G Am/G D7/G C/G

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my
 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my
 3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the

G D G Em Am7 C

peo - ple cry. All who dwell in dark and sin
 peo - ple's pain. I have wept for love of them,
 poor and lame. I will set a feast for them,

Am D7/G D/F# D/C G Am/G D7/G

my hand will save. I who made the stars of night,
 they turn a - way. I will break their hearts of stone,
 my hand will save. Fin-est bread I will pro - vide

C/G G D G Em

I will make their dark - ness bright. Who will bear my
 give them hearts for love a - lone. I will speak my
 till their hearts be sat - is - fied. I will give my

Refrain
D7/F#

light to them? Whom shall I send?
Word to them. Whom shall I send?
life to them. Whom shall I send? Here I

a tempo

am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have

heard you call - ing in the night. I will

go, Lord, if you lead me. I will

hold your peo - ple in my heart.

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE – “Star Spangled Banner”.....Traditional Patriotic

**Congregation Standing*

Director of Music Ministries
Randall Curtis



FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL this morning are dedicated to
the glory of God and given in loving memory of:

Milton J. Ketchum by daughter Susan Blum & family

David E. Graham by daughters, Karen Shilling, Janice Harbison and family

A CORDIAL WELCOME in Christ to Tim Rausch, who is preaching for us
today. Tim has shared a little bit about himself and his family:

“I live in Cranberry Township with my lovely wife, Ruth. We have three
daughters and four grandchildren. I recently retired on July 2 after 37 years in
medicine. I have completed my Master of Divinity and am currently navigating
the ordination process through ECO. Someday, I hope to pastor a small
church in the area.” *In Christ, Tim*

SERVING TODAY in the church nursery (infant and toddler childcare)

10:00 AM – Barbara Deist & Nancy Hauser

NEXT SUNDAY 10:00 AM – Ericka Dershimer & Savannah Johnson

GREETER TODAY Jeff Ferguson

NEXT SUNDAY Karen Edwards

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men's Breakfast returns on Saturday, July 12, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. All men are welcome to join us for **food, fellowship, and faith**—no cost to attend!

✨ **Advent Devotional Writers Needed** ✨

As part of our 200-year celebration, we are creating our own **Advent devotional**—and we'd love for you to be part of it! We're inviting members of the congregation to write short reflections to guide us through the Advent season. No experience needed—just a willing heart and a love for the season.

Families of several generations are especially encouraged to participate together as a way of celebrating God's faithfulness across the generations.

Sign up after worship in the vestibule or talk to Pastor Ben if you're interested in contributing.

COME ONE, COME ALL TO THE FPC ANNUAL PICNIC

All Covenant Partners and Friends are invited to the
Annual Church Picnic.

When: Noon on July 20th

**Where: The home of Kelly and Jill Jones
35 Linn Tyro Road, Greenville, Pa**

What to Bring: A vegetable, salad, dessert, etc. to share.

The Deacons will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, condiments,
beverages, and paper products.

A variety of outdoor lawn games will be available to play,
along with a few Surprises!!

A table of memorabilia of our church will be available to view.
Come and enjoy great food and fellowship as we celebrate the
Bicentennial of 1st Presbyterian Church, HIS CHURCH.

PIRATE GAME REPORT

On Saturday, June 28, thirty-nine Pirate Fans (including ten youth) boarded an Anderson Coach. Elder Jim Miller led us in prayer before we headed to Pittsburgh to watch the Pirates beat the Mets 9-2! Our seats were along the first baseline under roof so when the rain caused a 1 hour 29 minute delay we were able to remain in our seats and stay dry. Dave and Betty Geisel are the wise, experienced Pirate fans that recommended the seats be under roof. Thank you Dave and Betty! Dan Baker brought plenty of bottled water and a bag of sweets. We all had a great time and look forward to going again in 2026. GO PIRATES!!

GOOD SHEPHERD REQUEST for the month of July is:
Personal care items, school supplies, dessert mixes

939 PRAYER PARTNER

Suggested prayer focus – Spiritual growth

This Week

| | | |
|-------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Sunday, July 6 | 9:00 a.m. | Sunday School |
| | 10:00 a.m. | Morning Worship |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Deacons Meeting |
| Tuesday, July 8 | 9:00 a.m. | Morning Prayer |
| Wednesday, July 9 | 7:00 p.m. | CTP Mtg. |
| Saturday, July 12 | 8:00 a.m. | Men's Breakfast |
| Sunday, July 13 | 9:00 a.m. | Sunday School |
| | 10:00 a.m. | Morning Worship |

Deadline for announcements for Sunday's bulletin-Wednesday by noon
Next deadline for the Bell Tower - July 20th for August newsletter

Directory

First Presbyterian Church
323 Main Street, Greenville, PA 16125
phone: 724-588-6520
web address: fpcgreenville.com

Ben Claypool, Associate Pastor
e-mail: bclaypool@fpcgreenville.com
cell - 421-327-3468 call or text

Susan Blum, Office Manager
e-mail: office@fpcgreenville.com

Randall Curtis, Director of Music Ministries
rpc1220@me.com

Prayer Chain: for prayer support on any request,
e-mail office@fpcgreenville.com

STAFF OFFICE HOURS

Ben Claypool-Associate Pastor

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Monday-Thursday | 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. |
| Friday | Off |

Susan Blum-Office Manager

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Monday | 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. |
| Tuesday-Friday | 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. |

Dan Dibble – Head Custodian

| | |
|-----------|------------------------|
| Monday | 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon |
| Wednesday | 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon |
| Friday | 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. |

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