

**THE SESSION - Class of 2024:** G. Robert Bennett, Carol J. Booker, Michael P. Brooks, Allison D. Johnson, Paul M. Pressly, Ellen M. Tate; **Class of 2025:** Natalie F. Chase, Myra P. Hill, Elizabeth H. Longley, Eric J. McManus, Colin A. McRae, William M. Schriefer; **Class of 2026:** Judith G. Crawford, John H. Hinman III, Brett J. Lundy, Emily C. Salzer, Marti Stein, Daniel R. Walters; **Clerk of Session:** Paul M. Pressly. **Elder Emerita:** Rose M. Donnelly.

**CHURCH STAFF** - Stephen C. Williams, *Minister*; Allison B. Shearouse, *Director of Christian Education*; C. Tanner King, *Associate Director of Music*; Mallory T. Abshire, *Office Administrator*; Barbara G. Roush, *Financial Secretary*; Dorothy S. Bunker, *Preschool Director*; Brent Bissell, *Communications Coordinator*; Hugh Daniels, *Sexton*.

**MISSIONARIES** - Farsijana and Bernard Adeney, Yogyakarta, Indonesia; Nancy and Shelvis Smith-Mather, Yei, South Sudan; Ellen D. Smith, Warsaw, Poland.

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**CHIMING OF THE HOUR** marks the beginning of the Lord's Day service. The Prelude is a time for quiet preparation and private prayer as the congregation prepares to worship God.

**GREETER:** Charlotte Keenoy... **USHERS:** Felix Etinge, head usher, Raven Herrington, Josh Herrington, Jaye Young, Bill Young, and Charlotte Keenoy... **ACOLYTE:** Ruth McManus... **EXTENDED SESSION TEACHERS:** Carter Eagle and Raven Herrington.

**ONLINE GIVING** Please consider making a one-time or recurring gift to First using our secure online portal which can be found at [www.savannahFPC.org](http://www.savannahFPC.org) by clicking on the Give Now tab at the top right corner of the home page or by scanning our QR code using your smartphone's QR reader.



**FIRST'S MISSION STATEMENT** The life of the church is the response of faith and obedience to the call of God in Christ. Gathered: We worship and sing, study and pray. We enjoy fellowship together. Forgiven by God, we learn to forgive other people. Sent forth: We serve as leaven, salt and light, to be agents of God's love in Savannah and the larger world.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
*A Servant Church in the City Since 1827*

520 Washington Avenue / Savannah, GA 31405 / 912.354.7615

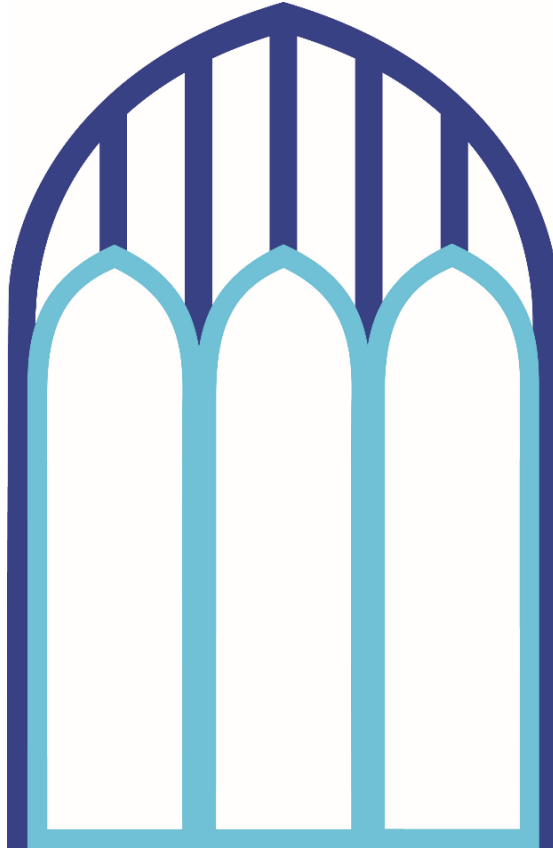
*A Member of the Presbytery of Savannah, the Synod of South Atlantic, and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

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# SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 5, 2024



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*A Servant Church in the City Since 1827*

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

# SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

11:00 A.M.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 5, 2024

*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love." Ephesians 1:3-4*

## CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

Festive Trumpet Tune

David German

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF ADORATION

### \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*Tune: ICH HALTE TREULICH STILL*

God, bless your church with strength! Wherever we may be,  
upbuild your servants as we work in common ministry.  
Urge us from fledgling faith to venture and to soar through  
open skies, to sing the praise of Christ whom we adore.

God bless your church with life! May all our branches thrive,  
unblemished, wholesome, bearing fruit, abundantly alive.  
From you, one holy vine, in freedom may we grow;  
sustain us in our mission, Lord, your love and peace to show.

God, bless your church with hope! Despite chaotic days,  
may we in chaos shine to light a pathway through life's maze.  
May justice be our aim, and kindness ours to share,  
in humbleness O may we walk, assured our God is there!

## CONFESSION OF SIN

O God, who is always ready to hear our confession and by such mercies as we cannot give one another, save us from our sin: where age has hardened our hearts, surprise us by your tenderness; where youth has kept us from trust, capture us by your truth; where fear has divided us from one another, overwhelm us with your grace; where anxiety has muted our praise, fill us with gratitude. And from views too earthbound, futures now foreclosed, conclusions already drawn, commitments never dared, save us Sovereign Lord, and in your great compassion lift our hearts and spirits heavenward; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PETITION

No. 403

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!

## **DECLARATION OF PARDON**

**CHILDREN** who are in Kindergarten and younger may go to the Preschool for Extended Session following the children's sermon. Worship bags, designed to help children participate in worship more meaningfully, are available in the narthex.

**CHILDREN, 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> GRADERS** are invited to leave the service after the "Invitation to the Children" to attend a worship service led by Allison and Tanner in the Choir Room. Exploring worship through art, music, faith questions, and interactive prayer will be the focus. They will return to sit in the balcony or with their parents during the singing of the second hymn.

**THE CHANCEL FLOWERS** are given by Bob Wray to the glory of God and in memory of Faye Wray.

**FACILITIES TASK FORCE** will meet on Wednesday, May 8 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 115.

**CRADLE ROLL DEDICATION PLANNED FOR MAY 12** Mark your calendar for Mother's Day, May 12 to be in worship at 11:00 a.m. as children who have not yet celebrated their third birthday—will be blessed during the service of worship. Call the church office to let us know if your family will be present.

**SESSION MEETING** will be Monday, May 13 at 6:30 p.m. in Stewart Hall with the Confirmands.

**JUBILEE CIRCLE** will gather on Tuesday, May 14 at 10:30 a.m. in the John Knox Room.

**ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE** will meet via Zoom on Wednesday, May 15 at 11:00 a.m.

**RETIREMENT RECEPTION** Members and friends, please join us on Saturday, May 18 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Tiedeman Park. Celebrate under the tent as we wish Stephen Williams all the best in his retirement and thank him for 30 years of leadership and dedication!

**SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION** Celebrate the power and might of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost when this year's eight confirmands will be confirmed on Sunday, May 19 with a reception to follow in Stewart Hall. The class has been meeting weekly since mid-February learning about church history, doctrine, and practice and reflecting on their own faith. They will meet with the Session on Monday, May 13 at 6:30 p.m. An old tradition on Pentecost is to wear something red on this festive day!

**MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST** will be held on Monday, May 20 at 7:30 a.m. in Stewart Hall. Bob Morgan will be the presenter. Enjoy coffee, bagels, and fellowship.

**MEN'S BOOK STUDY** Men and friends of First will gather on Tuesday, May 21 at 5:30 p.m. in Room 115 to discuss "The Wager" by Peter Grann. Newcomers are always welcome.

**APPRECIATION LUNCHEON** For twenty years, First has hosted an end-of-the-year luncheon for the faculty and staff of our neighboring school, the Savannah Arts Academy. The luncheon will be held on Friday, May 24 at Noon in Stewart Hall. Volunteers are needed

to set the tables for about 90 people, serve the food, and

# Welcome to All!

If you are a newcomer, please sign the friendship register at the end of the pew and introduce yourself to the minister. Join us as we grow together in our love for God and neighbor. Ask yourself how you can make a difference in this "Servant Church in the City."

make table arrangements. If you can help for an hour or two please email [mallory@savannahfbc.org](mailto:mallory@savannahfbc.org).

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS - WEEK OF MAY 5

#### Sunday, May 5

|                          |            |
|--------------------------|------------|
| First Ringers .....      | 9:30 a.m.  |
| Sunday School .....      | 9:30 a.m.  |
| Confirmation Class ..... | 9:30 a.m.  |
| Chancel Choir .....      | 10:00 a.m. |
| Coffee Fellowship .....  | 10:30 a.m. |
| Worship Service .....    | 11:00 a.m. |
| Youth Dinner .....       | 5:00 p.m.  |
| Youth Fellowship .....   | 5:30 p.m.  |
| Youth Music .....        | 6:30 p.m.  |

#### Wednesday, May 8

|                               |           |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Facilities Task Force .....   | 7:30 p.m. |
| Chancel Choir Rehearsal ..... | 7:30 p.m. |

#### Friday, May 10

|                        |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| Centering Prayer ..... | 10:00 a.m. |
|------------------------|------------|

\*Please note: The Office Administrator will be working part-time starting May 1<sup>st</sup>. The new office hours will be Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

### Notice of Congregational Meeting Today at 12:00 p.m. in the sanctuary

The purpose of the meeting is to vote on the motion related to the retirement of Dr. Williams: "To petition Savannah Presbytery to dissolve the pastoral relationship between First Savannah and Stephen Williams effective June

## **\*GLORIA PATRI**

No. 581

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.

## **\*WORDS OF PEACE**

Minister: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.  
(Please greet your neighbors with words of God's peace.)

## **WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

(Please sign and pass the Friendship Registers at this time.)

## **INVITATION TO THE CHILDREN**

## **RECOGNITION OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES**

Katherine Elizabeth Brooks, Lola Gray Gaddy, Sara Page Hiltzheimer,  
Francie Ruth Norman and Do Langh Tuang

## **UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

O God, to whom we belong and in whom we live: may we hear your voice speaking to each of us, reassuring us, challenging us, summoning us to dedicated and victorious living; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

Isaiah 49:14-18

Page 680

## **NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**

John 15:12-17

Page 109

## **SERMON**

"Thawing Out God's Frozen Chosen"

Dr. Williams

*"You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name." John 15:16*

## **\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

from *A Declaration of Faith*, 1977

In forming his people and sending them into the world Jesus called individuals to be disciples. They were to share the joy of his companionship, to understand and obey his teachings, and to follow him in life and death. We confess that Christians today are called to discipleship. Life shared with Christ and shaped by Christ is God's undeserved gift to each of us. It is also God's demand upon every one of us, never perfectly fulfilled by any of us. Forgiven by God and supported by brothers and sisters, we strive to become more faithful and effective in our daily practice of the Christian life. Amen.

## **THE PRAYERS AND OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

O Love

Elaine Hagenberg

*The Chancel Choir; Laura Nottingham-Gotwalt, cellist*

*O love that wilt not let me go the story behind the hymn.  
 O love that wilt not let me go I rest my weary soul in thee;  
 I give thee back the life I owe that in thy ocean depths  
 its flow may richer, fuller be.*

*O joy that seekest me through the pain I cannot close my heart to thee;  
 I trace the rainbow through the rain and feel the promise  
 is not vain that morn shall tearless be.*

*O cross that liftest up my head I dare not ask to fly from thee;  
 I lay in dust life's glory dead and from the ground there  
 blossoms red life that shall endless be.*

**\*DOXOLOGY**

No. 609

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.  
 Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!  
 Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.  
 Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION****\*HYMN**

No. 503

Tune: O QUANTA QUALIA

Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation

**SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER****Invitation and Institution****Prayer of Great Thanksgiving**

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**The Lord's Prayer** (debts/debtors)**Communion of the People****Music at Communion**

Sing Hallelujah

arr. Mark Hayes

**Prayer****\*HYMN**

No. 269

Tune: LANCASHIRE

Lead On, O King Eternal!

**\*BENEDICTION****\*POSTLUDE**

Fanfare on "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name"

Paul Fey

\*Congregation please stand in body or in spirit.

**ALL WHO WISH TO PARTAKE**, whether or not they are members of this congregation, are invited to share in the Lord's Supper. Proceed towards the chancel using the center aisle and then, after communing, return to your seat by way of the outer aisles. The method of communion is by intinction. Receive the bread from an elder in the chancel and then dip a portion of the bread into one of the communion chalices. If you are unable to come forward, an elder will bring the communion elements to you. There is gluten-free bread and a chalice at the communion table.

**THE GUEST ORGANIST** is Tripp Hardee. Tripp serves as the Minister of Music & Organist at St. Thomas Episcopal Church on Isle of Hope. He has studied piano and organ, along with undergraduate studies in education and music at South Georgia State College and Brewton Parker College. He is a member of the American Guild of Organists - Savannah Chapter.



# SENIOR RECOGNITION



*Class of 2024*

# Congratulations!