

First Presbyterian Church

January 12, 2025

11:00 am

Baptism of the Lord Sunday



Missional Priorities

Spirit-Centered Discipleship
Hands-on Local Mission

Friendships Across Differences
Embracing the Unchurched

Worship of the Living God

Gathering around the Word

Prelude

Teresa de Freitas

On Jordan's Stormy Banks
arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome

Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

* Call to Worship

Rev. Lara Musser Gritter

Come to the waters!

The voice of the Lord is over the waters;

the God of glory thunders,

the Lord is over mighty waters.

The voice of the Lord is powerful;

the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

Let us worship the Lord together!

* Hymn 475

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

* Confession of Sin

**Gracious and merciful God,
in baptism, you offer us unconditional love,
yet we believe lies that tell us we are never enough.
You offer forgiveness for our sins
yet we cling to our failures and resist forgiveness.
You offer welcome and belonging
yet we don't hold individuality and community together.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
Renew our baptism that we might rest in your love
and share it with others.**

* Assurance of Forgiveness

* Response

Alleluia
Jacques Berthier

***Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!***

Proclamation of the Word

Children's Message

Stephen Bullock

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: Psalm 29

Scripture: Isaiah 43:1-7

Sermon

Rev. Josh Musser Gritter

Moment for Reflection

It is Well with My Soul
arr. Carol Tornquist

Responding to the Word

* Reaffirmation of Baptism

see insert

It Is Well with My Soul
Horatio G. Spafford | Phillip P. Bliss

* Affirmation of Faith

Dr. Randy Kirby
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.**

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer

Announcements & Celebrations

Offering

Offertory

Sanctuary Choir

Down to the River to Pray
arr.Sheldon Curry

* Doxology 606

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
***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

Sending to share the Word

* Hymn 482

Baptized in Water

* Benediction

* Benediction Response #820

Nada Te Turbe (Nothing Can Trouble)
Nothing can trouble; nothing can frighten.
Those who seek God shall never go wanting.
Nothing can trouble; nothing can frighten.
God alone fills us.

Nada te turbe, nada te espante.
Quien a Dios tiene nada le falta.
Nada te turbe, nada te espante.
Solo Dios basta.

Postlude

Tocacata in G Minor
Paul Fey

*Those who are able are invited to stand.
Bold indicates words spoken in unison.

**The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God,
and in honor of our pastors and church staff
by Carolyn Alexander.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Nick Langdon, Jim Mitchell, Karl Hales, Alex Hales (Karl Hales's son), Bob Coleman, Rocky Mead (Chris Mead's father)

Eva Nelson and family, on the death of her step-father, Ray Bowden

Carol and Acey Worthy on the death of her mother, Tootie Ross

Dyke and Deborah Messinger on the marriage of their son, Trevor Messinger, to Nick Berning on December 23

Myrnie McLaughlin and family on the death of her husband, John McLaughlin

CONTINUING CONCERNS

Fred Aggers, Rob Bachhuber (Kathy Sang's brother-in-law), Bill Baker, Ann Blankenship, Bob Bruce, Alice Edwards (Tracy Smith's mother), Richard Franklin, Scott Hay, Richard Hudson, Tricia Johnson, Vonnie Jordan (Mike Jordan's mother), John Laughlin, Reba Parsons, Frank Saunders, Dianne Scott, John Smith, Ryan Snyder, Ebbie Whisenant, Sharon Whittington

CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays: Tom Bost, Katelyn Lee, Ed Muire, Rhonda Shaw, Carr Garner, Lisa Schnuit, Jeanette Whitley, Carolyn Alexander, Dan Cagle, Melissa Heilig, Al Dunn

Anniversary: Preston and Glenda Askew

Church Life

MINISTRY FOCUS – DEEPLY ROOTED

Welcome! We welcome all new and returning visitors to First Pres. We are glad you're here and hope you feel God's presence as you worship and fellowship among this community of believers. Children are always welcome in worship. However, if your little one needs some time to wiggle or play, a nursery is available for infants-4 Pre-K. Please see an usher for more information.

First Pres 101 classes will be held on January 19 at 9:45 in the Welcome Center (classroom closest to Lewis Hall). If you are thinking about joining First Pres or want to know more about us and Presbyterians, this is your opportunity.

Grow in Friendship: JOY (Just Older Youth) will have a Game Day on Tuesday, January 21, from 3:00-6:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring soup/stew/chili or a dessert to share. Salad, snacks and drinks will be provided. Bring your favorite board/card game and invite your friends! RSVP by January 16 and let us know what food you are bringing.

Worship: Sunday, January 26 is Youth Sunday. Join us for a unified worship service in Lewis Hall at 11:00. Please do not miss this opportunity to hear our graduating high school seniors speak about their faith journeys.

CORE

Staff: Don't assume we know! Your pastors and congregation want to care for you through prayer, visitation, letters, and more, but we can't do that unless you tell us something is going on. Let us love you.

Giving Update: As of January 9, we have received 182 pledges for a total of \$985,690. If you have not yet turned in your 2025 pledge, we must have them by January 15 for budgeting purposes. Thank you!

Congregational Meeting: The Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, January 26, at 10:40 in Lewis Hall. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on the 2025 budget and pastors' terms of call and to elect new officers.

Child Protection Training will be held on Sunday, February 9, at 9:45 in Fellowship Hall. If you have not had training in the last three year, please attend this session if you work with our children and youth.

BRANCHING OUT

Showing Up: 2 Cents a Meal offering will be collected at both services next Sunday, January 19. Please remember to bring in your donations for this vital ministry.

Embracing the Unchurched: We are now collecting winter coats for children and adults at RHM. Through February, there will be two red plastic tubs in the lobby outside Lewis Hall where coats will be collected. Thank you!

Showing Up: Our next Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on Tuesday, January 14, 2:00-6:30. Please go online to reserve your time now.



Community Ministries: Justice and Message – Join a discussion group in January! Break up your winter with lively conversation and new friendships sponsored by the Race & Justice Ministry Team. Two Zoom discussion groups will kick off new topics in January.

- **"The Spirit of Justice"** Subtitled "True Stories of Faith, Race, and Resistance," this book by Jemar Tisby will be the focus of our 7:00 pm Wednesday discussions starting January 8. This stirring book introduces historic figures you've not met before and reveals biblical connections you may not have made. Monica Green and Barrie Kirby will lead. Email barrie.m.kirby@gmail.com to sign up.

- **"The Message"** Ta-Nehisi Coates' latest book has stirred controversy on the topic of Palestine, but it covers other topics as well. The 7:00 pm Sunday group will focus on this book starting January 12, led by Esther Atkins-Smith and Beffie Cook. To sign up, email egravescook@yahoo.com.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Jan 12	8:30	Contemporary Worship-Lewis Hall
	9:45	Sunday School, First Pres 101 class
	11:00	Traditional Worship-Sanctuary
	5:00	Youth
	7:00	RJM Study on Zoom
Jan 13	9:30	MomCo
	10:30	Prayer Shawl
	12:30	Communicate Team
Jan 14	10:00	Staff
	2:00-6:00	Red Cross Blood Drive
Jan 15	6:00	Stephen Ministers
	5:00	Handbells
	5:30	First Kids, Property Team
	7:00	Choir Rehearsal, RJM Book Study on Zoom
Jan 16	6:30	LCW Rehearsal, Open Horizons @ RHM
Jan 19	8:30	Contemporary Worship-Lewis Hall
	9:45	Sunday School, First Pres 101 class
	11:00	Traditional Worship-Sanctuary
	5:00	Youth
	7:00	RJM Study on Zoom

Reaffirmation of Baptism

Knowing that, hear these words from the holy Scripture:

Just as the body is one and has many members,
and all the members of the body, though many,
are one body, so it is with Christ.

**For in the one spirit we were all baptized into
one body—Jews or Greeks, slave or free,
man or woman. And we were all made
to drink of one Spirit.**

Beloved people of God,
our baptism is the sign and seal
of our cleansing from sin and of our being grafted
into Christ. Through the birth, life, death,
and resurrection of Christ, the power of sin
was broken and God's kingdom entered our world.
Through our baptism we were made citizens
of God's kingdom and freed from the bondage
of sin and death.

Let us celebrate that freedom and redemption
through the renewal of the promises made
at our baptism.

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God,
Do you turn away from the ways of sin
and renounce evil and its power in the world?
If so, say I do.
I do.

Who is your Lord and savior?
Jesus Christ is my Lord and savior.
Will you be Christ's faithful disciple,
obeying his word and showing his love?
I will with God's help.

*As you process forward, a pastor will take water from the
font and sign you with the symbol of the cross saying,
"Remember your baptism and be thankful."*

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