

Songs of loudest praise

“Courage”

We summon every ounce of courage.

We give ourselves pep talks and we call our friends.

We dig deep within.

We practice the words out loud,
rolling them around in our mouths,
imagining the response.

We deal out every “what if” card our brain holds on to
and spend absurd amounts of time
imagining all the ways it could go wrong.

And then finally, blessedly, we say it:

I love you.

To speak the truth of your heart takes courage. It always has.

But please,

summon your courage,

join the parade,

and speak with conviction.

For God has been saying to the world since day one:

I love you.

What is your response?

~By Rev. Sarah A. Speed

We are absolutely delighted that you’ve chosen to worship with us today!

May Christ’s peace be with you until we meet again.

You can always join us on our

website: americuspresbyterian.org and on

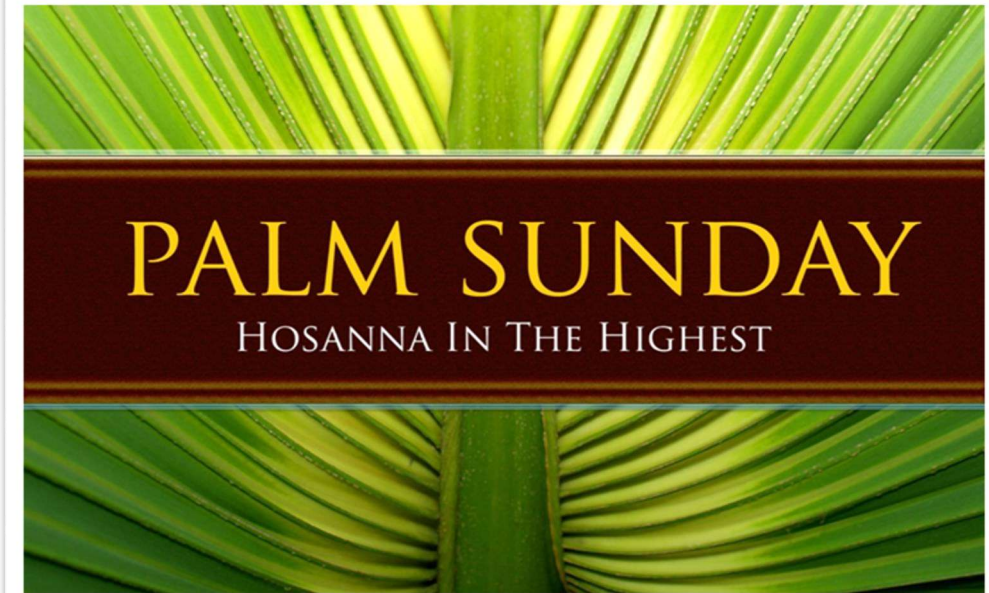
facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/fpcamericus/>.



First Presbyterian Church

Americus, Georgia

A community of faith responding to God’s call.
Loving, learning and leading people to Jesus Christ.



*We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,
who rode through the streets of Jerusalem on a donkey.*

*We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,
who challenged Rome’s oppressive power with peace.*

*We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,
who was surrounded by crowds of believers.*

*We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,
so even today,*

we will sing songs of loudest praise.

Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

First Presbyterian Church of Americus, GA

Sunday, March 24, 2024 ~ 11:00 a.m.



PALM SUNDAY



*All Are Invited to Stand in Body or in Spirit.
The Congregation is invited to respond at the **bold** print.

PRELUDE.....Pianist Candice Godby

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Pastor Sommer Bower

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing songs of loudest praise!

Hosanna!

Sing songs that are unashamed.

Hosanna!

Sing songs without being afraid.

Hosanna!

Sing for the God of tomorrow and today.

Hosanna!

Let us worship the One worthy to be praised.

***HYMN (#197)**.....Pianist Candice Godby

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Gospel of John tells us that crowds gathered to praise Jesus as he entered Jerusalem, singing and shouting with confidence. After describing the crowd, however, the Gospel writer zooms in on the disciples and tells us that while the crowds shouted praise at Jesus, the disciples were confused. The text says, "the disciples did not understand what was happening" (John 12:16).

A lot of our lives may look like this: either we understand God's presence in our lives and want to shout it from the rooftop - or we're standing on the side of the parade missing our chance to sing.

CHURCH EVENT CALENDAR

COMMUNION ~ Celebrated on the first Sunday of every month during 11:00 am worship.

FPC OFFICE HOURS ~ The Church Office is open Monday-Thursday; 9:00am-3:00pm.

COMMUNITY SERVICE MINISTRY ~ Every Thursday 9:00am- 11:30am. Volunteers from member churches of the Sumter Area Ministerial Association help their neighbors in need of assistance with utility expenses. Hosted in FPC Mission House; 127 S. Jackson St.

HOLY WEEK SAMA SERVICE ~ On Tuesday, March 26, we are hosting a community worship service and lunch on behalf of the Sumter Area Ministerial Association. Worship begins at 12:00pm, followed by a lunch in the Fellowship Hall at 12:30pm. Guest Preacher: Minister Debra Monts We also have a delicious lunch planned for Tuesday....we will have a potato bar, salad and chili!

Join us for noon worship, followed by lunch!

NEXT STATED SESSION MEETING ~ Tuesday, March 26th at 6:00pm.

MAUNDY THURSDAY ~ Worship, Communion and an evening meal in the Fellowship Hall.

~This years Maundy Thursday worship is on Thursday, March 28th at 6:00 pm and we will worship and eat family style in the fellowship hall. Dinner is pot roast, carrots, potatoes, greens, fresh bread, local olive oil and dessert. You do not need to bring anything but a heart ready for worship and fellowship.

~**CHURCH SOFTBALL** ~ If you are interested in playing church softball this season, please contact Coach Nate Herron at (229) 815-2914. Registration ends March 28th.



For 75 years, by supporting One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), Presbyterians have joined with Christians throughout the nation responding to Christ's love for all people by joyfully sharing that love with people in need. We ask that you prayerfully think of the OGHS offering as a time when you give in complete faith so that we might respond to ministry opportunities and needs as they unfold in the coming year. OGHS funds are divided among its three programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Self-Development of People (SDOP), and Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP). We will collect for this special offering during 11:00am worship Sunday March 17, 24 and 31.

March Birthdays

March 1 - Jake Griffith
March 5 - Emily Collins
March 8 - Earl Williams
March 10 - Meda Krenson
March 12 - Patti Griffith
March 15 - Jim Sewell
March 21 - Jaimie Minich
March 30 - Amelia Bibler
March 30 - Joshua Minich

Anniversaries

March 3 - Russ and Jo Childers
March 6 - Fred and Cynthia Richmond
March 24 - Trey and Wynonna Norton

***Today is the last day to order Lily's for Easter!**

****EASTER LILY order forms available on the narthex table. Cost is \$25 to reserve a flower for Easter morning, Sunday, March 31.**

PRAYER LIST

We lift up prayers for those listening Sunday mornings on WISK 98.7, Radio.
May they be spiritually fed. Please Pray for; Our Nation, Our Church;
Our Presbytery, Our Pastor, Our Staff, Our Officers, Campus Ministry,
Our Community and especially:

MEMBERS AND CHURCH FRIENDS AT HOME &/OR IN RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES

Bob & B.J. Bryan Nancy Miller Gloria Johnson Pat Hill
Blanche Palmer Kathy Newkirk Anne & Malcolm Perry

MEMBERS REMEMBERED

The Minich's

*You are invited to sign the Prayergrams on the narthex table in fellowship.

MISSIONARIES REMEMBERED IN PRAYER

-Ben & Esther Campbell, Push the Rock Intl.
- Tim & Lois Hunter, Spoken Worldwide
- Rev. George Haugen (PC USA Minister), Antioch Partners

PRAYER REQUESTS

~ Tyler Richland ~ Please remember Tyler Richmond in your prayers this week as he heals and recovers from a surgery on Friday March 22nd to repair a torn ACL. Tyler is currently residing in Washington D.C.

~Covenant Presbyterian Church ~ From the Flint River Presbytery perpetual prayer calendar, we celebrate and pray for the Pastor and Congregation of First Covenant Presbyterian.

***Please notify the church office at 924-2162 or office@americuspresbyterian.org
if you would like to add someone to our prayer list and/or request a PrayerGram.

Elder of the Month: March 2024 ~ Richard Pollette
April 2024 ~ Carrie Hawkins

SESSION (Ruling Elders):

<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>
Carrie Hawkins	Ronnie Greer	Mary Catron
Sharon McFarland (clerk)	Terry McDonald	Jim Griffith
	Richard Pollette	David Minich

2024 Corporation Officers elected on Feb. 4, 2024

President: Ronnie Greer - VP: Terry McDonald
Secretary: Sharon McFarland - Chief Financial Officer: Bill Krenson

Works Cited

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*That is why we need the prayer of confession. Because life happens fast,
and without a doubt, we have stood where the disciples stood.
So let us pray, so we do not miss out:*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, we want to be bold and unashamed of this good-news Gospel.
However, too often we find ourselves standing against the wall.
Too often we stay quiet.
Too often we let others speak.
Forgive us for the moments when we could lead the parade,
but instead find ourselves standing on the sidelines.
Show us which songs are ours to sing.
Show us which parades are ours to lead,
and then give us the courage and conviction to do both.
With hope and honesty, we pray, amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

*Friends, no matter where you are on the parade route - whether you are waving palm
branches through the streets or standing against the wall, quiet and cautious -
Jesus marched for you.
Jesus' love, his striving for mercy, it was for you.
You are included in this story and nothing can ever change that.
So hear these words and trust them deep in your bones:
We have reason to sing, for Jesus Christ loved you yesterday. Jesus Christ loves you
today. And Jesus Christ will love you tomorrow. You are forgiven, claimed, and sent to
serve. Go out trusting these words.
Amen.*

***GLORIA PATRI (#581).....Pianist Candice Godby**

***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.***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of grace, your Word is the melody that we long to sing, the refrain that we pray will get stuck in our heads. So as we return to scripture once more, allow us to hear the truth in between the words. Allow the cries of the crowd's "hosannas" to feel like our own. With open hearts and open ears we pray, amen.

SCRIPTURE John 12: 12-16 NRSV updated edition

Jesus's Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

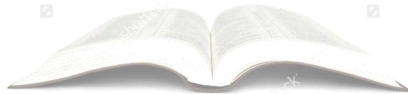
¹²The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³ So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting;

"Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord - the King of Israel!"

¹⁴ Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: ¹⁵ "Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" ¹⁶ His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

This is the Word of God, for the People of God,

Thanks be to God.



***HYMN (#216)**.....Pianist Candice Godby

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

SERMON.....Pastor Sommer Bower

"Courage"

OFFERTORY.....Pianist Candice Godby

***DOXOLOGY (#606)**Pianist Candice Godby

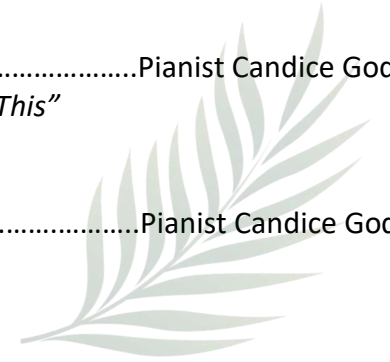
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***HYMN (#215)**.....Pianist Candice Godby
"What Wondrous Love Is This"

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE.....Pianist Candice Godby



2024 Holy Week Worship Services

Sumter Area Ministerial Association ~ Americus, Georgia

Monday, March 25

Fellowship Baptist
Jessica Sinclair preaching

Tuesday, March 26

First Presbyterian Church
Debra Monts preaching

Wednesday, March 27

United Holiness
Bryan Myers preaching

Thursday, March 28

Koinonia (Worship is in the Chapel)
Shirley Strawter preaching

Friday, March 29

Good Friday

12:00 p.m.

&

7:00 p.m.

Calvary Episcopal

**Worship at
12:00 p.m.**

**Lunch at
12:30 p.m.**

