

# First Presbyterian Church Americus, Georgia

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

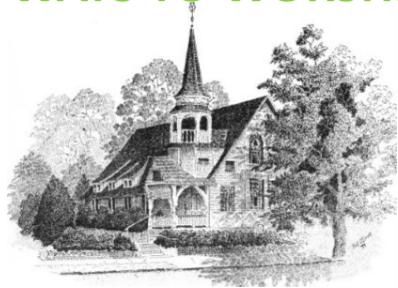


*Sunday, July 5, 2020*

*Pastor Sommer will be leading communion in worship, on the radio and on our church Facebook livestream. You are invited to participate in communion wherever you are. Traditionally, any bread product (sliced bread, whole loaves, flatbread, pita, matzo crackers, rolls, any crackers, etc.) and any "fruit of the vine" (juices made from grapes) are acceptable to use for the Lord's Supper.*

*As a community of faith, we will all celebrate communion together in worship this morning.*

## WAYS TO WORSHIP:



### IN-PERSON WORSHIP

As we welcome each other back to in-person worship, we are asking EACH and EVERY person to...

- ~ remain 6 feet apart (love one another from a distance),
- ~ to use hand sanitizer (clean your praise hands!),
- ~ to wear your mask the entire worship service (out of love for one another),
- ~ and to not shake hands/hug (spread grace, not germs).

### RADIO

Church Service will continue to be on the radio. You are encouraged to tune in to WISK radio 98.7 or on the radio website [www.americusradio.com](http://www.americusradio.com)

### FACEBOOK

You can join us for Sunday Worship via Facebook live at First Presbyterian Church of Americus  
Visit: for live stream at 11:00 am on the church Facebook page- <https://www.facebook.com/fpcamericus/>

### CHURCH WEBSITE

If you cannot participate in Facebook Live then after the live stream is complete, the live stream will be on our church website [www.americuspresbyterian.org](http://www.americuspresbyterian.org)

## WAY TO CONTINUE GIVING:

You can now **GIVE ONLINE** on the church website through a secure portal hosted by Presbyterian Foundation: <http://www.americuspresbyterian.org/give/>

## *Faithful Basic Practices we are following as we return to in-person worship*

- \*wearing face coverings/masks*
- \*using hand sanitizer or washing hands frequently*
- \*continuing to provide worship via the radio ministry and Facebook so those who need to stay home can continue to worship*
- \*disinfecting shared spaces*
- \*Avoid practices known to spread the virus more widely, such as congregational or choral singing, unison speaking, speaking loudly, shouting, and playing wind and brass instruments.*
- \*maintaining physical distancing, including not shaking hands/hugging*
- \*Special Care with Sacraments = prepared communion elements will be at the entrance of the sanctuary. You are invited to take your individual serving of juice/wafer as you walk into worship and then take it to your pew. At the time of holy communion you will partake of the Lord's Supper while remaining in your pew.*

*Long ago, the prophet Micah asserted that what God requires of us is "to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8). The COVID-19 pandemic has radically changed our lives and our world. It has not, however, changed what God requires of us. Regardless of how we are worshipping, in-person OR church-without-walls (radio/Facebook), we are God's servants in this world, witnessing to the power of Christ's salvation. Amen and Amen.*

*Resuming Care-Filled Worship and Sacramental Life  
during a pandemic*

*Jesus taught that love of God and love of every neighbor are two inseparable aspects of one great commandment for the people of God (Matthew 22:35–40). Our love for God and neighbor is a response to God's love for the world revealed in Jesus (John 3:16). Love motivates everything we do as disciples of Jesus Christ, including how we worship and fellowship with one another. Especially during times of crisis, faithful Christian worship expresses the fullness of the gospel, both what it requires (love of God, self, neighbor, and the world) and what it releases (love, joy, peace, forgiveness, and deliverance in all forms). Love is the ground of all of our work, and of all of the work God calls each congregation and ministry to undertake.*

*During this pandemic, love of neighbor requires careful planning. Because we love God, we want to offer worship that brings our very best. Because we love our neighbors, we want to do everything we can to make sure we bring no harm to anyone when we gather.*

*Therefore, A care-filled response to returning to in-person worship is much more than unlocking the church doors and inviting all to come, sit, sing, and greet one another as had been our custom. We know the dangers posed and the risks taken if we were to do that. We care enough not to let that happen. Therefore, the session and worship committee have prayerfully created a list of faithful practices to help us return to in-person worship.*

*Sunday, July 5, 2020- 11:00 a.m.*

*Sunday Worship*

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

*Silent Prayer to Prepare your Heart to Worship your God*

*Come, you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens.*

*Come, and find rest for your spirit.*

*Come, and take the yoke of Christ upon you, for Jesus is  
gentle and humble in heart.*

*Come, and find rest for your souls.*

*Come, and dance to the music.*

*Come, you who are grieving, and mourn.*

*Come, you children of God, and worship the Lord of Heaven and earth.*

**PRELUDE**

Walter Cornwell, Guest Musician

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Pastor Sommer Bower

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

(based on Psalm 33)

**Come rejoice, all you who love and serve the Lord!**

**Sing songs and hymns of praise;**

**celebrate together in God's presence!**

**For the word of the Lord holds true forever,**

**and everything he does is worthy of our trust.**

**Let all the earth stand in awe of our God,  
for he spoke, and the world came into being;  
he breathed, and the heavens were born.**

**The plans of our Maker stand firm forever;  
his intentions are unshakeable.**

**Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,  
whose people are known by his name.**

**Let your unfailing love surround us, O God,  
for our hope is in you alone.**

HYMN (Blue 561)....."My Country, 'Tis of Thee ".....

# 561 My Country, 'Tis of Thee

AMERICA 6.6.4.6.6.6.4

Samuel Francis Smith, 1831

*Thesaurus Musicus*, London, c. 1740

1. My coun - try, 'tis of thee, Sweet land of lib - er - ty,  
 2. My na - tive coun - try, thee, Land of the no - ble free,  
 3. Let mu - sic swell the breeze, And ring from all the trees  
 4. Our \*fa - thers' God, to Thee, Au - thor of lib - er - ty,

Of thee I sing; Land where my \*fa - thers died, Land of the  
 Thy name I love; I love thy rocks and rills, Thy woods and  
 Sweet free-dom's song; Let mor - tal tongues a - wake, Let all that  
 To Thee we sing; Long may our land be bright With free-dom's

pil - grims' pride, From ev - ery moun-tain - side Let free - dom ring.  
 tem - pled hills; My heart with rap - ture thrills Like that a - bove.  
 breathe par - take, Let rocks their si - lence break, The sound pro - long.  
 ho - ly light; Pro - tect us by Thy might, Great God, our King.

\*Or "parents."

## PRAYER LIST

Please Pray For - Our Nation, Our Church; Our Pastor, Our Staff, Our Officers, Campus Ministry, Our Community and especially:

### MEMBERS AND CHURCH FRIENDS

#### HOMEBOUND &/OR IN RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES

Bob & B.J. Bryan

Rev. Bill Gettys

Mary Mackey

Nancy Miller

### MEMBERS REMEMBERED IN PRAYER

#### WITH PRAYER GRAM ROTATION

Sharon and John Parks

Malcolm and Anne Perry

#### SPECIAL PRAYER FOR:

- Pat Hill's son David Harper has Covid-19. He is in Waverly Hall, GA at the Oak View Nursing Home
- Continue to keep Debra Sams (sister of Joy Thompson), diagnosed with peritoneal carcinoma, in your prayers
- Continue to keep Schley and Karen Gatewood in your prayers as they shelter in place in their new home in North Carolina! (new address: 311 Marion Street, Mt. Airy, NC 27030)
- Pray for Steve and Beth Spoon (Melanie's in-laws) - Steve has ALS
- Shannon Kennedy (cancer; McFarlands' niece)

### MISSIONARIES REMEMBERED IN PRAYER

- Benji & Esther Campbell, Push the Rock Intl.
- Lois & Tim Hunter, Wycliffe Bible Translators
- Anne D (India) Retired Presbyterian Missionary

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

# 564 O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

MATERNA CMD

Katharine Lee Bates, 1893

Samuel Augustus Ward, 1882

1. O beau-ti-ful for spa-cious skies, For am-ber waves of grain,  
 2. O beau-ti-ful for pil-grim feet, Whose stern, im-pas-sioned stress  
 3. O beau-ti-ful for he-roes proved In lib-er-at-ing strife,  
 4. O beau-ti-ful for pa-triot dream That sees be-yond the years

For pur-ple moun-tain maj-es-ties A-bove the fruit-ed plain!  
 A thor-ough-fare for free-dom beat A-cross the wil-der-ness!  
 Who more than self their coun-try loved, And mer-cy more than life!  
 Thine al-a-bas-ter cit-ies gleam, Un-dimmed by hu-man tears!

A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God shed His grace on thee,  
 A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God mend thine ev-ery flaw,  
 A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! May God thy gold re-fine  
 A-mer-i-ca! A-mer-i-ca! God shed His grace on thee

And crown thy good with \*broth-er-hood From sea to shin-ing sea!  
 Con-firm thy soul in self-con-trol, Thy lib-er-ty in law!  
 Till all suc-cess be no-ble-ness And ev-ery gain di-vine!  
 And crown thy good with \*broth-er-hood From sea to shin-ing sea!

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

*Almighty God, prepare us to discover your word for us today.  
 Help us hear your servant, and in the spoken words, hear your Word.  
 May these words us to recognize you in our everyday moments. Amen.*

## SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

34 So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. 35 The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. 36 And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. 37 My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; 38 but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

42 "I came today to the spring, and said, 'O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! 43 I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," 44 and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also" — let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master's son.' 45 Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' 46 She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. 47 Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. 48 Then I bowed my head and worshiped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. 49 Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

58 And they called Rebekah, and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will." 59 So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. 60 And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes." 61 Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. 62 Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. 63 Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. 64 And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, 65 and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. 66 And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. 67 Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

*This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!*

**HYMN (Blue 275)**....."God of Our Life" .....

*1 God of our life, through all the circling years,  
we trust in you; in all the past, through all our hopes and fears,  
your hand we view. With each new day, when morning lifts the veil,  
we own your mercies, Lord, which never fail.*

*2 God of the past, our times are in your hand;  
with us abide. Lead us by faith, to hope's true Promised Land;  
be now our guide. With you to bless, the darkness shines as light,  
and faith's fair vision changes into sight.*

*3 God of the coming years, thro' paths unknown  
we follow you; when we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone;  
our faith renew. Be now for us in life our daily bread,  
our heart's true home when all our years have sped.*

**MESSAGE**....."Ancestors of the Faith: Rebekah & Isaac" .....

Pastor Sommer Bower

#### **OFFERTORY**

#### **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*As you have received each one of us, O Lord, receive also these gifts that we offer to you  
that your love may be made known through ministries of peace, hope and justice.*

*Amen.*

#### **COMMUNION**

*We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper today as a community of faith. The  
communion elements (juice & bread) can be found at the sanctuary entrance. You are  
invited to pick up your communion elements prior to worship or an usher will bring  
elements to you. If you are worshipping with us at home, you are invited to participate  
in communion at home. Holy Communion unites us in praise and thanksgiving to God  
for all God has done to save us, and it feeds us with the living presence of Jesus,  
crucified and risen.*

**HYMN (Blue 564, insert)**....."O Beautiful for Spacious Skies" .....

#### **\*BENEDICTION**

*God, who has given you rest and peace, will go with you as you leave this place.*

*Feel the healing love of God in your life.*

*Bring the good news of God's love to all whom you meet.*

*Go in peace. Amen.*

**\*POSTLUDE**..... Walter Cornwell, Guest Musician