

WAYS TO WORSHIP:



IN-PERSON WORSHIP RADIO

Our Church Service is on the radio.

You are encouraged to tune in to WISK radio 98.7
or on the radio website 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

WAYS 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/>

First Presbyterian Church

Americus, Georgia

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

3rd Sunday after Epiphany



Image: "Jonah" www.JohnAugustSwanson.com - copyright 1983 by John August Swanson
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We begin with the call of Jonah a second time to go to Nineveh, after he ran away the first time. In Jonah 3:1-5, the prophet obeys God and proclaims the message God sent him to deliver: in forty days, Nineveh, a large city, will be overthrown because they have not followed God's ways. However, all the people of Nineveh, of all backgrounds, fasted and put on sackcloth, showing outwardly how they recognized where they had gone wrong and turned back to God. In verse 10, God recognized that they had changed from their evil ways, and God changed their mind about overthrowing the city. Jonah, in turn, was the most successful prophet in the Bible (but has some things to say about that in chapter 4).

First Presbyterian Church of Americus, GA

Sunday, January 21, 2024 ~ 11:00 a.m.



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

*O Mighty and Ancient One, we gather knowing Your presence is always among us, but in this time and place, we call upon You here and now. Enter our homes and our hearts with thanksgiving as we come to You with praise. We call upon Your name, for You know each one of us. Guide our hearts and minds to remember Your promises and to renew our spirits to live faithfully in Your ways. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray.
Amen.*

PRELUDE.....Pianist Candice Godby

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Pastor Sommer Bower

***HYMN (#438)**.....Pianist Candice Godby
“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Next, God spoke to Jonah a second time: “Up on your feet and on your way to the big city of Nineveh! Preach to them. They’re in a bad way and I can’t ignore it any longer.” This time Jonah started off straight for Nineveh, obeying God’s orders to the letter.

The people of Nineveh listened, and trusted God. They proclaimed a citywide fast and dressed in burlap to show their repentance. Everyone did it—rich and poor, famous and obscure, leaders and followers.

When the message reached the king of Nineveh, he got up off his throne, threw down his royal robes, dressed in burlap, and sat down in the dirt. Everyone must turn around, turn back from an evil life and the violent ways that stain their hands. Who knows? Maybe God will turn around and change his mind about us, quit being angry with us and let us live!”

God saw what they had done, that they had turned away from their evil lives. He did change his mind about them. What he said he would do to them he didn’t do.

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

Jim and Pat Buffaloe
Mary Catron

PRAYER REQUESTS

~1st Presbyterian Church, Bainbridge, Georgia ~ Flint River Presbytery requests intentional and perpetual prayer for all the churches, affiliates, staff and volunteers in our Presbytery. This week we celebrate the Pastor, Session and Congregation of 1st PCB.
~Cathy Clark Reynolds ~ Please pray for Cathy as she returns to Gainesville, FL for a continuation of the “Deep Brain Stimulation” surgical procedures she is having to treat Parkinson's. ~ Cathy Reynolds, 113 Hurt Drive, Cordele, Georgia 31015 ~

MISSIONARIES REMEMBERED IN PRAYER

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

Elder of the Month for January 2024, Ronnie Greer

SESSION (Ruling Elders):

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

2023 Corporation Officers elected on Feb.12, 2023

President: *Tom Collins - VP: Carrie Hawkins

Secretary: Sharon McFarland - Chief Financial Officer: Bill Krenson

**Our church was saddened with the loss of our beloved Tom Collins in December of 2023. Not only was he loved by many in our Congregation, he was also an officer of the church. We give thanks for his service, a reflection of his faith and love of Jesus Christ. As a congregation, let us join together in prayer for the Class of 2023 and for the upcoming class of 2027.*

CHURCH EVENT CALENDAR

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

COMMUNITY SERVICE MINISTRY ~ Hosted in FPC Mission House at 127 S. Jackson St. 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.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2024 ~ Pastor Sommer meeting in Columbus with Rev. Ralph Hawkins and Rev. Colleen Cook

GSW MLK CONVOCATION ~ Wed., January 24 at 11:00am in the GSW Storm Dome; annual Martin Luther King, Jr Convocation with guest speaker Eric Bryant, Sumter County Sheriff.

NEXT STATED SESSION MEETING ~ Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

PRESBYTERY FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING ~ Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at 2:00pm.

Flint River Presbytery Stated Meeting ~ Saturday, February 3 at 10:00am. In Person meeting at New Hope Presbyterian in Columbus, GA. ~4142 Weems Road, Columbus, GA 31909 ~

ASH WEDNESDAY ~ Wednesday, February 14, 2024.

LENT BEGINS ~ Sunday, February 18, 2024.



First Presbyterian supports the Harvest of Hope Food Pantry each month financially and with food donations. **The month of January, we will be collecting 26 oz - Iodized Salt.**

Donations can be brought to Sunday 11am Worship or to the office Mon - Thurs 9am—3pm. As we are fed each month by our Lord Jesus through Holy Communion, we do our best to help feed others in need.



Listen to us every Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. on WISK radio 98.7 on your radio dial. Weekly sermons can also be downloaded from our web site.

www.americuspresbyterian.org



***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.

If we have missed a birthday or anniversary, please let us know. A sign up sheet is on the narthax table.

January Birthdays

- January 1 - Donna Minich
- January 9 - Conrad Minich
- January 19 - B.J. Bryan
- January 20 - Tyler Richmond
- January 27 - Nancy Miller
- January 31 - Nancy Herron

This is not a simple blanket gift of forgiveness, but mercy is the response to those who turn away from their evil ways, who repent - we cannot turn to God until we recognize and accept what we are turning away from.

Jonah's obedience to God's call is met with repentance from the people.

God's mercy is shown.

This morning in worship we repent of our sins and turn to God.

We seek mercy.

This is our good news...God wants us to find the right way.

God wants us to have abundant life.

What good news to proclaim during this holy time of worship.

*HYMN (#169) VS 1 & 4.....Pianist Candice Godby

"Dear Lord and Father of Mankind"

Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways;

Reclothe us in our rightful mind, in

Purer lives thy service find, in deeper reverence, praise.

Drop thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease;

take from our souls the strain and stress,

And let our ordered lives confess the beauty of thy peace.

SCRIPTURE Jonah 1:1-3, 3:1-5, 10; 4:1

NRSV updated edition

Jonah Tries to Run Away from God

1 Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai, saying, 2 "Go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it, for their wickedness has come up before me." 3 But Jonah set out to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid his fare and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord.

Conversion of Nineveh

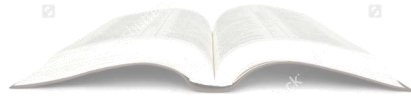
3 The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, 2 "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." 3 So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. 4 Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" 5 And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

10 When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

Jonah's Anger

4:1 But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry.

*This is the Word of God, for the People of God,
Thanks be to God.*



*HYMN (#109).....Pianist Candice Godby

"Blest Be the God of Israel"

SERMON.....Pastor Sommer Bower

*"Reclothe us in our rightful mind, in
Purer lives thy service find,
Take from our souls the strain and stress
And let our ordered lives confess."*

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 (#463) VS 1 & 5.....Pianist Candice Godby

"How Firm a Foundation"

***How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?***

***The soul that on Jesus hath learned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake.***

***BENEDICTION**

Here these words from the Apostle Paul: "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7).

May you know Christ's peace, and rest assured in God's love, forgiveness, and restoration. Live into God's ways, and you will always know God's voice, calling you back. Go and share the good news: God is calling your name, for God loves you so much. God wants you to find the right way. God wants you to have abundant life. Live into this good news. Amen.

POSTLUDE.....Pianist Candice Godby

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/>.



Works Cited

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