



May 17, 2026

**Welcome to
Community.**

We are glad you are here. While here we hope you will feel welcome and find the service meaningful.

Childcare (infants through 4 year olds) is available. Worship boxes for younger children to borrow during worship are located at the entrance.

Large Print bulletins are available. Please see an usher for assistance.

Pillows are available in the narthex for those who need extra comfort and support while sitting in the pew.

Hearing Assistance is available through a T loop system that has been installed.

If you have a hearing aid device that is T-coil compatible, please turn your hearing piece to the t-position.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

– We Gather For Worship –

(Use this time to quiet your mind, to turn your focus to God. Allow the music and prayer of preparation to turn your focus to God. Use this time to “Be still and know that God is God”. – Ps. 46:10)

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Loving Creator,
Help us breathe in your love and exhale your compassion.
Help us to take in your abundant life and share it with our world.
Help us to receive your healing and bring it to a broken world. Amen.

– We Are Called Into God’s Presence –

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Church, hear the invitation of God:
When the world grows cold,

People: God calls us to love.

Leader: When compassion becomes inconvenient,

People: God calls us to love.

Leader: When fear tells us to withdraw,

People: God calls us to love.

Leader: We come to worship the One who loved us first,

People: We come to worship, to be reminded to love as Christ has loved us.

ALL: May our worship honor you, our fellowship display your grace, and our lives become witnesses to the love of Christ.

*OPENING HYMN – #464

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

– We Confess Our Sins –

CALL TO CONFESSION

In the presence of a forgiving God, We become aware of the ways we fall short of God's best hopes for us, and ways we have hurt others. As you pray the prayer of confession, think how the words express specific sins in your life and the life of the church. We turn to God asking forgiveness.

Claim the truth that through God's grace and Christ giving of himself on the cross, we are forgiven. Let this truth set you free from your sins so you may be restored to God and one another.

All children are invited to come forward for the Children's Moment.

The Scripture bears witness to the word of God. Listen beyond the human word for the Word of God. Pray that the Spirit will speak to you through the text.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
2 Timothy 3:16-17

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we come before you acknowledging that we have fallen short of the love you have called us to embody. You commanded us to love one another as you have loved us—selflessly, sacrificially, and without condition—yet we often choose comfort over compassion and judgment over grace.

We confess that:

- **We have withheld love from those who are different from us or who have wronged us.**
- **We have been quick to anger and slow to forgive, forgetting the immense mercy you have shown us.**
- **We have prioritized our own needs and desires above the needs of our neighbors.**
- **Our hearts have been hardened by indifference to the suffering of others.**

Forgive us for our shortcomings. Teach us again to live as your disciples marked by love.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear the good news: God's mercy is greater than our failures. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and called again into lives of love and grace.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSE TO THE PARDON

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

**For the love of God is broader than the measures of our mind,
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more simple we should take him at his word,
And our lives would be thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.**

– We Hear God's Word –

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

READING FROM THE WORD OF GOD – *John 13:1-17, 34-35*

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God,

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Practicing Love in a Culture That Shows Apathy

Rev. Rod Stone

RESPONSE TO THE SERMON

Instruments of Peace

Kirk and Deby Dearman
Arr. Mauldin

Lord, make us instruments of your peace,
Where there is hatred, let your love increase.
Lord, make us instruments of your peace,
Walls of pride and prejudice shall cease
When we are your instruments of peace. (Repeat)

Where there is hatred, we will show his love.
Where there is injury, we will never judge.
Where there is striving, we will speak his peace.
To the people crying for release,
We will be his instruments of peace.

Lord, make us instruments of your peace,
Where there is hatred, let your love increase.
Lord, make us instruments of your peace,
Walls of pride and prejudice shall cease
When we are your instruments of peace.

Where there is blindness, we will pray for sight.
where there is darkness, we will shine his light.
Where there is sadness, we will bear their grief.
To the millions crying for release,
We will be your instruments of peace.
Lord, make us instruments of your peace,

Where there is hatred, let your love increase.
Lord, make us instruments of your peace,
Walls of pride and prejudice shall cease
When we are your instruments of peace.
Walls of pride and prejudice shall cease
When we are your instruments of peace.

– We Believe –

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – (1st John 4:7-12)

Let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

– We Offer Our Prayers –

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

– We Share Our Gifts –

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

The affirmation of faith invites us to join with God's people everywhere in claiming our faith in God as our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. It also reminds us to go out and publicly proclaim our faith in God.



QR Code (for quick mobile giving)

The giving of an offering not only supports the ministry of Christ but it is the symbolic dedication of our life and all that we have to give to God in response to his love. Remember that all things belong to God, and that we are entrusted to use all that we have to bring glory to God.

FRIENDSHIP RECORD – (Please sign and pass)

OFFERTORY

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

**Refrain: Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
Show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.**

**Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them.**

Refrain

**Neighbors are rich and poor, varied in color and race,
Neighbors are near and far away.**

Refrain

**These are the ones we should serve; these are the ones we should love.
All these are neighbors to us and you.**

Refrain

**Loving puts us on our knees, willing to wash others' feet;
This is the way we should live like you.**

Refrain

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love,” words and music by Tom Colvin
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*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

– We Go Out to Be God’s Presence in the World –

*CLOSING SONG

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant The Servant Song

1, 6 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney; we're to -
 3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you
 5 When we sing to God in heav - en, we shall

Our worship does not end at the conclusion of this service. We go forth to love and serve the LORD in daily living. In so doing, we seek to fulfill our mission to “love God and make God’s love known”.

be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the
 geth - er on the road. We are here to help each
 night - time of your fear. I will hold my hand out
 laugh I'll laugh with you. I will share your joy and
 find such har - mo - ny, born of all we've known to -

grace to let you be my ser - vant too.
 oth - er walk the mile and bear the load.
 to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
 sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.
 geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.

(repeat stanza 1)

POSTLUDE

The Postlude is considered the final Alleluia of Worship

*Please stand if you are able.

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by Cathy Hilton.

Accompanist: Ed Martel

Ushers: Alan Tucker, Carter and Cheryl Langston, Holly Alexander

Greeters: Harlan McCaskill

Audio: Pat Oakley

Holy Grounds: Wanda and Ollie Sweeney

Children's Church:

If you are a visitor here and have a child that would like to attend children's church they are more than welcome to join us! After the children's sermon, all children ages kindergarten through fifth grade are dismissed to go downstairs with the teachers. We have a snack, game, Bible lesson and a craft. If your child has any food allergies or other health/behavior concerns please come downstairs with your child and let the teachers know. We have visitor forms as well that are located by the worship boxes and bulletins. When church is finished please come downstairs to pick your child up. We also have a nursery that is available from birth-preschool age. Thank you!

Prayer from Our Care Team:

Each month, Pastor Meg and your congregational care elders, Patty Franklin, John Liles, and Cindy Ward, meet to pray through the requests that have been offered on our congregational prayer list. If you have new requests to bring to our team for prayer and care, please contact Cindy Ward via phone or email: (910) 986-0491; ryw2004@yahoo.com.

<p>The Mission of Community Presbyterian Church:</p>

<p>“We exist not for ourselves, but to love God and make God’s love known.”</p>

CPC Financial Update**Income vs. Expenses for April 2026**

	Actual	Budget	Better/(Worse) Than Budget
YTD Income	293,124	302,254	(9,130)*
YTD Expenses	288,822	312,546	23,724
Net	4,302	-10,292	14,594

Note: * The combination of pledged, non pledged and loose plate Income YTD actuals is better than budget. YTD overall income is worse than budget due to the intentional delaying of the transfer of the YTD budgeted endowment fund income. This delay for the need to transfer any money from our endowment funds is due to our YTD reduction in overall expenses.

– Community Happenings –

Weekly Calendar

Sunday (May 17)

- 10:30 a.m. Worship – Sanctuary
11:45 a.m. New Member Orientation Luncheon –
Conference Room
2:00 p.m. Violin Recital – Sanctuary
5:30 p.m. Youth Fellowship – Youth Loft

Monday

- 1:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Supervision – Simpson
Parlor
5:30 p.m. Barbershop Board Meeting – Conference
Room
6:00 p.m. Barbershop – Fellowship Hall
6:30 p.m. Session Meeting – Fannie B. Gray Parlor
7:15 p.m. Troop 7G – Great Room

Tuesday

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast – Pinecrest Inn
2:30 p.m. CALL – Everette House
3:30 p.m. Brookside Tutoring – Victory Village
5:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary
6:30 p.m. Pack 7 Committee Meeting – Fannie B.
Gray Parlor
7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 7 – Fellowship Hall

Wednesday

- 12:00 p.m. CALL Committee Meeting – Conference
Room

Thursday

- 10:00 a.m. Presbyterian Purls – Library

Friday

Sunday (May 24)

- 10:30 a.m. Worship – Sanctuary
5:30 p.m. Youth Fellowship – Loft

SAVE THE DATE: Vacation Bible School 2026!

Monday, June 15th - Wednesday, June 17th
5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
PreK through 5th Graders

Youth Helpers Welcome and Encouraged!

On-line Giving is now available. And it's easy!

**Anyone can now donate to CPC via the QR code or
the link below.**

You can donate via your Smartphone, laptop, Mac or tablet. You can also donate via the "Give" button on the homepage of the GCC website. The donation landing page gives you a drop down menu with options of which fund you would like your donation to go to. FYI - any donation going to the General Fund will be applied against your pledge total.

If you have any questions please contact Sam Crouter/
Finance Manager in the church office at (910) 295-6848 or
at scrouter@communitypres.com

<https://onrealm.org/CommunityPresby67558/give/now>

QR Code (for quick mobile giving):



Prayer Garden

The Prayer Garden needs you! If you are interested in working on Friday mornings, please call or text Rosa Recio, (910) 987-2270.”



A Celebration Honoring Rod and Marsae Stone
 Friday, May 29, 2026 • 6:00 p.m.

A Covered Dish Dinner Main Course, Side Dishes, Salads and Dessert

RSVP with what you are bringing to Sally at (910) 295-6848 or sraynor@communitypres.com by Friday, May 22, 2026

Come join the fun and have a great CPC Dinner



Pastor Transition Committee

With any transition or change, we may experience a variety of feelings, questions and concerns. Saying so long to Rod and welcoming a new, interim pastor is a big transition. You as an individual and as a member of this community deserve time to discuss the impact of this change. The CPC Session organized a Pastor Transition

Committee. One of its main goals is to support you.

There will be regular communications as well as time to gather and discuss various aspects of this transition. We also appreciate some might feel more comfortable with a private conversation. The Pastor Transition Committee

members or any of our Elders (pictured below) welcome your questions and will be happy to talk with you. Let any of us know you'd like to talk:

Pastor Transition Committee Members: Scott Brewton, Patty Franklin, Dave Gibbons, Sue Ann Summers



Scott Brewton
Admin./Personnel



Joe Franklin
Membership



Patty Franklin
Care



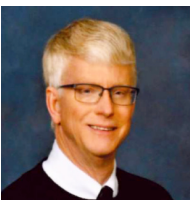
Bruce Geddes
Property & Grounds



Dave Gibbons
Finance



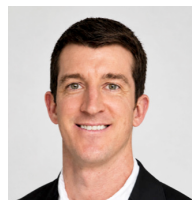
Amanda Jacoby
Worship



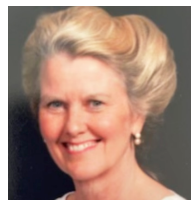
John Liles
Care



Harlan McCaskill
Admin./Personnel



Mac McLaurin
Property & Grounds



Lynne Phifer
Mission



Char Popson
Mission



Clare Ruggles
Finance



Sue Ann Summers
Discipleship



Cindy Ward
Care

