First Presbyterian Church

Spartanburg, SC



March 8, 2026

Service for the Lord's Day
Third Sunday In Lent

8:30am Early

9:00am Contemporary

11:00am Traditional

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church!

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church Spartanburg – we are delighted that you are joining us for worship today! First Presbyterian is a community of believers in the heart of Spartanburg seeking to know and share the transformative love of Jesus Christ with others. Here you will encounter people who come from all walks of life representing diverse beliefs and faith experiences. What binds us together is our common hope in Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, fellowship, and mission we seek to root our lives in scripture, nurture our unity in Christ, and serve our neighbors in faith! No matter who you are or where you are on your spiritual journey, know that you are welcome here.

Peace,

Rev. Alan F. Dyer
Senior Pastor

If You Are New Here Whether you are searching for a church home or visiting from out of town, we are delighted that you are worshiping with us today. If you are interested in receiving more information about membership or the ministries of our congregation, please be sure to speak with a pastor before or after today's worship or fill out the friendship register. We would love to get to know you better!

Pastoral Concern? Please let us know how we can be praying for you by visiting with a pastor before or after worship. If you need to contact a Minister, call 864-208-2142 day or night.

Children of All Ages Are Welcome in Worship!

Activity Bags located in the welcoming areas of each worship venue are available for your child to use during worship. After worship, please return the crayons and bags to the baskets. The activity sheet is for your child to keep.

Nursery is available for infants through age 3 in the Clark Building in Room 105.

After *The Word for Children* in the 11:00am Traditional Service, children 3K-1st grade may attend Children's Worship with Ms. Kara. After the service, families are asked to pick their children up from Room 202 of the Clark Building.

To Aid in Worship Advanced listening technology, large-print hymnals, and large-print bulletins are available upon request for the Chapel and Sanctuary. Please locate an usher for assistance.

Worship Online Livestreaming of the Contemporary and Traditional Worship Services is available at fpcspartanburg.org/worship. Additionally, sermons are on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Music, or wherever you find your podcasts!

Ways to Give There are many ways you can support the missions and ministries of First Presbyterian. During worship, place your gift in the Offering Plate or scan one of these QR Codes (you may give via **ShelbyNext** or via **Venmo**). Additionally, you may mail a check to the church office (address on back of bulletin). Thank you. *Questions? Contact Church Financial Officer Lynise Clarke; 864-208-2130/lclarke@fpcspartanburg.org.*

ShelbyNext (No log in required)

Venmo

Early Worship
8:30am | Chapel

Gathering Around the Word

Welcome and Invitation — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

This is the day that the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Opening Voluntary — *Prelude on "Deo Gracias"* — Healey Willan

✞Call to Worship — Nora Biber

In the wilderness and on the mountaintop, God draws near.
Holy ground is closer than we think.
The voice from the cloud still speaks.
"This is my Beloved Son, listen to him."
Before we lead, before we speak,
We come to listen. Let us worship God.

✞Hymn 611 — *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* — Hymn to Joy

Prayer of Confession — Rev. Leslie L. Denny

Holy God, you call us to listen before we lead,
but we rush ahead with our own plans.
We speak when we should be still.
We act before we pray.
We cling to our own understanding instead of waiting for your voice.
Forgive us for trusting our vision more than yours.
Quiet our hearts and open our ears once more.

Silent Confession

Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote that "he who is alone with his sin is utterly alone." But we are not alone with our sin. That's why we confess our sin together, that we might share each other's burdens, and that we might be renewed in God's grace and called to lives of joyful devotion - together.

Assurance of Pardon

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!

✞Response

Give me a clean heart so I may serve thee. Lord, fix my heart so that I may be used by thee.
For I'm not worthy of all these blessings. Give me a clean heart, Lord, and I'll follow thee.

✞Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Life of the Church

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Proclaiming the Word

First Reading	Mark 9:2-9	Piper Catolico
Second Reading	Exodus 3:1-12	
Sermon	*God's Vision for Us: Listening Before Leading*	Rev. Alan F. Dyer

Responding to the Word

✙Affirmation of Faith

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.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee* arr. Dale Wood

After we receive our offerings, we take a moment to dedicate them to God's work in our community and in the world. This ritual of setting apart concludes the offering by reminding us that we give not just to an organization but to a faith community called to make God's love visible.

✙Doxology, Hymn 606 Old Hundredth

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.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer Hymnal Page 35

Bearing the Word to the World

✙Hymn 712 *As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought* Forest Green

✙Charge and Benediction

✙Benediction Response: Hymn 543 Green Tyler

God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to move my voice;
God, be the strength to now uphold me: O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Closing Voluntary *O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High* arr. David N. Johnson

Contemporary Worship
9:00am | Fogartie Hall

Instrumental Prayer		*Be Still My Soul (In You I Rest)*
Welcome		Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker
✞Call to Worship		Savannah Pinilla
✞Song(s) of Praise		*A Thousand Tongues (Awake My Soul)*
Prayer of Confession		Rev. L. Craig Foster
Sung Assurance of Pardon		*O Come To The Altar*
✞Passing of the Peace		
Life of the Church		
Children's Time		
Anthem		*No Longer Slaves*
First Reading	Mark 9:2-9	Millie Halliday
Second Reading	Exodus 3:1-12	
Sermon	*God's Vision for Us: Listening Before Leading*	Rev. Alan F. Dyer
Sacrament of Baptism		*Patricia Burley Achille*
Prayers of the People		
The Lord's Prayer		Hymnal Page 35
✞Closing Song		*Same God*
✞Benediction		

Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote that "he who is alone with his sin is utterly alone." But we are not alone with our sin. That's why we confess our sin together, that we might share each other's burdens, and that we might be renewed in God's grace and called to lives of joyful devotion - together.

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Traditional Worship
11:00am | Sanctuary

Gathering Around the Word

Welcome and Invitation — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

This is the day that the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Opening Voluntary — *Prelude on "Deo Gracias"* — Healey Willan

Acolyte — Ellis Brierton

Introit — *He Came Down* — He Came Down

✞Call to Worship — Mary Close

In the wilderness and on the mountaintop, God draws near.
Holy ground is closer than we think.
The voice from the cloud still speaks.
"This is my Beloved Son, listen to him."
Before we lead, before we speak,
We come to listen. Let us worship God.

✞Hymn 611 — *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* — Hymn to Joy

Prayer of Confession — Rev. Leslie L. Denny

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Holy God, you call us to listen before we lead,
but we rush ahead with our own plans.
We speak when we should be still.
We act before we pray.
We cling to our own understanding instead of waiting for your voice.
Forgive us for trusting our vision more than yours.
Quiet our hearts and open our ears once more.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!

✞Response

Give me a clean heart so I may serve thee. Lord, fix my heart so that I may be used by thee. For I'm not worthy of all these blessings. Give me a clean heart, Lord, and I'll follow thee.

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

✞Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

When we share the peace of Christ, we remember that God has made us one family in Christ. This simple exchange is both a gift we receive and a reminder that we belong to one another - called to carry Christ's peace from worship into the world.

Life of the Church

Call to Discipleship: Girl Scouts — Kate Lancaster and Madison Raynor

Proclaiming the Word

The Word for Children

Sacrament of Baptism — *Henry Blalock Ward*
Son of Justin and Mary Kathryn Ward

Response — *Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.* — Jesus Loves Me
Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Children ages three years to first grade are invited to dismiss to Children's Worship; those second grade and older will return to the pews.

Prayer for Illumination — *O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High* — Deo Gracias

First Reading — Mark 9:2-9 — Juliet Berry

Second Reading — Exodus 3:1-12

Sermon — *God's Vision for Us: Listening Before Leading* — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

Responding to the Word

✞Affirmation of Faith — Rev. L. Craig Foster

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

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.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

After we receive our offerings, we take a moment to dedicate them to God's work in our community and in the world. This ritual of setting apart concludes the offering by reminding us that we give not just to an organization but to a faith community called to make God's love visible.

Offertory *When We Love* Elaine Hagenberg

✞Doxology

Hymn 606 Old Hundredth

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.

Bearing the Word to the World

✞Hymn 712 *As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought* Forest Green

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Hymn 543 Green Tyler

God, be the love to search and keep me;
God, be the prayer to move my voice;
God, be the strength to now uphold me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Closing Voluntary *O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High* arr. David N. Johnson

<u>The Lenten Greens in the Sanctuary</u>
are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of the baptism of
Henry Blalock Ward
by his family.

Life of the Church

Sunday, March 8, 2026

Lenten Sermon Series

God's Vision for Us: A Lenten Journey of Renewal
This series is an invitation for FPC to begin living into the vision God has placed before us. In Jesus Christ, we glimpse the heart of God as one that is full of mercy, mystery, and transformation. As God's heart begins to echo in us, we are drawn into a life of deeper love, courageous discipleship, and generous care. Each week of this series seeks to draw us more fully into God's hopes for our lives and our community.

Witness Season 2026 Update

We are halfway to our Witness Season **goal of $25,000 for Haiti Outreach Ministries** (HOM)! Your support will help build a community space and cafeteria for the Barye Fe Secondary School. Amid such turmoil and violence, HOM continues to be a beacon of light and hope. Please consider donating by scanning the QR code or mailing a check to the church office.

Wednesdays at First- March 11

5:00pm	Dinner Line Opens (Fogartie Hall)
5:00pm	Children's Choirs (Clark Building)
6:15pm	Recreation for Children (Gym)
6:30pm	Spartanburg NOW (Social Hall)
6:30pm	Younger Women's Bible Study (Parlor)
6:30pm	Youth Fellowship
7:30pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Pre-register for dinner by 4:00pm each Monday. **Join us in the Social Hall to hear from Spartanburg's Chief of Police, Alonzo Thompson.**

March 11 Menu: Fruit Bar and Breakfast Eggstravaganza FOR ALL – including Sausage Casserole, Ham & Egg Casserole (GF), Grits, Bacon, Biscuits w/ Sausage & Gravy, Chicken & Waffles

Church Basketball Thank You

Thank you to everyone who made it such a successful season! From our players and coaches to all our supportive families, you made this season truly special. It was a joy to see not only improved skills on the court, but friendships deeper and Christ-centered sportsmanship shine through. Grateful for the fun fellowship, and memories we shared together!

Celebrating Our Seniors

The first of several events celebrating the Class of 2026 will take place **tonight, March 8**. Parents are invited to join Pastor Ansley for a Senior Parent Session at 5:00pm in the Perrin Room. Immediately following, Seniors and their parents are invited to gather with our pastors and small group leaders for the Senior Blessing in the Chapel for a meaningful time of reflection, prayer, and blessing as we honor this special season in their lives. Please RSVP to Carrie Coleman at ccoleman@fpcspartanburg.org.

Lunch and Learn

The Foothills Retirement Community will host a Lunch and Learn on **Thursday, March 12 from 11:00am-1:00pm in Fogartie Hall**. Enjoy a complimentary lunch and hear about the Terraces at Foothills-the newest and biggest expansion of any SC Presbyterian Community. Please sign up using the QR code and bring a friend!

Joy Hat-Making Workshop

Join the JOY (Just Older Youth) Fellowship on **March 11 & 18 at 1:00pm** in the Large Private Dining Room for a special two part hat-making workshop led by Marsha Redden. In the first class, you will see a demonstration and receive a list of what is needed for the second class when you will make your hat! Sign-up is required.

Children's Choir Concert

Please join us **Wednesday, March 18** at 6:30pm in our sanctuary as the Children's Choir share their musical gifts as we conclude our choir year. Our theme is "Shine God's Light"!

Churchwide Day of Service

The 4th Annual Churchwide Day of Service is **March 28**! This is a family-friendly morning of helping at our ministry partner sites around the community. We will gather in the morning for prayer and reconvene for lunch after serving our partner organizations. Sign up by March 21 at fpcspartanburg.org/dayofservice or scan the QR code.

Spring "Just Dinner" Groups

You are invited to **Just Dinner, Sunday, March 22, 6:00-8:00pm**. You will enjoy dinner with 8-10 church folks in the home of gracious hosts for the purpose of fun connection. The host provides a main course and coordinates the guests to bring sides. These one-time gatherings are strengthening our faith family ties and building friendships. Hope you can join us! Use the QR code to sign up by March 12. Questions? Contact Ansley at apage@fpcspartanburg.org.

Endowment Dinner, March 24

Evening of Legacy: The 1843 Fund Dinner will be held on Tuesday, March 24. Join your church family for an inspiring evening as we explore faith and finances - along with great food, meaningful fellowship, important facts, and plenty of fun. RSVP by Friday, March 13, using this QR Code.

2026 Women's Connection

Join us **August 14–16, 2026**, for the Women's Connection Conference at Montreat! Gather with women from across the region to worship, reflect, and renew your hope in God's faithful presence, with keynote speaker Dr. Kristin Kobes Du Mez. FPC has secured 20 registrations with housing and meals at Assembly Inn. Scan the QR code to learn more and register.

Palm Sunday Breakfast

Join your faith family on **Sunday, March 29, 10:00–10:45, in the Social Hall** for a Congregational Continental Breakfast! Bring your favorite finger food to share, e.g. muffins, fruit kebabs, sausage balls, pastries, etc. We will have yogurt parfaits and beverages set up. All ages will have a chance to visit and nibble. It is a perfect time to bring a friend to church! Questions? Contact Ansley (apage@fpcspartanburg.org)

Join FPC on Easter Morning

Church membership is an expression of our commitment to God and our faith. In the ancient church, people would often be baptized and officially join the church on Easter morning. Following in that tradition, we are inviting all those interested in joining FPC to consider doing so on **Easter morning, April 5.** We would love to have you add your gifts, energy, and love to the body of Christ that is FPC! Please contact Cathy Bagwell at cbagwell@fpcspartanburg.org if you are interested in joining that day.

Participating in Worship

Ministers: All Members of the Church

Rev. Alan F. Dyer
Senior Pastor

Rev. Leslie L. Denny
Associate Pastor
Young Adults and Missions

Rev. L. Craig Foster
Associate Pastor
Discipleship

Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker
Associate Pastor
Congregational Care

Holt Andrews
Pastoral Musician

Sunday School | 10:00am

Children and Youth

Nursery – Room C105 (Clark Building)
Preschool (3K-5K) – Room C110 (Clark Building)
1st & 2nd Grade - Room C202
3rd Grade - Room C203
4th & 5th Grade - Room C206
Youth - Second Floor of the Family Life Center

Adult Sunday School

Bible Alive – Room 2215 & Zoom
An extensive book-by-book study of the Bible

Emmaus & Faith Forum - Fogartie Hall
March 8th & 15th: View and discuss Frank Lee's excellent new video series about the history of FPC.

Today's Musicians

Early Worship
Holt Andrews
Marcia Andrews

Contemporary Worship
Kolby Carrouth, drums
Lisa Cunningham, piano/vocals
Elise Deberry, vocals
Anna Harkey, violin
Matt Kelly, guitar/vocals
Jeff Key, electric guitar
Corey McDaniels, bass guitar

Traditional Worship
Holt Andrews
Marcia Andrews
Chancel Choir

Front Cover:
"Transfiguration" by Raphael

In Raphael's Transfiguration, the disciples are overwhelmed as Christ is revealed in divine glory- a truth beyond their understanding. Before they follow Him into suffering, they are first called to listen, trust, and believe. The scene reminds us that faithful discipleship begins not with action, but with witnessing and receiving God's truth so our hearts are fully given to Him.

Offertory

When We Love
by Charles Anthony Silvestri

The towering tree spreads his greening canopy
- A veil between the soil and sky -
Not in selfish vanity,
But the gentle thrush to shade and shelter.
So it is with love.

For when we love, Simply love,
Even as we are loved,
Our weary world can be transformed.

The busy thrush builds her nest below
- A fortnight's work to weave and set -
Not for herself alone,
But her tender brood to shield and cherish
And so it is with love.

For when we love, Simply love,
Even as we are loved,
Our weary world can be transformed
Into the Kingdom of God!

Calendar

March 8-15
A Way Home Guests Onsite

March 12
Lunch and Learn

Looking Ahead

March 18
Children's Choir Concert

March 24
An Evening of Legacy: The 1843 Fund Dinner

March 26
Palm Cross Workshop

March 28
Churchwide Day of Service

March 29
Palm Sunday
Congregational Breakfast

Keep up with all Life of the Church events at fpcspartanburg.org.

To Ponder Prayerfully

"The first duty of love is to listen."

- Paul Tillich

First Presbyterian Church

393 East Main Street
Spartanburg, SC 29302
864/583-4531
www.fpcspartanburg.org