First Presbyterian Church

Spartanburg, SC



March 15, 2026

Service for the Lord's Day

Fourth 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. L. Craig Foster

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

Opening Voluntary — *Andante Tranquillo from Sonata III* — Felix Mendelssohn

✞Call to Worship — Rev. Leslie L. Denny

Come as you are, broken and burdened,
and find healing in God's goodness.
Come as you are, gifted and beloved,
and find purpose in God's calling.
Come as you are, weary and wary,
and find comfort in God's embrace.
Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and worship God with gladness.

✞Hymn 630 — *Fairest Lord Jesus* — Crusaders' Hymn

Prayer of Confession

O Lord, compassionate beyond measure,
merciful beyond belief, we have been in the far country,
lost in our sin, distant from you, seemingly beyond your reach.
Yet something is calling us back.
Somehow, we hope to return to you.
We're just not sure about the details.
Before we can work out what to say, you are running to us.
Before we can voice our confession,
your arms are around us, welcoming us home.
Your forgiveness astounds us.
Help us to believe it is so, not only for us,
but also for others that we deem unworthy as well,
for the sake of Jesus the Messiah.

Silent Confession

Our prayer of confession draws imagery from the parable of the Prodigal Son. Who in this story do you most relate to: the younger son, the older son, or the father?

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.

Life of the Church

Proclaiming the Word

Scripture Reading — Luke 15:11-32

Sermon — *God's Vision for Us: Growing in Grace* — Rev. L. Craig Foster

Responding to the Word

Baptism is the sign and seal of God's abundant grace that comes to us not just once, but over and over throughout our lives.

Sacrament of Baptism — *Vivian Kate Bobar*

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory — *If With All Your Hearts* — Felix Mendelssohn

✞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 435 — *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* — In babilone

✞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 — *Jesus, Priceless Treasure* — J.S. Bach

Contemporary Worship
9:00am | Fogartie Hall

Instrumental Prayer		*Grace Greater Than Our Sin*
Welcome		Rev. Alan F. Dyer
✞Call to Worship		Bryson Kiehl
✞Song(s) of Praise		*Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)*
Prayer of Confession		Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker
Sung Assurance of Pardon		*O Come To The Altar*
✞Passing of the Peace		
Life of the Church		
Children's Time		
Anthem		*The Father's House*
Scripture Reading	Luke 15:11-32	
Sermon	*God's Vision for Us: Surprised by Grace*	Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker
✞Affirmation of Faith		
Prayers of the People		
The Lord's Prayer		Hymnal Page 35
✞Closing Song		*Yes and Amen*
✞Benedication		

"Grace lies at the heart of this parable--scandalous grace, grace that defies all earthly rules and conventions.... The economy of such love and grace surprises, even offends, us in its extravagance." --Daniel G. Deffenbach, *Feasting on the Word*

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Traditional Worship
11:00am | Sanctuary

Gathering Around the Word

Welcome and Invitation — Rev. L. Craig Foster

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

Opening Voluntary — *Down to the River to Pray* — arr. Anna Laura Page

Acolyte — Dorothy Hoy

Introit — *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy* — Restoration

✙Call to Worship — Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker

Come as you are, broken and burdened,
and find healing in God's goodness.
Come as you are, gifted and beloved,
and find purpose in God's calling.
Come as you are, weary and wary,
and find comfort in God's embrace.
Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and worship God with gladness.

✙Hymn 630 — *Fairest Lord Jesus* — Crusaders' Hymn

Prayer of Confession — Rev. Leslie L. Denny

Our prayer of confession draws imagery from the parable of the Prodigal Son. Who in this story do you most relate to: the younger son, the older son, or the father?

O Lord, compassionate beyond measure,
merciful beyond belief, we have been in the far country,
lost in our sin, distant from you, seemingly beyond your reach.
Yet something is calling us back.
Somehow, we hope to return to you.
We're just not sure about the details.
Before we can work out what to say, you are running to us.
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Your forgiveness astounds us.
Help us to believe it is so, not only for us,
but also for others that we deem unworthy as well,
for the sake of Jesus the Messiah.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

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

✙ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

✞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 — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

Proclaiming the Word

The Word for Children

Sacrament of Baptism — *Mary Ellerbe Ellison*, *Daughter of Randal and Nancy Ellison* — Kristin Hamilton, Elder; Frances Halligan, Reader

Baptism is the sign and seal of God's abundant grace that comes to us not just once, but over and over throughout our lives.

Response — *Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.*
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. — Jesus Loves Me

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 — *Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling* — Softly and tenderly

First Reading — Luke 15:11-24 — Stewart Pack

Second Reading — Luke 15:25-32

Sermon — *God's Vision for Us: Growing in Grace* — Rev. L. Craig Foster

Responding to the Word

✞Affirmation of Faith

from The Confession of 1967

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of our minds.
Human thought ascribes to God superlatives
of power, wisdom, and goodness.
But God reveals his love in Jesus Christ
by showing power in the form of a servant,
wisdom in the folly of the cross,
and goodness in receiving sinful people.
The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses
that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things
to serve the purpose of his love.

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

Offertory *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* Mack Wilberg

✞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.

✞Prayer of Thanksgiving

Bearing the Word to the World

Notice how our Affirmation of Faith and our final hymn both use similar language to describe the love of God as being beyond the limits of our minds to comprehend.

✞Hymn 435 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* In babilone

✞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 *Jesus, Priceless Treasure* Felix Mendelssohn

The Lenten Greens in the Sanctuary
are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
John Thomas Tatham
by his family.

Life of the Church

Sunday, March 15, 2026

Lenten Sermon Series

God's Vision for Us: A Lenten Journey of Renewal 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 Finish Line

We are o**nly $7,000 away from meeting our 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. Help us reach the finish line!

Wednesdays at First- March 18

5:00pm	Dinner Line Opens (Fogartie Hall)
5:00pm	Children's Choirs
6:30pm	Children's Choir Concert (Sanctuary)
6:30pm	Youth Fellowship (Sanctuary)
7:30pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Pre-register for dinner by 4:00pm each Monday. **Join us in the Sanctuary at 6:30pm for the Children's Choir Concert. The theme this year is "Shine God's Light"!**

March 18 Menu: Menu: Salad, Irish Stew, Mashed Potatoes, Cabbage, Bread & Dessert. Children may eat from the adult menu or have Chicken Tenders & Sauces, Mac & Cheese, Fruit, Dessert, and drink.

Children's Choir Concert

Please join us this **Wednesday, March 18** at during WAF 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"!

GAPS Monthly meeting

You are invited to our monthly GAPS Parkinson's Support Group meeting this **Tuesday, March 17, from 4:30–6:00 PM** at the William L. Arthur Center. Brian Lawton with Abbott Neuromodulation will share about Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) therapy, a safe and effective treatment for Parkinson's motor symptoms not fully managed by medication. RSVP using the QR code.

Shepherd's Center Resource Fair

Join the 2026 Spring Senior Resource Fair this **Friday, March 20, from 10:00am–2:00pm** at The Shepherd's Center. This community event will feature a variety of vendors offering resources related to health, insurance, benefits, home services, and more. Attendees can enjoy fun activities, gift giveaways, and receive a take-home resource guide. Come explore helpful services, connect with local organizations, and enter for the grand prize giveaway. For more information about this event, scan the QR code.

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.

Montreat 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.

Vacation Bible School

Get ready for the 2026 VBS Winter Games coming **June 1-4**! Children will become "Challengers" in a fun-filled week of frosty games, snowy surprises, and faith-building lessons centered on Philippians 4:13. We hope you will join us for this mountain-top experience filled with laughter, life lessons, and lasting faith! **Registration is open March 1–31 for FPC members and April 1–30 for non-members.** Scan the QR code to sign up!

Palm Cross Workshop

Help us get ready for Palm Sunday by joining us for a fun morning of making palm crosses on **March 26 from 9:30-10:30am in the LPDR.** Whether you've made palm crosses before or are trying it for the first time, everyone is welcome! No experience is necessary. Bring a pair of scissors, enjoy good conversation and fellowship, and help prepare the palms that will be used in worship on Palm Sunday. Please email LeAnne Thurmond at (leanne.thurmond@gmail.com) to RSVP by March 24.

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.

Holy Week Events

As we continue this Lenten journey of renewal, Holy Week invites us to step more deeply into the mercy, mystery, and transforming love revealed in Jesus Christ. Each service offers space to reflect, worship, and walk together toward the hope God holds for our lives and community. Scan the QR code to **view the full schedule of Holy Week events.**

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 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
Matias Mariani

Contemporary Worship
Kolby Carrouth, drums
Elise Deberry, vocals
Landon Hammett, piano/vocals
Anna Harkey, violin
Matt Kelly, guitar/vocals
Corey McDaniels, bass guitar
Charlie Millinor, vocals
Wade Cooper Neely, electric guitar

Traditional Worship
Holt Andrews
Marcia Andrews
Handbell Choir
Chancel Choir

Front Cover:
"The Return of the Prodigal Son" by Rembrandt van Rijn

In this drawing by Rembrandt, the father bends over his kneeling son with quiet compassion. The son's worn posture shows the weight of his journey, while the father's hands rest gently on his head in welcome and grace. In the background, his brother watches from a distance, reflecting the tension in the parable. During Lent, this scene reminds us that God's vision always includes restoration and surprise. God's heart is generous, offering grace even when we least expect it.

Offertory

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
Hymn 366
Words by Charles Wesley

Scan the QR code for today's offertory reflection.

Calendar

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

April 2
Maundy Thursday Dinner & Service

April 3
Good Friday Service

April 5
Easter Sunday

6:30am - Sunrise Service (Columbarium)
8:30am - Early Service (Sanctuary)
9:00am - Contemporary Service (Fogartie)
11:00am - Traditional Service (Sanctuary)

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

To Ponder Prayerfully

"The grace of God means something like: 'Here is your life. You might never have been, but you are, because the party wouldn't have been complete without you."

- Frederick Buechner

First Presbyterian Church

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