First Presbyterian Church

Spartanburg, SC



March 22, 2026

Service for the Lord's Day

Fifth 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 — *Aria* — Craig Phillips

✞Call to Worship — Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker

How very good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity.
It is like precious oil poured out in blessing.
It is like dew falling on the mountains, bringing life where there was dryness.
For there the Lord ordains this blessing, life forevermore.
God gathers us as one body, bound together in Christ.
Let us worship the Lord who binds us together in love.

✞Hymn 475 — *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* — Nettleton

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, you call us into a life that is shared:
shared joy, shared sorrow, shared burden.
Yet we guard our independence.
We would rather appear strong than admit we need help.
We grow impatient with weakness.
We step back when love asks something of us.
We say we want unity, but resist the humility it requires.
Forgive us, O Lord. Soften what has hardened in us.
Teach us once more to carry and to be carried, to trust
the life you promise and you alone give.

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.

✞Passing of the Peace

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

Life of the Church

Today is the Fifth Sunday in Lent. The word Lent comes from an old English word related to "lengthening," referring to the growing daylight of spring. Lent marks the forty days leading up to Easter (not counting Sundays, which are always celebrations of the resurrection). This season invites us to prepare our hearts for Holy Week through prayer, repentance, and renewed devotion to Christ.

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Proclaiming the Word

Scripture Reading — Romans 12:9-21

Sermon — *God's Vision for Us: Carrying One Another* — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

Responding to the Word

✠Affirmation of Faith
from Declaration of Faith

We acknowledge God is at work here and now
when people show personal concern for each other
and work to make helping agencies,
including the church itself, more compassionate.
We believe God sends us to risk our own peace and
comfort in compassion for our neighbors.
We must not limit our compassion to those we judge deserving,
for we ourselves do not deserve the compassion of God.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory — *The Gift of Love* — Hal H. Hopson

✠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

We don't just pray the Lord's Prayer for ourselves, we pray it on behalf of the world—those who don't have their daily bread and those who are burdened by debt. We are called to be God's answer to this prayer.

Bearing the Word to the World

✠Hymn 300 — *We Are One in the Spirit* — They'll know we are Christians

✠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 — *The Glory of These Forty Days* — arr. Robert Powell

Contemporary Worship
9:00am | Fogartie Hall

Instrumental Prayer		*By Our Love*
Welcome		Landon Hammett
✞Call to Worship		
✞Song(s) of Praise		*Springtime*
Prayer of Confession		Rev. Leslie L. Denny
Sung Assurance of Pardon		*O Come To The Altar*
✞Passing of the Peace		
Life of the Church		
Children's Time		Rev. L. Craig Foster
Anthem		*God is Love*
First Reading	Psalm 133	
Second Reading	Romans 12:9-21	
Sermon	*God's Vision for Us: Carrying One Another*	Rev. Alan F. Dyer
✞Affirmation of Faith		
Prayers of the People		
The Lord's Prayer		Hymnal Page 35
✞Closing Song		*Doxology (Amen)*
✞Benediction		

Today is the Fifth Sunday in Lent. The word Lent comes from an old English word related to "lengthening," referring to the growing daylight of spring. Lent marks the forty days leading up to Easter (not counting Sundays, which are always celebrations of the resurrection). This season invites us to prepare our hearts for Holy Week through prayer, repentance, and renewed devotion to Christ.

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Traditional Worship
11:00am | Sanctuary

Gathering Around the Word

Today is the Fifth Sunday in Lent. The word Lent comes from an old English word related to "lengthening," referring to the growing daylight of spring. Lent marks the forty days leading up to Easter (not counting Sundays, which are always celebrations of the resurrection). This season invites us to prepare our hearts for Holy Week through prayer, repentance, and renewed devotion to Christ.

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 — *Aria* — Craig Phillips

Acolyte — Juliet Berry

Introit — *As Morning Dawns* — Wareham

✞Call to Worship — Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker

How very good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity.
It is like precious oil poured out in blessing.
It is like dew falling on the mountains, bringing life where there was dryness.
For there the Lord ordains this blessing, life forevermore.
God gathers us as one body, bound together in Christ.
Let us worship the Lord who binds us together in love.

✞Hymn 475 — *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* — Nettleton

Prayer of Confession — Rev. Leslie L. Denny

Merciful God, you call us into a life that is shared:
shared joy, shared sorrow, shared burden.
Yet we guard our independence.
We would rather appear strong than admit we need help.
We grow impatient with weakness.
We step back when love asks something of us.
We say we want unity, but resist the humility it requires.
Forgive us, O Lord. Soften what has hardened in us.
Teach us once more to carry and to be carried, to trust
the life you promise and you alone give.

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.

Life of the Church

Proclaiming the Word

The Word for Children — Rev. L. Craig Foster & Rev. Virginia H. Shuler

Sacrament of Baptism — *Jon Emmett Shuler III*, *Son of Jenna and Emmett Shuler* — Mary Lorick Thompson, Elder; Jeb Berline, Reader

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 — *Lord, Speak to Me that I May Speak* — Canonbury

First Reading — Psalm 133 — Elliot Summers

Second Reading — Romans 12:9-21

Sermon — *God's Vision for Us: Carrying One Another* — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

Responding to the Word

Commissioning of Stephen Ministers

Commissioning Response: **Yes, with the help of God.**

Isaac Binney, Tweetie Bowman, Mike Breaker, Trez Clarke, Gloria Close, Lee Close, Charlie Godfrey, Judy Hallman, Sherron Langley, Hazel Morgan, Anne Poliakoff, Becky Reed, Bill Scott, Jan Williams

Stephen Ministry is a one-on-one, confidential care ministry where a trained Stephen Minister will walk alongside you—offering a listening ear, a caring heart, and spiritual encouragement. Whether your pain is fresh or something you have been holding onto for a while, Stephen Ministry is a safe place to begin healing.

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 Looks Like This* Tom Trenney

✠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.

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.

✠Prayer of Thanksgiving

Bearing the Word to the World

✠Hymn 300 *We Are One in the Spirit* They'll know we are Christians

✠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 *The Glory of These Forty Days* arr. Robert Powell

<u>The Lenten Greens in the Sanctuary</u>
are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Mr. and Mrs. Calvin B. Wells and Larry Wells
by Cassi and Craig MacNaughton.

<u>The Flowers in the Chapel</u>
are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of the marriage of
Claire Renee Rinaldo and Jonathon Scott-Keith Monroe
and in memory of
Frank Edward Rinaldo, Jr.

<u>The Flowers in the Tower Room</u>
are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
James "Jimmy" Lee and Barbara Brock

Life of the Church

Sunday, March 22, 2026

Lenten Sermon Series

The **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.

Wednesdays at First- March 25

5:00pm Dinner Line Opens (Fogartie Hall)
6:15pm Easter Egg Hunt (FLC Lawn)
6:30pm Youth Fellowship (Gameroom)
7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Pre-register for dinner by 4:00pm each Monday. Use the QR code to make a reservation.

Join us at 6:15pm for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on the lawn of FLC. Children of all ages welcome!

March 25 Menu: Tacos & Fajitas, Black Beans, Rice, Salad Bar, & Special Desserts. Children may eat from the adult menu or have Chicken Tenders & Sauces, Mac & Cheese, Fruit, & Dessert.

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 Large Private Dining Room.** 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. RSVP using the QR code or email LeAnne Thurmond at (leanne.thurmond@gmail.com) by March 24.

Holy Week Schedule

at First Presbyterian Church

Palm Sunday - March 29

8:30am
Early Worship (Chapel)

9:00am
Contemporary Worship (Fogartie)
Children will participate in a palm procession.

10:00am
Congregational Breakfast (Social Hall)

11:00am
Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
Everyone is invited to participate in the palm procession.

Maundy Thursday - April 2

5:30pm
Dinner (Fogartie)
Register with QR Code.

6:30pm
Maundy Thursday Worship (Fogartie)

Good Friday - April 3

9:00am-5:00pm
Chapel Open for Prayer

7:00pm
Tenebrae Worship Service (Sanctuary)

Easter Sunday - April 5

6:30am
Sunrise Service (Columbarium)

8:30am
Early Worship (Sanctuary)

9:00am
Contemporary Worship (Fogartie)

10:00am
Fellowship on the Front Lawn

10:30am
New Members Received (Parlor)

11:00am
Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

Palm Sunday Breakfast

Join your faith family on **Sunday, March 29, 10:00–10:45am, 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)

Youth: Fifth Family Fellowship

Parents, grandparents, and youth are invited to the Fifth Family Fellowship in **Fogartie Hall from 6:00-7:00pm on Sunday, March 29th**. Our topic is Building Community: Responding to the Loneliness Epidemic. Come join us as we discover how to build community together!

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.

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!

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.

Discover FPC

Learn more about First Presbyterian Church Spartanburg at the next Discover FPC Class on **Sunday, April 12** immediately following Traditional Service. We will meet in the Large Private Dining Room and lunch will be served. Scan the QR code to learn more or visit fpcspartanburg.org/discoverfpc. Questions? Contact Cathy Bagwell (cbagwell@fpcspartanburg.org).

Basketball Jersey Recycling

Do you have any church basketball jerseys lying around at home, or ones that no longer fit your kids? Join us in our commitment to sustainability by participating in our Church Basketball Jersey Recycling Project. Please donate your gently-used ***dark green jerseys*** at the FLC desk. We ask that they be washed and free of any major stains. Thank you!

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

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 – Purnell Room
A journey with eyes open towards Jesus, with fellowship and a fresh new scripture-based lesson each week.

Faith Forum - Large Private Dining Room
All ages are welcome to the Faith Forum!

Today's Musicians

Early Worship
Holt Andrews
Marcia Andrews
Kellie Pifer

Contemporary Worship
Rafe Andrews, acoustic guitar/vocals
Kolby Carrouth, drums
Lisa Cunningham, piano/vocals
Landon Hammett, 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:

"Prototype for the key to Art (Hand Show)" by Robert Filliou

In this familiar work, Robert Filliou arranges simple hands into a circle, a form that carries deep meaning. With no beginning or end, it reminds us that care and compassion are ongoing. As we reflect on congregational care, the piece calls us to remember that building a village requires every hand, each of us sharing the responsibility to love and support one another.

Offertory

Sorge, Agape, Philia, Amor, Love.
What does love look like?
It has the hands to help others
and the feet to hasten to the poor and needy.
Love has eyes to see misery and want.
Love has ears to hear our sighs and sorrows.
What does love look like? Love looks like this.

Adapted from St. Augustine's Confessions

Calendar

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 Tenebrae Service

April 5
Easter Sunday

Looking Ahead

April 12
Discover FPC Class

May 3
Chamber Singers' Concert

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

To Ponder Prayerfully

"A church is as large as the lives that are touched through the congregation, by the love of God. Caring is the ultimate measure of a congregation's size."

- Carl S. Dudley

First Presbyterian Church

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