First Presbyterian Church

Spartanburg, SC



April 12, 2026

Service for the Lord's Day
2nd Sunday of Easter

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. Leslie L. Denny

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

Opening Voluntary — *O Blessed Spring* — David Cherwien

✞Call to Worship — Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker

We take refuge in you, O God. Protect us!
You are our God. We have no good apart from you.
You, O Lord, are our portion, our cup.
We will bless the Lord who advises and instructs us.
You show us the path of life;
In your presence there is fullness of joy. Let us worship God!

✞Hymn 268 — *Crown Him with Many Crowns* — Diademata

Prayer of Confession — Rev. Ansley B. Page

**Loving God, so soon after the hallelujahs of Easter morning,
we feel our doubts creep in.
We confess that we seek to limit your truth to what we can understand.
We chase after gods of our own making, and we are so busy
with them that we forget to open ourselves to your larger reality.
Goodness is crucified by our narrow prejudices,
and our doubts plunge us into despair. Forgive us, Lord.
Be to us a refuge, granting us courage to face the questions
that haunt us until they lead to deeper understanding.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

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

✞Response: Hymn 240 — Alleluia No. 1

*Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.
Jesus is Lord of all the earth. He is the King of creation.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.*

✞Passing of the Peace

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

Life of the Church

There are 50 days of Easter from the first Sunday to Pentecost. It is characterized by the joy of glorified life and the victory over death expressed most fully in the great resounding cry of the Christian "Alleluia!". All faith flows from faith in the resurrection: "If Christ has not been raised, then empty is our preaching; empty, too, is your faith." (1 Cor. 15:14)

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Proclaiming the Word

Scripture Reading Acts 2:22-36

Sermon *Looking Back to Look Ahead* Rev. Leslie L. Denny

Responding to the Word

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *Thy Perfect Love* K. Lee Scott

✙Doxology: Hymn 609 Lasst uns erfreuen

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

In the Eucharist (communion) the church blesses God for all that God has done, is doing, and promises to do, and offers itself in obedient service to God's reign. —from Book of Common Worship

Communion *All communion bread and wafers are gluten free.*

Invitation

Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of grace.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer Hymnal Page 35

Words of Institution

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God!

Sharing of the Elements

Communion Music *But the Lord Is Mindful of His Own* Felix Mendelssohn

Prayer After Communion

Bearing the Word to the World

✙Hymn 265 *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun* Duke Street

✙Charge and Benediction

✙Benediction Response: Hymn 547, verse 3 Ar Hyd Y Nos

Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you; here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

Closing Voluntary *Thine Is the Glory* George F. Handel

Contemporary Worship
9:00am | Fogartie Hall

Instrumental Prayer		*In Christ Alone*
Welcome		Landon Hammett
✞Call to Worship		Jack Martin
✞Song(s) of Praise		*Living Hope*
Prayer of Confession		Rev. L. Craig Foster
Sung Assurance of Pardon		*Living Hope*
✞Passing of the Peace		
Life of the Church		Rev. Alan F. Dyer
Children's Time		
Scripture Reading	Acts 2:22-36	
Sermon	*Looking Back to Look Ahead*	Rev. Leslie L. Denny
Communion		*All communion bread and wafers are gluten free.*
Communion Music		*Stronger*
✞Closing Song		*Christ Our Hope in Life and Death*
✞Benediction		

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Traditional Worship
11:00am | Sanctuary

Gathering Around the Word

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Welcome and Invitation — Rev. Leslie L. Denny

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

Opening Voluntary — *O Blessed Spring* — David Cherwien

Acolyte — Ellis Brierton

Introit — *Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded* — in dir ist freude

✞Call to Worship — Wells Blanton

We take refuge in you, O God. Protect us!
You are our God. We have no good apart from you.
You, O Lord, are our portion, our cup.
We will bless the Lord who advises and instructs us.
You show us the path of life;
In your presence there is fullness of joy. Let us worship God!

✞Hymn 268 — *Crown Him with Many Crowns* — Diademata

Prayer of Confession — Rev. L. Craig Foster

Loving God, so soon after the hallelujahs of Easter morning,
we feel our doubts creep in.
We confess that we seek to limit your truth to what we can understand.
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with them that we forget to open ourselves to your larger reality.
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✞ *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 — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

Proclaiming the Word

The Word for Children

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 — *At the Name of Jesus* — King's Weston

Scripture Reading — Acts 2:22-36

Sermon — *Looking Back to Look Ahead* — Rev. Leslie L. Denny

Responding to the Word

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory — *Christ, the Way of Life Possess Me* — K. Lee Scott

✞Doxology

Hymn 609 — Lasst uns erfreuen

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Communion — *All communion bread and wafers are gluten free.*

Invitation — Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker

Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of grace.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer — Hymnal Page 35

In the Eucharist (communion) the church blesses God for all that God has done, is doing, and promises to do, and offers itself in obedient service to God's reign. —from Book of Common Worship

Words of Institution

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God!

Sharing of the Elements

Communion Music *Day of Arising* arr. Michael Burkhardt

Prayer After Communion

Bearing the Word to the World

✠Hymn 265 *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun* Duke Street

✠Charge and Benediction

In the charge and benediction, we are assured of God's peace and blessing; we seek to follow Christ's way, sustained by the power of the Holy Spirit. God calls the church to join the mission of Christ in service to the world. As we engage in that mission, we bear witness to God's eternal reign.

✠Benediction Response

Hymn 547, verse 3 Ar Hyd Y Nos

"Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you;
here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free."

Closing Voluntary *Thine Is the Glory* George F. Handel

<u>The Flowers in the Sanctuary</u>
are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Suzanne Parris Bagwell
by her family.

Life of the Church

Sunday, April 12, 2026

Discover FPC

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

Vision Team Report 2026

The Session has formally received and affirmed the Vision Team's final report as the vision for First Presbyterian Church, Spartanburg. Shaped by more than a year of prayer, study, and listening across our congregation, this report reflects a shared calling toward deeper discipleship, stronger connection, and a life of faith expressed in love and service. Scan the QR code to read the report.

The Vision Team will lead **a two-week discussion during WAF on April 15 & 22**. We encourage you to attend to hear more about their findings, as well as the journey ahead!

Wednesdays at First- April 15

5:00pm	Dinner Line Opens (Fogartie)
6:15pm	Recreation for Children (Gym)
6:30pm	Vision Team Update Part 1 (Fogartie)
6:30pm	Youth Fellowship (Gameroom)
7:30pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Pre-register for dinner by 4:30pm on Mondays. Use the QR code to make a reservation for this week.

April 15 Menu - Kale Salad, Pork Tenderloin, Roasted Potatoes, Fried Apples, Bread and Dessert. Kid's Menu: Chicken Tenders & Sauces, Mac & Cheese, Fruit, & Dessert.

Confirmation Sunday

Confirmation is an opportunity where youth and mentors consider faith and what it means to be church. Together they explore big ideas, eternal promises, and all things church including the people and the building itself. As they grow in understanding and in community, they live into baptism promises of following Jesus and embracing faith as their own. On **Sunday, April 26 at the 11:00am Traditional Worship service**, we will celebrate with this year's Confirmands as they take their vows for membership in the church.

Chamber Singers' Concert

Join the Chamber Singers **May 3 at 3:00pm in the Sanctuary** for their spring concert, featuring Dan Forrest's beautiful work "Lux" for choir and orchestra, a brand new piece by our own John Moody, and Gregorio Allegri's Miserere Mei (once kept under lock and key at the Vatican).

Young Adult Spring Fiesta

All young adults and parents (20s, 30s, and 40s) are invited to the home of Luke and Ivey Allen for a Mexican Fiesta on **Sunday, May 3rd from 5:00-7:00pm**. This event will be adults only, so get a sitter and join us! Food will be provided along with a festive beverage. Please RSVP using the QR code to ensure we have enough!

JOY Fellowship Spring Lunch

JOY (Just Older Youth) Fellowship invites you to a spring luncheon featuring a BBQ meal and live music with the Saggy Bottom Boys on **Wednesday, May 6 at 11:30am in Fogartie Hall**. Enjoy a relaxed time of fellowship, good food, and great music with friends old and new. Signups will be available this week so keep an eye out for the RSVP link!

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 mountaintop experience filled with laughter, life lessons, and lasting faith! **Registration is open!** Scan the QR code to sign up! If you are interested in volunteering, contact Kara Clark at kclark@fpcspartanburg.org.

Montreat Play Dates

Children (rising 4K through rising 6th grade) are invited to join us for a fun-filled day in Montreat on **June 13 or July 18 from 10:00am–2:00pm**. We'll spend the day rock-hopping in the creek, playing on the playground, enjoying games and sharing lunch together. Drop-off and pick-up will take place at the Bill Wilde Youth Center (BWYC) in Montreat, NC. The cost is $10 per child, per date. Scan the QR code to register for either date.

Week 1: June 13

Week 2: July 18

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.

Gym Hours

Our gym is open Monday-Thursday from 7:00am-8:00pm; Friday from 7:00am-2:00pm; and Saturday from 8:00am-12noon. If you plan to access the fitness area/walking track, please bring your keycard.

Dementia Support Group

Our monthly Dementia Support Group will meet on **Thursday, April 16 from 12:00–1:30pm** in the Senior High Sunday School Classroom in the FLC. This group offers support, encouragement, and practical resources for those caring for loved ones with dementia. For more information, please contact Beth Cecil at bcecil@fpcspartanburg.org or 864-641-8772.

New Faith Forum Series

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been prominent in recent headlines—from potential data centers in Spartanburg to military and global developments. Is AI a breakthrough for good or a threat to society? How is it shaping our world, and what ethical questions does it raise? Wofford professors Dr. A.K. Anderson (Religion) and Dr. Kimberly Hall (English and Digital Media Services) will lead a timely exploration of the intersection between AI and faith. From April 12-May 3, join us **Sunday mornings at 10:00am in the Large Private Dining Room**. All are welcome!

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

Rev. Ansley B. Page
Pastoral Associate
Engagement

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!

April 12 - May 3 | 2026: An AI Odyssey
led by Dr. A.K. Anderson and Dr. Kimberly Hall

April 12 Topic: The AI perspective continuum (Doomers to Accelerationists and everyone in-between.)

Today's Musicians

Early Worship
Erica Pauly, *Guest Organist*
Jared Rosen

Contemporary Worship
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
Lisa Cunningham, *Guest Conductor*
Erica Pauly, *Guest Organist*
Chancel Choir

Front Cover:
"St. Peter Preaching" (c.1425)
by Masolino da Panicale

Offertory

Christ the Way of Life, possess me,
lift my heart to love and praise:
guide and keep, sustain and bless me,
all my days.

Well of life, forever flowing,
make my barren soul and bare
like a watered garden
growing fresh and fair.

May the Tree of life in splendor
from its leafy bows impart
grace divine and healing tender,
strength of heart.

Path of life before me shining,
let me come when earth is past,
sorrow, self and sin resigning, home at last.

Calendar

April 26
Confirmation Sunday

May 3
Chamber Singers' Concert
Young Adult Fiesta

May 6
JOY Fellowship Spring Lunch

May 17
Baccalaureate Sunday

May 17-24
A Way Home

Looking Ahead

June 1-4
Vacation Bible School

August 14-16
Montreat Women's Connection

November 13-15
Congregational Retreat

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

To Ponder Prayerfully

"The story of Easter is the story of God's wonderful window of divine surprise."

- Carl Knudsen

First Presbyterian Church
393 East Main Street
Spartanburg, SC 29302
(864) 583-4531
www.fpcspartanburg.org

Rooted in Christ, Bold in Love.