First Presbyterian Church

Spartanburg, SC



May 17, 2026

Service for the Lord's Day
Baccalaureate Sunday

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 that is rooted in Christ and seeking to be bold in love. 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 — *Trumpet Tune* — David N. Johnson

✞Call to Worship — Rev. Ansley B. Page

God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.
Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.
We need not fear.
God is our refuge and our strength.
Come to the Lord who walks beside you, even when the path is unclear.
Lord, open our hearts and our spirits, show us the way.

✞Hymn 363 — *Rejoice, the Lord Is King!* — Darwall's 148th

Prayer of Confession

In the presence of a holy God, we become aware of the ways we fall short of God's best hopes for us, and the ways we have hurt others. We turn to God in prayer, asking for forgiveness.

God of grace, you call us to be your witnesses in the world,
yet we confess how often fear and uncertainty hold us back.
We wait for clarity while neglecting trust.
We cling to what we already know
rather than following where your Spirit leads.
Remind us that our worth is not found in achievement alone,
but in belonging to you and serving your kingdom.
Give us courage to live with hope, patience to wait upon your Spirit,
and faith to follow Christ wherever he leads.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

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

✞Response: Hymn 475 v. 3 — Nettleton

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander; Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

✞Passing of the Peace

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

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Proclaiming the Word

Sacrament of Baptism — Tommy Stokes, Elder

Diana Rosalynn Atlas — Karlie & Kennedy Patty, Readers

Daughter of Landon and Kelley Atlas

Response — Jesus Loves Me

Scripture Reading — Acts 1:6-14

Sermon — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

Responding to the Word

Adopted in 1983, the Brief Statement of Faith affirms central Reformed convictions: God's faithfulness, Christ's saving work, and the Spirit's ongoing presence. Rooted in Scripture, it unites us in trust, hope, and shared calling.

✙Affirmation of Faith

from a Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily task and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth praying,
"Come, Lord Jesus!"

Life of the Church

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory — *Let Us Love One Another* — Robert J. Powell

✙Doxology: Hymn 609 — Lasst Uns Erfreuen

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer — Hymnal Page 35

Bearing the Word to the World

✙Hymn 726 — *Will You Come and Follow Me* — Kelvingrove

✙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 — *Epilogue* — Norman Gilbert

Contemporary Worship
9:00am | Fogartie Hall

Instrumental Prayer		*Call it Grace*
Welcome		Landon Hammett
✞Call to Worship		
✞Song(s) of Praise		*To God Be the Glory*
Prayer of Confession		Rev. L. Craig Foster
Sung Assurance of Pardon		*Living Hope*
✞Passing of the Peace		
Life of the Church		
Children's Time		
Anthem		*Goodness of God*
First Reading	Psalm 93	Braeden Hammett
Second Reading	Acts 1:6-14	
Sermon		Rev. Alan F. Dyer
✞Affirmation of Faith		
From a Brief Statement of Faith		
Prayers of the People		
The Lord's Prayer		
✞Closing Song		*Build Your Kingdom Here*
✞Benediction		

In the presence of a holy God, we become aware of the ways we fall short of God's best hopes for us, and the ways we have hurt others. We turn to God in prayer, asking for forgiveness.

✞ *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 — *Trumpet Tune* — David N. Johnson
Acolyte — Coles Reid

Introit — *Laudate Dominum* — Laudate Dominum

✞Call to Worship — Rev. Ansley B. Page

God is in our midst, forming us to be God's own people.
Though the way may be difficult, God will be with us.
We need not fear.
God is our refuge and our strength.
Come to the Lord who walks beside you, even when the path is unclear.
Lord, open our hearts and our spirits, show us the way.

✞Hymn 363 — *Rejoice, the Lord Is King!* — Darwall's 148th

Prayer of Confession — Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker

In the presence of a holy God, we become aware of the ways we fall short of God's best hopes for us, and the ways we have hurt others. We turn to God in prayer, asking for forgiveness.

God of grace, you call us to be your witnesses in the world,
yet we confess how often fear and uncertainty hold us back.
We wait for clarity while neglecting trust.
We cling to what we already know
rather than following where your Spirit leads.
Remind us that our worth is not found in achievement alone,
but in belonging to you and serving your kingdom.
Give us courage to live with hope, patience to wait upon your Spirit,
and faith to follow Christ wherever he leads.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

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✞Response: Hymn 475 v. 3 — Nettleton

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Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander; Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

✞ *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

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 *God, Reveal Your Presence* — Arnsberg

First Reading — Psalm 93 — Thomas Hyde

Second Reading — Acts 1:6-14

Sermon — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

Responding to the Word

Recognition of High School Graduates — Rev. Merianna N. Harrelson

A Prayer for and Commissioning of Graduates

New beginnings are everywhere in the spring.
New growth, new birth and new journeys.
We lift all who are graduating this spring to you, O God.
We pray that they feel the release of studies, even if it is temporary,
that they feel the sun on their face and that they feel the hope
that you promise all of us as they walk into this new season.

May our graduates see and feel strongly the hope that is promised
in the experience of the resurrection,
and the joy of the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Keep them safe along the path.
If they stumble guide them and us in ways to support
and encourage them in this life that is so full of promise and adventure.
Now as a congregation, do we promise to pray for these graduates
as they step out into new pathways and new adventures?

We do.

Graduation ceremonies are often called Commencements. This is the commencing or beginning of a new chapter of these seniors' lives. May God walk with them as they walk into this new beginning.

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 *We Are Not Alone* Pepper Choplin

Doxology, a Greek word meaning "saying of glory," is a brief hymn of praise that follows another hymn or Psalm - or in our case the offertory. Doxologies appear in many Christian traditions and have their origin in the Jewish kaddish, which concludes each portion of the synagogue worship service.

✠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!

✠Prayer of Thanksgiving

Bearing the Word to the World

✠Hymn 726 *Will You Come and Follow Me* Kelvingrove

✠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 *Epilogue* Norman Gilbert

<u>The Flowers in the Sanctuary</u>

are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of

Lint W. Eberhardt III

by Alice M Eberhardt, Dr. Linton W. Eberhardt IV,
Mr. and Mrs. Brand R. Stille, Reid and Ebbe Stille.

Life of the Church

Sunday, May 17, 2026

Remembering Their Service

On **Sunday, May 24**, the church will honor loved ones who have served in the United States Armed Forces and have passed on. If you would like your loved one's name, rank, and branch of service included in the May 24 bulletin, please scan the QR code. Deadline to submit is tomorrow, May 18.

Summer Worship Schedule

Beginning Sunday, May 24, we will move to our summer schedule with one combined worship service at 10:00am in the Sanctuary. Our summer worship will feature a blended style, drawing from traditional, acoustic contemporary, and a variety of musical expressions.

Our combined summer Sunday School class, Psalms and the Art of Faith, begins Sunday, May 31, in the Purnell Room at 9:00am. Together, we will explore how the Psalms inspire creativity, prayer, music, and faithful imagination. Each week, artists from our congregation will share their work and reflect on how faith shapes their creative process. There is no Sunday School on May 24 and July 5.

Lemonade on the Lawn - May 31

Join us after worship on **Sunday, May 31**, for the summer's first Lemonade on the Lawn out by the playground! Everyone is invited to gather outside for cake, lemonade, and fellowship as we celebrate the start of summer together.

During this gathering, we will also celebrate "Every Gift Matters" which will honor and thank the many volunteers who serve First Presbyterian in faithful ways throughout the year. Families participating in VBS, which begins Monday, June 1, are invited to stop by to pick up their VBS shirts and get ready for a wonderful week ahead.

Join a Summer Book Study

Summer Rohr Book Club

Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life by Richard Rohr
Led by Juli Robertson, Merrit Ray, & Ansley Page
Tuesdays, June 9 & 23, July 14 & 28 | 5:30-6:30pm

This four-session book study will explore the first half of life as a time of discovering who we are and the second half as a deeper journey of authentic expression, gratitude, and spiritual growth. Together, we will discuss how this season can be understood not as loss, but as a meaningful new beginning. To register, email Ansley Page at apage@fpcspartanburg.org

Leslie's Summer Book Group

An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith
by Barbara Brown Taylor
Led by Leslie Denny
Thursdays, June 11-July 23 | 9:30-10:30am

The summer book group returns for a thoughtful conversation about discovering the sacred in the ordinary rhythms of daily life. Together, we will reflect on how faith shapes everyday practices like paying attention, walking, working, resting, and noticing the world around us. To register, email Leslie Denny at ldenny@fpcspartanburg.org

Summer Women's Study

The Message of Jesus: Words that Changed the World
by Adam Hamilton
Led by Ansley Page
Wednesdays, June 17-July 29 | 5:30-6:30pm

Come explore the life-changing message of Jesus through Scripture, reflection, and conversation. Together, we will deepen our faith, strengthen community, and enjoy the joy and love of time spent together. Bring a friend! To register, email Ansley Page at apage@fpcspartanburg.org

Baccalaureate Recognition

This morning, we will have a special portion of the
11:00am Sanctuary worship service to recognize our high school seniors:

Emma Schuyler Anderson
Martha Louise Barre
Mary Ella Bullington
Frances Bland Calvert
Camille Grace Cleland
Mary Helen Colbath
Thomas Mark Coleman Jr.
Polly Katharine DeMark
Anna Camille Elliott
Sara Catharine Evans
Elizabeth Grace Faris
Noah Christopher Feig
Ellie Neal Hallenbeck
Braeden Walker Hammett
Mary English Hammett
Lillian Monroe Hanna
Mary-Hudson Harrelson
Stephen Brice Henderson
Graham Nelson Hoenig
Max Thomas Hyde
Cameron Sloan Jaynes
Benjamin Williams Jones
Duncan Brice Jones
Campbell Timms Milner
Scott Andrew Mitchell II
Wade Cooper Neely
Allie Rose Pedone
Trudy Roper Rogers
Finley Sophia Sloan
Camden James Steed
Mary Claire McGuiness Threatt
Carey Adeline Usry
Brooks Coleman Wilkins

A reception in the Chapel Courtyard will immediately follow the service.
We invite you to congratulate our graduates as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

Please also join us in congratulating those who are graduating from college or graduate schools including:

Adom Asante Appiah
Bachelor of Arts
Duke University

Brooks Andrew Bishop
Bachelor of Criminology & Criminal Justice
University of South Carolina

Edward Brierton
B.S., Business Management
Clemson University

Suzanne Elizabeth Colbath
B.A., American Studies
Sewanee: The University of the South

Makayla Grace Durham
B.S., School of Business
Clemson University

Juliana Egge
B.A., Film and Media
Georgia State University

John David Gaubert
B.A., History
Clemson University

Ella Grace Marsh
B.S., Mechanical Engineering
NC State

Sarah Chapman McMeekin
B.A., Communications
Wake Forest University

Steven McClure Mullen, Jr.
B.S., Accounting and Finance,
Wofford College

Charles Finley Reid
B.A., Political Science
Wake Forest University

Florian Raphael Sloan
B.S., Business Administration
Washington and Lee University

Reid McConnell Stille
B.A., Environmental Studies
University of South Carolina

Boyce Waters
B.S., Business Administration
USC Upstate

Sunday School | 10:00am

Children and Youth

Nursery – Room C105 (Clark Building)
Preschool (3K-5K) – Room C110 (Clark Building)
1st & 4th Grade - Room C201
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!

Reading the Bible Better
Today's Topic: "Love and Jesus"
led by Craig Foster.

Today's Musicians

Early Worship

Marcia Andrews

Tweetie Bowman

Contemporary Worship

Jerry Bruno, drums
Lisa Cunningham, piano/vocals
Landon Hammett, vocals
Matt Kelly, guitar/vocals
Jeff Key, electric guitar
Corey McDaniels, bass guitar
Charlie Millinor, vocals

Traditional Worship

Marcia Andrews
Holt Andrews
Matias Mariani
Chancel Choir

Front Cover:
Study for "The Ascension"
by John Singleton Copley, (1774)

Offertory

We are not alone, God is with us.

We are never alone, for God is with us.
Now, through all our days, always.
Forever and ever.

And God will make us strong.
We will press on. God is with us now.

Calendar

May 17-24
A Way Home

May 24 - July 26
Summer Worship Schedule

May 25
Memorial Day: Church Facilities Closed

May 31
Lemonade on the Lawn
Volunteer Appreciation
VBS Kickoff

Looking Ahead

June 1-4
Vacation Bible School

June 8
JOY Fellowship Patriotic Party

June 15-18
C.A.S.T. Camp

June 28
Lemonade on the Lawn

July 15
Meal & Trivia Night

July 20-24
C.A.S.T. Camp

July 22
Progressive Dinner

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

To Ponder Prayerfully

"Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world."

- Teresa of Avila

First Presbyterian Church
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Rooted in Christ, Bold in Love.