First Presbyterian Church

Spartanburg, SC



July 12, 2026

Service for the Lord's Day

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Summer Worship

10:00am | Sanctuary

✠ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Summer Worship
10:00am | Sanctuary

Gathering Around the Word

Gathering Music — John Moody and Friends

Begins 15 minutes before service.

Welcome and Invitation — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

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

Introit — *Close to Thee* — Silas J. Vail

✠Call to Worship — Rev. Ansley B. Page

Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.
Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;
for God is our God
and we are the people of God's pasture, the flock under his care.

✠Hymn 65 — *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* — CWM RHONDDA

Prayer of Confession — Rev. Leslie L. Denny

Lord God, we confess that there are seasons when you feel far away.
We pray, worship, and seek you, yet our hearts remain restless and dry.
We wonder where you are and why your presence seems hidden.
In those moments, we often turn elsewhere for comfort.
We fill our lives with noise rather than listening for your voice
and trust in things that cannot satisfy our deepest thirst.
Forgive us, O God.
When faith feels difficult and your nearness uncertain, keep us from giving up.
Remind us that your faithfulness does not depend on our feelings,
and teach us to hope in you.

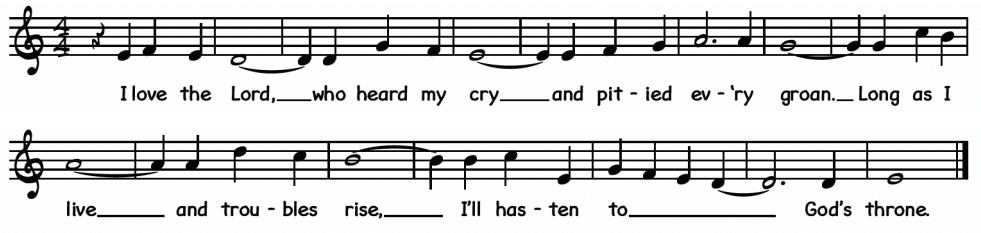
Silent Confession

The Assurance of Pardon proclaims God's faithfulness. Our lives are redeemed by the saving grace of God, the Gospel in miniature. God does for us what we cannot do for ourselves.

Assurance of Pardon

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

✙Response *I Love the Lord*



✙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

Children ages three years to fourth grade are invited to dismiss to Children's Worship.

Prayer for Illumination *Precious Lord* Precious Lord

First Reading Romans 8:22-28

Second Reading Psalm 42

Sermon *Selah: When You Feel Distant from God* Rev. Alan F. Dyer

Responding to the Word

✙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.

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.

Prayers of the People
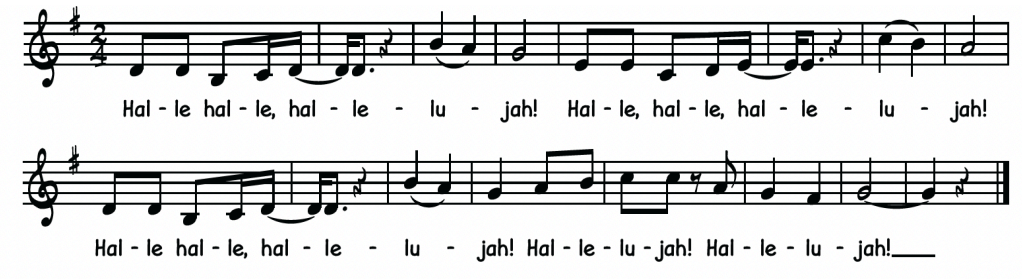
The Lord's Prayer

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 *Selah* John Moody

✙Doxology *Halle, Halle, Hallelujah*



✙Prayer of Thanksgiving

We go forth into the world to serve God in our daily lives as a continuation of our worship so that our work is our worship until such time as we gather again.

Bearing the Word to the World

✙Hymn 39 *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* Faithfulness

✙Charge and Benediction

<u>The Flowers in the Sanctuary</u>
are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wallace Chapman (Susan)
by their family.

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.

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.

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

Life of the Church

Sunday, July 12, 2026

Summer Sermon Series: Selah

Throughout the Psalms appears the mysterious word "Selah." The word is most likely a musical or liturgical cue inviting listeners to pause, reflect, and take in what has just been heard. In many ways, that is exactly what the Psalms themselves invite us to do. They are the Bible's soundtrack for the soul, giving voice to joy and grief, gratitude and anger, hope and praise. Like the songs we return to in different seasons of life, the Psalms help us express emotions that can otherwise be hard to put into words. We invite you to join us this summer as we slow down and listen to these ancient songs of faith, discovering together how they continue to speak honestly and beautifully to every season of our lives.

Special Music Sundays in July

Continuing through July, we will celebrate a variety of musical styles during worship. This morning, we are pleased to feature "Jazz." In the coming weeks, our 10:00am summer worship services will include:

July 19 - Acoustic Music
July 26 - Bluegrass

We hope these special music Sundays will enrich our shared worship and help us experience the beauty, creativity, and joy of praising God together.

Invitation to Wear a Name Tag

This summer as we gather for one worship service each week, you will be offered a name tag. Knowing each other is key to strengthening our faith community. A name tag is an invitation to belonging. Because church is more than a building. It is a community of belonging that we create together: one name, one friend, one grace-filled moment at a time. Thanks for helping us share and show the love of Jesus in this place!

Summer Psalm Playlist

Everyone is invited to add to our Summer Psalm Playlist located in the Tower Room. Fill out a provided card with your favorite psalm and share why it is a favorite, when you came to love it, or a favorite setting of it, e.g. in a song or poem or book or piece of art. The cards will be pinned on the board so others can enjoy them too. For those unable to get to church, send Ansley an email and we'll fill out a card for you (apage@fpcspartanburg.org).

Mid-Summer Dinner & Trivia

Head back to Fogartie Hall for a mid-summer night of food, fun, and fellowship! On **Wednesday, July 15 from 5:00-7:00pm**, we'll enjoy a great meal, test our useless trivia knowledge, and remind ourselves how good it is to be together. Scan the QR code to **RSVP by July 13.**

Progressive Just Dinner

Join with faith friends for a fun night on **Wednesday, July 22 from 5:30-8:30pm**! We'll begin the evening with appetizers and fellowship, then split into smaller groups to "hop" to nearby homes for dinner before gathering back together for dessert. Participants are asked to bring an appetizer, dessert, or beverage to share, and hosts will follow up the week before with any signup needs. Scan the QR code to **RSVP by today!**

Order Your Kirkin' Banner

Now is the time to order your family's tartan for our **Kirkin' o' the Tartans Worship Service on October 25!** The cost of purchasing and sewing your tartan is $150. The tartan fabrics are ordered from Scotland, so we need your payment **no later than Friday, July 24.**

Summer Adventure Series

This summer, we're inviting our church family to step outside, slow down, and experience God's creation together. "Get Outside" is a series of simple, joy-filled outdoor gatherings. Come as you are and bring a friend to enjoy hiking, tubing, and kayaking! Check out the Summer Guide or scan the QR code to sign up!

+ Take a Hike

Join us for a guided day hike on **July 25**. This free hike will take place on a local trail and is designed to be accessible, welcoming, and enjoyable for a wide range of ages and fitness levels. More details about this hike will be announced soon.

+ Lazy River Tubing

Enjoy a relaxing summer float on **July 25** with Lazy River Tubing on the Pacolet, a fun and easygoing outing for families, friends, and solo adventurers. Designed for all experience levels, this offering is open to families with children ages 4 and older. Multiple times will be available throughout the day, making it easy to choose the option that works best for your schedule.

Pastoral Counselor

Rev. Heidi Campbell-Robinson is an experienced therapist and ordained minister available to anyone in our congregation or community in need of a professional listening ear for any number of life's changes, challenges, or complications. To make an appointment, please email hcrobinson@fpcspartanburg.org or call 864-208-2250.

Chapel Open

The Chapel is open for prayer Monday-Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm. You may place prayer needs in the designated box, and our staff will pray over your requests. Additionally, please visit with a pastor before or after worship to let us know of any prayer concerns. If you need to contact a minister, call 864-208-2142 day or night.

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.

Photos on Church Grounds?

Our beautiful campus is a great place to capture Christmas cards, weddings, proms, and other special moments. Before you do, please review our photo guidelines located on the church website (campus/policies) and contact Cathy Rush (crush@fpcspartanburg.org) to let us know you're planning to be on campus with your photographer. This helps ensure there will be no conflicts with worship services or other events. Pictures taken on the campus of First Presbyterian Church, Spartanburg, cannot be used for commercial purposes.

Bring Your Keycards!

We encourage all members to bring their keycards to church. These not only serve as access to the building but also demonstrate our commitment to Christian hospitality as you learn your neighbor's name.

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. Ansley B. Page
Interim Pastoral Associate
Christian Formation

Summer Sunday School | 9:00am

Combined Adult Sunday School
Psalms and the Art of Faith - Purnell Room

Next Sunday's Topic (7/19):
Drama and Poured Acrylic by Doug Egge

This summer, as we explore the Psalms in worship, artists in our congregation will share their work, creative process, and reflections on the role of God and faith in what they create.

Children's Sunday School
Summer "PRAYground" - Playground

All children (4-year-olds to rising 5th graders) are invited to enjoy a relaxed Sunday morning time for prayer and play with friends on the playground.

Youth Sunday School
Summer Study - Youth Room

Youth will study the epistles written by Paul with Rev. Sam Harrelson, Rev. Merianna Harrelson, and Mason Thomas. We will explore the questions, "What does it mean to walk with God?" and "How is our faith reflected in everyday life?"

Today's Musicians

Summer Worship

John Moody, piano;

Tom Wright, saxophone;

Nathan Scott, bass;

Jerry Bruno, drums;

Lisa Cunningham, vocalist;

Front Cover:

"The Water of Life", Italian mosaic (c. 19th century)

In the nineteenth-century Italian mosaic The Water of Life, deer gather at the life-giving river beneath a radiant blue cross, surrounded by shimmering green and gold mosaics that evoke the beauty and abundance of God's eternal kingdom. As the deer drink from the living water, the image reminds us that Christ alone is the source our souls long for; when we feel distant, weary, or small, we need only lift our eyes to Him, whose presence continually offers the grace, peace, and light that never fail.

Selected by Abby Henthorn

Calendar

July 13-16
Middle School Mission Trip

July 15
Mid-Summer Dinner & Trivia

July 18
Montreat Play Date

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

July 21
Hand in Hand Mayo Block Party

July 22
Progressive Just Dinner

July 23
Youth Thornwell Mission Day

July 25
Take a Hike!

July 26
Lemonade on the Lawn

July 26-August 1
Montreat Youth Conference

Looking Ahead

August 2
Regular Worship Schedule Resumes

August 4
Tickled Pink Pop-Up Party

August 14-16
Montreat Women's Connection

August 23-30
A Way Home

August 19
Wednesdays at First Dinner Resumes

August 30
Rally Day

November 13-15
Congregational Retreat

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

To Ponder Prayerfully

"You have made us for yourself,
O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you."

- St. Augustine

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

Rooted in Christ, Bold in Love.