First Presbyterian Church

Spartanburg, SC



August 16, 2026

Service for the Lord's Day
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

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 in 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 at (864) 208-2130/lclarke@fpcspartanburg.org.*

ShelbyNext (No login 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 — *Lobe den Herren* — Max Drischner

✞Call to Worship — Susan Oldham

May God be gracious to us and bless us.
Let God's way be known among all nations.
Christ hears all who cry out for mercy.
Let all the peoples praise you, O God!
Come, let us worship the God whose welcome knows no bounds.

✞Hymn 35 — *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty* — Lobe den Herren

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that our love is often too narrow.
We ignore voices that trouble us and exclude those whom you welcome.
We draw boundaries around your grace
and too easily turn away from those seeking mercy.
Forgive us, O Lord.
Open our ears, widen our hearts, and give us a faith that persists in hope.
Teach us once again to receive and share your boundless mercy.

Silent Confession

All things have their beginning and their end in the love of God. In the light of that truth, we are free to confess our weariness and our worry, knowing that God is with us.

Assurance of Pardon

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

✞Response: Hymn 447 — We Are Forgiven

We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God. (x2)

✞Passing of the Peace

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

Life of the Church

Proclaiming the Word

Sacrament of Baptism — *Nicholas Daniel Roberson* — Cathy Bagwell, Elder

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Scripture Reading Matthew 15:21-28

Sermon Rev. Alan F. Dyer

Responding to the Word

✠Affirmation of Faith

From A Declaration of Faith

Jesus prayed, struggled with temptation, knew anger,
and was subject to suffering and death.
He was like us in every way except sin. Jesus was what we should be.
He served his Father with complete trust and unwavering obedience.
He loved all kinds of people and accepted their love.
In constant dependence upon the Holy Spirit,
Jesus allowed no temptation or threat to keep him from loving God
with his whole being and his neighbor as himself.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

The Christian life is an offering of oneself to God. In worship the people are presented with the costly self-offering of Jesus Christ, are claimed and set free by him and are led to respond by offering to him their lives, their particular gifts and abilities, and their material goods.

Offertory *Patiently Have I Waited for the Lord* Camille St. Saens

✠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!

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 *Lobe den Herren* Johann G. Walther

Contemporary Worship
9:00am | Fogartie Hall

Prelude	*Down to the River to Pray*
Welcome	Rev. Ansley B. Page
✞Call to Worship	
✞Song(s) of Praise	*All Creatures of Our God and King*
Prayer of Confession	
Sung Assurance of Pardon	*Come to Me*
✞Passing of the Peace	
Life of the Church	
Children's Time	
Anthem	*Lay It All Down*
Scripture Reading	Matthew 15:21-28
Sermon	Rev. Alan F. Dyer
✞Affirmation of Faith	
From A Declaration of Faith	
Prayers of the People	
The Lord's Prayer	
✞Closing Song	*Doxology (Amen)*
✞Benediction	

All things have their beginning and their end in the love of God. In the light of that truth, we are free to confess our weariness and our worry, knowing that God is with us.

✞ *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 — *Lobe den Herren* — Max Drischner

Introit — *Sometimes a Light Surprises* — Salley Gardens

All things have their beginning and their end in the love of God. In the light of that truth, we are free to confess our weariness and our worry, knowing that God is with us.

✞Call to Worship — Susan Oldham

May God be gracious to us and bless us.
Let God's way be known among all nations.
Christ hears all who cry out for mercy.
Let all the peoples praise you, O God!
Come, let us worship the God whose welcome knows no bounds.

✞Hymn 35 — *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty* — Lobe den Herren

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that our love is often too narrow.
We ignore voices that trouble us and exclude those whom you welcome.
We draw boundaries around your grace
and too easily turn away from those seeking mercy.
Forgive us, O Lord.
Open our ears, widen our hearts, and give us a faith that persists in hope.
Teach us once again to receive and share your boundless mercy.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

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

✞Response: Hymn 447 — We Are Forgiven

We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God. (x2)

✞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

The Word for Children

Children ages three to first grade are invited to dismiss to Children's Worship; those second grade and older will return to the pews. After the service, families are asked to pick their children up from Room 202 in the Clark Building.

Though the Bible is the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ and God's word to us, Presbyterians believe it requires the power and illumination of the Holy Spirit for it to become God's living word within us. This prayer calls upon the Holy Spirit to silence in us any voice but God's own, that we may receive with joy what God is saying to us.

Prayer for Illumination *Hear My Prayer, O God* Hymn Chant

First Reading Psalm 67

Second Reading Matthew 15:21-28

Sermon Rev. Alan F. Dyer

Responding to the Word

✠Affirmation of Faith

From A Declaration of Faith

Jesus prayed, struggled with temptation, knew anger,
and was subject to suffering and death.
He was like us in every way except sin.
Jesus was what we should be.
He served his Father with complete trust and unwavering obedience.
He loved all kinds of people and accepted their love.
In constant dependence upon the Holy Spirit,
Jesus allowed no temptation or threat to keep him from loving God with his whole being and his neighbor as himself.

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

The Christian life is an offering of oneself to God. In worship the people are presented with the costly self-offering of Jesus Christ, are claimed and set free by him and are led to respond by offering to him their lives, their particular gifts and abilities, and their material goods.

Offertory *Acquaint Now Thyself with Him* Raymond Haan

✞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 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 *Lobe den Herren* Johann G. Walther

<u>The Flowers in the Sanctuary</u>
are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
John Walton (Jack) West, Minnie Sangster Duck,
Susie Auten West, and Lanie Matthews Kabrick
by Linda Sangster West.

Life of the Church

Sunday, August 16, 2026

Welcome Back WAF: August 19

Wednesdays at First (WAF) returns on **Wednesday, August 19**, with a special "Welcome Back WAF" dinner! Join us in Fogartie Hall from 5:00 to 7:00p.m. for good food around the table with our church family. This first gathering will include dinner and fellowship with open play in the gym available for children 5th grade and under from 5:45 to 7:00p.m. Youth (6th-12th graders) activities will be held outside. *Meal pricing: $11/adult, $10/senior, $7/child, $35/family.*

Reservations may be made for individual dinners, all WAF dinners in August, or the full fall season. Visit our website or scan the QR code.

Youth Kickoff & Signing Day

Join us **this evening (Aug. 16)**, as we launch the 2026–2027 youth ministry year! Youth volunteer training will take place from 5:00–6:00p.m. in FLC Room F205, followed by Youth Signing Day from 6:00–7:00p.m. in the Youth Room, where we will kick off the fun and sign the covenant for the year ahead. We cannot wait to begin a new season of igniting youth and their families to become rooted in Christ and bold in love toward our neighbors in need!

Sunday School Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Thomas K. Tewell

Next Sunday, August 23, join us for a special combined Sunday School with Rev. Dr. Thomas K. Tewell in Fogartie Hall. Dr. Tewell will lead a lesson on "*The Best Time to Plant a Tree,*" based on Psalm 1 and Matthew 13:1–9. A dynamic preacher with more than 40 years of pastoral ministry, he has served churches across the country, including Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City during 9/11. He continues to preach and teach in congregations, seminaries, college campuses, and conference centers across the country.

Rally Day

Fall begins with Rally Day! Everyone is invited to gather on **Sunday, August 30 at 10:00am in the FLC Gym.** Rally Day is a chance to celebrate a new season of ministry and discover ways to grow, connect, and belong at FPC. Stop by to meet ministry leaders, explore fall opportunities, and find the places that are right for you and your family. Scan the QR codes below and visit our website to preview all of the offerings and events this fall. Please dress in whatever makes you and your children feel most comfortable!

+ Studies & Groups

Grow in faith and community through Bible studies, book groups, fellowship groups, Wednesdays at First, and more. With options throughout the week, there is a place for every schedule and stage of life.

+ Sunday School

Sunday School offers a meaningful place to study Scripture, ask questions, and build relationships.Explore the variety of adult classes available this fall and find the community that fits you best.

+ Youth

FPC Youth gives middle and high school students opportunities to grow in faith, build friendships, serve others, and have fun together. Get connected through Sunday School, Youth Group, small groups, retreats, missions, and fellowship throughout the year.

+ Children

Children are invited to discover God's love through worship, learning, music, fellowship, and play. Learn more about Sunday School, Children's Worship, Wednesdays at First, choirs, special events, and other opportunities for families.

A Way Home Volunteer Sign-Up

First Presbyterian will host A Way Home families the **week of August 23-30**. A Way Home provides on-site housing and hospitality for unhoused families. Use this QR code to connect to the sign-up form to help. If you are interested in hosting and have not received training, contact Rhonda Dickerson at rhonda032856@gmail.com or 843-407-8065. It is a quick and easy process.

Church Officer Nominations

Your Congregational Nominating Committee needs your help identifying church members who may be called to serve as **Elders or Deacons**. Elders provide spiritual leadership and help guide the church's mission, ministry, and governance. Deacons lead teams of congregants in ministries of care, compassion, and service.

Those elected will serve a three-year term from July 2027 through June 2030. You may nominate any member of First Presbyterian Church, including yourself. Scan the QR code to **submit a nomination by noon on Friday, August 28.**

APNC Nominations

The Congregational Nominating Committee is also seeking nominations for members to serve on an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC). Our anticipated approach is for a single APNC consisting of 8-10 members to conduct two searches simultaneously for the following positions:

- ***Associate Pastor for Congregational Care and Older Adult Ministry***
- ***Associate Pastor for Christian Formation***

The APNC will work together to discern, identify, and recommend candidates for these two important pastoral roles. Scan the QR code to **submit a nomination by noon on Friday, August 28.**

GAPS Monthly Meeting

The Greenville Area Parkinson Society (GAPS) provides education, support, resources, and connection for individuals living with Parkinson's disease and their families and care partners. Join the Spartanburg monthly gathering on **Tuesday, August 18, from 4:30–6:00 p.m. in the Arthur Center** for an educational and interactive session with Alison Hughey, Music Therapist. Come connect with others in the Parkinson's community while learning in a welcoming and supportive environment. RSVP using the QR code provided.

Offertory

Acquaint now thyself with Him,
and be at peace.
Thereby good shall come unto thee.

For then thou shalt have
delight in the Almighty,
and shall lift up thy face unto God,
and the light shall shine upon thy ways.

Participating in Worship

Ministers: All Members of the Church

Rev. Alan F. Dyer
Senior Pastor

Susan Oldham
Interim Parish Associate
Congregational Care

Rev. Ansley B. Page
Interim Pastoral Associate
Christian Formation

Sunday School | 10:00am

Children and Youth

Nursery – Room C105 (Clark Building)
Preschool (3K-5K) – Room C110 (Clark Building)
1st-5th Grade - C201 (Red Door)
Youth - Youth Room

Combined Adult Sunday School

(8/16) Rev. Alan Dyer in Fogartie Hall
"The Big Relief: Exploring the Dimensions of Grace"

(8/23) Special Guest Rev. Dr. Thomas K. Tewell
"The Best Time to Plant a Tree" in Fogartie Hall
Based on the Parable of the Sower (Ps. 1; Matt. 13:1–9)

Today's Musicians

Early Worship
Marcia Andrews, Inaya Rivas

Contemporary Worship
Rafe Andrews, guitar/vocals
Kolby Carrouth, drums
Matt Kelly, guitar/vocals
Jeff Key, electric guitar
Corey McDaniels, bass guitar

Traditional Worship
Marcia Andrews, Holt Andrews,
Summer Choir

Front Cover:
"Christ and the Canaanite Woman"
by Jean-François de Troy (1743)

In Jean-François de Troy's image of *Christ and the Canaanite Woman*, Christ turns toward the woman who has come to Him in faith, even as those around Him have urged that she be sent away. Her presence reminds us that God's love is not limited by the boundaries we may place around ourselves or our communities. Where others could not find it in their hearts to welcome her, Christ listened. Just as He would never brush aside those who seek His love, we are called to lead with our hearts, listening with compassion to those who come to us. In the Canaanite woman, we are reminded that our love for the Lord can bring us together where our differences might otherwise keep us apart.

Selected by Abby Henthorn

Calendar

August 16
Youth Kickoff & Volunteer Training

August 19
Wednesdays at First Dinner Resumes

August 23
Sunday School with Rev. Dr. Thomas K. Tewell

August 23-30
A Way Home

August 30
Rally Day

Looking Ahead

September 13
Ecumenical Blood Drive
Fall Sunday School Relaunch

September 13, 20, and 27
Discover FPC

September 22
Tickled Pink Bible Study Kickoff
JOY Fellowship Ladies' Tea

September 25-27
A Weekend with Tom Trenney

September 27
Chancel Choir Concert with Tom Trenney

October 4
World Communion Sunday
Hand-in-Hand Fill the Truck Drive
Youth DR Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

October 6 and 7
Vaccination Clinics

October 14
Healing and Wholeness Service

October 24
Winter Warmth

November 13-15
Congregational Retreat

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

To Ponder Prayerfully

"The doors of the church are wide open to the world.

It should always be that way. How else would we have ever come in?"

- Dr. Lewis Galloway

First Presbyterian Church

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

Rooted in Christ, Bold in Love.