First Presbyterian Church

Spartanburg, SC



August 23, 2026

Service for the Lord's Day
Thirteenth 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 — *Voluntary on MADRID* — Matthew H. Corl

✞Call to Worship — Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker

Come, all who seek the living God.
We come to worship Jesus Christ, the Messiah.
Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.
We will hold fast to what is good.
Let us offer ourselves to God in genuine love.
Come, let us worship God!

The Call to Worship gathers us from the many places and concerns we carry into this shared moment of praise. Together, we turn our attention toward God and remember that worship begins not with our seeking, but with God's gracious invitation.

✞Hymn 267 — *Come, Christians, Join to Sing* — Madrid

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that our love is not always genuine.
We honor ourselves before others, withhold hospitality, and repay evil with evil.
We confess Christ with our lips but fail to follow him with our lives.
Forgive us. Teach us to rejoice in hope, persevere in prayer,
and live peaceably with all.
Help us overcome evil with good and embody the love of Jesus Christ,
the Son of the living God.

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.

Life of the Church

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Proclaiming the Word

Scripture Reading Matthew 16:13-20

Sermon Rev. Alan F. Dyer

Responding to the Word

Ordination and Installation of Officers De Calvert

Ruling elders and deacons answer all of the same questions that teaching elders (ministers of Word and Sacrament) answer when they are ordained or installed. The only exception is the last question, which asks each candidate to faithfully fulfill duties specific to their office (ruling elder, deacon, or teaching elder). Even here, however, that specific question closes with a question concerning the joint ministry we all share: "in your ministry, will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?"

Congregational Litany

There are a variety of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.
There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served.
God works through each person in a unique way,
but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.
To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.
Together we are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

Constitutional Questions

Prayer and Laying on of Hands

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *The Lord is My Light* Frances Allitsen

✣Doxology 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 826 *Lift High the Cross* Crucifer

✣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 *Festival Finale* Malcolm Archer

Contemporary Worship
9:00am | Fogartie Hall

Instrumental Prelude		*Cornerstone*
Welcome		Landon Hammett
✞Call to Worship		
✞Song(s) of Praise		*What a Beautiful Name*
Prayer of Confession		Susan Oldham
Sung Assurance of Pardon		*O Come to the Altar*
✞Passing of the Peace		
Life of the Church		
Children's Time		
Anthem		*Psalm 8 (How Majestic Is Your Name)*
Scripture Reading	Matthew 16:13-20	
Sermon		Rev. Alan F. Dyer
Sacrament of Baptism	*Jennifer Rose Manatis Barnet* *Daughter of Meghan and John Barnet*	Tommy Stokes, Elder Eliza Edwards, Reader
Response	*Jesus Loves Me*	Jesus Loves Me
Prayers of the People		
The Lord's Prayer		
✞Closing Song		*The Solid Rock*
✞Benedication		

The Call to Worship gathers us from the many places and concerns we carry into this shared moment of praise. Together, we turn our attention toward God and remember that worship begins not with our seeking, but with God's gracious invitation.

✞ *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 — *Voluntary on MADRID* — Matthew H. Corl

Introit — *Praise, I Will Praise You, Lord* — Je louerai, l'Éternel

✙Call to Worship — Susan Oldham

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Come, all who seek the living God.
We come to worship Jesus Christ, the Messiah.
Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.
We will hold fast to what is good.
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✙Hymn 267 — *Come, Christians, Join to Sing* — Madrid

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Forgive us. Teach us to rejoice in hope, persevere in prayer,
and live peaceably with all.
Help us overcome evil with good and embody the love of Jesus Christ,
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✙Response: Hymn 447 — We Are Forgiven

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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.

Prayer for Illumination *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* — Walk with me

First Reading Romans 12:9-21

Second Reading Matthew 16:13-20

Sermon Rev. Alan F. Dyer

Responding to the Word

✠Affirmation of Faith — Rev. Ansley B. Page

From A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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.

In the Prayers of the People, we share God's concern for the world by offering our celebrations and sorrows, gratitude and deepest concerns. Our prayers are as wide as God's love and as specific as God's compassion as we pray for our community, the world, and those in need.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree* Mark Patterson

✠Doxology 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

As our worship draws to a close, this closing hymn becomes our response to the gospel and our prayer for the journey ahead, sending us out to live what we have heard and proclaimed.

✠Hymn 826 *Lift High the Cross* Crucifer

✠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 *Festival Finale* Malcolm Archer

<u>The Flowers in the Sanctuary</u>
are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of the marriage of
Barbara Caroline Lee and Andrew Miller
and in memory of
Margaret and David Kane, Barbara and Charles Lee,
Maria and Demetria Cefalu, and Mary and William.

Life of the Church

Sunday, August 23, 2026

Rally Day - Next Sunday!

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, Sunday School classes, Wednesdays at First, and more. With options throughout the week, there is a place for every schedule and stage of life.

+ Youth

FPC Youth gives middle and high school students opportunities to grow in faith, build friendships, serve others, and have fun together. The youth will also have their own **Youth Rally Party on August 30 at 5:00pm!**

+ 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.

+ Fall Events

There is so much happening at FPC this fall! Explore the full fall calendar on our website and discover upcoming worship, fellowship, mission opportunities, special programs, and seasonal events for all ages.

Wednesdays at First–August 26

5:00-6:15pm | Dinner Line Open (Fogartie Hall)
6:00-6:15pm | Gathering for Children (Gym)
6:15-7:00pm | Children's Recreation (Gym)
6:30-7:00pm | WAF Programming:
- Adult Program: *Song & Story: Five Favorite Hymns with Holt Andrews* (Fogartie Hall)
- Sur-Thriving Parenting (Purnell Room)
- Youth: Surviving Middle School (Rm 2207)

7:15-8:45pm | Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Pre-register for dinner by 4:30pm each Monday. Visit *fpcspartanburg.org/waf* or scan the QR code.

August 26 Menu: Fried Chicken, Rice & Gravy, Green Beans, Salad, Bread, Dessert, and Beverage. Children may eat from the adult menu or have Chicken Tenders, French Fries, Fruit, Dessert, and Beverage.

Church Officer Nominations

Your Congregational Nominating Committee is seeking nominations for Elders and Deacons. Elders provide spiritual leadership and help guide the church's mission and governance, while Deacons lead ministries of care, compassion, and service. Those elected will serve from July 2027–June 2030. You may nominate any FPC member, including yourself. Scan the QR code to **submit a nomination by noon Friday, August 28.**

APNC Nominations

The Congregational Nominating Committee is also seeking nominations for an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC). This 8–10 member committee will conduct simultaneous searches for an Associate Pastor for Congregational Care and Older Adult Ministry and an Associate Pastor for Christian Formation. Scan the QR code to **submit a nomination by noon Friday, August 28.**

Fall Sunday School Relaunch

Fall Sunday School begins Sunday, September 13, with groups for all ages and seasons of life. Whether you're looking to study Scripture, grow in faith, build relationships, or find a community to walk alongside, there's a place for you. Scan the QR code to explore Sunday School groups and learn more.

Discover FPC

Interested in learning more about First Presbyterian or considering making FPC your church home? Join us for Discover FPC, a three-week series where visitors and members can learn more about our church, its mission and values, programs, and the Presbyterian denomination. **Classes meet Sundays, September 13, 20, and 27, from 10:00–10:45 a.m. in the Large Private Dining Room.** All are welcome, and attending Discover FPC is not required to become a member. Contact Cathy Bagwell *(cbagwell@fpcspartanburg.org)* with questions or to let us know you plan to attend.

Blood Drive - September 13

Give the gift of life at our **Ecumenical Blood Drive on Sunday, September 13.** One blood donation can impact up to three lives, and since 2016, FPC has given more than 1,355 donations. Our church is one of several area churches hosting blood drives on this special day of community-wide giving. Scan the QR code to schedule your donation time and be part of this meaningful ministry of care for our neighbors.

JOY Fellowship Ladies' Tea

Ladies of JOY Fellowship are invited to the annual Ladies' Tea on **Tuesday, September 22, from 3:00–5:00 p.m. in the Parlor.** Enjoy an afternoon with friends along with delectable sweets and savories—and wear your favorite hat if you'd like! Scan the QR code to sign up and join us for this special afternoon of fellowship and fun.

Offertory

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
laden with fruit and always green:
the trees of nature fruitless be
compared with Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
it keeps my dying faith alive:
which makes my soul in haste to be
with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:
by faith I know but ne'er can tell,
the glory which I now can see
'tis found in Christ, the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,
and pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all but now I see
'tis found in Christ the apple tree.

Participating in Worship

Ministers: All Members of the Church

Rev. Alan F. Dyer
Senior Pastor

Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker
Executive Pastor

Susan Oldham
Interim Parish Associate
Congregational Care

Rev. Ansley B. Page
Interim Pastoral Associate
Christian Formation

Sunday School | 10:00am

(No Sunday School on 8/30 and 9/6)

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

(8/23) 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
Matias Mariani

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
Marcia Andrews
Holt Andrews
Summer Choir

Front Cover:
"Christ and Disciples"
by Georges Rouault (1936)

Georges Rouault's image of Christ and His disciples presents both the viewer and the picture's subjects with a long road ahead. With Christ in the center of the two indistinguishable disciples, we may see ourselves in their place, listening intently to what He has to say. This is the position we are called to occupy daily. Living like Peter, who unashamedly proclaims Christ as the Messiah, we are not to harbor a quiet faith, but to proclaim the truth to those around us, listen intently, and use the unique gifts He bestows upon us as we walk alongside Jesus.

Selected by Abby Henthorn

Calendar

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

August 23–30
A Way Home

August 30
Rally Day

September 6
One Worship Service at 11:00am

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
Fill the Truck Food Drive for Hand in Hand
Youth DR Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

October 6 and 7
Vaccination Clinics

October 14
Healing and Wholeness Service
for Pregnancy and Infant Loss

October 24
Winter Warmth

October 25
Kirkin' o' the Tartans
Stewardship Sunday

November 13–15
Congregational Retreat in Montreat

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

To Ponder Prayerfully

"Of the innumerable miracles Jesus performed during his earthly ministry, perhaps none was greater than the miracle of inviting twelve poor, pigeonholed, imprudent persons into community and empowering them to live into a new identity."

- Dr. Paul T. Roberts, Sr.

First Presbyterian Church

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

Rooted in Christ, Bold in Love.