First Presbyterian Church

Spartanburg, SC



November 8, 2026

Service for the Lord's Day

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! **All visitors are asked to sign their children in before Children's Worship using this QR code.**

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.

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: Assistive listening technology, large-print hymnals, and large-print bulletins are available upon request for the Chapel and Sanctuary. Please locate an usher for assistance. **For those who use compatible hearing aids or cochlear implants, you may connect to the hearing loop (T-coil) system in the Chapel, Fogartie Hall, and the Sanctuary by switching your hearing aid into "T" mode.**

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). *Questions? Contact Finance Director 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 — *Vivace* — Hermann Schroeder

✞Call to Worship — Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker

From generation to generation, God has been faithful.
We gather to remember God's goodness and proclaim God's love.
The stories of God's grace are ours to share.
May our lives bear witness to the hope we have received.
Come, let us open our hearts to God's wisdom and our lives to God's call.
Let us worship the Lord with faith, hope, and joy!

The Call to Worship is a reminder that, while worship is something we do, we do it as a response to what God has already done. God calls us to worship. We respond to God's call with praise, confession, gratitude, and wonder.

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

Prayer of Confession

Gracious and merciful God,
you call us to live with wisdom, faithfulness, and hope.
Yet too often we live as though tomorrow is promised
and there will always be more time.
We put off the work of love, neglect our neighbors,
and allow distractions to keep us from what matters most.
Forgive us when we mistake busyness for faithfulness,
knowledge for wisdom, and waiting for doing nothing.
Awaken our hearts, renew our spirits, and teach us to live
with eyes open to your presence and lives ready to respond to your call.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

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

✞Response: Hymn 816 v. 1 — Wer nur den lieben Gott

If thou but trust in God to guide thee, with hopeful heart through all thy ways,
God will give strength, whate'er betide thee, to bear thee through the evil days.
Who trusts in God's unchanging love builds on the rock that nought can move.

✞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 25:1-13

Sermon — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

Responding to the Word

✙Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty; Maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory — *How Can I Keep from Singing* — arr. Alan Bullard

✙Doxology — Old Hundredth

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

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer — Hymnal Page 35

Bearing the Word to the World

✙Hymn 353 — *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less* — Solid Rock

✙Charge and Benediction

✙Benediction Response — Tallis' Canon

Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day,
that in your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.

Closing Voluntary — *Hyfrydol* — arr. Gordon Young

Our Benediction Response was written by Spartanburg native Mary Jackson Cathey, FPC's first Director of Education and the first woman ever to attend Union Seminary.

Contemporary Worship
9:00am | Fogartie Hall

Instrumental Prelude		*Sweet, Sweet Spirit*
Welcome		Landon Hammett
✞Call to Worship		
✞Song(s) of Praise		*Yes I Will*
Prayer of Confession		Susan Oldham
Sung Assurance of Pardon		*Because of Your Love*
✞Passing of the Peace		
Life of the Church		
Children's Time		
Anthem		*Come, Jesus Come*
First Reading	Psalm 78:1-7	Mary Wilson Ringo
Second Reading	Matthew 25:1-13	
Sermon		Rev. Alan F. Dyer
✞Affirmation of Faith The Apostles' Creed		
Prayers of the People The Lord's Prayer		
✞Closing Song		*As for Me and My House*
✞Benediction		

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✞ *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.

Introit — *You and I* — Natalie Sleeth

✞Call to Worship — Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker

The Call to Worship is a reminder that, while worship is something we do, we do it as a response to what God has already done. God calls us to worship. We respond to God's call with praise, confession, gratitude, and wonder.

From generation to generation, God has been faithful.
We gather to remember God's goodness and proclaim God's love.
The stories of God's grace are ours to share.
May our lives bear witness to the hope we have received.
Come, let us open our hearts to God's wisdom and our lives to God's call.
Let us worship the Lord with faith, hope, and joy!

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

Acolyte — Sigmund Catolico

Prayer of Confession — Susan Oldham

Gracious and merciful God,
you call us to live with wisdom, faithfulness, and hope.
Yet too often we live as though tomorrow is promised
and there will always be more time.
We put off the work of love, neglect our neighbors,
and allow distractions to keep us from what matters most.
Forgive us when we mistake busyness for faithfulness,
knowledge for wisdom, and waiting for doing nothing.
Awaken our hearts, renew our spirits, and teach us to live
with eyes open to your presence and lives ready to respond to your call.

Silent Confession

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God will give strength, whate'er betide thee, to bear thee through the evil days.
Who trusts in God's unchanging love builds on the rock that nought can move.

✞Passing of the Peace

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

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Life of the Church

Proclaiming the Word

The Word for Children

Sacrament of Baptism — *James Grier Bomar, III* — Grier Bomar, Jr., Elder
Son of Leonora and Grier Bomar — Chapman Bailey, Reader

In our baptism God has called and sealed us. Baptism is an important event not simply in the life of the child and family, but in the life of the whole church. We are baptized into a community, and not in abstraction from the community.

Response — *Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.* — Jesus Loves Me
Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

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 — *Love Divine, All Love's Excelling* — Hyfrydol

First Reading — Psalm 78:1-7 — Hope Hamilton

Second Reading — Matthew 25:1-13

Sermon — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

Responding to the Word

✞Affirmation of Faith — Rev. Ansley B. Page

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty; Maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

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 — *Keep Your Lamps* — Andre Thomas

✞Doxology — Old Hundredth

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

Our Benediction Response was written by Spartanburg native Mary Jackson Cathey, FPC's first Director of Education and the first woman ever to attend Union Seminary.

✠Prayer of Thanksgiving

Bearing the Word to the World

✠Hymn 353 *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less* Solid Rock

✠Charge and Benediction

✠Benediction Response Tallis' Canon

Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day,
that in your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.

Closing Voluntary *Hyfrydol* arr. Gordon Young

The Flowers in the Sanctuary
are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of the marriage of
Margaret Bailey Verreault and John Michael Boswell.

Veterans and Active Service Personnel

As we honor Veterans Day today, we are grateful to the following church members and staff who have served or are serving in the military:

ARMY

Jim Anderson; Vic Bailey III; Dr. David Berry; Jack M. Blasius; Charles H. Boulware, Jr.; De Calvert; Maren Catolico (National Guard); Hon. Gordon G. Cooper (Military Intelligence/Counterintelligence); Wade Crow (and SC National Guard); Benjamin Curle (Army National Guard); Joe P. Dunn; Doug Egge; William David Ellis; Maj. Chris Dixon; William C. Elston; Edd Ervin; Phillip N. Glover; Guy "Brandt" Goodwin; Edward Lamar Holcombe (Army Ranger); Capt. Robin DesChamps Hood; Garrett P. Johnson; Don J. Jolley; Jeffrey M. Kuntz; Karl Lagerlof; Hank Mason (SC National Guard); Jack Mason; Dr. Donald McClure (Army Medical Corps); Sydney "Syd" Faison McDaniel, III (Army National Guard); Lehman Rowell "Rowe" Moody; Herbert Bays "Bert" Moore, Jr.; John R. Murphy; Douglas B. Nash; Steven Oeth; Gerald "Jerry" Palmer; William G. Pickens (Army National Guard); Anthony Raynor (Army National Guard); Finn Reid; Nicholas Roberson (Army National Guard); Bryan C. Shaw (Army National Guard); Darwin H. Simpson; Jack Antley "Jan" Smoke; Richard L. Taylor; Terry F. Thruston; James D. Trout, Jr. (and SC National Guard); Robert F. Turner; Dr. Lawrence Warren, Jr.

NAVY

Stanley Wayne Baker; Tom Baltzell; Dr. Howard C. "Budge" Bean, Jr. (Navy Reserve); Dr. William W. "Bill" Burns; Rev. Heidi Campbell-Robinson (Chaplain Navy Reserve); Jarrett P. Dunn; Dr. J. Sidney Fulmer; Clarence J. "Buddy" Letson; Bill Mayrose; George Edward Moseley; James W. Munn; Rev. Laura Palmer; James M. Pickens; LCDR Dean J. Yamasaki

AIR FORCE

Randy Alexander; Mitchell Allen; Lee Arnett; Doug Baker; Joseph S. Correll III; Andrew Ellis; Malloy Evans; Dr. George Graham; John A. Harrill, III; John W. Hill, III; Dr. W. Brownlee Lowry; Col. Robert N. Maddox; Kyle Milner, Jr. (Air National Guard); Raymond Morris; Thomas Neidenbach; John L. "J.J." Smith

MARINE CORPS

Gerald Kiehl; Rachel Williams

Life of the Church

Sunday, November 8, 2026

Faith Formation Update

As the seasons change, so do the topics explored in our faith groups and Sunday School classes! Now is a great time to jump in and try something new. The *Horizons* Class begins a Hymns of Advent study looking at the theology and artistry of music, while the 20s & 30s Class is studying Scripture through the theme of Embracing Uncertainty. Soul Sisters is exploring gratitude through Scripture, and the Younger Men's Wednesday morning group is discussing denominational differences. Visit *fpcspartanburg.org/groups* to explore all available groups and classes, or contact Ansley at *apage@fpcspartanburg.org* to find a place to connect and grow in faith.

Volunteer for A Way Home

First Presbyterian will host A Way Home families **November 15-22**. 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.

Wednesdays at First - Nov 11

5:00-6:15pm | Dinner Line Open (Fogartie Hall)
5:00-5:40pm | Children's Choirs (Clark Building)
6:00-6:15pm | Gathering for Children (Gym)
6:15-7:00pm | Children's Recreation (Gym)
6:30-7:00pm | WAF Programming

- Thornwell: 150 Years (Fogartie)
- Youth Gathering (Youth Room)

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.

Menu: Beef Stroganoff, Rice Pilaf, Salad Bar, Bread, Dessert, and Beverage. Kids' Menu: Chicken Tenders, French Fries, Fruit, Dessert, and Beverage.

Bake Sale for Youth DR Mission

Hosting family or friends for Thanksgiving? Make your holiday preparations a little easier while supporting our youth's 2027 mission trip to the Dominican Republic! **Preorder casseroles, breads, and pies** during WAF on November 11, then pick up your order at WAF on Wednesday, November 18, or during **the 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament on Sunday, November 22, from 3:00–5:00pm**. Scan the QR code to place your order!

JOY Fellowship at Foster's Tavern

Join our JOY (Just Older Youth) Fellowship on **Tuesday, November 17**, for a tour of historic Foster's Tavern and time together with friends! A light lunch will be provided. We'll gather in the FLC lobby before buses depart at 10:30am. Space is limited, so please register. Scan the QR code or email Kerri Singletary at *ksingletary@fpcspartanburg.org*.

College Care Packages

Help us send a little love and encouragement to FPC members in college or graduate school as they prepare for exams! Our Youth will be assembling and mailing care packages to remind students that their church family is thinking of them. If you have FPC member in college or graduate school who would like to receive a package, please scan the QR code to complete the registration form by **Thursday, November 12.**

Youth Sunday - Save the Date!

Youth Sunday is **November 22**! This is a special tradition at First Presbyterian when our middle and high school youth lead all three worship services. Our youth will share their gifts, voices, and faith with the congregation. Come worship alongside them as we celebrate their leadership and the many ways God is at work in their lives!

Advent Family Workshop

Join us on **Wednesday, December 2,** in the FLC Gym following WAF dinner for our annual Advent Family Workshop! Enjoy an evening of festive crafts, fellowship, and holiday cheer, with activities for all ages. Crafting will begin around 6:15pm and conclude at 7:30pm. If you would like to volunteer to help with craft activities, please contact Kara Clark at *kclark@fpcspartanburg.org*.

Service of Comfort & Light

While Advent is a season of hope and joyful anticipation, the holidays can also be difficult for those experiencing grief, loss, or other challenges. If this season feels especially heavy, we invite you to join us on **Thursday, December 3, at 5:30pm in the Chapel** for a quiet, contemplative service offering comfort, peace, and the reassurance of God's abiding love. The evening will include candle lighting, prayer, and an opportunity to pray individually with one of our pastors.

Chamber Singers' Concert

Enjoy an evening of music with our Chamber Singers on **Sunday, December 6, at 4:00pm in the Sanctuary.** *A Light for All Nations* is a Christmas concert celebrating the beauty and reach of the Christmas story around the world. Featuring music from more than a dozen countries and traditions, this special evening will bring together diverse musical expressions of the hope, joy, and light of Christ's birth. All are welcome to share in this beautiful celebration of the season!

White Gifts Tradition

One of FPC's most cherished Advent traditions returns on **Wednesday, December 9, at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary**! This special evening brings our church family together through joyful music, generosity, and the sharing of gifts that support our local ministry partners and those they serve. Gifts may be wrapped or unwrapped. Visit the website or scan the QR code for a list of requested items from each organization and help us share the joy of giving this Christmas season!

Honduras Mission Trip

FPC is partnering with **One World Surgery for a medical mission trip to Honduras, January 16–23, 2027**, bringing compassionate, Christ-centered care to communities in need. Volunteers of all skill levels are welcome! Opportunities include dental professionals, medical and surgical personnel, and non-medical volunteers to assist with patient support, translation, childcare, logistics, construction, cooking, and other mission activities. Whether you have medical experience or simply a heart for serving, there is a place for you on this team. For more information or to volunteer, contact Dr. Greg Colbath at 864-608-3842.

Offertory

Keep Your Lamps

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
the time is drawing nigh.
Children, don't get weary
'till your work is done.
Christian journey soon be over,
the time is drawing nigh.

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

Children and Youth

(Children–Clark Building | Youth–FLC 2nd Floor)

- **Nursery** – Room C105
- **Preschool (3K-5K)** – Room C110
- **1st-5th Grade** – Drop-off: C201/Pick-up: C107
- **Youth** – Youth Room

Adult Sunday School

- **Bible Alive** – Room 2215 & Zoom
- **Emmaus** – Purnell Room
- **Horizons** – Room 2208
- **These Days** – Room 2217
- **20s & 30s Class** – Room 2207

Visit ***fpcspartanburg.org/groups*** to learn more about each Sunday School class.

Today's Musicians

Early Worship

Marcia Andrews
Inaya Rivas

Contemporary Worship

Kolby Carrouth, drums
Lisa Cunningham, piano/vocals
Landon Hammett, vocals
Anna Harkey, violin
Matt Kelly, guitar/vocals
John Phillips, bass guitar

Traditional Worship

Marcia Andrews
Holt Andrews
Jeff Kuntz
Angel Chatter Choir
LightShine Choir
Chancel Choir

Front Cover:
"Bridesmaids Sleeping"
Stained glass window, St. Giles' Church, Oxford, England (c. 20th century)

Calendar

November 13–15
Congregational Retreat in Montreat
"Entering God's Gates with Gratitude"

November 15-22
A Way Home Rotation

November 17
JOY Fellowship Outing to Foster's Tavern
GAPS Lunch & Learn

November 22
Youth Sunday
Advent Painting Class (3rd-5th Grade)
Youth DR Fundraiser: 3-on-3 Basketball Tourney

November 25
No WAF Dinner or Programming

November 26-28
Church Facilities Closed

November 29
Angel Tree Tags Available

Looking Ahead

December 2
Advent Family Workshop

December 3
Service of Comfort and Light

December 6
Chamber Singers' Concert

December 9
White Gifts: Celebration of Giving

December 15
JOY Fellowship Christmas Luncheon

December 24
Christmas Eve Family Service (4:00pm)
Candlelight Services (6:00 & 9:00pm)

January 16-23
Honduras Medical Mission Trip

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

To Ponder Prayerfully

"[Jesus] paints a picture of the kingdom not as a resting place where reclining angels preside over a perfect world, but as a restive place where, with God's blessing, common people do their best to redeem an imperfect world. It is not something we wait for but something we create."

- Erik Kolbell

First Presbyterian Church

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

Rooted in Christ, Bold in Love.