First Presbyterian Church

Spartanburg, SC



November 15, 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

Today's Musicians
Marcia Andrews
Christian Ruth
Carrera Stamile

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 — *Prelude from Cello Suite #1* — J. S. Bach

✞Call to Worship — Susan Oldham

From the rising of the sun to its setting, God fills the earth with goodness.
All creation sings with joy and thanksgiving!
God hears our prayers and draws us near in grace.
We come with grateful hearts and voices raised in praise.
Come, let us worship the One from whom all blessings flow.
Let us rejoice in the goodness of God!

✞Hymn 14 — *For the Beauty of the Earth* — Dix

Prayer of Confession

Gracious and merciful God,
you meet us along the pathway of life with gifts of grace and new life.
But we are often quick to ask for your help but slow to offer our thanks,
more attentive to what is missing than to what has been given,
too distracted by life's demands to turn back in gratitude.
Forgive us, Lord.
Open our eyes to the countless ways your grace is at work in our lives.
Heal us once more, renew our hearts with joy,
and teach us to live as people whose lives are filled with praise.

Every journey begins with a time of figuring out what to take along and what to leave behind. Similarly, the confession of sin is an opportunity to reflect on those things we're carrying around with us (anxiety, guilt, shame) that, with God's grace, we can safely leave behind.

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 — Luke 17:11-19

Sermon — 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.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth praying,
"Come, Lord Jesus!"

In giving, we join our worship with our discipleship, offering not just money but ourselves. What we place in the plate is a sign of our desire to devote our whole lives to God's service, in gratitude for God's steadfast love and faithfulness.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory — *Grace* — Mark Hayes

✠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 694 — *Great God of Every Blessing* — Aurelia

✠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 — *Pisgah* — Dale Wood

Contemporary Worship
9:00am | Fogartie Hall

Instrumental Prelude		*Shine, Jesus, Shine*
Welcome		Landon Hammett
✞Call to Worship		
✞Song(s) of Praise		*Same God*
Prayer of Confession		Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker
Sung Assurance of Pardon		*Because of Your Love*
✞Passing of the Peace		
Life of the Church		
Children's Time		
Anthem		*Goodness of God*
First Reading	Psalm 65:1-8	Sebastian Gammons
Second Reading	Luke 17:11-19	
Sermon		Rev. Alan F. Dyer
✞Affirmation of Faith From A Brief Statement of Faith		
Prayers of the People The Lord's Prayer		
✞Closing Song		*Always*
✞Benediction		

Today's Musicians

Kolby Carrouth
Lisa Cunningham
Landon Hammett
Anna Harkey
Matt Kelly
Jeff Key
John Phillips

Every journey begins with a time of figuring out what to take along and what to leave behind. Similarly, the confession of sin is an opportunity to reflect on those things we're carrying around with us (anxiety, guilt, shame) that, with God's grace, we can safely leave behind.

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Today's Musicians
Marcia Andrews
Holt Andrews
Carrera Stamile
Chancel Choir

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 — *Prelude from Cello Suite #1* — J. S. Bach
Acolyte — Ben Harrelson

Introit — *A Grateful Heart* — Rockingham

✞Call to Worship — Rev. Leslie L. Denny

From the rising of the sun to its setting, God fills the earth with goodness.
All creation sings with joy and thanksgiving!
God hears our prayers and draws us near in grace.
We come with grateful hearts and voices raised in praise.
Come, let us worship the One from whom all blessings flow.
Let us rejoice in the goodness of God!

✞Hymn 14 — *For the Beauty of the Earth* — Dix

Prayer of Confession — Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker

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Gracious and merciful God,
you meet us along the pathway of life with gifts of grace and new life.
But we are often quick to ask for your help but slow to offer our thanks,
more attentive to what is missing than to what has been given,
too distracted by life's demands to turn back in gratitude.
Forgive us, Lord.
Open our eyes to the countless ways your grace is at work in our lives.
Heal us once more, renew our hearts with joy,
and teach us to live as people whose lives are filled with praise.

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

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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.

✞ *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

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 *In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful* In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

First Reading Psalm 65:1-8 Aubree Doolittle

Second Reading Luke 17:11-19

Sermon Rev. Alan F. Dyer

Responding to the Word

✞Affirmation of Faith Susan Oldham

From A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
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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 tasks and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth praying,
"Come, Lord Jesus!"

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 giving, we join our worship with our discipleship, offering not just money but ourselves. What we place in the plate is a sign of our desire to devote our whole lives to God's service, in gratitude for God's steadfast love and faithfulness.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *Lead Me, Lord* Will Todd

✙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.

✙Prayer of Thanksgiving

Bearing the Word to the World

✙Hymn 694 *Great God of Every Blessing* Aurelia

The charge is the preacher's final encouragement to the congregation to live out God's will as revealed in worship. The benediction (from the Latin meaning "good word" or "to speak well") is a blessing sending us forth to put that calling into practice.

✙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 *Pisgah* Dale Wood

The Flowers in the Sanctuary
are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Alli Hoy
by her family.

Life of the Church

Sunday, November 15, 2026

Next Sunday is for our Youth!

Youth Sunday

November 22 is Youth Sunday! 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!

Basketball DR Fundraiser

Come cheer on the teams at the 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament hosted by FPC Youth and Recreation on **November 22, from 3:00–5:00pm in the FLC Gym**! Teams of FPC youth, parents, and adult volunteers will take the court for an afternoon of friendly competition, with all proceeds supporting the 2027 Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic. Preordered bake sale items may also be picked up at the tournament if you are unable to collect them during WAF on November 18.

Wednesdays at First - Nov 18

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

- Time Around the Table (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: Baked Ham, Sweet Potato Crunch, Fried Okra, Rolls, Dessert, and Drink. Kids' Menu: Corn Dogs, Mac & Cheese, Fruit, Dessert, and Drink.

⋆ **No WAF dinner or programming on 11/25**

Thanksgiving Service

In partnership with the Spartanburg County Foundation, the Spartanburg Interfaith Alliance will hold its Community Thanksgiving Service on **Tuesday, November 24, at 6:30pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church.** The offering taken during the service will benefit A Place to Call Home.

Advent Fluff Days

Help prepare FPC for the Advent season! Volunteers are invited to **Room 2200 November 16–20, from 1:00–3:00pm**, to prepare wreaths and decorations. Beginning **November 23**, help decorate the church with trees, wreaths, greenery, and more! Decorating continues on select days through December 1. Come for one day or as many as you can! Visit *fpcspartanburg.org/fluff* or scan the QR code for the full schedule. Questions? Contact LeAnne Thurmond at *leanne.thurmond@gmail.com* or 864-621-0213.

Advent Family Workshop

Join us on **Wednesday, December 2,** from 6:15 to 7:30pm 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. 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. 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: A Celebration of Giving

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.

JOY Christmas Luncheon

Celebrate the season at the annual JOY (Just Older Youth) Fellowship Christmas Luncheon on **Tuesday, December 15, at 11:30am in Fogartie Hall!** This year's program features *The Innkeeper's Dream*, a moving one-man presentation written by David Shelton that shares the Christmas story through the eyes of the innkeeper. Bring a friend for a festive time of fellowship! Scan the QR code or visit *fpcspartanburg.org/joy* to register.

CNC Recommendations

The Congregational Nominating Committee (CNC) is seeking **recommendations for six members** to serve on the 2027–2028 committee, replacing those rotating off. Members will serve a one-year term and help nominate future church officers. All FPC members are eligible, and you are welcome to recommend yourself! Scan the QR code to submit a recommendation. Please complete a separate form for each additional name. **The deadline for submissions is Monday, November 30**.

Hand in Hand Christmas Cards

This Christmas, honor someone special with a gift that makes a difference in our community! Hand in Hand partners with local school social workers to provide food, clothing, and essential items to children and families in need. By purchasing a **Hand in Hand Christmas card** in honor of a loved one, you can help support this important mission while sharing the joy of the season. Cards can even be mailed with a personalized message on your behalf! To order, call or text Lynn Long at 864-913-2179 or email *handinhandspartanburg@gmail.com*. Gifts may also be made at *fpcspartanburg.org/give* or by scanning the QR code.

Offertory

Lead Me, Lord

by Will Todd

Lead me, Lord, in your righteousness.
Make your way clear before me.
Only my Lord brings me safety
so lead me, Lord.

Participating in Worship

Ministers: All Members of the Church

Rev. Alan F. Dyer
Senior Pastor

Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker
Executive Pastor

Rev. Leslie L. Denny
Associate Pastor
Young Adults and Missions

Susan Oldham
Interim Parish Associate
Congregational Care

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.

FRONT COVER ARTWORK

"City Landscape"
by Joan Mitchell (1955)

Mitchell's *City Landscape* offers a meditation on the abundance of God's creation and the importance of recognizing the gifts we have been given. Its rich, overlapping colors suggest the fullness of the world around us, yet its forms remain indistinct, making it difficult to grasp the landscape as a whole. Much like looking through a smudged lens, we can become so clouded by the distractions of worldly pleasures, material pursuits, and the muddiness of everyday life that we lose sight of the greater gifts God has placed before us. When we cannot see the abundance we have been given, we can easily become preoccupied with what we lack rather than grateful for what we have. Mitchell's painting reminds us to step back, clear our vision, and recognize the beauty and richness of the world God has entrusted to us. May we remember to give thanks for these gifts, not because we have earned them, but because they have been graciously bestowed upon us.

Selected by Abby Henthorn

Calendar

November 15-22
A Way Home Rotation

November 17
JOY Fellowship Outing to Foster's Tavern

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

November 24
Spartanburg Community Thanksgiving Service

November 25
No WAF Dinner or Programming

November 26-28
Church Facilities Closed

November 29
First Sunday of Advent
Angel Tree Tags Available

Looking Ahead

December 2
Advent Family Workshop

December 3
Service of Comfort and Light

December 6
Chamber Singers' Christmas Concert
Young Adult Christmas Party

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

"It is only with gratitude that life becomes rich!"

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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

Rooted in Christ, Bold in Love.