First Presbyterian Church

Spartanburg, SC



November 22, 2026

Service for the Lord's Day
Youth Sunday

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 6 months 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 Rm 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 — Hudson Huang

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

Opening Voluntary — *Concerto in E Minor, Mvmt. 3* — Charles Avison

✞Call to Worship

How are we to live as God's beloved children?
We are to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, and humility.
How are we to live as neighbors with one another?
We are to walk with each other and forgive as Christ has forgiven us.
Come, let us remember together the call God has placed on our lives
to love and serve together!

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

Prayer of Confession — Edie Wood

Good and gracious God,
who calls us to be your light and love in the world,
we confess that we don't always see those who are hungry
or lonely as your beloved children.
We confess that we miss opportunities to shine your light
and share your love with those who are lonely and hurting.
Forgive us, we pray.
Open our eyes and hearts that we may see your face in those who are suffering.
Renew our desire to welcome the stranger into our midst.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

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

✞Passing of the Peace

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

Life of the Church — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

Today's Musicians

Marcia Andrews
Cooper Huang
Hubert Huang
Hudson Huang
Zoey Huang

Throughout their "Called and Chosen" series, our youth have explored how God calls prophets and leaders throughout Scripture. This morning's Call to Worship reminds us that we, too, are called and chosen to share God's love with the world.

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Proclaiming the Word

First Reading	Ephesians 1:15-23	Cooper Huang
Second Reading	Matthew 25:34-46	
Sermon	*Called to Love*	Susu Wood

Responding to the Word

Today's Affirmation of Faith is from the Confession of 1967, which speaks to Jesus as the epicenter of reconciliation in a deeply divided world. As we hear this led by our youth, may we all be reminded to help join Jesus' work of reconciliation in the world alongside our youth.

✣Affirmation of Faith — Nora Biber

In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself.
We confess that Jesus Christ is God with us.
He is the eternal Son of the Father, who became human and lived among us to fulfill the work of reconciliation.
He is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete his mission.
This work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is the foundation of all we confess about God, humanity, and the world.
Therefore, the church calls all people to be reconciled to God and to one another.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings — Rev. Merianna N. Harrelson

Offertory — *Pax (Peace)* — Catherine McMichael

✣Doxology — Glory to God

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer — Hymnal Page 35

Bearing the Word to the World

✣Hymn 69 — *Here I Am, Lord* — Here I Am

✣Charge and Benediction

✣Benediction Response — Here I Am

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

Closing Voluntary — *Merriment* — Ronald Gray

Contemporary Worship
9:00am | Fogartie Hall

Prelude		*Revelation 19:1*
Welcome		David Millinor
✟Call to Worship		Wells Blanton
✟Song(s) of Praise		*Here I Am, Lord*
Prayer of Confession		Betty Pearson
Assurance of Pardon		Catherine Jenkins
✟Passing of the Peace		Walt Brown
Life of the Church		Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker
Children's Time		Elizabeth Reynolds and Hattie Karn
Anthem		*Salt and Light*
First Reading	Ephesians 1:15-23	Ramsey Neely
Second Reading	Matthew 25:34-46	Wynn Story
Prayer of Illumination		*Sanctuary*
Sermon	*Called to Lead*	William Lancaster
✟Affirmation of Faith		Jay Kennedy
Prayers of the People The Lord's Prayer		James Anderson
✟Closing Song		*This Little Light of Mine*
✟Benediction		

Greeters

Bennett Brock
Lettie Brown
Woods Pearson
Lyle Roos

AVL

David Millinor
Loren Roos

Throughout their "Called and Chosen" series, our youth have explored how God calls prophets and leaders throughout Scripture. This morning's Call to Worship reminds us that we, too, are called and chosen to share God's love with the world.

✟ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Greeters

Juliet Berry
Levi Brown
Piper Catolico
Charlotte Clementson
Edie Crowther
Aubree Doolittle
Ellis Goodwin
Elliot Summers
Regan Winter

Ushers

Levi Brown
David Evans
Bailey Faris
Garrett Johnson
Ben Neely
Michael Pack
Jack Usry

Traditional Worship
11:00am | Sanctuary

Gathering Around the Word

Welcome and Invitation — Ali Claire Pingley

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

Opening Voluntary — *Prayer of Thanksgiving* — arr. Dolores Gazda and Larry Clark

Acolyte — Louise Panza

✞Call to Worship — Eloise Hammett and Marianna Hallenbeck

How are we to live as God's beloved children?
We are to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, and humility.
How are we to live as neighbors with one another?
We are to walk with each other and forgive as Christ has forgiven us.
Come, let us remember together the call God has placed on our lives
to love and serve together!

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

Prayer of Confession — Jane Close

Good and gracious God,
who calls us to be your light and love in the world,
we confess that we don't always see those who are hungry
or lonely as your beloved children.
We confess that we miss opportunities to shine your light
and share your love with those who are lonely and hurting.
Forgive us, we pray.
Open our eyes and hearts that we may see your face in those who are suffering.
Renew our desire to welcome the stranger into our midst.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

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

✞Passing of the Peace — Ellie Jones

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

Life of the Church — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Proclaiming the Word

The Word for Children — Grace Mitchell and Frances Halligan

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 — Eliza Edwards

First Reading — Ephesians 1:15-23 — Malcolm Cleland

Second Reading — Matthew 25:34-46 — Mary Soutter Pack

Sermon — *Called to Serve* — Abby Edwards

Responding to the Word

✞Affirmation of Faith — Kate Lancaster

In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself.
We confess that Jesus Christ is God with us.
He is the eternal Son of the Father, who became human and lived among us to fulfill the work of reconciliation.
He is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete his mission.
This work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is the foundation of all we confess about God, humanity, and the world.
Therefore, the church calls all people to be reconciled to God and to one another.

Today's Affirmation of Faith is from the Confession of 1967, which speaks to Jesus as the epicenter of reconciliation in a deeply divided world. As we hear this led by our youth, may we all be reminded to help join Jesus' work of reconciliation in the world alongside our youth.

Prayers of the People — William Lancaster

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 — *O God, Beyond All Praising* — Gustav Holst

✞Doxology — Glory to God

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

✞Prayer of Thanksgiving — Caroline Ringo

Bearing the Word to the World

Youth Sunday is a way we highlight the gifts of God present in our young people, but also recognize that our youth are more than the "future of the church;" they are crucial members of the church in the present.

Hymn 69 *Here I Am, Lord* — Here I Am

Charge and Benediction

Benediction Response — Here I Am

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

Closing Voluntary *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* — Johann Walther

The Flowers in the Sanctuary
are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Mr. and Mrs. William Grant Willard, Jr. and
Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Sims Willard
by their family.

Youth Chorus

Sadie Brock
Addyson Hammett
Kylie Hammett
Catherine Jenkins
Caroline Lyerly
Savannah Pinilla

Director:
Lisa Cunningham

Youth Orchestra

Violin I
Abby Clementson*
Kate Lancaster*
Maddie Raynor*

Violin II
Anna Crow
Hudson Huang
Sadie Moore

Cello
Sam Dyer
Bryson Kiehl
John Koontz

Bass
Cooper Huang

Flute
Nora Biber

Alto Saxophone
Ada Curle

Trumpet
Huntington Clark
Liam Owen

Horn
Connor Lyerly
Kathryn Martin

Conductor: Janet Kuntz

**Member of Youth Trio*

Life of the Church

Sunday, November 22, 2026

Youth Basketball Fundraiser

Come cheer on the teams at the 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament hosted by FPC Youth and Recreation **this afternoon, from 3:00–5:00pm in the FLC Gym**! 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. Enjoy baked treats available for purchase, pick up preordered bake sale items, and test your skills in the $5 Half Court Challenge!

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.

Help Decorate for Advent

Help prepare FPC for the Advent season! Volunteers are invited to 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. Bring the whole family and create something special together as we prepare for the Advent season. Scan the QR code to preview all the crafts.

Giving Tuesday

This **Giving Tuesday, December 1**, help *"Give Hope Close to Home"* by supporting the Purnell Fund, FPC's ministry of neighbors helping neighbors in Spartanburg County. Since 1957, the fund has provided one-time financial assistance to individuals and families facing unexpected hardships. As we look ahead to the fund's 70th anniversary in 2027, consider a gift of $70 in honor of 70 years of caring, or any amount meaningful to you. Your generosity offers practical help, renewed stability, and hope to neighbors in need. Please consider this special offering in addition to your regular giving to FPC. Scan the QR code or visit *fpcspartanburg.org/givingtuesday* to give.

Advent Memorial Wreaths

This Advent season, honor and remember loved ones inurned in our Columbarium by contributing toward memorial wreaths. **A gift of $35 per memorial name is requested by Friday, December 4.** Scan the QR code to make your contribution and submit a memorial name. Memorial names will be listed in the worship bulletin on Sunday, December 13, and wreaths will remain in the Columbarium throughout Advent. For questions, contact Lynise Clarke at *lclarke@fpcspartanburg.org*.

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**.

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 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!

Young Adult Christmas Party

Celebrate the season with fellow young adults and parents at our annual Christmas party on **Sunday, December 6 from 5:30–7:30pm** at the home of Josh and Laura Summers! Enjoy appetizers, desserts, festive drinks, and time together. Guests are welcome to bring a bottle of wine to share. This is an adults-only gathering, so plan for a fun evening without the kids! Scan the QR code to RSVP.

Christmas Shoppe for a Cause

Give a gift that shares the joy of Christmas while supporting FPC and our community! Shop a festive selection of FPC tartan accessories, custom aprons, Purnell ornaments, and meaningful ministry gift cards supporting Winter Warmth, CAST, Hand in Hand, and Neighborhood Meal Ministry. Whether shopping for loved ones or honoring someone special with a gift that gives back, there's something for everyone! Scan the QR code to shop and place your order. Items may be picked up at the church or shipped directly to you.

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.

Angel Tree Ministry

Help share the joy of Christmas with local children through FPC's Angel Tree Ministry! By selecting an Angel Tree tag, you can provide a gift to a child on behalf of an incarcerated parent, helping families feel connected and loved during the Christmas season. Angel Tree tags will be **available Sunday, November 29**, on Christmas trees in the Tower Room and FLC. To learn more or volunteer to deliver gifts on Christmas Eve morning, contact Brandt Goodwin at *brandtgoodwin@gmail.com.*

Stewardship 2027 Update

Thank you to the **427 individuals and families** who have responded to this year's call to generosity by submitting a pledge for 2027! Together, your commitments have brought us to **77% of our goal!** If you have not yet made your pledge, we invite you to join us! Every commitment makes a difference. Pledge cards are available throughout the church, or you can pledge online by scanning the QR code or visiting *fpcspartanburg.org/stewardship*.

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** – Parlor

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.

Participating in Worship

Ministers: All Members of the Church

Rev. Alan F. Dyer
Senior Pastor

Rev. Merianna N. Harrelson
Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker
Executive Pastor

FRONT COVER ARTWORK

"God of Grace and Mercy"
by Ali Claire Pingley

"My art piece symbolizes the grace and mercy of God. We are called to serve the Lord, but He also has every intention of serving and caring for us physically, mentally, and spiritually."

Calendar

November 22
Youth Mission DR Fundraiser:
Basketball Tournament & Bake Sale

November 24
Spartanburg Community Thanksgiving Service

November 25
No WAF Dinner or Programming

November 26-28
Church Facilities & Gym Closed

November 29
First Sunday of Advent
Angel Tree Tags Available

Looking Ahead

December 1
Giving Tuesday

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 13
Music Sunday Traditional Service

December 15
JOY Fellowship Christmas Luncheon

December 20
Music Sunday Contemporary Service

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

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

To Ponder Prayerfully

"For the first time in my life I saw the truth as it is set into song by so many poets, proclaimed as the final wisdom by so many thinkers. The truth - that love is the ultimate and highest goal to which one can aspire."

- Viktor Frankl

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Rooted in Christ, Bold in Love.