First Presbyterian Church

Spartanburg, SC



April 28, 2024

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 seeking to know and share the transformative love of Jesus Christ with others. 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 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. Please note there will not be Children's Worship next Sunday, May 5.

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, you may place your gift in the Offering Plate or you can scan this QR Code; it will direct you to our online giving portal. Additionally, you may mail a check to the church office (address on back of bulletin). Thank you for your gifts. *Questions? Contact Church Financial Officer Lynise Clarke; 864-208-2130/lclarke@fpcspartanburg.org.*

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 — *There is a Happy Land* — George Shearing

✞Call to Worship

You alone are the Lord.
You made the heavens, even the highest heavens,
And all their starry host, the earth and all that is in it,
The seas and all that is in them.
You give life to everything,
And the multitudes of heaven worship you.
Let us join with them and worship God's name!

✞Hymn 755 — *Alleluia! Laud and Blessing* — Weisse Flaggen

Prayer of Confession — Rev. L. Craig Foster

Merciful God, you have made us citizens of heaven,
but we confess that we have set our minds on earthly things.
We have let our desire for security restrain our commitment to serve the poor.
We have let our fear of danger curb our obligation to love our enemies.
We have let our craving for public status prevent our honesty about hidden sins.
Yet, you know the desires of our heart and nothing is hidden from you.
By the power of the Holy Spirit, forgive us and renew us once more
in our calling to be the body of Christ you desire for the world.

Silent Confession

In the prayer of confession we pause to tell the truth about ourselves and our world. It's not always an easy practice, but we trust that it is grace that calls us to confession and grace that sets us free. The honest speech of confession makes newness possible.

Assurance of Pardon

The one who gives us our daily bread each day,
blesses us with what we need each and every day of our lives.
The one who forgives our sins answers our prayers and offers us fullness of life.
Hear and believe the Good News:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

✞Response

Hymn 581 — *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;*
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen. — Gloria Patri

✞Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.
Let us greet one another as we share the love and peace of Christ.

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Life of the Church

Baptism is a celebration of the child being baptized - a thanksgiving for their life and for all that God gives them and us. It is also a welcome into the family of the Church, both worldwide and locally. Through baptism we join a vast family spanning time and space. We commit ourselves to follow Christ and worship God within that family.

Sacrament of Baptism — Rev. Ansley B. Page

Owen Pierce Bonetti — Jennifer Biber, Elder
Son of Hannah and Tony Bonetti — Nora Biber, Reader

Proclaiming the Word

Scripture Reading — Matthew 6:5-15

Sermon — *Surprised by Hope: Of Heaven* — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

Responding to the Word

Affirmation of Faith
The Apostles' Creed — Hymnal Page 35

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory — *Softly and Tenderly* — Dale Wood

✞Doxology
Hymn 606 — Old Hundredth

Prayers of the People
The Lord's Prayer — Hymnal Page 35

Bearing the Word to the World

✞Hymn 774 — *There Is Now a New Creation* — Stuttgart

✞Charge and Benediction

✞Benediction Response
Hymn 175, verse 1 — Lafferty

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!

Closing Voluntary — *March* — G.F. Handel

The Flowers in the Chapel are given to the Glory of God and
in celebration of the marriage of
Nancy Irwin and Wade Crow
and in loving memory of ***Shelley Crow and Co Irwin.***

Contemporary Worship
9:00am
Fogartie Hall

Welcome		Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise
✞Call to Worship		
✞Song of Praise		*Well Done*
Prayer of Confession		
Sung Assurance of Pardon		*Grace Greater Than Our Sin*
✞Passing of the Peace		
Life of the Church		
Children's Time		
Anthem		*The Lord's Prayer (It's Yours)*
First Reading	Ephesians 1:7-10	
Second Reading	Matthew 6:5-15	
Sermon	*Surprised by Hope: Of Heaven*	Rev. Alan F. Dyer
Affirmation of Faith		
A Declaration of Faith		
Prayers of the People		
The Lord's Prayer		
✞Closing Song		*God of Wonders*
✞Benediction		

In the prayer of confession we pause to tell the truth about ourselves and our world. It's not always an easy practice, but we trust that it is grace that calls us to confession and grace that sets us free. The honest speech of confession makes newness possible.

✞ *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 — *There is a Happy Land* — George Shearing
Acolyte — Sally Usry

Introit — *Sing, Praise, and Bless the Lord* — Laudate Dominum

✙Call to Worship — Rev. L. Craig Foster

You alone are the Lord.
You made the heavens, even the highest heavens,
And all their starry host, the earth and all that is in it,
The seas and all that is in them.
You give life to everything,
And the multitudes of heaven worship you.
Let us join with them and worship God's name!

✙Hymn 755 — *Alleluia! Laud and Blessing* — Weisse Flaggen

Prayer of Confession — Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise

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Merciful God, you have made us citizens of heaven,
but we confess that we have set our minds on earthly things.
We have let our desire for security restrain our commitment to serve the poor.
We have let our fear of danger curb our obligation to love our enemies.
We have let our craving for public status prevent our honesty about hidden sins.
Yet, you know the desires of our heart and nothing is hidden from you.
By the power of the Holy Spirit, forgive us and renew us once more
in our calling to be the body of Christ you desire for the world.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

The one who gives us our daily bread each day,
blesses us with what we need each and every day of our lives.
The one who forgives our sins answers our prayers and offers us fullness of life.
Hear and believe the Good News:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

✙ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

✞Response

Hymn 581 — Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.

✞Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.
Let us greet one another as we share the love and peace of Christ.

Life of the Church

Proclaiming the Word

Celebration of Ministry — Gwon McBeth

Recognizing C.A.S.T.

After the Celebration of Ministry, children ages three years to first grade are invited to dismiss to Children's Worship.

Prayer for Illumination — *Kum ba Yah* — Kum ba Yah

First Reading — Ephesians 1:7-10

Second Reading — Matthew 6:5-15

Sermon — *Surprised by Hope: Of Heaven* — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

Responding to the Word

✞Affirmation of Faith — Rev. Ansley B. Page

A Declaration of Faith

In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus God kept his promises.
All that we can ever hope for was present in Christ.
But the work of God in Christ is not over.
God calls us to hope for more than we have yet seen.
The hope God gives us the ultimate confidence that
supports us when lesser hopes fail us.
In Christ God gives hope for a new heaven and earth,
certainty of victory over death,
assurance of mercy and judgment beyond death.
This hope gives us courage for the present struggle.

This morning we celebrate 10 years of the C.A.S.T. (Care. Accept. Share. Teach.) Ministry, which came into existence under the vision and leadership of church member Gloria Close. C.A.S.T. has transformed the lives of numerous children and families across our community living in motel rooms. Today, we recognize this vital ministry and say thank you to Gloria as she retires from her time leading C.A.S.T. - because of her the future of C.A.S.T. is bright!

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 offering is a vital part of our response to God and God's Word. It helps us connect our adoration for God with our life of discipleship. The money given at the offering is a token and symbol of our desire to devote our whole selves to God's service in response to God's loving faithfulness in us.

Offertory *In My Father's House* Philip Stopford

Offertory Text can be found on the last page of the bulletin.

✠Doxology

Hymn 606 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 774 *There Is Now a New Creation* Stuttgart

✠Charge and Benediction

✠Benediction Response

Hymn 175, verse 1 Lafferty

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!

Closing Voluntary *March* G.F. Handel

<u>The Flowers in the Sanctuary</u>
are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Elizabeth Chapman Quantz McMeekin
by Thomas, Winn, Tom, Sarah, Mae, Evans, Ann Tolly and Henry.

Life of the Church

Sunday, April 28, 2024

Surprised by Hope

The Easter story is one of surprise. The women go to the tomb expecting to find one thing, but instead find something very different. The tomb is empty; Christ is risen! This Easter Season, we invite you to join us as we explore how the resurrection continues to surprise us with God's hopeful vision for our future and our present.

Chamber Singers Concert

Please join the First Presbyterian Chambers Singers on Thursday, May 2 at 7:00pm as they present their spring concert, *A Day in the Life*. The program will take you on a journey through the joys, sorrows and wonder of the everyday, beginning at dawn and concluding at bedtime. All the music is from living composers, with soloists from the group and a guest string quintet to help accompany several of the pieces.

Blood Drive Sunday

Our next Blood Drive will be held Sunday, May 5, 8:00am-1:00pm. The church will receive a donation of $25 for each viable donation and each donor will receive $25 in rewards that can be redeemed for eGift cards! Scan the QR code to make your appointment or visit fpcspartanburg.org/blooddrive.

Joy Fellowship Spring lunch

Join your JOY Fellowship (age 55+) friends for the annual Spring Luncheon on Thursday, May 9 at 11:30am in Fogartie Hall. Enjoy a delicious meal and a musical presentation by Dr. Steven Graff, Assistant Professor of Piano at Converse University Petrie School of Music. Scan the QR code to sign up by May 6 or visit fpcspartanburg.org/joyluncheon.

Congregational Meeting

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting, for Sunday, May 12, 2024, during the 11:00am Traditional Worship Service, to act on the report and recommendation of the APNC to call an Associate Pastor for Congregational Care and Diaconate.

Baccalaureate Sunday

On Sunday, May 19, we will celebrate by recognizing our high school graduates. We will also print the names of college and higher education graduates. If you are a member of First Presbyterian Church and will graduate college or will receive a graduate level degree in 2024, please fill out the form at fpcspartanburg.org/baccalaureate or scan the QR code by May 10.

Acts 2 Lunches and Dinners

Spend time around the table, breaking bread with friends to strengthen your faith family ties through conversation and fellowship! Acts 2 gatherings are for adults ages 22-102. You are invited to join a small group (8-12) of church friends for fellowship and lunch OR dinner on Sunday, June 9. Everyone will bring something to help with the meal. Registration is required. Scan the QR code or visit fpcspartanburg.org/acts2 to sign up by May 22!

Women's Connection

Women's Connection 2024 will be held in Montreat August 9-11. The keynote speaker is Becca Stevens, founder and president of Thistle Farms. Workshop registration opens May 1, so sign up before then! Workshops fill up quickly. The cost of $425 includes housing and registration. Scan the QR code or visit fpcspartanburg.org/womensconnection for details!

Youth Summer Calendar

Get ready for a summer full of fun with FPC Youth! Stay up to date on all Youth events and register for summer activities at fpcspartanburgyouth.org/events!

Children's Worship May 5

While many families and staff will be in Montreat next Sunday, May 5 for the Congregational Retreat, all children are invited to remain in worship. There will be Sunday School for all ages and nursery for infants through age three.

Montreat Play Dates

Spend the day rock-hopping in the creek, playing on the playground, and enjoying games in the Youth Center during our Montreat Play Dates on June 22 and July 20! This is for families with children ages 4k-6th grade. Registration is open! Scan the QR code or visit fpcspartanburg.org/montreatplaydate.

Alzheimer's Support Group

First Presbyterian Church is hosting a support group for caregivers of family members with dementia. The group will meet from 12:00-1:00pm on the third Thursday of each month beginning on June 20, in the Senior High room (Room F202 on the second floor of the Family Life Center). The group will be co-facilitated by the Rev. Dr. Jerone Wilder, an Alzheimer's Association certified Community Educator and Support Group Facilitator, and our Parish Nurse Beth Cecil. If you or anyone you know would be interested in participating in the group, please contact Beth Cecil (bcecil@fpcspartanburg.org or 864-208-2136) for additional information.

Flower Guild Needs Vases!

The Flower Guild is requesting donations of bud vases and small vases (no larger than a quart). If you have any vases that you'd be willing to donate, please drop them off in the Sacristy.

Share Your Smile on Sundays!

Share your smile on Sunday mornings! Join the team of Sunday greeters to welcome members and visitors! Sign up at fpcspartanburg.org/ministry-finder or scan the QR code.

Receiving Church News?

Are you receiveing the latest FPC news and events? We send a congregational email every Friday and mail a monthly newsletter. If you aren't receiving these communications and would like to, please visit fpcspartanburg.org/news or scan the QR code.

Do You Knit or Crochet?

We're already preparing for FPC's Winter Warmth, where we distribute brand-new coats to children in need across Spartanburg County. In addition to coats, children will also be receiving hats and scarves, handmade or purchased by members of the church. Winter Warmth will take place on October 26. If you have questions, please email winterwarmthfpc@gmail.com.

Today's Musicians

Early Worship

Holt Andrews, Marcia Andrews,
Genesis Choir

Contemporary Worship

Lisa Cunningham, piano/vocals;
Kolby Carrouth, drums;
Landon Hammett, keyboard/vocals;
Anna Harkey, violin;
Matt Kelly, guitar/vocals;
Jeff Key, electric guitar;
Corey McDaniels, bass guitar

Traditional Worship

Holt Andrews, Marcia Andrews,
Chancel Choir

Ready to Join FPC?

Are you interested in joining First Presbyterian Church? Come to the Church Parlor Sunday, May 19 at 10:30am. There will be a brief meeting to welcome new members. Please contact Cathy Bagwell at cbagwell@fpcspartanburg.org if you plan to attend.

Gym Hours

Mondays-Thursdays: 7am-8pm; Fridays: 7am-2pm; Saturdays: 8am-12noon

Chapel Open

The Chapel is open for Prayer Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm, for you to come and sit and pray in the stillness of God. You may place any personal prayer needs in the Chapel prayer box and a member of our staff will pray over your requests.

Sunday School - 10am
(Gathering Time - 9:45am)

Children and Youth

Nursery – *Room C105 (Clark Building)*
Preschool ***(3K-5K)*** – *Room C110 (Clark Building)*
1st & 2nd Grade - *Room C202*
3rd & 4th Grade - *Room C203*
5th Grade - *Room C206*
Youth - *Second Floor of the Family Life Center*

Adult Sunday School

Bible Alive – *Room 2208*
An extensive book-by-book study of the Bible

Emmaus – *Room 2207*
A journey with eyes open towards Jesus, with fellowship and a fresh new scripture-based lesson each week.

Abide - *Room 2200*
For younger adults and parents of preschool/elementary children to gather for a time of fellowship and learning.

L.I.F.T. - *Room 2201*
Faithful and energetic disciples who love growing deeper in faith through Bible study and trusting Jesus.

Glory Days - *Purnell Room*
Parents of youth & collegiates, come strengthen your faith and friendship with condensed stand-alone Bible lessons from dynamic teachers.

Front Cover: Untitled by Bjorn Behrendt
Parts of today's liturgy are adapted from liturgy by Rev. Austin D. Hill, Abingdon Worship Annual, and Feasting on the Word Worship Companion.

Offertory Text

In My Father's House (Philip Stopford)

In my Father's house are many dwellings,
and if I go to prepare a place for you,
I will come back again and take you to myself,
So that where I am you also may be.
Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God;
have faith also in me.
In my Father's house are many dwelling places.
If there were not, would I have told you
I am going to prepare a place for you?
Where I am going, you know the way.
For I am the way, the truth, and the life;
No one comes to the Father except through me.
If you know me, you also know my Father.
My Spirit will be with you always, The Advocate,
the Spirit of Truth will remind you of all I have said.
Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled; Do not be afraid.
I have told you I will come back to you; have faith in me.

Calendar

May 2
Chamber Singers Concert

May 3-5
Congregational Retreat at Montreat

May 12
Mother's Day

May 19
Baccalaureate Sunday
Day of Pentecost

Looking Forward

June 3-6
Vacation Bible School

June 9
Acts 2 Lunches & Dinners

June 9-15
High School Mission Trip

June 16
Father's Day

June 22 and July 20
Montreat Play Dates

July 8-11
Middle School Mission Week

July 20-27
Montreat Youth Conference

August 9-11
Montreat Women's Conference

To Ponder Prayerfully

"Earth's crammed with heaven,
And every common bush afire with God;
But only he who sees takes off his shoes;
The rest sit round it and pluck blackberries."

- Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Ministers: All Members of the Church

We are a community of believers committed to "Glorifying God and Sharing Christ Together through Word and Deed."

Rev. Alan F. Dyer
Senior Pastor

Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise
Associate Pastor
Youth and Campus Ministries

Rev. L. Craig Foster
Associate Pastor Discipleship

Dr. Lewis F. Galloway
Interim Associate Pastor
for Congregational Care

Rev. Leslie A. Lang
Associate Pastor
Young Adults and Missions

Rev. Ansley B. Page
Pastoral Associate for Engagement

Holt Andrews
Pastoral Musician

Marcia Andrews
Associate Director of Music; Organist

Kara Clark
Director of Children's Ministries

Carrie Coleman
Youth Ministry Coordinator

Grace deMaine
Associate Director, Youth Ministry

Beth Cecil
Parish Nurse

Colleen Darrall
Director of Recreation

Jane Mullins
Director of Hospitality

Pano Stathakis
Kitchen Assistant

Kris Graham
Director of the Weekday School

Lisa Cunningham
Contemporary Worship Music Leader

Lee Raines
Facilities Administrator

Jim Pitts
Campus Safety and Services Manager

Lynise Clarke
Church Financial Officer

Monteigne Campbell
Office Manager and
Admin to the Senior Pastor

Cathy Bagwell
Visitor and New Member Coordinator

Caroline Goodman
Communications Director

Ian Ritchings
Communications Coordinator

Shannon Hutcheson
Administrative Assistant
Children's and Adult Discipleship

Cathy Rush
Receptionist and Admin
to Music and Mission

Joanie Shackleton
Administrative Assistant
Congregational Care and Deacons

Andy Mayfield
Grounds Manager

Judith Holbert
Tiffany Long
William Massey
Custodians

First Presbyterian Church
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