First Presbyterian Church

Spartanburg, SC



April 6, 2025

Service for the Lord's Day

Fifth Sunday in Lent

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.

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 the QR Codes. The ShelbyNext QR code will direct you to our online giving portal. Additionally, you may give via Venmo or 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.*

ShelbyNext Venmo

Early Worship
8:30am
Chapel

Gathering Around the Word

Welcome and Invitation — Rev. L. Craig Foster

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

Opening Voluntary — *Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me* — Stephen Folkemer

✞Call to Worship — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

Thus says the Lord: "I will put my breath within you, and you shall live."
In gratitude, we praise the Giver of Life.
Jesus says: "I am the resurrection and the life.
In gratitude, we praise the Source of our Being.
We gather to worship the One who frees us from the grave and stirs dry bones to life.
Spirit, come and enliven our worship!

Our Call to Worship brings together words from both the prophet Ezekiel and Jesus from the Gospel of John to describe life that God gives us.

✞Hymn 37 — *Let All Things Now Living* — Ash Grove

Prayer of Confession

O Lord, if you held our sin against us, who could live, who could stand?
We seem to have more faith in death than hope in your promise of life.
We seek peace through war and find security in weapons.
We abandon the hungry, sick, and dying, and pursue wealth by making others poor.
And even so, you love us; still there is forgiveness with you!
Therefore we worship you; for you alone, O Lord, can save us from death and redeem us from our sin.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!
If Jesus Christ dwells in you, the Spirit of God will be your life and the grace of God will be your righteousness.
And if the Holy Spirit dwells in you, then God, who raised Jesus from the dead, will also give life to your mortal bodies.
Friends, this is the good news of the gospel:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

✞Response

Hymn 799 — I Love The Lord

I love the Lord, who heard my cry and pitied every groan.
Long as I live and troubles rise, I'll hasten to God's throne.

✞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 Ezekiel 37:1-14

In both Greek and Hebrew, the same word can be used to mean breath, wind, spirit, or the Spirit of God.

Sermon *Field Notes for the Wilderness: Ezekiel* Rev. L. Craig Foster

Responding to the Word

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *What a Fellowship* Gilbert Martin

✙Doxology: Hymn 606 Old Hundredth

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (Sung Responsively)

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up, lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us all give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Lord's Prayer Hymnal Page 35

Sharing of the Elements

The gifts of God for the people of God. *All communion bread is gluten free.*
Thanks be to God!

Communion Music *Lonesome Valley* Gilbert Martin

Prayer After Communion

Bearing the Word to the World

✙Hymn 286 *Breathe on Me, Breath of God* Trentham

✙Charge and Benediction

✙Benediction Response

Hymn 547, verse 3 Ar Hyd Y Nos

Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you; here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

Closing Voluntary *Jesus, Priceless Treasure* J.S. Bach

Contemporary Worship
9:00am
Fogartie Hall

Welcome		Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker
Instrumental Prayer		*Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*
✞Call to Worship		Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise
✞Song of Praise		*Come Alive (Dry Bones)*
Prayer of Confession		
Sung Assurance of Pardon		*Yes and Amen*
✞Passing of the Peace		
Life of the Church		
Children's Time		
Scripture Reading	Ezekiel 37:1-14	
Sermon	*Field Notes for the Wilderness: Ezekiel*	Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker
Communion		*All communion bread is gluten free.*
Communion Music		*The Table*
✞Closing Song		*All the People Said Amen*
✞Benediction		

We gather in worship to attend to the presence of God in our lives. In worship, we see the world in light of God's grace and go forth with a vision and power for living in the world as God's people. The rhythm of the life of the believer moves from worship to ministry, from ministry to worship.

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Traditional Worship
11:00am
Sanctuary

Gathering Around the Word

Welcome and Invitation — Rev. L. Craig Foster

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

Opening Voluntary — *Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me* — Stephen Folkemer

Acolyte — Jay Kennedy

Introit — *Give to the Winds Thy Fears* — Festal Song

Our Call to Worship brings together words from both the prophet Ezekiel and Jesus from the Gospel of John to describe life that God gives us.

✙Call to Worship — Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker

Thus says the Lord:
"I will put my breath within you, and you shall live."
In gratitude, we praise the Giver of Life.
Jesus says: "I am the resurrection and the life.
In gratitude, we praise the Source of our Being.
We gather to worship the One who frees us from the grave and stirs dry bones to life.
Spirit, come and enliven our worship!

✙Hymn 37 — *Let All Things Now Living* — Ash Grove

Prayer of Confession — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

**O Lord, if you held our sin against us,
who could live, who could stand?
We seem to have more faith in death
than hope in your promise of life.
We seek peace through war
and find security in weapons.
We abandon the hungry, sick, and dying,
and pursue wealth by making others poor.
And even so, you love us;
still there is forgiveness with you!
Therefore we worship you;
for you alone, O Lord,
can save us from death
and redeem us from our sin.**

Silent Confession

✙ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Assurance of Pardon

O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!
If Jesus Christ dwells in you, the Spirit of God will be your life
and the grace of God will be your righteousness.
And if the Holy Spirit dwells in you, then God, who raised Jesus from the dead,
will also give life to your mortal bodies.
Friends, this is the good news of the gospel:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

✝Response

Hymn 799 — I Love The Lord

I love the Lord, who heard my cry and pitied every groan.
Long as I live and troubles rise, I'll hasten to God's throne.

✝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 — Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise

Prayer for Illumination — *O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go* — St. Margaret

First Reading — Psalm 46

Second Reading — Ezekiel 37:1-14

Sermon — *Field Notes for the Wilderness: Ezekiel* — Rev. L. Craig Foster

In both Greek and Hebrew, the same word can be used to mean breath, wind, spirit, or the Spirit of God.

Responding to the Word

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory — *Hold On* — arr. Daniel Jackson

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.

Part of the power of the sacraments is that everyday elements and actions take on holy meaning. How might it change us if we remembered that God claims us, welcomes us, and forgives us each time we bathe or wash our hands? What if at every meal we remembered the all the times Jesus ate with all sorts of people, from the feeding of the 5000, through the Last Supper, and on to resurrection meals at Emmaus and on the lakeshore?

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (Sung Responsively)

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up, lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us all give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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.

Sharing of the Elements

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God!

All communion bread is gluten free.

Communion Music — *Pie Jesu* — Andrew Lloyd Webber

Prayer After Communion

Bearing the Word to the World

✠Hymn 286 — *Breathe on Me, Breath of God* — Trentham

✠Charge and Benediction

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Hymn 547, verse 3 — Ar Hyd Y Nos

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Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you; here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

Closing Voluntary — *Jesus, Priceless Treasure* — J.S. Bach

<u>The Lenten Greens in the Sanctuary</u>
are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Edna Ruth Parker Webb Jernigan
by Gloria and Leland Close.

Life of the Church

Sunday, April 6, 2025

Field Notes for the Wilderness

This Lent, we have stepped into the wilderness — a place of testing, transformation, and unexpected encounters with God. Through the stories of Miriam, Hagar, Moses, Elijah, Ezekiel, and Jesus we're exploring how God meets us in barren places and leads us toward hope. Come and walk this sacred path with us as we seek God's presence in the wilderness, and discover wisdom, resilience, and renewal for our own journeys.

Prayers for the Wilderness

Our Lenten devotion series, *Prayers for the Wilderness*, features a daily scripture reading and prayer written by a member or pastor of First Presbyterian Church. You may pick up a physical copy at the stations around the church and/or sign up to receive a daily devotion email at fpcspartanburg.org/lent or scan the QR code.

Lenten Prayer Window

There are two prayer stations, one in the main hallway and one in the Family Life Center Lobby, where you can write a Lenten prayer on a piece of vellum and place it in the basket. Together we are creating a stained-glass reminder that there is always beauty and life in the midst of the wilderness.

Wednesdays at First - April 9

Full Schedule

5:00pm	Dinner Line Opens (Fogartie Hall)
6:15pm	Recreation for Children (Gym)
6:30pm	Fellowship in Fogartie Hall
6:30pm	Youth Fellowship and Bible Study
7:15pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Pre-register for dinner by 4:00pm each Monday. Visit fpcspartanburg.org/waf or scan the QR code. After dinner, we welcome you to stay for fellowship time.

Pave the Way - Last Chance!

This is your last chance to order a personalized paver in support of the Playground Project! All pavers will be part of the hardscape in the new playground. Visit fpcspartanburg.org/playground or scan the QR code to order yours by tomorrow, **April 7**.

Palm Cross Workshop

Prepare for Palm Sunday and enjoy fellowship, door prizes, and refreshments at the Palm Cross Workshop on Thursday, **April 10** at 9:30am in the Large Private Dining Room (right off of Fogartie Hall). Bring a pair of scissors, and we will provide the rest! Please RSVP to Mary Cannon at clairemac2@bellsouth.net by Tuesday, April 8 if you plan to attend.

Palm Sunday Volunteers

All ages are welcome to hand out palm crosses and palm branches on **April 13** at any of the three services. We need volunteers to arrive 20 minutes before the service starts. This is a great family volunteer opportunity. Sign up at fpcspartanburg.org/palmsunday or scan the QR code.

Palm Sunday Processional

All are welcome to wave palm branches and process with Admiral, the donkey, to the front of the church for the 11:00am Traditional Worhsip service. Gather outside the Clark building by 10:45am to participate.

Bethlehem Center Update

In 2024, First Presbyterian raised over $41,000 during Witness Season for a playground and outdoor learning lab to be built at the Bethlehem Center. On Friday, **April 18** at 12:00noon, all are invited to celebrate the newly constructed playground at 397 Highland Avenue.

Sunday Greeters

If you have 20 minutes and like to meet new people on Sunday mornings, we need you! Anyone is welcome. Sign up at fpcspartanburg.org/greeters or scan the QR code.

Join FPC on Easter Morning

Church membership is an expression of our commitment to God and our faith. In the ancient church, people would often be baptized and officially join the church on Easter morning. Following in that tradition, we are inviting all those interested in joining First Presbyterian to consider doing so on Easter morning, **April 20** at 10:30am. We would love to have you add your gifts, energy, and love to the body of Christ that is FPC! Please contact Cathy Bagwell at cbagwell@fpcspartanburg.org if you are interested in joining that day. To learn more about membership and how to join, visit fpcspartanburg.org/membership or scan the QR code.

VBS - Non-Member Registration

This year's Vacation Bible School, *Road Trip! On the Go with God,* will help us discover that God's presence is everywhere as we explore new places, make new friends, and experience God's goodness together. Registration has opened up to non-members. Now is the time to sign up your child(ren) for engaging activities, interactive games, and meaningful lessons **June 2-5** from 9:00am-12:00pm. Visit fpcspartanburg.org/vbs or scan the QR code.

Faith Family Connection

First Presbyterian will be joining other churches to provide a safe place for homeless families to stay in a rotational model. FPC will be hosting July 6-13, and we need volunteers! If you feel led to help with this ministry or need more information, please contact Rhonda Dickerson at rhonda032856@gmail.com or Pastor Leslie at llang@fpcspartanburg.org.

Lent and Easter

at First Presbyterian Church

Palm Sunday

April 13, 2025

8:30am - ***Early Worship in the Chapel***

9:00am - ***Contemporary Worship in Fogartie Hall***

Children will participate in a palm procession

10:00am - ***Sunday School***

11:00am - ***Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary***

Everyone is invited to particiate in the palm procession

Maundy Thursday

April 17, 2025

5:30pm - ***Dinner in Fogartie Hall***

Register at fpcspartanburg.org/holyweek

6:30pm - ***Maundy Thursday Worship in Fogartie Hall***

"Maundy" means commandment, referencing the new commandment Jesus gave his disciples on this day; for it was on this day that Jesus had his last meal with his disciples. It is our Christian tradition to celebrate this evening with the gift of worship and the sacrament of Communion.

Good Friday

April 18, 2025

9:00am-5:00pm - ***Chapel open for prayer***

7:30pm - ***Tenebrae Worship Service in the Sanctuary***

Tenebrae, meaning "darkness" or "shadows," is a prolonged meditation on Christ's suffering. Readings trace the story of Christ's passion, music portrays his pathos, and the power of silence and darkness suggests the drama of this momentous event. As lights are extinguished, we ponder the depth of Christ's suffering and death; we remember the cataclysmic nature of his sacrifice as we hear the overwhelming sound of the "strepitus."

- Calvin Institute for Worship

Easter

April 20, 2025

6:30am - ***Sunrise Service in the Columbarium***

8:30am - ***Early Worship in the Sanctuary***

9:00am - ***Contemporary Worship in Fogartie Hall***

10:00am - ***Fellowship on the Front Lawn***

10:30am - ***New Members Received in the Parlor***

11:00am - ***Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary***

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 2215
An extensive book-by-book study of the Bible

Emmaus – Room 2217
A journey with eyes open towards Jesus, with fellowship and a fresh new scripture-based lesson each week.

Abide - Room 2207
For younger adults and parents of preschool/elementary children to gather for a time of fellowship and learning.

L.I.F.T. - Room 2208
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.

Today's Musicians

Early Worship

Holt Andrews, Marcia Andrews,
Genesis Choir

Contemporary Worship

Kolby Carrouth, drums;
Lisa Cunningham, piano/vocals;
Elise Deberry, vocals;
Anna Harkey, violin;
Matthew Kelly, guitar/vocals;
Corey McDaniels, bass guitar

Traditional Worship

Holt Andrews, Marcia Andrews,
Reel Robertson, Valerie MacPhail, Chancel Choir

Front Cover: Photo of Salar de Uyuni by Tobias Jelskov

Parts of today's liturgy are from Call to Worship, Vol. 53; Nancy Growler; Feasing on the Word, Year A Vol. 1; and Bill Wessner at ConfessionRCL.

Offertory

Hold On
arr. Daniel Jackson

Keep your hand on the plow,
Lordy keep your hand on the plow. Hold on!

Sure my Lord will save—
Noah, let me come in, the doors are
fastened and the windows pinned.

Noah said, you done lost your track,
you can't plow straight and keep a'looking back.

If you want to get to heaven, let me tell you how,
Just keep your hand on the gospel plow.

When the storms are raging high,
you suffer wrong and you can't tell why,
Keep your hand on the plow.

Come on now my brother, my sister, you're singing good,
The devil thought he had me,
but my God will see my through.

Mary has a golden chain, every link spells Jesus' name.
Keep your hand on the plow. Hold on!

Calendar

April 13
Palm Sunday

April 17
Maundy Thursday Dinner & Service

April 18
Good Friday Service

April 20
Easter

April 27
Confirmation Sunday

Looking Forward

May 18
Baccalaureate Sunday

May 21
Scotland Bon Voyage Concert

May 25
Worship as One (through July 27)

June 2-5
Vacation Bible School

June 14/July 19
Montreat Play Dates

To Ponder Prayerfully

"When the spirit of someone is unusually strong,
the life in them unusually alive,
they can breathe it out into other lives,
become literally in-spiring."

- Frederick Buechner

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

Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker
Associate Pastor
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

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