First Presbyterian Church

Spartanburg, SC



May 25, 2025

Service for the Lord's Day

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

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 — *Cello Suite No. 3* — J.S. Bach

Acolyte — Nora Biber

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

✙Call to Worship — Rev. L. Craig Foster

May God be gracious to us and bless us;
may God's face shine upon us.
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for God judges with justice and guides all people.
Let the peoples praise you, O God—
let all the peoples worship you in joy!

✙Hymn 331 — *God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand* — National Hymn

Prayer of Confession — Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise

Gracious God,
You bless us with more than we can ask or imagine—
yet we often forget that your gifts are meant to be shared.
We hoard what you give, cling to comfort,
and close our hearts to the world you love.
Forgive us when we treat your blessing as a private treasure
instead of a holy calling.
Turn us again toward your light,
so that through our lives your saving love might shine
to the ends of the earth.

Silent Confession

When we confess our sins we confess a paradox. On the one hand we confess our personal sins. We confess that we sin individually and personally by clinging to those things that are not God. On the other hand, we also confess that we live in a sinful world and cannot extricate ourselves from it. Together these two realities constitute a paradox, a deadly trap from which we cannot release ourselves. We are dependent on a Redeemer who can do for us what we cannot do for ourselves.

Assurance of Pardon

In the name of 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.

Life of the Church

Proclaiming the Word

The Word for Children

Sacrament of Baptism *Isabella "Izzi" Celia Caldwell*
Daughter of Sophia and Will Caldwell

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 3 years to 1st grade are invited to dismiss to Children's Worship; those 2nd grade and older will return to the pews.

Prayer for Illumination *Come, Bring Your Burdens to God* Woza Nomthwalo Wakho

First Reading Numbers 6:22–26

Second Reading Psalm 67

Sermon Rev. Alan F. Dyer

Responding to the Word

✞Affirmation of Faith Rev. Leslie A. Lang

A Declaration of Faith

God sent his Son to proclaim release to those who are bound,
to announce that God's promised kingdom is at hand,
to urge everyone to repent and believe the good news.
The Lord is moving toward the time when the glorious liberty
of the children of God will be manifest throughout the whole creation.
We testify God is at work here and now when people obey Christ's commission
to witness to him and make disciples of all nations,
when they spread the good news by their words and embody it in their lives.

The psalms have served believers in every generation as a biblical source of prayer and praise and as models for their own response to God. The book is an invaluable resource for worship. The people of God have also heard God addressing them in the psalms, as the prayers and hymns bear witness to the nature and work of God. The Psalter is unique, bringing together human word and word of God in an inseparable unity.

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 *We Are Held* Susan LaBarr and Jim Wilson

Scan the QR code or visit fpcspartanburg.org/offertory to view the text.

✞Doxology

Hymn 609 Lasst Uns Erfreuen

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, above ye heavenly hosts, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

✞Prayer of Thanksgiving

Bearing the Word to the World

✞Hymn 265 *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun* Duke Street

✞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 *Sonata 2: Fuga* Felix Mendelssohn

The Flowers in the Sanctuary
are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of the marriage of
Harrison Blackford and William Shaw
and in honor of the groom's grandmothers
Mrs. Robert Milton McCloy and Mrs. William Abraham Shaw
and in memory of the bride's grandparents and groom's grandfathers
Mr. & Mrs. Harry M. Thompson, Jr. and Mr. & Mrs. George Williams Blackford, Mr. Robert Milton McCloy and Mr. William Abraham Shaw

Life of the Church

Sunday, May 25, 2025

New Sermon Series Next Week: Rooted in the Spirit

This summer, join us as we explore the fruits of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22-23: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. In a world where promises are easily broken and hope can feel fragile, these are God's enduring gifts to us — signs of grace that take root even in disappointment. Come be grounded, encouraged, and renewed by the Holy Spirit's quiet but abiding work in and among us.

Summer Sunday Schedule

We will **worship as one at 11:00am each Sunday through July 27**. We invite you to also join our Summer Sunday School series for all adults titled *The Spirit at Work* beginning at **10:00am in Fogartie Hall**. We will learn from members each week, beginning with Wofford Men's Tennis Coach Rod Ray, to understand how they see and use the fruits of the Spirit in their vocations and daily lives.

Join a Summer Book Study

Paul's Epistle to the Galatians
Led by Rev. Craig Foster
Tuesdays beginning June 10 at 12:30pm OR
Wednesdays beginning June 11 at 5:30pm

Summer Women's Study: The Art of Living
God, Improv, and the Art of Living
by MaryAnn McKibben Dana
Led by Rev. Ansley Page
Wednesdays beginning June 11 at 6:30pm

Leslie's Summer Book Group
Traveling Mercies by Anne Lamott
Led by Rev. Leslie Lang
Thursdays beginning June 5 at 9:30am

Sermon on the Mount
by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine
Led by Rev. Craig Foster, Nan and Tom McDaniel
Thursdays through June 26 at 12:00pm

In-person and online options available. Details on each study and registration forms can be found at fpcspartanburg.org/bookstudy.

Remembering the Gold Stars

The banner in the Tower Room was created during the early days of World War II to honor church members who served in the armed forces—blue stars for those who served, gold stars for those who died in action. As the war progressed, the banner grew to accommodate more names and more loss. By war's end, the gold stars had formed a cross over the blue, symbolizing the ultimate sacrifice made those 12 members. Below the banner, a plaque lists their names. Our church historian, Tom King, dug a little deeper and wrote about who they were according to the archives. Please visit fpcspartanburg.org/memorialday or scan the QR code to read more.

Scotland Choir Tour

The Scotland Choir tour begins tomorrow. Please pray for the musicians and all individuals going on this momentous trip. If you weren't able to attend the concert on Wednesday evening, you may watch a recording at fpcspartanurg.org/worship.

TOTAL Ministries Food Drive

Fill your online or in-person grocery carts with non-perishable food items to donate to TOTAL Ministries. Drop them off in the marked bins in the Tower Room and FLC lobby next **Sunday, June 1**.

A Way Home Training - June 8

First Presbyterian Church will host homeless families through A Way Home July 6-13, and we need many volunteers. Please note that all volunteers who will interact with guests must complete a background check and attend training on **June 8** at 12:30pm in the Large Private Dining Room. Please RSVP to Rhonda Dickerson at rhonda032856@gmail.com by June 3 if you plan to attend. Visit fpcspartanburg.org/awayhome to learn more.

Today's Musicians

Traditional Worship

Holt Andrews, Marcia Andrews,
John Koontz, Chancel Choir

Front Cover: Shaw Butte School Mosaic, Phoenix, AZ

Remembering Their Service and Sacrifice

Today we honor your loved ones who have served in the United States Armed Forces and have entered the church triumphant, including:

Name	Branch	Dates of Service
William Donald Bain, Jr.	Army Air Corps	1943-1945
Lt. Col. Claude Bertram Barre	Army	WWII
Ross H. Bayard	Army	
Elizabeth Evert Bean SP2	Navy	1942-1944
Lt. Howard Carlisle Bean	Navy	1943-1945
CPL James L. Burnett	Army	1944-1946; POW
Joseph E. Camp, Sr.	Navy	
Lt. Col. William Hunt Carpenter, Jr.	Air Force	1961-1988
CWO Warren Clary	Army	1946-1964
Lt. Col. Harry Craft	Air Force (Distinguished Flying Cross)	
Tech Sgt. Elton D. Crenshaw	Army Air Corps	
1st Lt. Charles Douglas Crump	Army	1941-1943; KIA
Lt. Col. Aaron J. Cunningham	Army	1964-1979
S1C William Eldridge Donald	Navy	1944-1946
Pfc. Everette Eckard	Army	1943-1945
Grant E. Estep	Army Air Corps	WWII
1st Lt. Thomas Stewart Eubank	Army	KIA France, 1945
James Madison Grey	Army	
Major Fred Groke	Army	1960-1979
Msgt. Tail Gunner Herbert Henderson	Army Air Force	
SSgt. John W. Hill, Jr.	Army	1942-1946
James Powers Hickson, Jr.	Army/National Guard	
Cpt. Robin Marcellus Hood	Army	1940-1946
MSgt. Robert T. Humphries	Army	1939-1953
Lt. Ralph Newsom Kelley	Navy	WWII
Walter W. Laseter	Army	WWII
Frank Warner Lee, Jr.	Army	1940-1944
Dr. Guy Lehman	Army	1943-1946
LCDR Rev. Elden H. Luffman	Marines	WWII and Vietnam
G. Frank Lundy	Air Force Reserves	
Lt. Col. Robert A. Maddox	Air Force	1955-1975
Msgt. Chester Don Marrett	Air Force	
Pfc. Philip Guy Marett	Marines	
Lt. Joe Mattison	Army	1957
Delber McKee, Cryptoanalyst	Army	WWII
Paul Wayne McKillop	Air Force	1970-1974
Lt. Doris J. Mills	Navy	1942-1945
Cpt. William Palmer Mills	Army	1941-1945
Donald E. Oldham	Army Air Force Pilot	1943-1945
MSgt. Gerald L. Palmer	Army Air Corps	1941-1945
Lt. Jesse Parrott, MD	Navy	
Lt. Col. Benjamin "Ben" R. Pickens, Sr.	Army	1941-1946
Cpt. Benjamin Robinson Pickens, Jr.	Army	Vietnam
2SG Charles Radney	Air Force	
John Renfro	Army	1961-1963
Joseph Niles Scott, Boatswain's Mate	Navy	
Sgt. Russell Scott	Army	
Elgia Vernon Sheppard	Navy	WWII
Edwin Jones Smith	Army	
Major W. Leonard Still	Army	WWII
Lt. Commander Robert L. Stoddard	Navy	1943-1947
Holcomb McClain Stroup, Jr.	Army	1951-1953
SSgt. Ned Sydnor	Army	1951-1953
John Thomas Tatham	SC Nat. Guard and Army Reserves	
LCDR Hollis B. Taylor	Navy Medical Service Corps	1945-1972
Lt. Edward S. Tennent	Army	
Lt. Col. William K. Thompson, Jr.	Army Reserves	1943-1975
Pvt. Herbert Lockwood Thruston	Army Field Artillery	1918
Dewey W. Tomlin	Army	1940-1945
Col. Frances Kyle Tothill	Air Force	WWII
Cpt. Robert Turner	Army	
J.D. Trout, Sr.	Navy	1943-1946
Col. Murray White	Army/National Guard	
Lt. Michael R. Williams	Navy	1965-1982
Cpt. Bob Wise	Navy	1947-1952

We give thanks for all those who served - named and unnamed.

To Ponder Prayerfully

"Blessing is at the end of the road.
And that which is at the end of the road influences
everything that takes place along the road...
A joyful end requires a joyful means. Bless the Lord."

- Eugene Peterson

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
Director of Finance

Joanie Shackleton
Assistant Director of Finance
and Mission Support

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

Kerri Bell
Administrative Assistant
Congregational Care and Deacons

Andy Mayfield
Grounds Manager

Judith Holbert
Tiffany Long
William Massey
Custodians

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