First Presbyterian Church

Spartanburg, SC



August 20, 2023

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!

Blue 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.

A Nursery is available for infants through age 3 in the Clark Bldg, Rooms 105 (Toddler) and 108 (Crib).

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 and large print hymnals are available for the Chapel and Sanctuary. Please locate an usher for assistance. Large print bulletins are available upon request.

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.

✞Call to Worship

Sing God's praise.
Give thanks to the Lord above.
Seek the Lord and trust God's strength.
Proclaim God's wonderful works.
Live in the Spirit of love and grace.
Give thanks for Christ's marvelous love.

✞Hymn 81 *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken* — Austrian Hymn

Prayer of Confession — Rev. L. Craig Foster

Loving God,
you search our hearts to see all the good, all the challenges,
and all the obstacles in our lives.
You remember the times we have turned away from you —
the times we have forgotten we are your beloved children.
Forgive us when we do not act as your faithful followers.
Intercede in our lives to bring us grace and healing once more.
Help us, O Lord,
to be your servants and to share your story with the world.

Silent Confession

The late Presbyterian pastor and author Frederick Buechner once famously said, "To confess sins to God is not to tell God anything that God doesn't already know. Until we confess them, however, they are the abyss between us and God. When we confess our sins, they become the bridge."

Assurance of Pardon

Remember, beloved children of God, neither height nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation, can separate us from the love of God.
Give thanks to God for this marvelous gift: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God! Amen.

✞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.

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

✠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

The church confesses the Scriptures to be the Word of God written, witnessing to God's self-revelation. Where that Word is read and proclaimed, Jesus Christ the Living Word is present by the inward witness of the Holy Spirit. For this reason the reading, hearing, preaching, and confessing of the Word are central to Christian worship.

First Reading — Psalm 128

Second Reading — Romans 8:31-39

Sermon — *Heart of the Matter: If God is For Us* — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

Responding to the Word

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory — *Give Me Jesus* — arr. Tom Trenney

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer — Hymnal Page 35

Bearing the Word to the World

✠Hymn 703 — *Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me* — St. Catherine

✠Charge and Benediction

✠Benediction Response — O Waly Waly

Eternal Father, guide our way,
Eternal Light, within us shine.
Eternal Son, show us your peace,
Eternal Spirit, make us Thine.

Closing Voluntary — *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise* — Wayne Wold

Following the service, you are invited to a time of coffee and fellowship in The Perrin Room.

Contemporary Worship
9:00am
Fogartie Hall

Welcome		Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise
✞Call to Worship		
✞Songs of Praise		*Our God* *A Mighty Fortress*
Prayer of Confession		Rev. Leslie L. Lang
Sung Assurance of Pardon		*Living Hope*
✞Passing of the Peace		
Life of the Church		
Children's Time		
Scripture Reading	Romans 8:31-39	
Sermon	*Heart of the Matter:* *If God is For Us*	Rev. Alan F. Dyer
Anthem		*Confidence*
Prayers of the People **The Lord's Prayer**		
✞Closing Song		*Be Thou My Vision*
✞Benediction		

The order of worship is called a liturgy, which quite literally means "work of the people." What we do together in prayer and praise, listening for and responding to God, proclaiming and confessing our faith, and engaging in forms of self-offering during this time of worship, is our work in this service.

✞ *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 — *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken* — Wayne Wold

Introit — *Bless All Who Trust in God* — Franconia

✞Call to Worship — Rev. L. Craig Foster

Sing God's praise.
Give thanks to the Lord above.
Seek the Lord and trust God's strength.
Proclaim God's wonderful works.
Live in the Spirit of love and grace.
Give thanks for Christ's marvelous love.

✞Hymn 81 — *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken* — Austrian Hymn

Prayer of Confession — Rev. Leslie A. Lang

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Loving God,
you search our hearts to see all the good, all the challenges,
and all the obstacles in our lives.
You remember the times we have turned away from you —
the times we have forgotten we are your beloved children.
Forgive us when we do not act as your faithful followers.
Intercede in our lives to bring us grace and healing once more.
Help us, O Lord,
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✞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.

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

✞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

The Word for Children — Rev. Joanne R. Hull

Sacrament of Baptism — *Henry William Bulman*, *Son of Bryanna and David Bulman* — De Calvert, Elder; Charlotte Clementson, Reader

Response — *Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so. 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.* — Jesus Loves Me

Children ages three years to first grade are invited to dismiss to Children's Worship; those second grade and older will return to the pews.

Prayer for Illumination — *Trust in God* — Song 13

First Reading — Psalm 128

Second Reading — Romans 8:31-39

Sermon — *Heart of the Matter: If God is For Us* — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

Responding to the Word

✞Affirmation of Faith

from A Declaration of Faith

In the death of Jesus Christ God's way in the world seemed finally defeated.
But death was no match for God.
The resurrection of Jesus was God's victory over death.
In his resurrection is the promise of ours.
We are convinced the life God wills for each of us
is stronger than the death that destroys us.
The glory of that life exceeds our imagination but we know we shall be with Christ.
So we treat death as a broken power. Its ultimate defeat is certain.
In the face of death we grieve. Yet in hope we celebrate life.
No life ends so tragically that its meaning and value are destroyed.
Nothing, not even death, can separate us from
the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today's affirmation of faith is drawn from sections of a document called "A Declaration of Faith." This contemporary statement of faith was adopted by the Presbyterian Church (USA) in 1977 as a "reliable aid for Christian study, liturgy, and inspiration." In that spirit we often use it in our worship to explore what it means to profess Christian faith.

Prayers of the People — Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise

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.

Scripture tells us that we are able to love ourselves and to love others because we have first been loved by God. So, too, we give of ourselves and our resources out of gratitude to God for what God has already graciously given to us. We give because God has first given to us.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory — *If God Be For Us* — Clifford McCormick

✠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 703 — *Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me* — St. Catherine

✠Charge and Benediction

✠Benediction Response — O Waly Waly

Eternal Father, guide our way,
Eternal Light, within us shine.
Eternal Son, show us your peace,
Eternal Spirit, make us Thine.

Closing Voluntary — *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise* — Wayne Wold

The Flowers in the Sanctuary

are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of

John Walton (Jack) West, Minnie Sangster Duck, Susie Auten West, and Lanie Matthews Kabrick

by Linda Sangster West.

Life of the Church
Sunday, August 20, 2023

Sunday Morning Schedule

8:30am **Early Worship**
(Chapel)

9:00am **Contemporary Worship**
(Fogartie)

10:00am **Sunday School**
(9:45am – Gathering Time)

11:00am **Traditional Worship**
(Sanctuary)

August Sermon Series

Paul's Letter to the Romans provides one of the most concise, clear, and beautiful presentations of Christian doctrine in all the Bible. It is a letter that gets to the "heart of the matter" when it comes to crucial questions about sin, redemption, grace, and the life of faith for believers. This four-week series during the month of August is an invitation for us to know Paul better and to understand how this ancient letter continues to shape our faith in Christ today.

Lemonade on the Lawn

Next **Sunday, August 27**, after the 11:00am Traditional Service, enjoy refreshments with your Church Family.

Church Family Dinner & Trivia

On **Wednesday, August 30 at 5:30pm**, share a meal with your church family and test your wits with a game of trivia! Kid Game Night, too! Reservations required; Wednesdays at First pricing applies. RSVP by Monday, August 28.

Pickleball!

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00-3:00pm, the Gym Floor will be set up for Pickleball. Equipment is available at the FLC Desk.

Register for Children's Music

First Steps: Our First Steps in Music® program, designed for newborns through age 3 and their parents, nurtures children musically and promotes one-on-one time singing and playing. Classes begin mid-September and last 8-10 weeks. Use the QR code to register online.

Children's Choirs: Join us for a fun year of Children's Choirs! Check out the new choir groupings below and register today! The QR code will take you directly to the registration page. We are bursting with excitement to get started!

- **Joyful Sound** (4K)
  led by Debbie Keiser
- **Angel Chatter** (Kindergarten - First Grade)
  led by Martha Bean
- **LightShine** (Grades 2-5)
  led by Marcia Andrews and March Moody

APNC Recommendations

The Congregational Nominating Committee (CNC) needs the help of First Presbyterian Church congregants in nominating members of the church to serve on an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. This committee will be charged with searching for our next **Associate Pastor for Congregational Care**.

The CNC is especially searching for nominees who have past or present experience serving in the areas of congregational care, older adult ministry, or other Diaconate related ministries.

This QR code will direct you to a form for your recommendation* – you may suggest any member of First Presbyterian Church, including yourself. Submissions are due TODAY. *You may offer additional nominations by submitting another form.

Weekday School Fundraiser!

The WDS is having a Moe's Pop-Up Fundraiser! The taco kit feeds 4-6 people; each kit includes chicken & ground beef, black beans, rice, queso, shredded cheese, shredded lettuce, Pico de Gallo, sour cream, salsa, chips, and 12 flour tortillas. The price is $39.99 plus tax! All orders must be placed by Wednesday, August 23 at 4:00pm (drive-thru pickup on August 24, 12:00pm-1:00pm in the FLC parking lot). If you would like to order a taco kit, please use this QR Code. Thank you for supporting our Weekday School!!

Tutor at Cleveland Academy

Are you able to commit to one hour a week to help end child poverty through the gift of literacy? Kindergarten Tutors are needed every day, 9am-10am, at Cleveland Academy to work in small groups with students. Please contact Mary Elizabeth Evans (mewevan@gmail.com) if you are interested and able to help.

Learn About Thornwell

Register Today! Come enjoy a great lunch, fellowship, and learning time all about Thornwell. Come hear about how to join our upcoming site visit to see Thornwell up close, tour the campus, and the working Lush Acres Farm. Thornwell will celebrate 150 years of service to children and families in 2025.

Make reservations for the **Thornwell Luncheon on Tuesday, August 29, 12:00pm in the Large Private Dining Room**. There is no cost, but we need your reservation TODAY! Use the QR Code to register or contact Ian Ritchings (iritchings@fpcspartanburg.org / 864-208-2139) with your name and how many will be attending.

Are you Receiving The eNews?

Receive the latest FPC news and events every Friday in your inbox! Sign up by using the QR code or go to fpcspartanburg.org/enews. Never miss out on the life of our church!

Just Faith

Want to learn more about how to put your faith into action? **JustFaith: Faith and Racial Justice** will begin on September 13 and run for 9 weeks on Wednesday nights (6:15-8:15pm). This program combines reading, videos, discussion, and prayer in a small group context. If you are interested in learning more or want to sign-up, please contact Leslie Lang (llang@fpcspartanburg.org). Space is limited.

Reservations for Rally Day

We will celebrate Rally Day on Sunday, September 10. To kick off the new church year, after the 11:00am Worship service there will be food and fun! Lunch will be **WAF pricing with a BBQ buffet** line in the gym (BBQ, slaw, beans, chips, cookies and a drink... kids can choose bbq or hotdog). Fun will include a foam party with music and sprinklers. Bathing suits and towels suggested. There will be seating inside the gym as well as outdoors. Register and pay for lunch using this QR Code!

Welcome Class

On **Sunday, September 17**, we will have a special Welcome Class, 12:00-2:00pm in the Large Private Dining Room. Lunch will be included. If you are interested in joining or learning more about First Presbyterian Church, please RSVP to Joanie Shackleton (jshackleton@fpcspartanburg.org / 864-208-2132); this will help us with planning.

Hospitality Time

Before the 11:00 Worship Service this morning, stop by the Perrin Room - just down the hallway from the Tower Room - for a refreshing beverage. Feel free to take a few minutes to visit with other church members and visitors. If you have any questions about First Presbyterian, our Hospitality Team would like to help you find the answer. Additionally, if you are a church member in need of a Church Access Card, please come by to have your picture taken; your card should be available within the week (no charge for your first card; replacements are $10).

Interested in Joining?

If you are interested in joining First Presbyterian, come to the Purnell Room **today or Sunday, September 10, at 10:30am**. Ministers and members of the Session will be there to greet you.
Questions? Contact Rev. Joanne Hull; 864-208-2125 / jhull@fpcspartanburg.org.

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.

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

Children and Youth

Nursery – *Room C105 (Clark Building)*
Preschool ***(3K-5K)*** – *Room C110 (Clark Building)*
1st - 5th Grades – *Large Private Dining Room*
Youth - *Second Floor of the Family Life Center*

Combined Adult Sunday School

Introduction to Romans – *Fogartie Hall*

This four-week study explores the historical context, structure, vocabulary, themes, and influence of Paul's magnum opus Letter to the Romans. Come learn why this single book of the Bible has been so influential to Christians throughout history and how we can fruitfully read Romans today.

Today's Musicians

Early Worship: Holt Andrews; Marcia Andrews; Valerie MacPhail
Contemporary Worship: Lisa Cunningham, piano/vocals; Kolby Carrouth, drums; Cooper Cecil, electric guitar; Landon Hammett, keyboard/vocals; Anna Harkey, violin; Leigha Keller, vocals; Jeff Key, bass guitar
Traditional Worship: Holt Andrews; Marcia Andrews; Chancel Choir

Calendar

Sunday, August 27
8:30am Early Worship (Chapel)
9:00am Contemporary Worship (Fogartie Hall)
10:00 Sunday School (9:45am Gathering Time)
11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
12:00pm Summer Sizzle: Lemonade on the Lawn
4:00pm Youth Ministry Fall Kick Off Party!

Looking Forward

August 29
Thornwell Informational Luncheon

August 30
Church Family Dinner and Trivia

September 3
ONE Worship Service at 11am

September 6
JOY Fellowship Ladies' Tea

September 10
Rally Day
Summer Sizzle! with BBQ Lunch (WAF Pricing)

September 13
Wednesdays at First Begins

September 17
Welcome Class

September 19
Tickled Pink Resumes

September 24
Acts 2 Lunches and Dinners

October 1
World Communion

October 14
Churchwide Day of Service

October 29
Reformation Sunday
Kirkin' o' the Tartans
Stewardship Commitment Sunday

Front Cover: "Hope and Pain"
(www.flickr.com/photos/kwerfeldein/1588593670/)

Parts of today's liturgy are from the Abingdon Worship Annual.

To Ponder Prayerfully

"Like a strip of tangled duct tape that cannot be pulled apart,
such is the binding love of God in Christ Jesus.
In an exhaustive inventory, Paul names anything and everything,
only to conclude that nothing can separate us from God's love. Nothing."

- Art Ross and Martha M. Stevenson

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. L. Craig Foster
Associate Pastor
Discipleship and Communications

Rev. Joanne R. Hull
Associate Pastor
Congregational Care and Deacons

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

Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise
Associate Pastor
Youth and Campus Ministries

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 Leader

Beth Cecil
Parish Nurse

Colleen Darrall
Director of Recreation

Pano Stathakis
Director of Hospitality

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

Joanie Shackleton
Administrative Assistant
Congregational Care and Deacons

Shannon Hutcheson
Administrative Assistant
Children's and Adult Discipleship

Ian Ritchings
Administrative Assistant
Missions, Young Adults, Communications

Cathy Rush
Receptionist and Admin to Music

Andy Mayfield
Grounds Manager

Judith Holbert
Tiffany Long
William Massey
Red Cartledge
Custodians

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