First Presbyterian Church

Spartanburg, SC



August 27, 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

Give thanks to the Lord.
Call on God's holy name.
Sing praises to the Lord.
Tell of God's wondrous deeds.
Let the faithful sing of the Lord's awesome power.
Let the hearts of the faithful rejoice.

✞Hymn 667 *When Morning Gilds the Skies* — Laudes Domini

Prayer of Confession — Rev. Leslie A. Lang

In the midst of your holy presence, O God,
we encounter a mystery deeper than the foundations of the earth.
Forgive us when we try to put you in a box or frame you in our own image.
Help us as we allow your divine image to define and shape us.
Speak mercy and grace to us when we deny the path before us,
and guide us with your shepherding love when we are unsure of how to follow.
Strengthen us and give us the courage to say: "Here I am, ready to love and serve."

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

Jesus took up his cross for our salvation.
In return for our old life of sin, he promises a new life of grace.
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.
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.

✞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.*

Proclaiming the Word

First Reading Psalm 85:8-13

Second Reading Romans 12:9-21

Sermon *Heart of the Matter: The Transformed Life* Rev. Alan F. Dyer

This morning, we conclude our August sermon series exploring Paul's Letter to the Romans, which provides one of 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.

Responding to the Word

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *Let Us Love One Another* Arnold B. Sherman

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer Hymnal Page 35

Bearing the Word to the World

✠Hymn 300 *We Are One in the Spirit* They'll Know We Are Christians

✠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 *Vivace* Hermann Schroeder

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		*How Can I Keep From Singing* *Be Still My Soul*
Prayer of Confession		Rev. L. Craig Foster
Sung Assurance of Pardon		*Living Hope*
✞Passing of the Peace		
Life of the Church		
Children's Time		
Scripture Reading	Romans 12:9-21	
Sermon	*Heart of the Matter:* *The Transformed Life*	Rev. Alan F. Dyer
Anthem		*My Jesus, I Love Thee*
Prayers of the People The Lord's Prayer		
✞Closing Song		*Great is Thy Faithfulness*
✞Benediction		

"Worship is the strategy by which we interrupt our preoccupation with ourselves and attend to the presence of God."
- Eugene Peterson

✞ *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 — *Choral* — Joseph Jongen

Introit — *Let All the World in Every Corner Sing* — Augustine

✞Call to Worship — Rev. Leslie A. Lang

Give thanks to the Lord.
Call on God's holy name.
Sing praises to the Lord.
Tell of God's wondrous deeds.
Let the faithful sing of the Lord's awesome power.
Let the hearts of the faithful rejoice.

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In the midst of your holy presence, O God,
we encounter a mystery deeper than the foundations of the earth.
Forgive us when we try to put you in a box or frame you in our own image.
Help us as we allow your divine image to define and shape us.
Speak mercy and grace to us when we deny the path before us,
and guide us with your shepherding love when we are unsure of how to follow.
Strengthen us and give us the courage to say: "Here I am, ready to love and serve."

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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. John Daniel DeBevoise

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 — *I Love the Lord, Who Heard my Cry* — I Love the Lord

First Reading — Psalm 85:8-13

Second Reading — Romans 12:9-21

Sermon — *Heart of the Matter: The Transformed Life* — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

This morning, we conclude our August sermon series exploring Paul's Letter to the Romans, which provides one of 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.

Responding to the Word

✞Affirmation of Faith

from 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.

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 *Open My Eyes* K. Lee Scott

✠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.

After we receive our offerings, we take a moment to dedicate them to God's work in our community and in the world. This ritual of setting apart concludes the offering by reminding us that we give not just to an organization but to a faith community called to make God's love visible.

✠Prayer of Thanksgiving

Bearing the Word to the World

✠Hymn 300 *We Are One in the Spirit* They'll Know We Are Christians

✠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 *Vivace* Hermann Schroeder

<u>The Flowers in the Sanctuary</u>
are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Rob Chapman
by his family.

Life of the Church
Sunday, August 27, 2023

Today! Lemonade on the Lawn
Today, after the 11:00am Traditional Service, enjoy refreshments with your Church Family.

Church Family Dinner & Trivia
This **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 TOMORROW - Monday, August 28.

TOTAL Ministries Food Drive
Next Sunday, September 3, drop off non-perishable donations for TOTAL Ministries before or after service in the marked bins in the Tower Room, Narthex, or the Family Life Center Lobby. For a list of items needed, visit fpcspartanburg.org/total-ministries.

Next Sunday: One Service
Next Sunday, September 3, we will worship together as a Church Family with ONE service at 11:00am in the Sanctuary. We will return to our regular Sunday morning schedule on September 10 (see below), when we will celebrate Rally Day!

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)

Fall Focus
Beginning on Rally Day, September 10, First Presbyterian is embarking on a season of storytelling with a church-wide focus this Fall that we are calling: "This Is Our Story." Through worship, study, and mission, we will explore the different ways that our individual and collective stories tell *the* Story of God's redemptive love at work all around us. We hope you will join us as together we bear witness to the good news that God's story is very much *still* being written.

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!

JOY Fellowship Ladies' Tea
On Wednesday, September 6 at 3:00pm all ladies of the church are invited for tea and scones in the Perrin Room and courtyard. Hats and white gloves are optional. RSVP by scanning the QR code, calling (864) 208-2132, or emailing Joanie Shackleton (jshackleton@fpcspartanburg.org).

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!

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

Recreation Ministry Classes

There are several classes available with the Recreation Ministry. Yoga meets on Mondays and Wednesdays at 8:15am. Bootcamp Classes are available Monday/Wednesday/Friday at 7:15am (via Zoom) and at 9:15am (on the Track). Questions? Please contact Colleen Darrall, Recreation Director (cdarrall@fpcspartanburg.org / 864-583-4531 ext 109).

Shepherd's Center Social

You are invited to the Shepherd's Center Picnic Social on Thursday, August 31, 11:30am-1:00pm in the Social Hall. Food, Music, and Fun - and a Silent Auction, too! There is no cost to attend; however, for planning purposes, please let us know you are coming by using this QR Code. Would you like more information? Call the Shepherd's Center 864-585-1999.

Volunteer Opportunities . . .

Visit www.fpcspartanburg.org/ministry-finder.

Welcome Class

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

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.

Younger Women's Bible Study

Younger Women's Bible study will return on the week of September 20th/21st! There are two options for groups: Wednesday nights, 6pm-7pm, and Thursday mornings, 9:30-10:30am. We will be continuing with the study of Genesis. If you missed last spring, please come and we will catch you up! For more information or to be added to the email list, please email Rev. Leslie Lang (llang@fpcspartanburg.org), Donna Pulliam, or Carter Smith.

Acts 2:46 Meals - September 24

On **Sunday, September 24**, you are invited to join a small group of 10-12 church folks for a meal together. These meals promote new connections and deeper friendships. For the dinners (5:30-7:30pm), you have the choice to be in an intergenerational or "same decade" group. There will also be a lunch group (12:30-2:00pm) if that time works better for you. Your host will reach out the week before with their address and the menu; everyone will bring something for the meal. RSVP by noon on Wednesday, September 13. Questions? Contact Ansley: apage@fpcspartanburg.org.

Interested in Joining?

If you are interested in joining First Presbyterian, come to the Church Library on **Sunday, September 10, at 10:30am**. Ministers and members of the Session will be there to greet you and welcome you into the membership of the church. 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; Alle Marie Marsh

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; Reel Robertson, vocals

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!

August 29
12:00pm Thornwell Informational Luncheon

August 30
5:30pm Church Family Dinner and Trivia

Sunday, September 3
One Worship Service; Communion
11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

Looking Forward

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: "Cross and Rising Sun"
Mural located on a Church in Livingstonia, Malawi
(flickr.com/photos/kevincure/3222551382)

Parts of today's liturgy are from the Abingdon Worship Annual and Feasting on the Word Worship Companion.

To Ponder Prayerfully

"I find that it is better to love badly and faultily than not to try to love at all.
God does not have to have perfect instruments, and the Holy One
can use our feeble and faltering attempts at love and transform them.
My task is to keep on trying to love, to be faithful in my continuing attempt,
not necessarily to be successful."

- Morton Kelsey

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 Ministry Coordinator

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
Redd Cartledge
Custodians

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