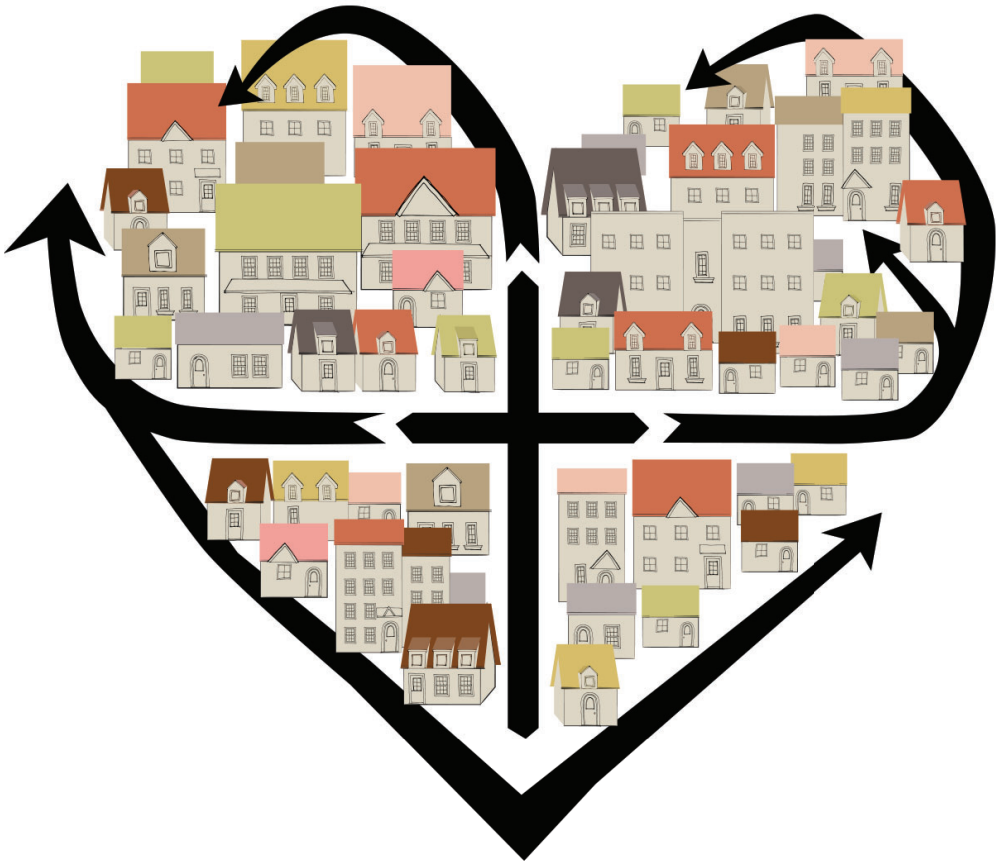
First Presbyterian Church

Spartanburg, SC



September 3, 2023

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!

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, large-print hymnals, and 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.*

Traditional Worship
11:00am
Sanctuary

Gathering Around the Word

Welcome and Invitation — Rev. Leslie A. Lang

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

Opening Voluntary — *Sheep May Safely Graze* — J.S. Bach

Introit — *Gather Us In* — Gather Us In

✞Call to Worship — Rev. Joanne R. Hull

Give thanks to the Lord and call on his name.
Make God's deeds known to all the peoples.
Sing to God, sing praises to God and tell of God's wonderful works.
Glory in God's holy name! Let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!
Let us worship God!

In the call to worship we take the opportunity to center ourselves on God. We have so many distractions coming our way, thus we take the first opportunity in our corporate worship service to quiet those distractions. The call to worship places everything in the service, from preaching and worship music to various liturgies and the call to confession, before God in honor and praise.

✞Hymn 393 — *O Day of Rest and Gladness* — Es Flog Ein Kleins Waldvögelein

Prayer of Confession — Rev. L. Craig Foster

Compassionate God, every day we pursue our desires to acquire our wants, to avoid discomfort, and to shun those we do not know or love. Every day, we make quick judgments about others around us and make assumptions about whether or not they are deserving of our love and attention. Forgive us, God of grace. By the power of your Holy Spirit, open our eyes to help us see all people as your precious children. In Jesus' name we pray . . .

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

In the name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

✞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 — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Proclaiming the Word

The Word for Children

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 *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart* — Morecambe

First Reading Leviticus 19:15-18

Second Reading James 2:1-10, 14-17

Sermon *Picking Favorites* — Rev. Leslie A. Lang

Responding to the Word

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* — Dodd Lamberton

✠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.

Invitation to the Lord's Table — Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise

"Holy Communion is offered to all, as surely as the living Jesus Christ is for all, as surely as all of us are not divided in Christ, but belong together as brothers and sisters, all of us poor sinners, all of us rich through God's mercy."
-Karl Barth

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

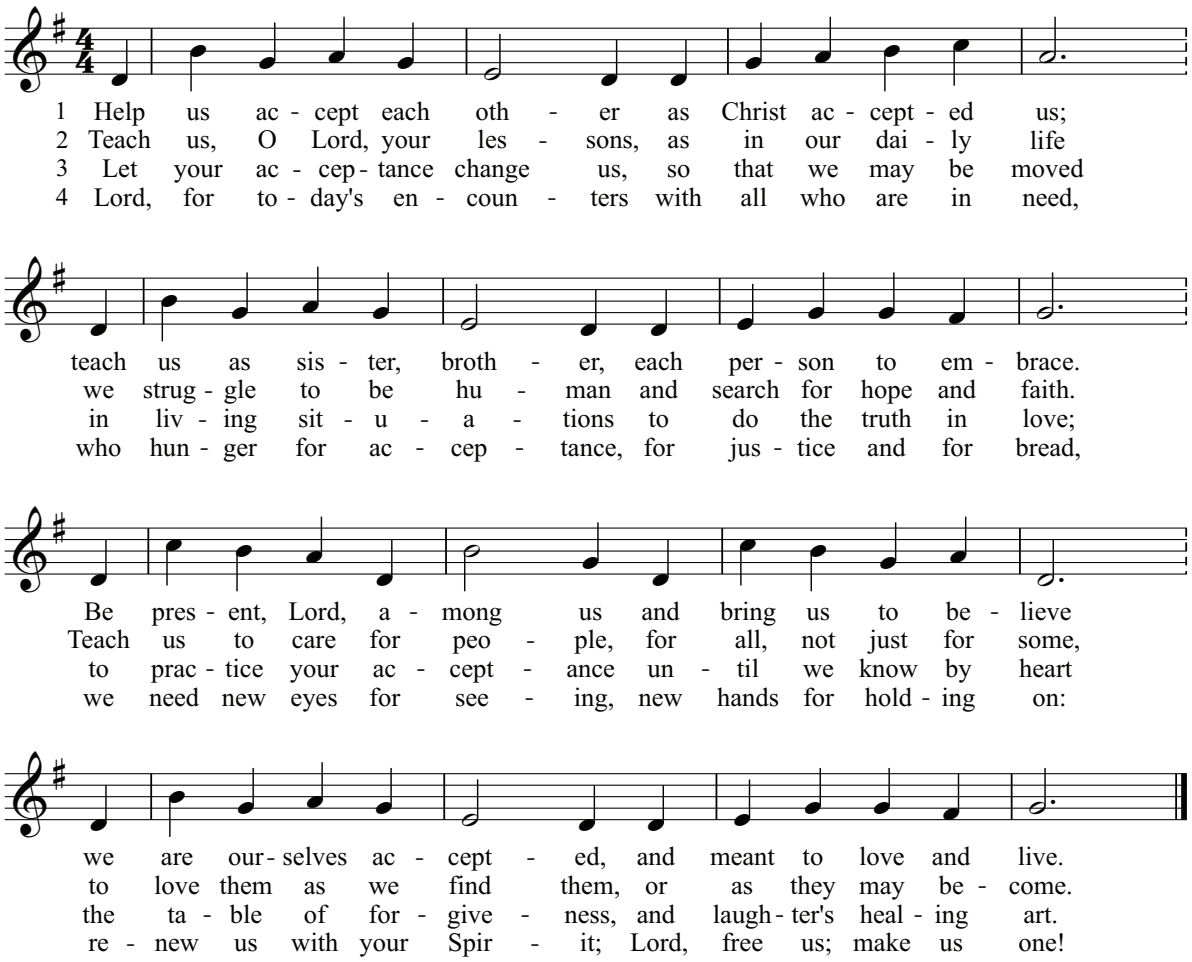
The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God!

Prayer After Communion

Bearing the Word to the World

✞Hymn

Help Us Accept Each Other — Merle's Tune



✞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

In Thee is Gladness — J.S. Bach

What are you taking from worship-- a new thought, a deep feeling, a glimpse of grace, a challenge? Where will you see God today? Do you have a hope or a prayer for the week? Pray for God's guidance to show you the way.

Life of the Church

Sunday, September 3, 2023

Young Adult Pickleball

Young Adults are invited to the Gym on **Tues, Sept 5, 5:30-7:30**, for Pickleball. Afterwards, we will walk to Venus Pie for Pizza. All skill levels are welcome!

JOY Fellowship Ladies' Tea

This **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 contacting Joanie Shackleton (864-208-2132 / jshackleton@fpcspartanburg.org) or scanning the QR Code.

Interested in Joining?

If you are interested in joining First Presbyterian, come to the Library on **Sunday, September 10, at 10:30am**. Ministers & members of the Session will be there to greet you and welcome you into the membership of the church. Questions? Contact Joanne (864-208-2125 / jhull@fpcspartanburg.org).

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).

Fall Focus

Beginning next Sunday, 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.

September 10: Rally Day

Children's Ministry

3K-5K // Room C110 at 9:45am

Little ones will gather for a sweet treat, lesson, and fun time together!

1st-5th Grade // Social Hall at 9:45am

Eat, dance, and meet the new team of Sunday School teachers! Classes will then go with their teachers to their normal rooms in the Clark building for a teambuilding activity.

- 1st & 2nd Grade // Room C202
- 3rd & 4th Grade // Room C203
- 5th Grade // Room C206

Child pick-up at 10:45am

Youth Ministry

Middle School // Room F201 at 9:45am
High School // Room F202 at 9:45am

Adults

10:00am in the Courtyard

All adults are invited to a time of fellowship, refreshments, and opportunities to hear about our Sunday School offerings for this fall. Adult Classes will then move to their individual rooms. Come enjoy some time together and find your place to grow in faith and discipleship!

A complete list of Adult Sunday School Classes and Bible Studies can be found on page 7 of the September *First News*. Questions? Contact Rev. Craig Foster (cfoster@fpcspartanburg.org).

Reservations: Rally Day Lunch

To kick off the new church year, after the 11:00am Worship service on September 10, 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!

Children's Choirs Begin Sept 13

Children's Choirs have new choir groupings this year! The QR code will take you directly to the registration page.

- **Joyful Sound** (4K)
  led by Debbie Keiser
- **Angel Chatter** (Kindergarten - 1st Grade)
  led by Martha Bean
- **LightShine** (Grades 2-5)
  led by Marcia Andrews and March Moody

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.

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.

Volunteer Opportunities . . .

Visit www.fpcspartanburg.org/ministry-finder.

Today's Musicians

Holt Andrews, Marcia Andrews, and Chancel Choir

Calendar

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

September 5
Young Adult Pickleball and Pizza

September 6
JOY Fellowship Ladies' Tea

September 10
Rally Day
8:30am Early Worship (Chapel)
9:00am Contemporary Worship (Fogartie Hall)
10:00 Sunday School (9:45am Gathering Time)
11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
Summer Sizzle! with BBQ Lunch (Reservations Required)

Looking Forward

September 13
Wednesdays at First Begins

September 17
Congregational Meeting
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

The Flowers in the Sanctuary
are given to the Glory of God
and in loving memory of
Norma Miley
by David Miley and family.

Front Cover: "Love Your Neighbor" by Corissa Nelson

To Ponder Prayerfully

"Agape [love] is disinterested love . . .
Agape does not begin by discriminating between
worthy and unworthy people, or any qualities people possess.
It begins by loving others for their sakes . . .
Therefore, agape makes no distinction between friend and enemy;
it is directed toward both."

- Martin Luther King Jr.

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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