First Presbyterian Church

Spartanburg, SC



September 24, 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, 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 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. L. Craig Foster

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

✞Call to Worship — Rev. Joanne R. Hull

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.
The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
The LORD is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.
The LORD is faithful in all his words and gracious in all his deeds.
Let us worship God!
Psalm 145:3, 8-9, 13b (NRSV)

✞Hymn 35 *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty* — Lobe Den Herren

Prayer of Confession

Our Prayer of Confession includes portions of Pslam 51, which bears the heading "A Psalm of David, when the prophet Nathan came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba."

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.
You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.
Psalm 51:1-4, 6-12 (NRSV)

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

✞Response

Hymn 423, v 1 (Please remain seated and sing upon direction.) — Saraday

Create in me a clean heart, O God; create in me a clean heart, O God;
create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

✞ *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

Scripture Reading — 2 Samuel 7:1-17

Sermon — *This Is Our Story: Nathan* — Rev. L. Craig Foster

Responding to the Word

✞Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed — Hymnal Page 35

The Apostles' Creed is not our first affirmation of faith this morning. The statement in our Call to Worship that God is "gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love" is repeated in Exodus 34:6, Nehemiah 9:17, Psalm 86:15, 103:8 & 145:8, Joel 2:13, and Jonah 4:2, making it one of the most frequent affirmations of faith in the Old Testament!

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory — *The Lord is My Light* — Frances Allitsen

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer — Hymnal Page 35

Bearing the Word to the World

✞Hymn 310 — *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord* — St. Thomas

✞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 — *Pisgah* — Dale Wood

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		*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* *Your Name*
Prayer of Confession		Rev. Leslie A. Lang
Sung Assurance of Pardon		*Living Hope*
✞Passing of the Peace		
Life of the Church		
Children's Time		
Scripture Reading	2 Samuel 7:1-17	
Sermon	*This Is Our Story: Nathan*	Rev. L. Craig Foster
Anthem		*What a Beautiful Name*
Prayers of the People The Lord's Prayer		
✞Closing Song		*Build Your Kingdom Here*
✞Benedication		

Our Prayer of Confession includes portions of Pslam 51, which bears the heading "A Psalm of David, when the prophet Nathan came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba."

✞ *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 — *Lobe den Herren* — arr. Max Drischner

Acolyte — Caroline Lyerly

Introit — *O Lord, You are My God and King* — Jerusalem

✞Call to Worship — Rev. Alan F. Dyer

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.
The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
The LORD is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.
The LORD is faithful in all his words and gracious in all his deeds.
Let us worship God!

Psalm 145:3, 8-9, 13b (NRSV)

✞Hymn 35 — *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty* — Lobe Den Herren

Prayer of Confession (Responsive) — Rev. Leslie A. Lang

Our Prayer of Confession includes portions of Pslam 51, which bears the heading "A Psalm of David, when the prophet Nathan came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba."

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.
You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Psalm 51:1-4, 6-12 (NRSV)

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

✟Response

Hymn 423, v 1 (Please remain seated and sing upon direction.) Saraday

Create in me a clean heart, O God; create in me a clean heart, O God;
create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

✟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

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 *God, Reveal your Presence* Arnsberg

Scripture Reading 2 Samuel 7:1-17

Sermon *This Is Our Story: Nathan* Rev. L. Craig Foster

Responding to the Word

✟Affirmation of Faith Rev. Joanne R. Hull

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty; Maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed is not our first affirmation of faith this morning. The statement in our Call to Worship that God is "gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love" is repeated in Exodus 34:6, Nehemiah 9:17, Psalm 86:15, 103:8 & 145:8, Joel 2:13, and Jonah 4:2, making it one of the most frequent affirmations of faith in the Old Testament!

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.

"Giving is not God's way of raising money. It is God's way of raising children." -Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *Hear, O Israel* Ron Nelson

✠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 310 *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord* St. Thomas

✠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 *Pisgah* Dale Wood

<u>The Flowers in the Sanctuary</u>

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

James L. Burnett

by his wife Julia B. Burnett and daughter Letitia B. Uyak.

Life of the Church

Sunday, September 24, 2023

This is Our Story . . .

First Presbyterian is in 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 are exploring 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.

Story-Telling Stations

As you come into the church, you will find story-telling stations located in the Tower Room and Family Life Center lobby. These stations will stay up throughout the fall, providing a place for all of us to share and read the stories that tell the story of God's hand at work in and through the ministry of First Presbyterian. Please take a moment (or moments) over the coming days and months to add your stories to the branches that represent the ongoing account of our life together!

JOY Fellowship at NASCAR

You're invited to join our Just Older Youth Fellowship as they visit the NASCAR Hall of Fame Museum in Charlotte on **Thursday, September 28**. The cost of admission is $24 per person. Bring money for lunch at the Pit Stop Café! Space is limited, so sign up today. Contact Joanie Shackleton (jshackleton@fpcspartanburg.org / 864-208-2132)

Fresh-Baked Bread Needed

October 1 is our annual World Communion Sunday, when we celebrate our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world. We encourage our church family to bring a home-baked loaf of bread. That morning, loaves can be dropped off in the Sanctuary, 9:45-10:45am. The display bread will be donated after the service to those in need.

Hand in Hand Truck Drive

Our Hand in Hand community ministry will be holding a truck drive to fill their pantry with non-perishable food donations to help support Spartanburg families in need! Bring your food donations to church on **Sunday, October 1**, and drop them off at the trucks on Chestnut Street or outside Fogartie Hall. Some suggested donations are: Non-Perishable Food, Cereal, Breakfast Bars, Pasta/Sauce, Paper Products, Cleaning Supplies, Soaps, Shampoos, etc. To see the full list, go to fpcspartanburg.org/handinhand.

Wednesdays at First - Sept 27

Full Schedule (see Calendar ---- >)

Come for Food, Faith, and Fellowship! Dinner is served 5:00-6:15pm in Fogartie Hall. Pre-registration for dinner is required by noon on Monday; online payment is preferred; use this QR Code to sign up.

Menu: Adults: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Corn on the Cob, Salad Bar, Bread, Dessert & Beverage; Children: Chicken Tenders, Homemade Mac & Cheese, Fruit Cup, Cookie, and Juice Box

Adult Programs:

Covenant Connections (Fogartie Hall)

Younger Women's Bible Study (Rm F202, FLC)

Churchwide Day of Service

On **Saturday, October 14**, we will have our second-annual Churchwide Day of Service! We will gather at the church at 8:00am for coffee and a brief devotion then, from 9:00am to 12:00pm, people will serve in various local organizations around Spartanburg. Come back at noon for lunch and a debrief together, and we will finish by 1:00pm. There are service opportunities for all ages! Childcare provided - upon request - through age 6. You won't want to miss it! Use this QR Code to register - before October 1!

Travel to the Holy Land

First Presbyterian is organizing a trip to the Holy Land in Fall of 2024. If you are interested in possibly going, come to the **Purnell Room on Monday, October 2 at 5:00pm** to learn details of dates, itinerary, and costs. Questions? Contact Ansley Page (apage@fpcspartanburg.org).

Men's Breakfast

On **Saturday, October 7**, at 8:30am the Sparkle City Transparent Men (SCTM) are meeting in the Large Private Dining Room – off Fogartie Hall – for breakfast, fellowship, and Bible study. All men in the church and community are invited to attend. SCTM has one overriding objective – to build solid friendships across racial lines – and those who invest the time succeed in doing so. Please join us! Questions? Contact Jimmy Edwards (864-415-4999).

Faith Initiative Summit

On **Thursday, October 19** the Faith Initiative to End Child Poverty will host a summit from 8:30am-2:00pm focused on education - especially how congregations can best support students and educators. The Faith Initiative is a consortium of congregations working to end child poverty in Spartanburg. The Summit will be held at Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Spartanburg (502 S. Daniel Morgan Ave., Spartanburg, SC 29306). A light breakfast and lunch will be provided. All are welcome. To attend the October 19 Summit, please register using this QR Code.

Young Adult Fellowship

On **Sunday, October 15, 4:00-6:00pm**, all Young Adults are invited for Food and Fellowship at the Breeden's Pavilion (171 Twin Pond Dr). Fun for all ages! We have BBQ and activities for kids. If you would like to fish, bring your fishing poles and bait! RSVP to Jane Breeden via text (864-590-4783) or email (jjbreeden@icloud.com).

WAF Volunteers Needed

Wednesdays at First needs volunteers! Jobs include: Registration, desserts, serving/prep, kids table, dish washers, and breakdown. If you're willing to help with any of these tasks, on any week of WAF, please scan the QR Code to sign up. We appreciate your help in serving on our WAF Staff!

Let's talk Retirement!

Gather with Pastor Joanne for lunch and reflection on the joys and challenges of retirement. We will meet in the Large Private Dining Room at noon on **Monday, October 16** and on **Monday, November 13**. The lunch is free, but please let us know you will be attending by using the QR code.

Hospitality Golf Carts

Drivers Needed: You will soon see Hospitality Golf Carts on Sunday mornings. This service is available to any member who would like a ride from their car to the 11:00am Traditional Worship. **But FIRST, we need volunteers!** We are looking for folks 25 years of age or older. All drivers will go through a background check and will be trained/oriented on driving and storing the golf cart. Scan the QR code to volunteer for this easy, fun way to get involved!

Bible Studies this Fall

Mondays: ***Young Men's***; 12:00pm
Tuesdays: ***Tickled Pink***, 9:15am
McDaniel Study Group; 12:00pm (via Zoom)
Wednesdays: ***Christians in the Making***, 10:00am
Men's Bible Study, 12:00pm
Younger Women's Bible Study, 6:00pm
WAF Programs, 6:15pm
Thursdays: ***Younger Women's Bible Study***, 9:30am
McDaniel Study Group; 12:00pm (via Zoom)
Fridays: ***Men's Bible Studies***; 6:30am and 7:00am
Monthly: ***Women's Circle Meetings***, various times
Bill's Book Club, first Tuesday, 10:30am or 7:00pm

Details in the September Edition of First News!

Joining First Presbyterian

If you would like to become a member of First Presbyterian Church, please make your way to the **Church Library at 10:30am** on **Sunday, October 8**. 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.

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 2208*
Emmaus – *Room 2207*
Abide – *Room 2200*
L.I.F.T. – *Room 2201*
Glory Days – *Purnell Room*

Today's Musicians

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

Calendar

September 24

8:30am Early Worship (Chapel)
9:00am Contemporary Worship (Fogartie Hall)
10:00 Sunday School (9:45am Gathering Time)
11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
5:30pm Sunday Night Youth - Middle School (FLC)
6:30pm Sunday Night Youth - High School (FLC)

September 27

Wednesdays at First
5:00pm Dinner Line Opens (Fogartie Hall)
5:00pm Children's Choirs (Clark Building)
6:00pm Christian Rec for Children (Gym)
6:00pm Youth Fellowship & Study (Upstairs, FLC)
6:15pm Adult Programs (See WAF Article)
7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

October 1

World Communion
8:30am Early Worship (Chapel)
9:00am Contemporary Worship (Fogartie Hall)
10:00 Sunday School (9:45am Gathering Time)
11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
5:30pm Sunday Night Youth - Middle School (FLC)
6:30pm Sunday Night Youth - High School (FLC)

Looking Forward

October 10-11

Vaccination Clinic

October 14

Churchwide Day of Service

October 15

Young Adult Fellowship

October 19

Stephen Ministry 30th Anniversary Dinner

October 20-22

High School Fall Beach Retreat

October 25

Trunk or Treat

October 29

Reformation Sunday
Kirkin' o' the Tartans
Stewardship Commitment Sunday

Front Cover: "Prophet Nathan Admonishes King David" by Palma il Giovane

To Ponder Prayerfully

"Prophet means spokesman, not fortune-teller.
The one whom in their unfathomable audacity
the prophets claimed to speak for was the Lord and Creator of the universe.
There is no evidence to suggest that anyone ever asked a prophet
home for supper more than once."

- 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. 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

Grace deMaine
Associate Director, Youth Ministry

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

Shannon Hutcheson
Administrative Assistant
Children's and Adult Discipleship

Ian Ritchings
Administrative Assistant
Missions, Young Adults, Communications

Cathy Rush
Receptionist and Admin to Music

Joanie Shackleton
Administrative Assistant
Congregational Care and Deacons

Andy Mayfield
Grounds Manager

Judith Holbert
Tiffany Long
William Massey
Redd Cartledge
Custodians

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