First Presbyterian Church

Spartanburg, SC



October 1, 2023

Service for the Lord's Day

World Communion Sunday

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. Alan F. Dyer

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

✞Call to Worship

The God of glory awaits,
welcoming us to worship and praise.
The Christ of humility is here,
welcoming our needs and prayers.
The Spirit of love gathers us in,
binding us together as one.

✞Hymn 327 *From All That Dwell Below the Skies* — Lasst Uns Erfreuen

Prayer of Confession — Rev. L. Craig Foster

Holy God, be the hope that overcomes our despair;
be the love that overcomes our hatred; be the mercy that overcomes our sin.
Set us free from the prisons of our own making,
and release us from the bonds that bind us.
Forgive us and watch over us. Welcome us home into the loving arms of your mercy.

Silent Confession

Our God longs for honesty and holiness within the promise-based relationship God has established with us in Christ. In a culture that avoids talk of sin and culpability, regular prayers of confession foster honesty and openness in our relationship with God.

Assurance of Pardon

Beloved, the Lord is loving, merciful, and just.
Therefore, we are reconciled to God and to one another
that we might walk in peace and love.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

Response: Hymn 423, v1 (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

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Proclaiming the Word

Scripture Reading Ruth 1:1-18

Sermon *This Is Our Story: Ruth and Naomi* Rev. Alan F. Dyer

Responding to the Word

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings Rev. Joanne R. Hull

Offertory *Be Thou My Vision* Alice Parker

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Sung Prayer: 473 *Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.* Shepherd Me

(Please Remain Seated; Sing Upon Direction)

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sharing of the Elements

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

The Lord's Supper is not just the celebration of an event that happened long ago and far away - the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Supper also looks to the future in hope because the Christ who died and was raised also promises to come again and to gather all creation around his messianic table. Our participation in this sacrament is a foretaste of what is yet to be.

Communion Music *Holy Manna* Kenneth Lowenberg

Prayer After Communion

The Lord's Prayer Hymnal Page 35

Bearing the Word to the World

✠Hymn 526 *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* Linstead

✠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 *Tuba Tune* C.S. Lang

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		*Meet with Me* *Holy, Holy, Holy*
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	Ruth 1:1-18	
Sermon	*This Is Our Story: Ruth and Naomi*	Rev. Alan F. Dyer
Communion		
Communion Music		*The Table*
✞Closing Song		*I Will Follow*
✞Benediction		

Today is World Communion Sunday, which is an ecumenical celebration that happens on the first Sunday of every October. Originating at Pittsburgh's Shadyside Presbyterian Church in 1933, it is now observed by churches worldwide as a sign of Christian unity.

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Traditional Worship
11:00am
Sanctuary

Gathering Around the Word

Today is World Communion Sunday, which is an ecumenical celebration that happens on the first Sunday of every October. Originating at Pittsburgh's Shadyside Presbyterian Church in 1933, it is now observed by churches worldwide as a sign of Christian unity.

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 — *Lasst Uns Erfreuen* — Hal H. Hopson

Acolyte — Caroline Ringo

Introit — *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether* — Union Seminary

✞Call to Worship — Rev. Leslie A. Lang

The God of glory awaits,
welcoming us to worship and praise.
The Christ of humility is here,
welcoming our needs and prayers.
The Spirit of love gathers us in,
binding us together as one.

✞Hymn 327 — *From All That Dwell Below the Skies* — Lasst Uns Erfreuen

Prayer of Confession — Rev. L. Craig Foster

Holy God,
be the hope that overcomes our despair;
be the love that overcomes our hatred;
be the mercy that overcomes our sin.
Set us free from the prisons of our own making,
and release us from the bonds that bind us.
Forgive us and watch over us.
Welcome us home into the loving arms of your mercy.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Beloved, the Lord is loving, merciful, and just.
Therefore, we are reconciled to God and to one another
that we might walk in peace and love.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

✞ *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

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 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 *O God Who Gives Us Life* Noel

Scripture Reading Ruth 1:1-18

Sermon *This Is Our Story: Ruth and Naomi* Rev. Alan F. Dyer

Responding to the Word

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings Rev. Joanne R. Hull

Offertory *Many Colors Paint the Rainbow* Roy Hopp

✠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

Sung Prayer: 473 *Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,* Shepherd Me
beyond my fears, from death into life.
(Please Remain Seated; Sing Upon Direction)

The Lord's Supper is not just the celebration of an event that happened long ago and far away - the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Supper also looks to the future in hope because the Christ who died and was raised also promises to come again and to gather all creation around his messianic table. Our participation in this sacrament is a foretaste of what is yet to be.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

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!

Communion Music

(Please remain seated and sing upon direction.)

Hymn 507	*Come to the Table of Grace*	Barbara Hamm
Choir Hymn	*I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table*	African American Spiritual
Hymn 504	*We Come as Guests Invited*	Timothy Dudley-Smith

Prayer After Communion

Bearing the Word to the World

✠Hymn 526	*Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*	Linstead

What are you taking from worship? A new thought, a deep feeling, a glimpse of grace, a challenge? Where will you see God today? A hope or a prayer for the week?

✠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

Tuba Tune — C.S. Lang

<u>The Flowers in the Sanctuary</u>
are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Jerome Russell "Jerry" Cogdell
by his family.

Life of the Church
Sunday, October 1, 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!

Hand in Hand Truck Drive
TODAY, **Sunday, October 1**, our Hand in Hand community ministry is holding a truck drive to fill their pantry with non-perishable food donations to help support Spartanburg families in need! If you brought a food donation, please drop it off at the trucks on Chestnut Street or outside Fogartie Hall.

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).

Wednesdays at First - Oct 4
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: Pastor Joanne's Pick: BBQ Pork, Baked Apples, Homemade Mac & Cheese, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Salad Bar, Bread, Dessert & Beverage; Children: Chicken Tenders, Homemade Mac & Cheese, Fruit Cup, Cookie, and Juice Box

Adult Programs:
Covenant Connections (Fogartie Hall)
Just Faith
Younger Women's Bible Study (Rm F202, FLC)

Men's Breakfast
On **Saturday, October 7**, the Sparkle City Transparent Men (SCTM) are meeting at 8:30am 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).

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!

Vaccination Clinic

Register now for the Vaccination/ Skin Screening/ Bone Density Screening Clinic. A drive-thru clinic (flu shots only) will be held on **Tues, Oct 10, 5:00-7:00pm**. The walk-in clinic, with screenings, will be held on **Wed, Oct 11, 5:00-7:00 pm**. Flu, pneumonia, Tdap, and shingles vaccines will be available. Contact Beth Cecil to register (bcecil@fpcspartanburg.org / 864-208-2136).

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 (Janebreeden5@gmail.com).

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.

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.

WDS Substitutes Needed

The Weekday School at FPC is looking for substitute teachers for the 2023-24 school year. If you are interested in being a substitute at our wonderful Weekday School, please contact Kris Graham, Director of the Weekday School (kgraham@fpcspartanburg.org / 864-706-0460).

Winter Warmth 2023

We are preparing for First Presbyterian's largest annual mission project, Winter Warmth, where we give brand-new coats to children in need across Spartanburg County. This year, the distribution will take place on **Saturday, November 11**. If you are interested in volunteering, please use this QR Code:

Do You Knit or Crochet? We Need You!

In addition to coats, children will also be receiving hats and scarves, handmade by members of the church. If you are able to knit or crochet, we could really use your help in making it happen! Please **drop off your donations** in the Mission Closet, at WAF, or at the Church Receptionist's desk.

Questions? Email winterwarmth@gmail.com.

Stewardship 2024

Our stewardship season is an invitation to prayerfully consider how each of us can participate and contribute to *Living Out God's Story*. By supporting the ministry of First Presbyterian with gifts of time, talent, and treasure, you help to add your story to the Story unfolding all around us. Pledge cards are available on tables throughout the church. We encourage you to fill out a card with your estimate of giving for the coming year and return it to the church by Stewardship Sunday happening **October 29**. You can also make a pledge online by using the QR code provided here. Thank you!

Pickleball!

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

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: Holt Andrews; Marcia Andrews; Genesis Choir

Contemporary Worship: Lisa Cunningham, piano/vocals; Kolby Carrouth, drums; Cooper Cecil, electric guitar; Landon Hammett, keyboard/vocals; Anna Harkey, violin; Corey McDaniels, bass guitar

Traditional Worship: Holt Andrews; Marcia Andrews; Chancel Choir

Calendar

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)

October 4
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 8
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: "Ruth and Naomi" J. Warrington Wood, sculptor Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, England

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

To Ponder Prayerfully

"How far I have to go to find you in whom I have already arrived!"

- Thomas Merton

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