

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SPARTANBURG, SC



AUGUST 17, 2025

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 worshipping 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!

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.

Nursery is available for infants through age 3 in the Clark Building in Room 105.

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, place your gift in the Offering Plate or scan one of these QR Codes (you may give via **ShelbyNext** or via **Venmo**). Additionally, you may mail a check to the church office (address on back of bulletin). Thank you. *Questions? Contact Church Financial Officer Lynise Clarke; 864-208-2130/lclarke@fpcspartanburg.org.*



ShelbyNext



Venmo

EARLY WORSHIP

8:30AM

CHAPEL

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME AND INVITATION

Rev. Leslie L. Denny

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Trio, Opus 78

Johann Hummel

✠CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Alan F. Dyer

God is like a shepherd, caring for the flock.

God calls us by name and awaits our coming.

God is like a gardener, carefully tending the vines.

God has provided richly for us; our lives are sustained by God's gifts.

We worship the One who longs for our coming.

We sing praise to the One who expects our faithfulness.

We call on God, who gives us life.

May God's face shine on us to save us.

We use the language of "call" frequently in our worship: the call to confession, the call to give, the call to go out and serve. Worship (and life!) is a never-ending dance between the divine call and our response.

✠HYMN 307

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Ever-loving God,

we confess that we are not always ready to trust your love.

You call us to step forward in radical faith,

but we cling to what is familiar, comfortable, and non-controversial.

You are eternally at work in the world,

but we struggle to discern your presence in the signs of the times.

Forgive us, O God.

By your grace, give us courage to stand for what is right and good,

and to risk love and justice even when it is unpopular.

Teach us faithfulness and perseverance for the journey ahead.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

✠RESPONSE: HYMN 447

WE ARE FORGIVEN

We are forgiven. We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God. (x2)

✠PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

✠ Please rise in body or in spirit.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 5:1-7

SECOND READING

Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19

SERMON

Turn Back

Rev. Leslie L. Denny

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✦ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH

**In a broken and fearful world,
the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

The Lord is My Light

Frances Allitsen

✦ DOXOLOGY: HYMN 609

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, above ye heavenly hosts, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal Page 35

BEARING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

✦ HYMN 816

Lift High the Cross

CRUCIFER

✦ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

✦ BENEDICTION RESPONSE

HYMN 543, VERSE 1

GREEN TYLER

*God, be the love to search and keep me;
God, be the prayer to move my voice;
God, be the strength to now uphold me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.*

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Rondo

John Bull

In 1983, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) was formed by the reunion of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America and the Presbyterian Church in the United States. Integral to reunion was the preparation of a Brief Statement of Faith. While recognizing realities of diversity and disagreement in both the church and the world, members of the drafting committee sought to articulate Presbyterians' common identity.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

9:00AM
FOGARTIE HALL

INSTRUMENTAL PRAYER

Shine Jesus Shine

WELCOME

Landon Hammett

✦CALL TO WORSHIP

✦SONG OF PRAISE

He Reigns

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. L. Craig Foster

SUNG ASSURANCE OF PARDON

O Come To The Altar

✦PASSING OF THE PEACE

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP: VISION TEAM UPDATE

Mary Elizabeth Evans

CHILDREN'S TIME

Rev. Ansley B. Page

ANTHEM

Lord I Need You

FIRST READING

Isaiah 5:1-7

SECOND READING

Psalms 80:1-2, 8-19

SERMON

Turn Back

Rev. Leslie L. Denny

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker

THE LORD'S PRAYER

✦CLOSING SONG

My Lighthouse

✦BENEDICTION

We use the language of "call" frequently in our worship: the call to confession, the call to give, the call to go out and serve. Worship (and life!) is a never-ending dance between the divine call and our response.

✦ Please rise in body or in spirit.

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

11:00AM
SANCTUARY

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME AND INVITATION

Rev. Leslie L. Denny

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Trio, Opus 78

Johann Hummel

INTROIT

Laudate Dominum

Taizé Community

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Alan F. Dyer

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God calls us by name and awaits our coming.

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God has provided richly for us; our lives are sustained by God's gifts.

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We call on God, who gives us life.

May God's face shine on us to save us.

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Ever-loving God,

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but we cling to what is familiar, comfortable, and non-controversial.

You are eternally at work in the world,

but we struggle to discern your presence in the signs of the times.

Forgive us, O God.

By your grace, give us courage to stand for what is right and good,

and to risk love and justice even when it is unpopular.

Teach us faithfulness and perseverance for the journey ahead.

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✦ RESPONSE

HYMN 447

WE ARE FORGIVEN

*We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God. (x2)*

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✦ Please rise in body or in spirit.

✦ PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP: VISION TEAM UPDATE

Mary Elizabeth Evans

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

Rev. Ansley B. Page

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*Marlowe Anne High
Henson Bishop High
Children of Andrea and Ned High*

In our baptism, God has called and sealed us. Baptism is an important event, not simply in the life of the child and family, but in the life of the whole church. We are baptized into a community and not in abstraction from the community.

RESPONSE

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.

JESUS LOVES ME

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.

Children ages 3 years to 1st grade are invited to dismiss to Children's Worship; those 2nd grade and older will return to the pews

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling

SOFTLY AND TENDERLY

FIRST READING

Isaiah 5:1-7

SECOND READING

Psalms 80:1-2, 8-19

SERMON

Turn Back

Rev. Leslie L. Denny

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✦ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker

FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH

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to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

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

*Open my eyes and I shall see; incline my heart and I shall desire;
order my steps and I shall walk in the ways of your commandments.*

O God, be my only Lord, and beside you let there be none else, no other, none else with you.

*Teach me to worship you and serve you in all my undertakings
with truth of spirit, with honor of body, with blessings of mouth, both in public and private.*

✠DOXOLOGY

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, above ye heavenly host, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

✠PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

BEARING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

✠HYMN 816

Lift High the Cross

CRUCIFER

✠CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

✠BENEDICTION RESPONSE

HYMN 543, VERSE 1

GREEN TYLER

*God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to move my voice;
God, be the strength to now uphold me: O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.*

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Rondo

John Bull

"God calls the church to join the mission of Christ in service to the world. As the church engages in that mission, it bears witness to God's reign over all life"
—from The Book of Common Worship

*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 17, 2025

GUEST SPEAKER: DR. STEVE EASON

Today, we welcome Dr. Steve Eason as he leads our final combined adult Sunday School session at 10:00am in Fogartie Hall and our College of Elders luncheon after Traditional Worship. Steve is a retired pastor and served churches of all sizes throughout his 40 years of ministry. Read more about him and his Sunday School message on the last page.

RALLY DAY - NEXT SUNDAY!

Bring the whole family to celebrate Rally Day next Sunday, **August 24** at 10:00am in the Gym. Learn about discipleship opportunities and enjoy refreshments, children's activities, and fellowship. Please dress in a way that makes you and your children feel most comfortable.

YOUTH FALL KICK-OFF - NEXT SUNDAY!

All Youth grades 6-12 are invited to join us on Sunday, **August 24** for our annual Fall Kick-Off Party! Head over to the Family Life Center parking lot at 6:00pm for food, games, a bouncy house and more. Details were sent in the Youth Weekly Email. Contact Carrie Coleman, Youth Program Coordinator at ccoleman@fpcspartanburg.org with questions.

PRESBYTERY HYMN FESTIVAL

All are warmly invited to attend a Presbytery-wide Hymn Festival on Sunday, **August 24** at 4:30pm at John Knox Presbyterian Church in Greenville. The one-hour event will include a choir of over 100 singers from churches throughout the Presbytery, including FPC Spartanburg. Hymns and anthems include *Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven, Love Divine, All Love's Excelling, and Soon and Very Soon*. For more information, contact Holt Andrews at rhandrews@fpcspartanburg.org.

YOUTH DIRECTOR SEARCH

We're seeking recommendations for qualified candidates to serve as FPC's next Director of Youth Ministry. We're looking for someone with a heart for ministry, a gift for building relationships with middle and high school students, and the energy to lead dynamic programs, retreats, and trips. If someone comes to mind, please share their name using the form at fpcspartanburg.org/youthdirector or scan the QR code. You're welcome to submit more than one recommendation—just complete and submit a new form for each name.



OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Congregational Nominating Committee needs your help in nominating church members to serve as Elders and Deacons. Submit as many names as you would like, suggesting any member of FPC, including yourself, at fpcspartanburg.org/nominations. To see the list of current church officers, visit fpcspartanburg.org/leadership.



HELP WITH A WAY HOME

Our second rotation for A Way Home is September 14-21. We specifically need Evening Hosts, Overnight Hosts, and Saturday Rotation volunteers. Sign up at fpcspartanburg.org/awayhome or scan the QR code. If you did not receive training, contact Rhonda Dickerson (rhonda032856@gmail.com or 843-407-8065). She will be happy to send you an A Way Home FPC Manual that will explain the program.



THIRSTY THURSDAY

Parents of youth and college students: you're invited to gather at Fretwell **August 21**, 5:30-7:00pm to visit, laugh, and encourage one another. Questions? Contact Ansley Page at apage@fpcspartanburg.org.

SUMMER CHOIR

Summer Choir continues through **August 31**. Anyone high school age and above is welcome to be a part of FPC's Summer Choir. Come to the Choir Room at 10:15am on Sunday mornings to prepare music for that day's 11:00am Traditional worship.

COOKIES FOR HAND IN HAND

Hand in Hand is being featured as the Cookies for a Cause organization at the Eastside Spartanburg Chick Fil A throughout the **month of August**. Stop by and purchase a cookie, and 10% of all proceeds will go to Hand in Hand, serving families in Spartanburg who are in urgent need of food and basic necessities.

FIRST STEPS IN MUSIC

First Steps in Music is an introduction to music for young children (newborn-age 3) and their parents or grandparents. This program nurtures your child musically and encourages one-on-one singing and playing. Class sizes are limited so please make sure to register now! Sunday classes begin **September 14** and Wednesday classes (for FPC members) begin **September 17**. For a complete schedule and to register your child, visit fpcspartanburg.org/childrensmusic or scan the QR code.



CHILDREN'S CHOIRS BEGIN SOON

We look forward to another year of enriching musical experiences for children in 4K-5th grade. Registration is open now. Classes start **September 10**. Visit fpcspartanburg.org/childrensmusic or scan the QR code to learn more and sign up.



PASTORAL CONCERN?

If you need to contact a Minister for a Pastoral Concern, call **864-208-2142** any time. The minister-on-call will answer as soon as possible.

WEDNESDAYS AT FIRST BEGINS 9/10

Wednesdays at First, our mid-week meal and programs, return **September 10**. Pastor Alan will kick off the programs for adults with an FPC Looking Ahead Report. On September 17, we will hear from some of the youth who went on the Dominican Republic Mission Trip this past summer. Sign up for dinner and view the program schedule at fpcspartanburg.org/waf.

JOY FELLOWSHIP LADIES' TEA

You are invited to join your JOY Fellowship friends for our annual Ladies' Tea on Tuesday, **September 16**, 3:00-5:00pm in the Parlor. Enjoy an afternoon of delectable sweets and savories, and wear your favorite hat if you'd like! Sign up at fpcspartanburg.org/ladiestea by Thursday, September 11.

DISCOVER FPC

Discover FPC classes are offered for visitors and new members to learn more and ask questions about our church, values, mission, and programs. The next class will begin **September 14** and will continue Sundays at 10:00-10:45am in the Large Private Dining Room (Family Life Center). Scan the QR code to learn more or visit fpcspartanburg.org/discoverfpc. Contact Cathy Bagwell, Visitor and New Member Coordinator, at cbagwell@fpcspartanburg.org with questions or more information.



THIRD THING FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Come join us for "Third Thing", a monthly gathering in a third space (not work, not home, but somewhere else), and where we will focus on a "third thing" (a question, article, scripture, etc.) for discussion. We will meet the third Tuesday of each month from 5:00-6:30pm at Fretwell. The first half hour is for getting food/drinks and fellowship, and we will start the discussion around 5:30pm. Mark your calendars- the first "Third Thing" will be Tuesday, **September 16th!**

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL - 10AM

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Nursery – Room C105 (Clark Building)
Preschool (3K-5K) – Room C110 (Clark Building)
1st–5th Grade - Large Private Dining Room
(Outside of Fogartie Hall)
Youth - Fogartie Hall

FINAL COMBINED ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

August 17

Special Speaker: Dr. Steven P. Eason

Retired Pastor, Myers Park Presbyterian Church

How to Deal With Six Generations Within the Church...or Anywhere Else!

The church is a unique entity that encompasses all living generations. Music, worship styles, dress code, giving, missions, and other ministries are not a one-size-fits-all deal. Knowing something about each generation helps us reach and nurture everyone within the church.

Dr. Steve Eason is a retired pastor and served churches of all sizes throughout his 40 years of ministry. From 2002-2015, he served as the Senior Pastor of Myers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, N.C. He is now an author, pastoral counselor, teacher, and consultant.

TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Early Worship

Holt Andrews, Marcia Andrews,
Janet Kuntz, John Koontz, Matias Mariani

Contemporary Worship

Kolby Carrouth, drums;
Lisa Cunningham, piano/vocals;
Landon Hammett, vocals;
Anna Harkey, violin;
Matthew Kelly, guitar/vocals;
Jeff Key, electric guitar;
Corey McDaniels, bass guitar

Traditional Worship

Holt Andrews, Marcia Andrews,
Summer Choir, Janet Kuntz, John Koontz

*The Flowers in the Chapel
are given to the Glory of God and
in loving memory of
Elizabeth Calvert Andrews
by her family.*

CALENDAR

AUGUST 21

Thirsty Thursdays
(Parents of Youth/Collegiates)

AUGUST 24

Rally Day / Fall Youth Kick-Off /
Presbytery Hymn Festival

SEPTEMBER 10

Wednesdays at First Returns

SEPTEMBER 14-21

Host Church for A Way Home

SEPTEMBER 14, 21, 28

Discover FPC

SEPTEMBER 16

Third Thing for Young Adults

LOOKING AHEAD

SEPTEMBER 16

JOY Fellowship Ladies' Tea

SEPTEMBER 25-28

Philip Stopford Workshop & Concert

OCTOBER 15

Healing and Wholeness Service
for Pregnancy and Infant Loss

OCTOBER 25

Winter Warmth

OCTOBER 26

Kirkin' o' the Tartans /
Stewardship Sunday /
Ecumenical Blood Drive

OCTOBER 29

Trunk or Treat

NOVEMBER 2

All Saints' Day

NOVEMBER 16-23

Host Church for A Way Home

Front Cover: "A Copse, Evening" by A.Y. Jackson, painted in 1918

Parts of today's liturgy are adapted from
Gathered by Love: Worship Resources for Year C by Lavon Bayler
and Rev. Ginna Bairby, *Presbyterian Outlook*

TO PONDER PRAYERFULLY

*“Turn back, turn back! The whole Bible calls to us joyfully. Turn back—where?
To the everlasting mercy of the God who never leaves us,
whose heart breaks because of us, the God who created us
and loves us beyond all measure.”*

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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. Leslie L. Denny
Associate Pastor
Young Adults and Missions

Rev. L. Craig Foster
Associate Pastor
Discipleship

Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker
Associate Pastor
Congregational Care

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

Jane Mullins
Director of Hospitality

Pano Stathakis
Kitchen Assistant

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
Director of Finance

Joanie Shackleton
Assistant Director of Finance
and Mission Support

Monteigne Campbell
Office Manager and
Admin to the Senior Pastor

Cathy Bagwell
Visitor and New Member Coordinator

Caroline Goodman
Communications Director

Ian Ritchings
Communications Coordinator

Shannon Hutcheson
Administrative Assistant
Weekday School, Children’s and
Adult Discipleship

Cathy Rush
Receptionist and
Admin to Music

Kerri Bell
Administrative Assistant
Congregational Care and Deacons

Andy Mayfield
Grounds Manager

Judith Holbert
Tiffany Long
William Massey
Custodians



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