

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SPARTANBURG, SC



SEPTEMBER 14, 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. Alan F. Dyer

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

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Azmon

Austin C. Lovelace

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker

Today's Call to Worship is drawn from Psalm 36. The Psalms have long served as the prayer and songbook of God's people. Early Presbyterians sang only the Psalms in worship, trusting their words to guide faith and praise. When we begin worship with a psalm, we join in that stream of memory and continuity.

Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.
**We feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give us drink from the river of your delights.**
For with you is the fountain of life,
and in your presence we rejoice.
**Come, let us worship the Lord,
for God's feast is ready!**

✦ HYMN 610

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

AZMON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lord of the banquet,
you call us, again and again, to the table of your joy.
But we confess that we often make excuses -
we cling to our schedules, our possessions, our pride.
We close the doors of our hearts to neighbors in need.
Forgive us, O God. Draw us away from lesser things,
and gather us again at your feast of mercy,
until our lives echo your wide and welcoming love.**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

✦ RESPONSE: HYMN 475, VERSE 3

NETTLETON

*O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.*

✦ 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

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 14:15-24

SERMON

Beautiful Belonging: Who's Missing?

Rev. Alan F. Dyer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✦ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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.**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Let Us Love One Another

Arnold B. Sherman

✦ DOXOLOGY

*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!*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal Page 35

BEARING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

✦ HYMN 767

Together We Serve

SAN ANSELMO

✦ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

✦ BENEDICTION RESPONSE

HYMN 306, VERSE 1

DENNIS

*Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.*

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Tuba Tune

C.S. Lang

We welcome soloist Jared Rosen to our 8:30am service. Jared hails from Clover and is a freshman at Converse University. We are delighted to have him in both our Chancel Choir and Chamber Singers.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

9:00AM
FOGARTIE HALL

INSTRUMENTAL PRAYER

Here I Am To Worship

WELCOME

Landon Hammett

✦CALL TO WORSHIP

✦SONG OF PRAISE

Come to the Table

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. L. Craig Foster

SUNG ASSURANCE OF PARDON

✦PASSING OF THE PEACE

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

CHILDREN'S TIME

ANTHEM

Come As You Are

FIRST READING

Psalm 36:5-10

Betty Pearson

SECOND READING

Luke 14:15-24

SERMON

Rev. Alan F. Dyer

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*Andrew Gunst Barnet
Son of Meghan and John Barnet*

Tommy Stokes, Elder
Eliza Edwards, Reader

RESPONSE

Jesus Loves Me

JESUS LOVES ME

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

✦CLOSING SONG

When the Roll is Called Up Yonder

✦BENEDICTION

Baptism is a joyful celebration as we give thanks for the life of the one baptized and for God's gifts to us all. It is also a welcome into the family of the Church, both here and around the world. In baptism, we are joined to a great communion that spans every time and place. Together we commit to follow Christ and to worship God as members of that family.

✦ *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

Azmon

Austin C. Lovelace

ACOLYTE

Derham Cole

INTROIT

God Welcomes All

THEMBA AMEN

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. L. Craig Foster

Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.
**We feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give us drink from the river of your delights.**
For with you is the fountain of life,
and in your presence we rejoice.
**Come, let us worship the Lord,
for God's feast is ready!**

✦ HYMN 610

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

AZMON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Leslie L. Denny

**Lord of the banquet,
you call us, again and again, to the table of your joy.
But we confess that we often make excuses -
we cling to our schedules, our possessions, our pride.
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Forgive us, O God. Draw us away from lesser things,
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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

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

*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 *Take Us As We Are, O God* ENDLESS FEAST

FIRST READING Psalm 36:5-10 Hudson Huang

SECOND READING Luke 14:15-24

SERMON *Beautiful Belonging: Who's Missing?* Rev. Alan F. Dyer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✠AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker
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 may originally have been a baptismal creed. While it is stated in the singular, it is meant to be used corporately. In saying it together we are united with the faithful of the church from all ages.

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

The Size of Your Heart

Eleanor Daley

*The size of your heart is the size of your life, for out of your heart comes the kind of your life,
The way you reach out to the world all around, is first in your heart to be found.
So if in your heart there is plenty of room for love and compassion to come into bloom:
their fragrance flows out through all that you do, healing the hurt and making new.
The ones who this know have helped all of us grow, as those who spread light to God's great delight,
dispelling the dark and then freeing the heart till each one becomes God's daughter, son.*

✠ 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 767

Together We Serve

SAN ANSELMO

✠ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

✠ BENEDICTION RESPONSE

HYMN 306, VERSE 1

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our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.*

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Tuba Tune

C.S. Lang

Who's missing
from the table
of God's love?
As you leave
worship, carry
that question
with you and
watch closely
in the week to
come for the
ones Christ is
calling you to
notice, invite,
and welcome.

*The Flowers in the Sanctuary
are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Ed and Betty Walpole and Jimmy and Betty Weller
by Beth and Peter Neidenbach.*

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

BEAUTIFUL BELONGING SERIES

This series will explore what it means to truly belong to God, to one another, and to the Church. In a world that often prizes achievement, perfection, or status, we'll remember that the Church is not built on resumes or rankings but on grace. We will reflect on the gifts each person brings, the people who might be missing from our pews, the call to forgive, the power of commitment, and the beauty of being part of something bigger than ourselves. *Beautiful Belonging* invites us to see church not as a place we go, but as a community we build together.

WINTER WARMTH KNIT NEEDS

If you like to knit, sew, or shop, Winter Warmth would love your donations of hats, scarves, gloves, and blankets. Please drop them off in Winter Warmth baskets located in Family Life Center Lobby, Tower Room, and Chapel. Winter Warmth will take place on **Saturday, October 25**. Save the date, and stay tuned for a sign-up link to volunteer!

THIRD THING - THIS WEEK!

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 16!**

PLAYGROUND DEDICATION

Please join us on Wednesday, **September 17** at 5:45pm on the new playground (along Chestnut Street) for a few words and fun as we dedicate this space to our Weekday School, our church, and our community. May this be a welcoming place for all!

WEDNESDAYS AT FIRST

Wednesdays at First, our mid-week meal and programs, is back! This week, we will hear a special presentation from our youth about their mission trip to the Dominican Republic this past summer beginning at 6:30pm in the Social Hall.

WE NEED WAF VOLUNTEERS to help make these evenings possible. Sign up to serve, reserve your dinner, and view the full program schedule at fpcspartanburg.org/waf or by scanning the QR code.



THIRSTY THURSDAY

Parents of youth and college students: you're invited to gather at Fretwell **September 18**, 5:30-7:00pm to visit, laugh, and encourage one another. Questions? Contact Ansley Page at apage@fpcspartanburg.org.

SIGN UP FOR A LISTENING SESSION

This fall, we continue our year-long journey of listening and discernment to discover where God is leading FPC in the next five years. Register now for a small group listening session that is intended to give every member the chance to share their voice and help shape our future together. Scan the QR code or visit fpcspartanburg.org/listen to **sign up for one session**.



PHILIP STOPFORD VISIT TO FPC

English composer/conductor Philip Stopford will visit FPC from **September 25-28**. His time with us will culminate on Sunday the 28th, when he will lead our music at the 11:00am service and conduct a concert of his music with choir and orchestra at 3:00pm. Read more about Philip in *Faith at First* by visiting fpcspartanburg.org/news or scanning the QR code (page 22). For more information contact Holt Andrews at rhandrews@fpcspartanburg.org.



NEIGHBORHOOD MEAL MINISTRY

In October, the Neighborhood Meal Ministry will celebrate 4 years (post-COVID) of providing a weekly nutritious meal for our neighbors. Our guest numbers have ranged from a low of 4 people in 2021 to a high of 98 people just 3 weeks ago. This would not have been possible without the help of our wonderful congregation. With the large number of guests, we are in need of someone who can help us with the coordination of our sponsors and meal planning. This does not require that you are in attendance on Thursday evenings. If you, or you and a friend, are able to help us with this component of the Meal Ministry, please contact Betsy Burrell or Mary Lorick Thompson.

HAND IN HAND TRUCK DRIVE

Please support the Hand in Hand Truck Drive on World Communion Sunday, **October 5**, 8:30am-12:30pm with your donations of non-perishable food items, hygiene products, and cleaning supplies. If you prefer, Hand in Hand accepts monetary contributions. To see the full list of items or to donate online, please visit handinhandspartanburg.org or scan the QR code. You may also contact Hand in Hand at (864) 913-2179.



STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING

Stephen Ministers are members of First Presbyterian Church trained to work alongside our pastors in providing emotional and spiritual support to people who are going through a difficult time, such as grief, hospitalization, aging, divorce, or loneliness. We'll be training a new class of Stephen Ministers starting on **January 12, 2026**. To find out more about becoming a Stephen Minister, contact Dana Halliday, 864-237-0330, danahalliday1@charter.net or the church office at 864 583-4531.

WEEKDAY SCHOOL SUBSTITUTES

The Weekday School is looking for substitute teachers for the 2025-2026 school year. If you are interested, please contact Kris Graham at kgraham@fpcspartanburg.org.

SHEPHERD'S CENTER PROGRAM

All are invited to a program presented by the Daughters of the American Revolution, Battle of Cowpens Chapter featuring the Spartanburg Revolutionary War Trail. This program will outline the history of Spartanburg County and how essential this area was to the Revolutionary War efforts. The program will be held Monday, **September 15** at 12:30pm in Room 2205. For more information about the trail, please scan the QR code.



HEALTH MINISTRY UPDATES

Save the dates for the Drive Through Vaccination Clinic on Tuesday, **October 7** from 5:00-7:00pm and the Vaccination Clinic with Bone and Skin Screenings on **October 8** during Wednesdays at First. Our next blood drive is **Sunday, October 26**. If you plan to participate in the Blood Drive, please **refrain from donating blood at another location**.

READY TO JOIN FPC?

Church membership fosters deeper connections with fellow believers, creating a sense of belonging and shared purpose; it is an expression of our commitment to God and our faith and opens doors to various ministries and service opportunities, allowing individuals to use their gifts and talents to benefit the church and the wider community.

We would love to have you add your gifts, energy, and love to the body of Christ at FPC. The next opportunity to join the church is Sunday, **October 12** at 10:30am in the Parlor. Contact Cathy Bagwell, (cbagwell@fpcspartanburg.org) Visitor and New Member Coordinator, with any questions you may have and let her know if you plan to join.

HEALING & WHOLENESS SERVICE

On Wednesday, **October 15** at 5:30pm in the Chapel, we will hold a Healing and Wholeness Service in honor of Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month. Please come for prayer, contemplative music, and silence.

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00AM

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 2215 & Zoom
An extensive book-by-book study of the Bible

Emmaus – Purnell Room

A journey with eyes open towards Jesus, with fellowship and a fresh new scripture-based lesson each week.

Faith Forum (New this Fall!) - Social Hall

All ages are welcome to the Faith Forum! Each week, we will enjoy about 10 minutes of coffee and fellowship, 20 minutes of teaching, and 15 minutes of small group conversations. We will have a different series each month led by gifted teachers.

September Study: *Y'all Are a Temple of the Holy Spirit – Images of the Church in 1 Corinthians*, Led by Kyle Keefer

TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Early Worship

Holt Andrews, Marcia Andrews,
Jared Rosen

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,
Chancel Choir

Front Cover:

*Empty-Chair-from the project 'Finding My Religion'
by Booker T Photography*

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 14-21

Host Church for A Way Home

SEPTEMBER 14, 21, 28

Discover FPC

SEPTEMBER 16

JOY Fellowship Ladies' Tea

SEPTEMBER 25-28

Philip Stopford Workshop & Concert

LOOKING AHEAD

OCTOBER 5

World Communion Sunday /
Hand in Hand Truck Drive

OCTOBER 15

Healing and Wholeness Service
for Pregnancy and Infant Loss

OCTOBER 25

Winter Warmth

OCTOBER 26

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

OCTOBER 29

Trunk or Treat

NOVEMBER 2

All Saints' Day

NOVEMBER 16-23

Host Church for A Way Home

NOVEMBER 25

Spartanburg Community Thanksgiving Service

NOVEMBER 30

First Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 3

Advent Family Workshop

DECEMBER 4

Service of Comfort and Light

DECEMBER 7

Chamber Singers Concert

DECEMBER 10

Celebration of Giving:

Continuing the Tradition of White Gifts

Keep up with all Life of the Church events at
fpcspartanburg.org.

TO PONDER PRAYERFULLY

*“The Church is the Church only when it exists for others...
not dominating, but helping and serving.
It must tell people of every calling what it means to live for Christ,
to exist for others.”*

- 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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