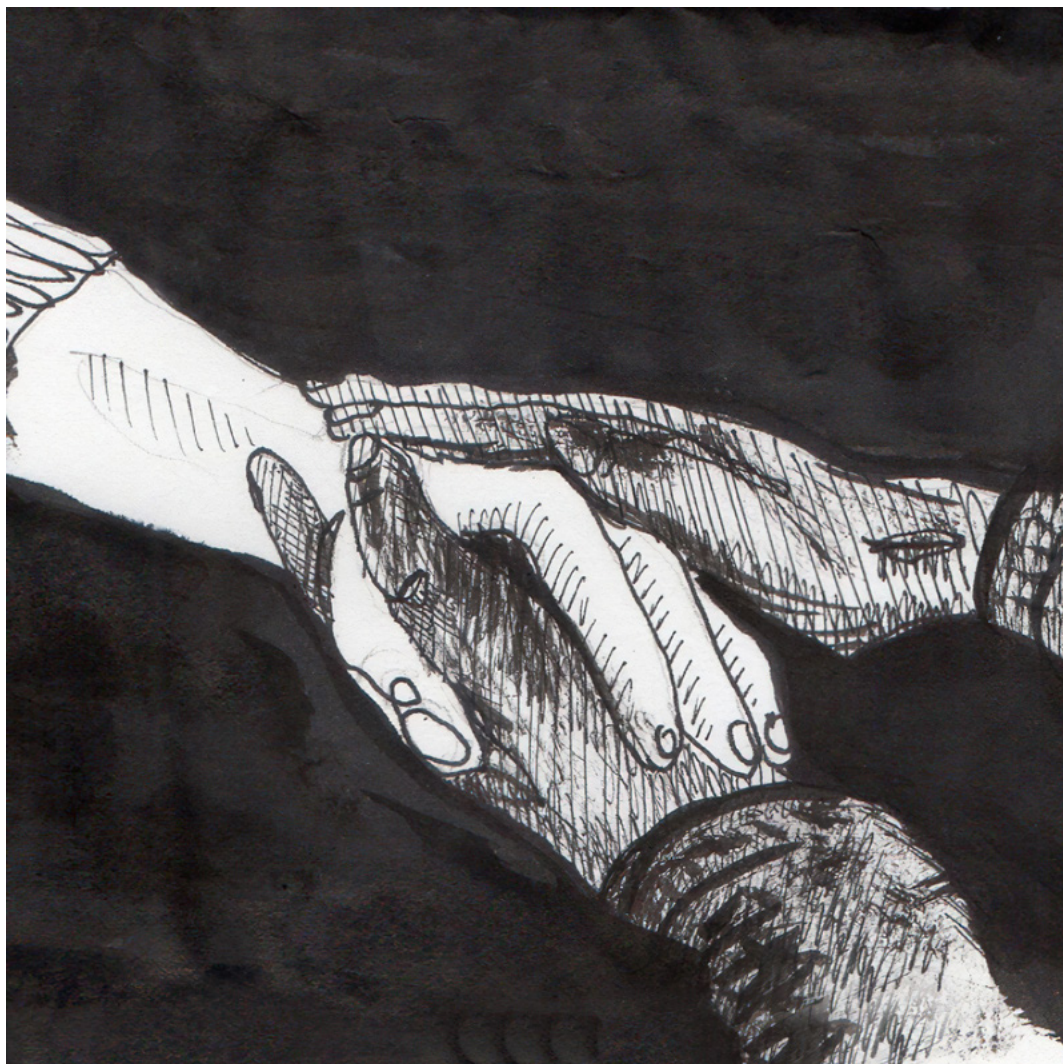


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SPARTANBURG, SC



SEPTEMBER 21, 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

In Green Pastures

Harold Darke

✠CALL TO WORSHIP

Olivia Marsh

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved—

We come, clothed with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

Bear with one another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you.

Above all, we put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, to which indeed we were called in the one body.

We come to worship God, the One who weaves forgiveness into belonging.

✠HYMN 14

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. L. Craig Foster

**Merciful God, you call us to forgive as we have been forgiven,
yet we confess how hard it is.**

We cling to grudges, nurse old wounds, and replay past wrongs.

**You invite us into compassion and peace, but anger, pride, and fear
too often rule our hearts.**

**Clothe us again in your grace and forgiveness,
for we long for the healing only you can give.**

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.*

The Assurance of Pardon proclaims God's faithfulness. Our lives are redeemed by the saving grace of God—the Gospel in miniature. God does for us what we cannot do for ourselves.

✠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

Genesis 50:15-21

SERMON

Beautiful Belonging: Practicing Forgiveness

Rev. Alan F. Dyer

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

Then Shall the Righteous Shine Forth

Felix Mendelssohn

✦ 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 435

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

IN BABILONE

✦ 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

Rondeau

Henry Purcell

In giving, we join our worship with our discipleship, offering not just money but ourselves. What we place in the plate is a sign of our desire to devote our whole lives to God's service, in gratitude for God's steadfast love and faithfulness.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

9:00AM
FOGARTIE HALL

INSTRUMENTAL PRAYER

WELCOME

Landon Hammett

✦CALL TO WORSHIP

✦SONG OF PRAISE

O Come To The Altar

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Ansley B. Page

SUNG ASSURANCE OF PARDON

✦PASSING OF THE PEACE

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

CHILDREN'S TIME

ANTHEM

The Jesus Way

FIRST READING

Colossians 3:12-15

Jane Colbath

SECOND READING

Genesis 50:15-21

SERMON

Beautiful Belonging: Practicing Forgiveness

Rev. Alan F. Dyer

✦AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

✦CLOSING SONG

Come Thou Fount (I Will Sing)

✦BENEDICTION

The preached Word or sermon is to be based upon the written Word. It is a proclamation of Scripture in the conviction that through the Holy Spirit Jesus Christ is present to the gathered people offering grace and calling for obedience.

✦ 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

In Green Pastures

Harold Darke

ACOLYTE

Juliet Berry

INTROIT

As Morning Dawns

WAREHAM

✠CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Ansley B. Page

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved-

**We come, clothed with compassion,
kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.**

Bear with one another, forgive each other;
just as the Lord has forgiven you.

**Above all, we put on love, which binds
everything together in perfect harmony.**

Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts,
to which indeed we were called in the one body.

**We come to worship God, the One who weaves
forgiveness into belonging.**

✠HYMN 14

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

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**you call us to forgive as we have been forgiven,
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too often rule our hearts.**

**Clothe us again in your grace and forgiveness,
for we long for the healing only you can give.**

SILENT CONFESSION

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✦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

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

Where Charity and Love Prevail

TWENTY-FOURTH

FIRST READING

Colossians 3:12-15

Charlotte Clementson

SECOND READING

Genesis 50:15-21

SERMON

Beautiful Belonging: Practicing Forgiveness

Rev. Alan F. Dyer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✦AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Rev. Ansley B. Page

FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH

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to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
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In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
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even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

The preached Word or sermon is to be based upon the written Word. It is a proclamation of Scripture in the conviction that through the Holy Spirit Jesus Christ is present to the gathered people offering grace and calling for obedience.

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

In giving, we join our worship with our discipleship, offering not just money but ourselves. What we place in the plate is a sign of our desire to devote our whole lives to God's service, in gratitude for God's steadfast love and faithfulness.

OFFERTORY

We Are One

Brian Tate

Offertory text can be found on the last page of the bulletin.

✠ 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 435

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

IN BABILONE

✠ 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

Rondeau

Henry Purcell

*The Flowers in the Sanctuary
are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin R. Pickens, Sr. and Mr. Benjamin R. Pickens, Jr.
by their family.*

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

BEAUTIFUL BELONGING SERIES

What does it mean 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.

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.



WINTER WARMTH NEEDS YOU!

Winter Warmth is Saturday, **October 25!** There are three ways you can help this ministry today:

- 1) We need **donations of hats, scarves, gloves, and blankets to offer to each child**. Please drop hand-knit or store-bought items in Winter Warmth baskets located in Family Life Center Lobby, Tower Room, and Chapel.
- 2) Sign up to **volunteer** at fpcspartanburg.org/winterwarmth or by scanning the QR code.
- 3) Pray for those in our community who may be struggling to make ends meet, for guidance counselors and teachers, and the Winter Warmth team as they prepare to outfit nearly 1,000 children with necessary outerwear for the cold months.



WEDNESDAYS AT FIRST

Wednesdays at First, our mid-week meal and programs, is back! This week, we will hear a special presentation from the Health Committee 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.



SIGN UP FOR A LISTENING SESSION

This fall, join a small group listening session as part of FPC's year-long journey of discernment. Share your voice at one session and help shape our future for the next five years. Scan the QR code or visit fpcspartanburg.org/listen to register.



NEIGHBORHOOD MEAL MINISTRY

In October, the Neighborhood Meal Ministry celebrates 4 years (post-COVID) of providing weekly nutritious meals, growing from a low of 4 people in 2021 to a high of 98 people recently. This would not have been possible without the help of our wonderful congregation. If you would like to help serve our neighbors, please contact Betsy Burrell or Mary Lorick Thompson.

SHEPHERD'S CENTER 45 FOR 45

The Shepherd's Center offers friendship, connection, and healthy living activities for adults 50+. In honor of its 45th year, they are seeking 1,000 gifts of \$45, which First Presbyterian will match dollar-for-dollar. The Shepherd's Center is housed at First Presbyterian, but it is a fully operating nonprofit that depends on donations, grants, fundraisers, and memberships revenue to continue operation. Give today at spartanburgshepherdcenter.org!



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.

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.



BREAD OFFERINGS NEEDED

World Communion Sunday celebrates our oneness in Christ with our brothers and sisters worldwide. We invite you to bring a home-baked or store-bought loaf of bread to the communion table in the worship service of your choice on **October 5**. Place home-baked bread on the Communion Table and store-bought bread in the baskets by the pews before or following worship. Your contributions will be distributed to various missions in our community that feed the hungry.

VACCINATION CLINIC DATES

The Drive-Through Vaccination Clinic will be Tuesday, **October 7**, 5:00-7:00pm and the Vaccination Clinic with Bone and Skin Screenings on **October 8** during Wednesdays at First. Sign up with Parish Nurse Beth Cecil at bcecil@fpcspartanburg.org.

INTRO TO BASKETBALL FOR GIRLS

Never played basketball or need a jumpstart on skills and rules? Not sure if you are ready for Church League? Join an Intro to Basketball Session in the gym! Girls will meet Tuesday, **October 14**, 5:30-6:30pm. Boys, stay tuned! No registration required!

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.

DINNER GROUPS ARE BACK!

You are invited to the debut of *Just Dinner* groups, Sunday, **October 19**, 6:00-8:00pm. Connect with a small group of people in the homes of gracious hosts, strengthening our faith family ties. The host provides a main course and coordinates the guests to bring sides. These one-time gatherings have been catalysts for great conversations and friendships. Scan the QR code to sign up by October 9. Questions? Contact Ansley at apage@fpcspartanburg.org.



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. A new training class of Stephen Ministers will start **January 12, 2026**. To find out more about becoming a Stephen Minister, contact Dana Halliday, 864-237-0330, danahalliday1@charter.net.

OFFERTORY

We Are One

Brian Tate

*When we walk, when we sleep,
when we rise, we are one.
When we laugh, when we sing, when we cry,
when we run, we are one.
And we shall love one another with all our hearts.
And we shall care for each other
with all our soul and our might.
When we stand, when we fall,
when we rise, we are one.
In the cold, in the heat, in the dark,
in the sun, we are one.
And we shall love one another...
When we're hurting one another,
that's the way we hurt ourselves,
With our sisters and our brothers we will rise.
And we do, and we try, we must live, or we die,
We will reach, we will climb,
we will rise, we will fly, we are one.
And these words shall be forever within our hearts,
And we shall teach them to our children,
and remember them in our lives.*

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, 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,
Chancel Choir

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 25-28

Philip Stopford Workshop & Concert

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

LOOKING AHEAD

OCTOBER 26

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

OCTOBER 29

Trunk or Treat

NOVEMBER 2

All Saints' Evensong Service

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

DECEMBER 14

Lessons and Carols

DECEMBER 24

Angel Tree Delivery / Christmas Eve Services

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

TO PONDER PRAYERFULLY

“Forgiveness does not change the past, but it does enlarge the future.”

- Paul Boese

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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