

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SPARTANBURG, SC



NOVEMBER 23, 2025

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

CHRIST THE KING 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 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
(No log in required)



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

Now Thank We All Our God

arr. Paul Manz

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP

Holt Andrews

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for God has looked favorably on God's people and redeemed them.
Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
For God has called us God's own beloved and called each of us by name.
Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
For God has blessed God's creation and called us to worship.
Blessed be the Lord God of Israel!

At the conclusion of the Christian year, the church gives thanks and praise for sovereignty of Christ, who is Lord of all creation and is coming again in glory to reign (see Revelation 1:4-8).

✦ HYMN 336

We Gather Together

KREMSER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God,
we confess that we have neglected to declare Jesus the king and model for our lives.
We have been quick to call on others to follow the ways of Christ
yet slow to do the same.
We have been bold in demanding generosity, mercy, and forgiveness,
yet quiet when it comes to offering inclusion, love, and compassion.
Forgive us, O God.
Restore in us, yet again,
the commitment to be more Christlike in word, deed, and in spirit.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

✦ RESPONSE: HYMN 581

GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.*

✦ 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

Psalm 46

SECOND READING

Luke 23:33-43

SERMON

Auld Lang Syne

Rev. Leslie L. Denny

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✦ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH

We trust in Jesus Christ, Fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,

teaching by word and deed and blessing the children,

healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts,

forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,

Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain

and giving his life for the sins of the world.

God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life,

breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

arr. Margaret Bond

✦ 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal Page 35

BEARING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

✦ HYMN 367

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

✦ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

✦ BENEDICTION RESPONSE

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

Now Thank We All Our God

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

This affirmation is drawn from The Brief Statement of Faith, which was written in 1983. This particular section is formally called Christology. Christology is our belief and testimony about the person and Lordship of Jesus Christ. We use this affirmation frequently as it is a beautiful statement of why we believe in and trust Jesus.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

9:00AM
FOGARTIE HALL

INTRUMENTAL PRAYER

WELCOME

Landon Hammett

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP

✦ SONG OF PRAISE

O Worship the King

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Alan F. Dyer

SUNG ASSURANCE OF PARDON

O Come to the Altar

✦ PASSING OF THE PEACE

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

CHILDREN'S TIME

ANTHEM

Word of God Speak

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 46

SERMON

Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker

✦ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH
FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
THE LORD'S PRAYER

✦ CLOSING SONG

Good, Good Father

✦ BENEDICTION

At the conclusion of the Christian year, the church gives thanks and praise for sovereignty of Christ, who is Lord of all creation and is coming again in glory to reign (see Revelation 1:4-8).

✦ Please rise in body or in spirit.

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

11:00AM
SANCTUARY

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

At the conclusion of the Christian year, the church gives thanks and praise for sovereignty of Christ, who is Lord of all creation and is coming again in glory to reign (see Revelation 1:4-8).

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

Now Thank We All Our God

arr. Paul Manz

ACOLYTE

Coles Reid

INTROIT

Fairest Lord Jesus

CRUSADER'S HYMN

✠ CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Rachel N. Klompmaker

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for God has looked favorably on God's people and redeemed them.
Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
For God has called us God's own beloved and called each of us by name.
Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
For God has blessed God's creation and called us to worship.
Blessed be the Lord God of Israel!

✠ HYMN 336

We Gather Together

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Alan F. Dyer

Holy God,
we confess that we have neglected to declare
Jesus the king and model for our lives.
We have been quick to call on others to follow the ways of Christ
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the commitment to be more Christlike in word, deed, and in spirit.

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✠ Please rise in
body or in spirit.

✦RESPONSE

HYMN 581

GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.*

✦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 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 *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee*

ST. AGNES

FIRST READING

Psalm 46

SECOND READING

Luke 23:33-43

SERMON

Auld Lang Syne

Rev. Leslie L. Denny

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✦AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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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

At the Name of Jesus

René Clausen

✠ 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 367

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

✠ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

✠ BENEDICTION RESPONSE

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

Now Thank We All Our God

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

We go forth into
the world to
serve God in our
daily lives as a
continuation of
our worship so
that our work is
our worship until
such time as we
gather again.

The Flowers in the Sanctuary

*are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of the marriage of
Aubrie Anne Lauderdale and Peter Joseph Clarke.*

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2025

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

In partnership with the Spartanburg County Foundation, the Spartanburg Interfaith Alliance will hold its Community Thanksgiving Service on **Tuesday, November 25**, at 6:30pm at Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church. The offering taken during the service will benefit Hand in Hand. Visit fpcspartanburg.org to learn more.

HELP DECORATE FOR ADVENT

Meet in the Tower Room at 10:00am on **November 24, November 25**, and/or **November 26** to help bring in the Advent Season at FPC Spartanburg! Come one day or all three days - whatever suits your schedule. Additional decorating will take place on **Saturday, November 29** at 9:00am. Questions? Contact LeAnne Thurmond (leanne.thurmond@gmail.com / 864-621-0213).

STEWARDSHIP 2026 UPDATE

Thank you to the more than 398 individuals and families who have already responded to this year's call to generosity by submitting a pledge for 2026. You all have brought us to 77% of our goal! Your participation strengthens FPC's ministry and allows us to plan faithfully for the year ahead. If you have not yet made your pledge, will you join us? Every commitment helps us live more fully into our mission. Pledge cards are available throughout the church, or you can pledge easily online by using the QR code or visiting fpcspartanburg.org/stewardship.



READY TO JOIN FPC?

Come to the Parlor on Sunday, December 14 at 10:30am for a brief meeting. Please contact Cathy Bagwell at cbagwell@fpcspartanburg.org for details.

WEDNESDAYS AT FIRST- DEC 3

(No WAF this Week, November 26)

- 5:00pm Dinner Line Opens (Fogartie Hall)
- 5:00pm Children's Choirs (Clark Building)
- 6:15pm **Advent Workshop** (Gym)
- 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Pre-register for dinner by 4:00pm each Monday. Visit fpcspartanburg.org/waf or scan the QR code.



ADVENT WORKSHOP - DECEMBER 3

Following WAF dinner on **December 3**, join us in the Gym for our annual Advent Family Workshop. With different crafts and lots of holiday cheer, there is something for everyone! Crafting will start around 6:15pm and wrap up around 7:30pm.

We need volunteers to help with the crafts. Interested? Contact Kara Clark (text 404-754-8435 or kclark@fpcspartanburg.org).

If you have any advent candles and/or candle holders from past years, you may bring them that night to make your live advent wreaths!

CELEBRATION OF GIVING - DEC. 10

Come to the Sanctuary on **Wednesday, December 10, 6:30pm**, to experience a fresh adaptation of our annual White Gifts Service. Join in on this joyful service as we FILL the Sanctuary with Christmas carols, children's choirs, and gifts that will bless our friends at Hope Center for Children, Mobile Meals, Thornwell, and TOTAL Ministries. Specific gift requests from each organization can be found at fpcspartanburg.org or scan the QR code. Wrapping your gift is optional this year.




CHAPEL OPEN

The Chapel is open for prayer Monday-Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm. You may place prayer needs in the designated box and our staff will pray over your requests.

GIVING TUESDAY - DECEMBER 2

Giving Tuesday began in 2012 as a simple idea - a day to encourage people to do good. It has since grown into a global celebration of generosity.

This year, on **Tuesday, December 2**, First Presbyterian is celebrating Giving Tuesday by supporting our Community Impact Ministries: A Way Home, CAST, Hand in Hand, and the  Neighborhood Meal Ministry. You can direct your gift to a specific ministry or split it among all four. Use the QR code or visit our church website for details.


SERVICE OF COMFORT AND LIGHT

For so many reasons, not every holiday season is one of peace and joy. You are invited to a contemplative service of tender hope and abiding love, including candle lighting and the opportunity to pray with one of our pastors on **Thursday, December 4, 5:30pm in the Chapel.**

CHAMBER SINGERS' CONCERT

Our Chamber Singers Choir will be joined by strings and percussion in celebrating the gift of Christmas on **Sunday, December 7, 5:00pm in the Sanctuary.**

JOY CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

The annual Just Older Youth (J.O.Y.) Fellowship Christmas Luncheon will be held **Thursday, December 11** at 11:30am in Fogartie Hall. Please RSVP by using this QR Code or by contacting Kerri Bell in the church office. 


MUSIC SUNDAY

On **Sunday, December 14**, we will worship through music. In 9:00am Contemporary Service, the music team will offer their distinct take on carols of the season. And at 8:30am and 11:00am, the Traditional Services will meet in the Chapel and will feature Handel's *Messiah* with the Chancel Choir, soloists, and a 20-piece orchestra.


ANGEL TREE

As part of Angel Tree Ministry, First Presbyterian is providing gifts to local children on behalf of an incarcerated parent. Angel Tree tags will be available on small Christmas trees in the Tower Room and in the Family Life Center on **Sunday, November 30**. If you have questions, or if you would like to deliver gifts on Christmas Eve morning, please contact Brandt Goodwin at brandtgoodwin@gmail.com.


HONOR & REMEMBER THIS ADVENT

There are several opportunities to honor and remember your loved ones this Advent season by contributing to the beautiful decorations at First Presbyterian and purchasing Columbarium wreaths. Learn more at fpcspartanburg.org/advent or scan the QR code. 

GIVE THE GIFT OF A COAT

Our annual Winter Warmth Project was held on October 25. More than 640 coats were distributed to children in Spartanburg County. You can still help - \$35 provides a new warm coat for a child in need. Use the QR code and select "Winter Warmth," or visit fpcspartanburg.org/winterwarmth. Gift acknowledgment cards are available upon request. 

HAND IN HAND CHRISTMAS CARDS

Hand in Hand is a local nonprofit that partners with Spartanburg County School social workers to support children and families in need. By providing basic essentials, children can focus on learning. This Christmas, consider giving a gift to this ministry in honor of a loved one. Holiday cards are available upon request. Give online at fpcspartanburg.org/give or by scanning the QR code. To receive Christmas Cards, contact Lynn Long (handinhandspartanburg@gmail.com / 864-913-2179). 

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 - Social Hall

All ages are welcome to the Faith Forum!

November

Dr. Courtney Kealy, Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Wofford, will lead a four-part series on “Listening Well: Paying Attention to God, Others, and Our Surroundings.” Dr. Kealy teaches ethnography classes at Wofford, where she guides students on how to be careful observers of their cultures and environments.

TODAY’S MUSICIANS

Early Worship

Marcia Andrews
Sarye Glenn

Contemporary Worship

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

Traditional Worship

Holt Andrews, Marcia Andrews,
Chancel Choir

*Parts of today's liturgy are from the
Feasting on the Word Worship Companion.*

OFFERTORY

At the Name of Jesus
René Clausen

*Christ Jesus, being in the form of God
emptied himself,
being in the form of a servant,
in human likeness Christ has humbled himself and
become obedient unto death,
even death on the cross.
At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,
in heaven and earth, and under the earth,
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.
God has exalted Christ.
In thee is gladness amid all sadness,
Jesus sunshine of my life.
By thee are given the gifts of heaven,
thou the true redeemer art.
Alleluia. Amen.*

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 25

Spartanburg Community Thanksgiving Service

NOVEMBER 27-28

Church Facilities Closed

NOVEMBER 30

First Sunday of Advent

LOOKING AHEAD

DECEMBER 3

Advent Family Workshop

DECEMBER 4

Service of Comfort and Light

DECEMBER 7

Chamber Singers Concert
Young Adult Christmas Party

DECEMBER 10

Celebration of Giving

DECEMBER 14

Lessons and Carols (9:00am)
Messiah (8:30am and 11am)

DECEMBER 24

Angel Tree Delivery
Christmas Eve Services

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

TO PONDER PRAYERFULLY

*“For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.’
Before praying the prayer or just after praying it, point to this phrase.
Connect it to Christ the King who rules the whole world.
Note that the power of Christ the King
is the power of love rather than the power of armies or force.
Delight in the glory of a world ruled by such a God/Christ.”*

- Carolyn C. Brown

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. Klompaker
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
Executive Assistant to the Senior Pastor

Cathy Bagwell
Visitor and New Member Coordinator

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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