



Fourth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 10, 2024

How to Connect

- Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Dalton. We are glad you are here!
- Currently our church observes a "Masks Optional" policy throughout the church campus with the exception of the nursery staff and volunteers. Adult teachers, volunteers, and nursery staff, if they are unvaccinated, are asked to remain masked when involved in children's Christian Education activities. Some may still opt to wear a mask even if they are vaccinated. Additionally, we have returned to observing The Peace, passing the offering plate, and joining hands to sing The Congregational Response ("God Be with You 'Til We Meet Again") in our traditional manner. Anyone uncomfortable with this approach is encouraged to refrain from participation in any or all of these aspects with full knowledge that our congregation is respectful and recognizes that our members have different needs and comfort levels. Please check any of the following for updates and possible changes in our COVID protocol:

First Presbyterian Church, Dalton Communication Channels:

- "First Presbyterian Church Dalton" Our church's public Facebook page.
- "FPC Dalton Connect" Our private Facebook page for church members and staff
- "Midweek News" Our newsletter sent online to most members unless a paper copy is requested by calling 706-278-8161.
- Your E-Mail
- Your personal mailbox
- Find the most current contact information on our members in the church directory. It can be found on our website (www.firstpresdalton.org) under the fellowship tab. Please email the church office for the directory password.
- Regular team meetings will be held at the discretion of team chairs in-person and/or through videoconference. Scheduling will take place through direct communication and will be posted to the newsletter.

WI-FI



Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the church. There are two options available: First Pres Guest 2.4 and First Pres Guest 5. Although these will connect to the same network, 2.4 has more strength while 5 has more range. The location of the device will influence which one will automatically connect. The password for the guest network is **johncalvin**

Announcements

- A **Called Meeting of the Congregation** for Sunday, March 24, immediately following Worship, has been requested by the Pulpit Nominating Committee for the purpose of receiving and acting upon the report of the same. Please plan to be in attendance for this important event in the life of our church.
- Immediately following Worship today please join us for the **Second Sunday Fellowship Lunch** in Hollis Hall. After lunch stay for the **Connection Team meeting** and see how you can get involved.
- This year, FPC will celebrate **Mr. Rogers Day** on Sunday, March 17. The Mission Team would like to ask members to contribute donations of NEW socks for men, women, and children. We will distribute these to local agencies. There will be a basket in the Commons for collection.
- All are invited to St. Mark's Episcopal Church for their Wednesday evening **Lenten Lecture Series**, "Exploring spirituality and current events and how to bring God into our crazy world." The lecture begins at 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall and is followed by a soup supper.

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2024

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

THE GREETING

At the sound of the bells, please prepare your heart and mind for worship.

INTROIT

Ah, Holy Jesu

R. A. Nelson (1927-2014)

Ah, holy Jesu, How hast Thou offended? That man to judge Thee hath in hate pretended? By foes derided, by Thine own rejected, O most afflicted!

Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon Thee?

Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone Thee.

Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied Thee. I crucified Thee!

Ah, holy Jesu, since I cannot pay Thee, I will adore Thee Lord.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Nancy Hallsworth

For God so loved the world

That He gave His only Son.

He keeps on giving, you know.

And His giving knows no end.

Let us worship God.

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God of all that is, come among us in this hour. Declare Your love and establish anew Your kingdom in our hearts. Clear our minds of distraction and our hearts of selfish desire. May we join the eternal chorus of praise which surrounds us and find our true peace in You. Through Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN 12

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

St. Denio

Andrew Granillo, violin

CALL TO CONFESSION

Cover Art:

Atop Mount Nebo in Jordan, this serpentine sculpture represents the Old Testament story of the serpent on the pole in Numbers 21:4-9 integrated with the New Testament cross of Christ.

Fantoni, Giovanni.
Brazen Serpent, from
Art in the Christian
Tradition, a project of
the Vanderbilt Divinity
Library, Nashville, TN.
https://diglib.library.
vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55664 [retrieved March 5, 2024].
Original source: http://
commons.wikimedia.
org/wiki/File:Brazen_
Serpent_Sculpture.jpg.

Hymn 12 Note:

The opening line of this hymn was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy 1:17 (King James Version), and it continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite existence. The text is well set to a Welsh melody shaped by many three-note units.

*Where you see this notation, please rise in body or in spirit.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(A time of silent prayer and meditation.)

Lord, we see the beauty of creation around us but we are blinded by our sin. We yearn after things which not only satisfy but which also make us resentful when they don't. Clear our vision and enable us to see the wonders of Your world as it shakes off the winter slumber and is adorned by You with beauty and joy in new life. Forgive us our blindness and obstinacy and set our feet on the paths which lead to Your kingdom. Amen.

KYRIE





ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

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

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Jesus Loves Me!

William B. Bradbury

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

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PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Numbers 21: 4-9 NRSV

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ephesians 2: 1-10 NRSV

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — ⁵and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁵so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁵For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — ⁵not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹oFor we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

A Lenten Meditation

D. E. Wagner (b. 1952)

Jesus, in Thy dying woes, even while Thy lifeblood flows, Craving pardon for Thy foes: Hear us, Holy Jesus.

May our hearts to Thee incline, looking from our cross to Thine; Cheer our souls with hope divine: Hear us, Holy Jesus.

When we seem in vain to pray, and our hope seems far away, In the darkness be our stay: Hear us, Holy Jesus. May we thirst Thy love to know; Lead us in our sin and woe Where the healing waters flow: Hear us, Holy Jesus.

Brighten all our heav'nward way with an ever-holier ray Till we pass to perfect day: Hear us, Holy Jesus.

May Thy life and death supply grace to live and grace to die, Grace to reach our home on high: Hear us, Holy Jesus.

Hear us, Holy Jesus.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 3: 14-21 NRSV

¹⁴⁶And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Snakes? Did it Have to be Snakes?"

Rev. Dr. Ken McKenzie

*HYMN 417

Lord Jesus, Think on Me

Southwell

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We confess and acknowledge one God alone, to whom alone we must cleave, whom alone we must serve, whom only we must worship, and in whom alone we put our trust. Who is eternal, infinite, immeasurable, incomprehensible, omnipotent, invisible; one in substance and yet distinct in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. By whom we confess and believe all things in heaven and earth, visible and invisible, to have been created, to be retained in their being, and to be ruled and guided by his providence for such end as his eternal wisdom, goodness and justice have appointed, and to the manifestation of his glory.

Andrew Granillo, violin

Hymn 417 Note:

This text is among the oldest hymns in this book; its original Greek version dates from around the beginning of the 5th century. The stanzas used here come from a 19th-century paraphrase, whose simplicity and directness are well complemented by a 16th-century psalm tune.

The Affirmation of

Faith is an excerpt from the Scots Confession. The Scots Confession was an act of Scottish Parliament in 1560 to unify standards of faith and confession in the church throughout Scotland. Led by church reformers—among them John Knox, the father of Presbyterianism —the document borrows from the Reformed theology of John Calvin to clarify traditional reformed emphases like the sovereignty of God, the importance of scripture, and the formation of a church distinguished from Roman Catholicism.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

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.

THE OFFERING

www.firstpresdalton.org/giving/

THE OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Old 100th

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*HYMN 309

Come, Great God of All the Ages

Abbot's Leigh

Traditional.

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

God be with you till we meet again; By His counsels guide, uphold you, With His sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again.

*POSTLUDE

Offering Note:

Copy and paste the link under the Offertory onto your browser to easily submit your online offering.

Hymn 309 Note:

This text was written in 1987 for the capital cornerstone campaign of the National Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC. It is set here to a mid-20th-century tune created in wartime England to replace a Haydn tune tainted by Nazi associations.



Contact FPC

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VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

WORSHIP

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Flowers
3/10	Nancy Mike & Priscilla Hallsworth Brown		Becky Jolly
3/17	17 Walter Valerie George & Jean Lowrey		Bobbie Andeson

MONTHLY

Communion (April 7)		Congregational Care	
Prep	Margaret Venable	March	Priscilla Brown
Servers	Rev. Dr. Ken McKenzie, Jeff Granillo and Jack & Pam Partain	April	TBD

MISSION

The Book Spot		Little Free Pantry Pal		
3/15	TBD	March	Alice Ensley & O'Gwins	
3/22	TBD	April	Laura Allgood & Priscilla Brown	

PRAYERS

For Healing and Comfort for our Members:

Wayne Alderman, as he mourns the death of his sister, Ruth;

Rob Lively and family, as they mourn the death of his grandfather, Frank Reed; John McPherson, as he recovers from shoulder surgery;

Jeff Granillo and family, as they mourn the death of his uncle, Dennis Moore;

Noel Temples and family, as they mourn the death of Coy Temples;

Charles Allgood, as he battles lung cancer;

On-Going Concerns for our Members:

The Pastor Nominating Committee, as they faithfully continue our search for a new pastor;

Cecilia Passmore and her parents, Kristen and Chance, as they enjoy their new home in Dawsonville to be closer to family;

Nancy Rhine, in assisted living located near her daughter;

Stan Crawford, multiple health challenges including spinal stenosis;

Friends of First Presbyterian, Dalton

Nikki Collins and her family, as they go through the difficult experience of losing their home in a house fire;

The peace of Israel and Palestine;

The families of victims of substance abuse;

Kathy Householder, friend of Debbie and Mary Dennard, who was recently diagnosed with breast cancer;

Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 10

Sunday School

9:15 a.m.

Fellowship

10:00 a.m.

Worship

FPC Sanctuary (&

Facebook livestream)

10:30 a.m.

Second Sunday

Fellowship Lunch

11:30 a.m.

Connection Team Meeting

12:30 p.m.

Monday, March 11

Soup & Scripture

noon

"Drop-in" Ensley baby shower

4:00-5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 12

Church Women United 11:00 a.m.

Grateful Heart AA Mtg 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 13

Choir Rehearsal 6:30-:800 p.m.

Thursday, March 14

Knitting Group 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 15

The Book Spot 7:30 a.m.

Saturday, March 16

NAACP Gospel Concert 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 17

Sunday School

9:15 a.m.

Fellowship

10:00 a.m.

Worship - Mr. Rogers Day

FPC Sanctuary (&

Facebook livestream)

10:30 a.m.

Session Meeting

11:30 a.m.

Monday, March 18

Soup & Scripture noon

Arden Brown, son of Amanda and Chris Brown, as they seek a cure for DMD; Caregivers and aging parents.

Praises and Continuing Prayers!

John and Erin Swinney, on the birth of their daughter, Palmer;

Becky Hansberry, daughter of Kaye Clark, who has moved to Atlanta, and is continuing her cancer treatment at Emory.