



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

DALTON, GEORGIA EST. 1847



Service for the Lord's Day

Sunday, August 25, 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 video-conference. 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

- As a result of Sunday’s action by the congregation, Larry Cooper and Jeane Jones will serve on the **Elder Nominating Committee**. Also by Session selection, Sarah McCown will join with them to complete the team. Let us add to our prayers these three as they begin their important discernment process.
- Rev. Nicole Jiskoot will be officially installed as the **Minister of Word and Sacrament** for First Presbyterian Church, Dalton, on September 15, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. All members and friends of the congregation are invited and encouraged to attend, and there will likely be members of Decatur Presbyterian Church and the Cherokee Presbytery in attendance as well. Please save the date for now; more information to come soon!
- Mission Opportunity! Many of our neighbors are learning to speak English and they want to practice their skills with native speakers! **Ciila-Coalicion de lideres latinos** is hosting Amigo Days where volunteers can join the English classes for informal conversation practice. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Alice Ensley. Gracias!
- The Connections Team would like you to pick up a “Love First, Love All” **bookmark** located in the sanctuary pew seats, at the entrances to the sanctuary, and in the Commons. We invite you to take several with you, use them in your own books and put them into books that you lend or donate to others.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2024

GATHERING AROUND THE WORLD

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

Be Still

Be still and know that I am God.

B. Edwards

*CALL TO WORSHIP

How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord of heavenly forces!

Better is a single day in your courtyards than a thousand days anywhere else!

I would prefer to stand outside the entrance of my God's house than live comfortably in the tents of the wicked!

The Lord is a sun and shield; God is favor and glory.

The Lord gives, and does not withhold, good things to those who walk with integrity.

Lord of heavenly forces, those who trust in you are truly happy!

Julie Tharpe

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Father God, you alone are worthy of praise. Shield us from the distractions of our everyday lives and turn our attention to you alone. Holy Spirit, enter this space and shower us with blessings, that through our worship and song we may grow in holy communion with you. We ask this in the name of our Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN 402

How Lovely, Lord

Merle's Tune

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(A time of silent prayer and meditation.)

O Lord our God, you call us to proclaim the gospel, but we remain silent in the presence of evil. You call us to be reconciled to you and one another, but we are content to live in separation. You call us to seek the good of all, but we fail to resist the powers of oppression. You call us to fight pretensions and injustice, but we sit idly by, afraid to take an outward stand.

Forgive us, O Lord. Reconcile us to you by the power of your Spirit, and give us the courage and strength to be reconciled to others; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

Cover Art:

Poussin, Nicolas, 1594?-1665. Adoration of the Golden Calf, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-image/act-image-link.pl?RC=58476> [retrieved August 20, 2024]. Original source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Nicolas_Poussin_-_L%27Adoration_du_Veau_d%27or.jpg.

The Call to Worship is from Psalm 84.

Hymn 402 Note:

The author of this text, a Presbyterian minister and educator, was humming this tune as he began to create a paraphrase of Psalm 84 that would emphasize the beauty and peace of God's house. The tune is named for the composer's oldest sister, who was his first piano teacher.

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

KYRIE

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

Kyrie Eleison

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us; Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

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

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Glora Patri

S Selwidge Street

Glor - y be to God the Fath - er, and to the Son: and to the Hol - y Ghost; As it
was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be:
world with - out end. A - men, A - men.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

THE 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.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

NRSVUE

¹Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. ²And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods.

¹⁴ “Now, therefore, revere the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt and serve the Lord. ¹⁵ Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living, but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

¹⁶ Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods, ¹⁷ for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went and among all the peoples through whom we passed, ¹⁸ and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Fairest Lord Jesus

D. Hakes

*Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nations,
O thou of God and man the Son,
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.*

*Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.*

*Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
And all the twinkling starry host;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heav'n can boast.*

*Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise and adoration
Now and forevermore be Thine!*

Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ephesians 6:10-20

NRSV

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power; ¹¹ put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil, ¹² for our struggle is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on the evil day and, having prevailed against everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand, therefore, and belt your waist with truth and put on the breastplate of righteousness ¹⁵ and lace up your sandals in preparation for the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, so that when I speak a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“The Temptations of False Gods”

Rev. Nicole Jiskoot

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 756

O God of Every Nation

Llangloffan

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her

nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hymn 756 Note:

If we truly believe that God cares for all people, we cannot limit our prayers and songs for peace to the welfare of our own nation, no matter how much we may love it. This challenging text is set to a stirring Welsh tune, named for a hamlet with a prominent Baptist chapel.

The Affirmation of

Faith is an excerpt from *A Brief Statement of Faith*.

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

Amazing Grace

J. Newton
(1725-1807)

Daniel Eung In Kim, violin

*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

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 269

Lead On, O King Eternal!

Lancashire

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

Traditional

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 Offering onto your browser to easily submit your online offering.

Hymn 269 Note:

Not everything that looks like a battle ends up being one. This text, written for a seminary graduation, works well with its martial tune in the first stanza; but later stanzas turn from such imagery and focus on “deeds of love and mercy” and courage for life’s journey.



Contact FPC

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VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

WORSHIP

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Flowers	Nursery
8/25	Julie Tharpe	Mike & Priscilla Brown	Margaret Venable	Jeane Jones & Leanna Granillo
9/1	Laura Allgood	Jean Lowrey & Margaret Venable	TBD	Priscilla Brown

MONTHLY

Communion (September 1)		Congregational Care		Little Free Pantry Pal	
Prep	Margaret Venable	August	Annelle Scott	August	Walter & Jeane Jones
Servers	Rev. Nicole Jiskoot, Annelle Scott, Margaret Venable and Kathryn Sellers	September	TBD	September	Kathryn Sellers & Annelle Scott

PRAYERS

For Healing and Comfort for our Members:

Debbie Dennard, as she recovers from shoulder surgery;

Jenny Crawford, who is recovering at home from knee replacement surgery;

The Elder Nominating Committee, as they begin their work;

Kathryn Sellers, who had outpatient back surgery last week and is recovering at home;

Charles Allgood, as he battles lung cancer;

Ongoing Concerns for our Members:

Nancy Rhine, in assisted living located near her daughter;

Stan Crawford, multiple health challenges including spinal stenosis;

For Friends of First Presbyterian, Dalton

Renee Schuette, who is returning from a fire engine detail with the Forestry Service in Oregon;

Margaret Spivey, sister-in-law of Sue Spivey and Aunt of Kathy Bridges, who is receiving radiation treatment for breast cancer

Ruby, an 8-year-old friend of the Gurley Family, is recovering from a serious accident;

Mark A. Spivey, brother-in-law of Sue Spivey, who was hospitalized in Norfolk, VA following a fall and a stroke;

Martha Bracey Henson, cousin of Mary Hubbs, who was recently diagnosed with a brain tumor, is recovering from surgery and is receiving treatment;

Emily Bringardner, friend of Kathy Bridges and Sue Spivey, who has returned home and is having physical therapy for her hip surgery. Her Parkinson problems continue;

The peace of Israel and Palestine and the well-being of Ukraine;

The families of victims of substance abuse;

Upcoming Events

Sunday, August 25

Adult Sunday School
9:15 a.m.

Fellowship

10:00 a.m.

Worship

FPC Sanctuary (& Facebook livestream)

10:30 a.m.

Lemonade on the Lawn

11:30 p.m.

Tuesday, August 27

Grateful Heart AA Mtg

8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 28

Worship Team Meeting

5:15 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal

6:30-8:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 29

Knitting Group

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 1

Adult Sunday School

9:15 a.m.

Fellowship

10:00 a.m.

Worship

FPC Sanctuary (& Facebook livestream)

10:30 a.m.

Monday, September 2

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, September 3

Grateful Heart AA Mtg

8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 4

Choir Rehearsal

6:30-8:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 5

Presbyterians at the Pub

5:00 p.m.

Knitting Group

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Kathy Householder, friend of Debbie and Mary Dennard, who now has spots on her spine and a course of treatment is being organized;

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

Caregivers and aging parents.

Praises and Continuing Prayers!

Our new pastor *Nicole*, and *her family*, as they transition into our church family and prepare to move into their new home;

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

Cover Art Note: The viewer's eye is drawn both to the gleaming calf that commands the top half of Nicolas Poussin's *Adoration of the Golden Calf* (1633–34) and to the worshippers circling that calf in dancing adoration. The movement, energy, and crowdedness of the bottom half stand in tension with the stillness and relative emptiness of the top half. Below, the arms of the worshippers stretch out to one another and up toward the calf, while above, the calf's hoof, necklace, and eyeline all point back down, and so the gaze circulates between these two sights: the unmoving, dead idol and the lively ones giving themselves over to it.

It is easy to miss Moses coming down the mountain in dark fury, his tablet raised. This is not the shining Moses who descends Sinai for the second time in Exodus 34 but the Moses described in Exodus 32, descending unnoticed to the dancing and noise (vv.17–19). Placed far in the background, Moses is so much smaller than the revellers and the calf, and so much more obscure. It is easy for the eye to glide over this one who bears divine presence and instead circle with the dancers, moving between their revelry and the idol's bright presence. As art historian Richard Neer (2006) has argued, this is an image that warns about the dangers of images, about how they can tempt us to devote ourselves to false divinities. In rendering the golden calf so visually appealing, Poussin shows the viewer how easily her eyes are drawn to idols.

But, of course, this is not simply an iconoclastic message. Poussin warns about images, not verbally but visually. This painting may perform a sort of therapy, helping us to see God better in the world; teaching us to look in the shadows for the divine presence descending; exhorting us to wait patiently for the glorious presence and content ourselves, in this time of waiting, with a God who may come in shadows and traces.

Natalie Carnes. 2018. 'Danger and Therapy', in *The Visual Commentary Of Scripture* ed. by Ben Quash. (London: The Visual Commentary on Scripture Foundation). [Accessed 20.8.2024]
<https://thevcs.org/golden-calf#danger-and-therapy>