



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
DALTON, GEORGIA EST. 1847



Third Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 15, 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

- **The Christmas Joy Offering**, December 1-22, supports church workers and their families in the PC(USA) who need critical financial assistance. Our congregation has the opportunity to make an impact. We can be the difference between financial hardship and a blessed breath of relief. You can place your donation in the offering plate or you can give online. Envelopes are available in the Commons.
- Today after Worship we will eat together for our **Fellowship Lunch** that includes a **Family Advent Workshop**. All are welcome!
- Everyone is invited to help the Mission Team assemble 50 **Christmas food baskets** for families in need! Join us Wednesday, December 18 at 9:00 a.m. in Hollis Hall to join in the fun. After assembly, we will deliver the baskets to Park Creek and Dawnville Elementary schools.
- The **ladies of the church** are all invited to Jodi Johnson’s house on Thursday evening, December 19, from 4:30- 6:30 p.m. for a little seasonal socializing. Please bring a sweet or savory appetizer to share. We will enjoy a couple of hours of each others’ company and holiday spirit!

Announcements are continued on the bulletin insert.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024

GATHERING AROUND THE WORLD

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

THE GREETING

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

INTROIT

Let Us Gather and Praise the Lord!

Bronwyn Edwards

Let us gather and praise the Lord.

O sing praises to the Lord.

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

(from Isaiah 35:1)

The Hubbs Family

We light the candle of joy as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

As the Lord has promised in days to come,
the wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

**like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.**

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Merciful God, you come into our midst longing for communion with us, becoming one of us. Break our resistance to life with you, show us the path toward just relations, and bring us into your unimaginable peace; in Jesus' name. Amen.

*HYMN 143

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Regent Square

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Steve Farrow

(A time of silent prayer and meditation.)

You, O Lord, are near. In your presence, Holy God, we confess that we need repentance. We have broken your commands against idolatry. We do not live in peace with your creation or your people. We have not trusted your word, and we are afraid. Forgive us, restore us, and turn our shame into praise, for the sake of the One who proclaims the good news and for the sake of all the world. Amen.

Hymn 143 Note:

This familiar carol was first published as a poem in the Christmas Eve 1816 issue of a newspaper the author edited in Sheffield, England. The tune name celebrates the location of a prominent Presbyterian Church in London, sometimes called the "Presbyterian cathedral."

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

The Meaning of Advent:

“Advent” means “coming” or “arrival.” During the season of Advent, we celebrate Christ’s coming into the world and watch with expectant hope for his coming again. In its historical origins, the season of Advent was patterned after the season of Lent, a six-week period of penitence and preparation for Easter. Similarly, the four weeks of Advent present an opportunity for communal discernment and personal examination, as the church prepares to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord and looks with hope for Christ’s return.

-from the website of the PC(USA)

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THE KYRIE

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

Kyrie Eleison



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

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

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death’s dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE & CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

See pageant insert to follow along

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Go, Tell It On the Mountain

Go Tell It

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Zephaniah 3:14-20

NRSVUE

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The Lord has taken away the judgments against you;
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;

you shall fear disaster no more.
¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
 “Do not fear, O Zion;
 do not let your hands grow weak.
¹⁷ The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
 a warrior who gives victory;
 he will rejoice over you with gladness;
 he will renew you in his love;
 he will exult over you with loud singing
¹⁸ as on a day of festival.”
 I will remove disaster from you,
 so that you will not bear reproach for it.
¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors
 at that time.
 And I will save the lame
 and gather the outcast,
 and I will change their shame into praise
 and renown in all the earth.
²⁰ At that time I will bring you home,
 at the time when I gather you;
 for I will make you renowned and praised
 among all the peoples of the earth,
 when I restore your fortunes
 before your eyes, says the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

A Whisper on the Wind

Joseph M. Martin
 (b. 1959)

Amanda Karge, Leanna Granillo, soloists

*A whisper on the wind, a weary mother breathes a lullaby.
 The winter dream again as graceful starlight paints the evening sky.
 The shadows of the night surrender to the miracle of light;
 Redeeming ev'ry tear, and healing ev'ry sorrow, ev'ry sigh,
 Redeeming ev'ry tear and sigh.*

*A promise finds its place, as mem'ries of an ancient truth are shared.
 The stars break forth in praise, and all creation binds its wounded prayers.
 The hope for peace is strong as music melts the silence into song.
 The emptiness is filled. Each wand'ring heart is fin'ly welcomed home,
 Each wand'ring heart is welcomed home.*

*A stillness falls like snow. It covers ev'ry scar with wondrous grace.
 New hope begins to grow as weary hearts reach out for love's embrace.
 A perfect sacred Rose is placed with care upon the golden bay.
 A fragrance sweet and rare, a beauty that will never fade away.
 A Love that never fades away.*

Alleluia, alleluia.

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SCRIPTURE LESSON

Philippians 4:4-7

NRSVUE

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Joy”

Rev. Nicole Jiskoot

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

“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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, you are in our midst,
Let us rejoice in all circumstances.

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

OFFERTORY

Hymn 133 Note:

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

Offering Note:

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

*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 113

Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria

*CHARGE AND 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

Hymn 113 Note:

This French carol probably dates from the 1700s, though it was not printed until the following century. Because it uses a vernacular language for the narrative stanzas and Latin for the refrain, it belongs to a special category called “macaronic” or mixed-language texts.



Contact FPC

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VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

WORSHIP

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Flowers
12/15	Steve Farrow	Jean Lowrey & Janice Sims	The Flower Team
12/22	Tate O'Gwin	TBD	The Flower Team

CHILDREN

Date	Nursery	Joy Makers	Faith Builders
12/15	Mary Hubbs	Alice Ensley & Susan Bisson	Jeane Jones & Kayte Crocker
12/22	Leanna Granillo	Jeff & Leanna Granillo	Bjorn & Nicole Jiskoot

MONTHLY

Communion (December 24)		Congregational Care		Little Free Pantry Pal	
Prep	Mike Brown	December	Susan Bisson	December	Peggy Rollins & Alice Ensley
Servers	Rev. Nicole Jiskoot, Mary Ellen Gurley, Margaret Venable & Hilliard Jolly	January	Sue Neelly	January	Eric & Lena Haugen
Communion (January 5)					
Prep	Carol Houston				
Servers	Rev. Nicole Jiskoot, Kathy Bridges, Laura Allgood & Kaye Clark				

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED...

- Our final **Presbyterians at the Pub** of 2024 presents the men of FPC with the opportunity to reflect deeply on the state of things - all kinds of things. While the women are otherwise occupied with tea and crumpets at 4:30, we shall meet at 5:00 at the Dalton Brewing Company for fellowship and learned discussion. Please join us for beverages, baked goods and that feeling of brotherhood which should always characterize our relationship. See you fellows on the 19th at 5:00!
- Hear the good news as the angels proclaim to the shepherds the arrival of the Christ child, who is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Join us for our **communion and candlelight service** on December 24 at 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. We shall sing praises to our Lord with exultation, for hope, peace, joy, and love abides within us all!

Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 15
 Sunday School
 9:15 a.m.
 Fellowship
 10:00 a.m.
 Worship - Advent III
Children's Pageant
 10:30 a.m.
 Sunday Fellowship
 Lunch w/ Family
 Advent Workshop
 11:30 a.m.
 Session Meeting
 12:30 a.m.

Monday, December 16
 Morning Prayers
 11:30 a.m.
 The Lunch Bunch
 noon

Tuesday, December 17
 Saturday Sacks
 10:30 a.m.
 Grateful Heart AA Mtg
 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 18
 Pack Holiday Food Boxes
 9:00 a.m.
 Choir Rehearsal
 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 19
 Women's Christmas Party
 4:30-6:30 p.m.
 Presbyterian's at the Pub
Special "Men's" Edition
 5:00 p.m.
 Knitting Group
 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Friday, December 20
 Grateful Heart AA Mtg
 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 22
 Sunday School
 9:15 a.m.
 Fellowship
 10:00 a.m.
 Worship - Advent IV
 10:30 a.m.

Monday, December 23
 Morning Prayers
 11:30 a.m.
 The Lunch Bunch
 noon

PRAYERS

For Healing and Comfort for our Members:

Jenny Crawford, who has been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease;

Bob Hubbs, who will be receiving some long-awaited medical treatment;

Janice Sims, who is waiting on news from a heart catheter procedure and will start therapy on December 18;

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

The family and friends of Rita Norville, step-mother of Nancy Hallsworth, as they mourn her passing on Saturday, December 7, 2024;

The family and friends of Rick King, brother-in-law of Jean Lowrey, as they mourn - Rick passed away suddenly in his home on Friday evening, November 29, 2024;

For the family of Juan Manuel Cavazos, friend of Janice Sims, as they mourn his death;

Linda Leslie, friend of Sue Spivey, who is battling Pancreatic Cancer;

Patsy Townsend, friend of Janice Sims, who is at home recovering from walking Pneumonia;

Randall Dockins, Jr., friend of Janice Sims, who is at home recovering from open heart surgery;

Jerry, friend of Pam Partain, who is undergoing chemotherapy;

Becky Hansberry, daughter of Kaye Clark, who is receiving chemotherapy treatment for lung cancer at Emory in Atlanta.

Those affected by Hurricane Helene and Milton, especially the friends, families, and loved ones who are close to our hearts, as well as those whom we cannot name, but whose needs are known well by God;

Paula Morrow, friend of Sarah McCown and of the church, whose Leukemia has relapsed and is awaiting a plan for a bone marrow transplant;

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

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

Martha Bracey Henson, cousin of Mary Hubbs, who continues to receive treatment for a brain tumor;

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;

Kathy Householder, friend of Debbie and Mary Dennard, who is home from Mexico and doing well;

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

Caregivers and aging parents.

Praises and Continuing Prayers!

In gratitude for the generosity of all who donated to our Hurricane Relief Love Offering, may God use our gifts to bring hope and stability to Western North Carolina;

In praise to the God who was and is and is to come, open our hearts during our Stewardship Campaign, that we may prayerfully consider pledging our gifts, time, and talents in the coming year.