



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
DALTON, GEORGIA EST. 1847



Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 22, 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

- 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 **Christmas Eve service with communion and candlelight** 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!
- **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.
- The **church office will be closed** December 24-January 1 with normal office hours resuming on Thursday, January 2. During this time, Dick Neely will be available for any pastoral concerns.
- The **Children and Adult Sunday School classes** will not meet Sunday, December 29. They will resume on Sunday, January 5.
- **Morning Prayers and The Lunch Bunch** will not meet Monday, December 30. They will resume on Monday, January 6.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 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 7:14)

The O'Gwin Family

We light the candle of love as a sign of the coming light of Christ.
As the Lord has promised in days to come,
the Lord will give you a sign.
look, the young woman is with child.
**She shall bear a son,
and name him Emmanuel: "God is with us."**

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Stir up your power, O God, and come to set us free by the righteousness of your birth in our midst, by the light of your face shining upon us, and by becoming our brother, our friend, our salvation. We pray this in the name of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, mother of us all. Amen.

*HYMN 110

Love Has Come

Bring A Torch

CALL TO CONFESSION

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

Hymn 110 Note:

Here is a chance to sing a familiar French carol tune with new words, the most important clearly being "Love." The senses "seen and heard" (as in Acts 4:20 and elsewhere) organize the first two stanzas, while the third holds the summary statement: "Love is the gift of Christmas."

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)

Today’s music is reprinted with permission to reprint/podcast/stream music in this service is obtained from One License with license #A-722902. All rights reserved.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Tate O’Gwin

(A time of silent prayer and meditation.)

God our Savior, we ask for your mercy. Though we have heard Mary’s song, we still seek security in pride and power and possessions. Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you. We pass by those considered lowly in this world. We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for the justice you intend. Make us messengers of the peace you bring. As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.

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 Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily:
to us the path of knowledge show;
and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

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 LESSONS

Micah 5:2-5a

NRSVUE

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth,

⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Still, Still, Still

Norman Luboff
(1917-1987)

*Still, still, still one can hear the falling snow.
For all is hushed, the world is sleeping,
Holy Star its vigil keeping
Still, still, still one can hear the falling snow.*

*Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth.
The night is peaceful all around you,
Close your eyes, let sleep surround you
Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth.*

*Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.
While guardian angels without number
Watch you as you sweetly slumber.
Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:39-55

NRSVUE

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as

Select liturgy
reprinted by
permission of
Westminster John
Knox Press from
Feasting on the Word
Worship Companion.
Copyright 2015.

soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy.
45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

46 And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

48 for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,

49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name;

50 indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

51 He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly;

53 he has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

54 He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Love”

Rev. Nicole Jiskoot

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN

Mary, Did You Know?

Mary, Did You Know

See insert for hymn

*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.

Hymn Note:

This hymn can be found in the Worship & Rejoice hymnal.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Even now:

Come, Lord Jesus.

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

*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 145

What Child Is This

Greensleeves

*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

Offering Note:

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

Hymn 145 Note:

This Victorian text gains scope and power by having the original second halves of stanzas two and three restored. They give a stark forward glimpse of what lies ahead for this “babe, the son of Mary!” The tune is much older, dating from Tudor England.



Contact FPC

101 S. Selvidge Street Phone: 706-278-8161

Rev. Nicole Jiskoot, Pastor: njiskoot@firstpresdalton.org

Hye Jeong Kwon, Director of Music: hkwon@firstpresdalton.org

Bjorn Jiskoot, Director of Children's and Youth Ministries: bjiskoot@firstpresdalton.org

Erin Witt, Office Manager: office@firstpresdalton.org

Mailing Address:

PO Box 489 • Dalton, Georgia 30722

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

WORSHIP

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Flowers
12/22	Tate O'Gwin	Susan Bisson	The Flower Team
12/24	Bjorn Jiskoot	TBD	The Flower Team

CHILDREN

Date	Nursery	Joy Makers	Faith Builders
12/22	Leanna Granillo	Jeff & Leanna Granillo	Bjorn & Nicole Jiskoot
12/29	Kathryn Sellers	Will not meet	Will not meet

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				

Upcoming Events

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

Tuesday, December 24
 Christmas Eve Service
with candlelight
 5:30 p.m.
 Grateful Heart AA Mtg
 8:00 p.m.

December 24-January 1
 Church Office Closed

Thursday, December 26
 Knitting Group
 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Friday, December 27
 Grateful Heart AA Mtg
 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 29
 Fellowship
 10:00 a.m.
 Worship
 10:30 a.m.

Monday, December 30
 No Morning Prayers or
 Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, December 31
 Grateful Heart AA Mtg
 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 2
 Presbyterians at the Pub
 5:00 p.m.

Friday, January 3
 Grateful Heart AA Mtg
 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 5
 Sunday School
 9:15 a.m.
 Fellowship
 10:00 a.m.
 Worship
 10:30 a.m.
 Take Down the Greens
 11:30 a.m.

PRAYERS

For Healing and Comfort for our Members:

Verutzka Soza, who is recovering at home from outpatient surgery;
Jenny Crawford, who has been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease;
Bob Hubbs, who will be receiving some long-awaited medical treatment;
Janice Sims, who was diagnosed with Macular degeneration;
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

Dana Easley, friend of Sherri Stafford and many in our congregation, for unspoken prayers - may God bless her and keep her in his tender care;
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!

Janice Sims, who received positive results from her heart catheter procedure.