



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
DALTON, GEORGIA EST. 1847



First Sunday after Christmas

Sunday, December 29, 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

- Please join us for the **Second Sunday Fellowship Lunch** on Sunday, January 12 in Hollis Hall, immediately following Worship. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to the church office. After lunch, stay for the **Connection Team meeting** and see how you can help.
- After lunch on January 12 we will pack 300 **“Blessing Bags.”** The intent is to provide each member with several bags to keep in their cars to distribute as needed to our community members in need. Please see the Midweek News for more information and how you can contribute.
- The **church office will be closed** through January 1 with normal office hours resuming on Thursday, January 2. During this time, Dick Neelly will be available for any pastoral concerns.
- **Morning Prayers and The Lunch Bunch** will not meet Monday, December 30. They will resume on Monday, January 6.
- All are invited to stay after Worship next Sunday, January 5 to help **take down the greens**. Thank you in advance for your help!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 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

Let Us Gather and Praise the Lord!

Bronwyn Edwards

Let us gather and praise the Lord.

O sing praises to the Lord.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jean Lowrey

Praise the Lord!

Praise God in the heavens.

Praise the Lord from all the earth!

Young and old alike,

men and women together.

Praise the Lord!

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

O God, into a realm of clerics and kings you sent your child to teach the wise and show the world what power there is in love. Keep us vigilant to hear the voices of those who speak your truth. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

*HYMN 146

Gently Mary Laid Her Child

Tempus Adest Floridum

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(A time of silent prayer and meditation.)

God of wonder, you surround us with signs of your glory and surprise us with your presence, yet we often miss the marvels you place before us. Forgive our dullness and make us alert to the ways you make yourself known, that we might be witnesses to your good news and proclaim your extravagant love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

The Call to Worship is from Psalm 148.

Hymn 146 Note:

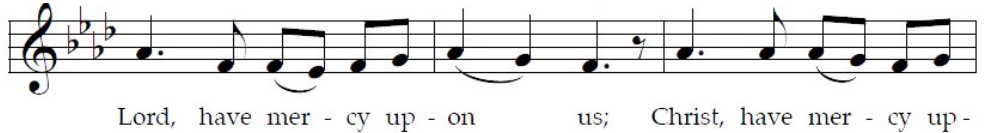
This 20th-century Christmas text by an English-born Canadian clergyman was originally a poem called “The Manger Prince.” It gains a certain antique flavor by being set to a late medieval song associated with springtime. (The tune name means “The flowering time is near.”)

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

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

Joy to the World

Antioch

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

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

I Samuel 2: 18-20, 26

NRSVUE

¹⁸ But Samuel was ministering before the Lord—a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹ Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice. ²⁰ Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, saying, “May the Lord give you children by this woman to take the place of the one she prayed for and gave to the Lord.” Then they would go home.

²⁶ And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the Lord and with people.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

O Come and Sing unto the Lord

David Bridges

Mary Ellen Gurley, Sarah McCown, handbells

*O come and sing unto the Lord, To him our voices raise;
Let us in our most joyful songs, The Lord, our Savior, praise.*

*Before his presence let us come With praise and thankful voice;
Let us sing psalms to him with grace, With grateful hearts rejoice.*

*Alleluia, alleluia, Our joyful songs we raise;
Alleluia, alleluia, The Lord, our Savior, praise.*

*The Lord our God is King of kings, Above all gods his throne;
The depths of earth are in his hand, The mountains are his own,*

*Alleluia, alleluia, Our joyful songs we raise;
Alleluia, alleluia, The Lord, our Savior, praise.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2: 41-52

NRSVUE

⁴¹ Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover.

⁴² When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. ⁴³ After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. ⁴⁴ Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

⁴⁹ "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁵¹ Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

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SERMON

“Where Else Should He Be?”

Rev. Dr. Ken McKenzie

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Hymn 123 Note:

The “it” of the first line of this text by a Unitarian minister does not refer to the birth of Jesus, but to “that glorious song of old,” the angelic tidings of peace on earth. The restored third stanza laments how often the noise of human strife has obscured that message.

*HYMN 123

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Carol

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being born in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.

Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God, “Jesus Christ is Lord!” Amen.

- Philippians 2:5-11

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

Offering Note:

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

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 147

The First Nowell

The First Nowell

*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

Hymn 147 Note:

Nowell” is the English form of the French “noel,” a shout of joy formerly used at Christmas (as in Chaucer’s “Franklin’s Tale”), a clue that the word is older than its first printing. It may have Latin and French roots related to “born” (natus /né) as well to “news” (nova/nouvelle).



Contact FPC

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VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

WORSHIP

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Flowers
12/29	Jean Lowrey	Joanne Lewis & Valerie George	The Flower Team
1/5	Hilliard Jolly	Mike & Priscilla Brown	Sarah McCown

CHILDREN

Date	Nursery	Joy Makers	Faith Builders
12/29	Kathryn Sellers & Jean Lowrey	Will not meet	Will not meet
1/5	Priscilla Brown & Michelle Lively	Rob & Michelle Lively	Jean Lowrey & Priscilla Brown

MONTHLY

Communion (January 5)		Congregational Care		Little Free Pantry Pal	
Prep	Carol Houston	December	Susan Bisson	December	Peggy Rollins & Alice Ensley
Servers	Rev. Nicole Jiskoot, Kathy Bridges, Laura Allgood & Kaye Clark	January	Sue Neelly	January	Eric & Lena Haugen

Upcoming Events

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.

Monday, January 6

Morning Prayers
11:30 a.m.

The Lunch Bunch
noon

Tuesday, January 7

Saturday Sacks
10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, January 8

Choir Rehearsal
6:30-8:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 9

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

Friday, January 10

Grateful Heart AA Mtg
8:00 p.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

Patsy Burns, friend of Kathryn Sellers, who is battling Pancreatic Cancer;
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 who 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;

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, whose heart catheter procedure revealed no problems;
Kathy Householder, friend of Debbie and Mary Dennard, who is home from Mexico and doing well.