



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
DALTON, GEORGIA EST. 1847



Second Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 8, 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.
- Attend our **Christmas Cantata**, *The Star Arising*, by Joseph M. Martin, on Sunday, December 8 at 5:00 p.m. Through the scripture readings and music, experience light and joy in sharing the good news of Jesus’ birth during this annual **Lessons & Carols** service with candlelight. The choir will be joined by area instrumentalists to form a small Chamber Orchestra. A prelude will begin at 4:45 p.m.
- December 15 is a day packed full of fun and fellowship! Join us that Sunday during Worship and enjoy the **Children’s Christmas Pageant**. After Worship we will eat together for our **Fellowship Lunch** that includes a **Family Advent Workshop**. Volunteers are needed to help with the craft tables. Please see Bjorn Jiskoot if you are interested. Please RSVP to the church office if you’d like to attend the lunch.

Announcements are continued on the bulletin insert.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 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 11:6)

The Haugen Family

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

As the Lord has promised in days to come,

the wolf shall dwell with the lamb,

the leopard shall lie down with the kid,

the calf and the lion and the fatling will lie down together,

and a little child shall lead them.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Covenant God, you send us messengers to cleanse and refine us for your coming. Help us endure the mirror of the message brought to us by the prophets, that we may see you when you suddenly appear among us; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

*HYMN

O Holy Night

Cantique De Noel

See insert for hymn

Hymn Note:

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

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sue Spivey

(A time of silent prayer and meditation.)

Refining God, you have sent us prophets and we have not listened. We have not always determined what is best or made way for your reign in our lives, our church, and our society. Forgive us, we pray, and renew your covenant within us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*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, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven’s peace.**

**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

Malachi 3:1-4

NRSVUE

¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.

² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like washers’ soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and

refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord, as in the days of old and as in former years.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Dreamers of the Dawn

Joseph M. Martin
(b. 1959)

*O dreamers of the golden dawn, lift up your eyes;
For at the dying of the night, your wounded faith at last has sight.
O nata Lux. Come, Redeemer of the world.*

*O prophets of the sacred Word, lift up your song!
Let peace descend like gentle rain and teach the world to love again.
O nata Lux. Come, Redeemer of the world.*

*O seekers of the Morning Star, lift up our hearts.
The long awaited Child of grace will come, restore your songs of praise.
O nata Lux. Come, Redeemer of the world.*

Come, Redeemer of the world.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 3:1-6

NRSVUE

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth,

⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Peace”

Rev. Nicole Jiskoot

Antem Note:

O nata Lux translates
to: O born of Light.

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RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Hymn 140 Note:

Like “All Things Bright and Beautiful” (see no. 20), this popular Christmas hymn was written by an Irish poet to illustrate for children the various articles of the Apostles’ Creed. It is not known which of several English villages the composer had in mind when naming this tune.

Offering Note:

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

Hymn 136 Note:

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.

*HYMN 140

Once in Royal David’s City

Irby

*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

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 136

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Go Tell It

*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



Contact FPC

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VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

WORSHIP

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Flowers
12/8 AM	Sue Spivey	Steve & Carol Houston	The Flower Team
12/8 PM	_____	Roger & Peggy Rollins	The Flower Team
12/15	Steve Farrow	Jean Lowrey & Janice Sims	The Flower Team

CHILDREN

Date	Nursery	Joy Makers	Faith Builders
12/8	Jeff Granillo	Laura Goins & Leanna Granillo	Eric Haugen & Jeff Granillo
12/15	Mary Hubbs	Alice Ensley & Susan Bisson	Jeane Jones & Kayte Crocker

MONTHLY

Communion (December 24)		Congregational Care		Little Free Pantry Pal	
Prep	Mike Brown	December	Susan Bisson	December	Peggy Rollins & Alice Ensley
Servers	TBD	January	Sue Neelly	January	Eric & Lena Haugen
Communion (January 5)					
Prep	Carol Houston				
Servers	TBD				

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED...

• FPC will host **Church Women United's** Christmas Brunch at 11:00 a.m. in Hollis Hall on Saturday, December 14. All women of our church are encouraged to attend. Please bring finger food to share. Dessert will be provided. Join us for this fun time of food and fellowship with our sisters in Christ.

• The Mission Team is making 40 **Christmas food baskets** for families in need. We are going to meet Wednesday, December 18 at 9:00 a.m. in Hollis Hall to assemble the food into baskets. Everyone is invited to come and participate! 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.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 8

Sunday School
9:15 a.m.
Fellowship
10:00 a.m.
Worship - Advent II
10:30 a.m.
Christmas Cantata
Lessons & Carols with Candlelight
Prelude (4:45 p.m.)
5:00 p.m.

Monday, December 9

Morning Prayers
11:30 a.m.
The Lunch Bunch
noon

Tuesday, December 10

Grateful Heart AA Mtg
8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 11

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

Thursday, December 12

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

Friday, December 13

Grateful Heart AA Mtg
8:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 14

Church Women United
Christmas Brunch
11:00 a.m.

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

Please bring a sweet or savory appetizer to share. We will enjoy a couple of hours of each others' company and holiday spirit!

• 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!

PRAYERS

For Healing and Comfort for our Members:

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

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

Janice Sims, who underwent a heart catheter procedure on December 4;

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 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.