



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

DALTON, GEORGIA EST. 1847



Baptism of the Lord

Sunday, January 12, 2025

## 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](http://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

- It’s time for another round of **Dinner Groups!** Dinner Groups are a chance to visit once a month with a selected group of other church members for a time of fellowship and food. See the Midweek News for more information.
- Plan to join us Thursday, January 30 at 7:00 p.m. when we launch a new community offering: **Selvidge Street Forum.** Designed to bring members of the community under our roof for engaging programming, the Connection Team is planning quarterly programs on a wide array of subjects ranging from history to art and literature to social issues of the day. Our inaugural program will be Professor Jerry Drye from Dalton State College on “Life Ever Laughter: Humor as a Life Skill.” Forums will be more conversation than lecture, and will take place in the foyer area of the Martin House, honoring the Martin’s legacy of providing a comfortable, friendly venue for learning and exploration.

# SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2025

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

### 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

Alice Ensley

The voice of God resounds upon the water.  
**The Spirit of the Lord hovers over the stream.**  
The Son of God is named, "Beloved."  
**And all who worship shout out, "Glory!"**  
Ascribe to the Lord majesty and strength.  
**Let us worship God in holy splendor.**

### \*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**Holy God, when Jesus was baptized in the Jordan the heavens opened, the Spirit descended, and your voice affirmed your love in Jesus for the healing of the human race and all creation. By water and word you lovingly invite us into this same life-giving mission. May your Spirit, moving like a stream of water flowing from its source, work in us this day to realize your vision of a world made new in Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

### \*HYMN 96

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

*Winchester New*

### CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*(A time of silent prayer and meditation.)*

**We are precious in your sight, yet we often forget that we are your beloved. We confess that our love is fickle and inconstant. We follow selfish goals and deny that our way of life harms others and hurts your world. We are sorry and we want to change. Create in us a clean heart, strengthen our resolve, reconcile us to one another, and bless us with your peace. Amen.**

### Cover Art:

Baptism in the River Jordan during pilgrimage, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55206> [retrieved January 7, 2025]. Original source: [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flickr\\_-\\_Israel\\_Defense\\_Forces\\_-\\_Christian\\_Pilgrims\\_Celebrate\\_the\\_Epiphany\\_in\\_the\\_Jordan\\_Valley,\\_Jan\\_2011\\_\(1\).jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flickr_-_Israel_Defense_Forces_-_Christian_Pilgrims_Celebrate_the_Epiphany_in_the_Jordan_Valley,_Jan_2011_(1).jpg).

The Call to Worship is from Psalm 29 and Luke 3:21-22.

### Hymn 96 Note:

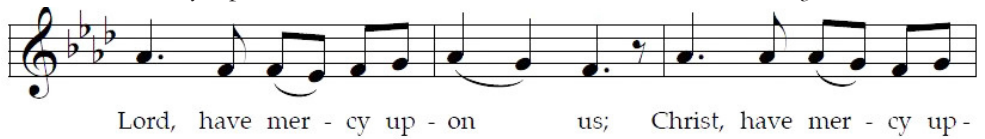
This hymn shows how once-unconnected parts can work together. The text about John the Baptist was written in Latin in the 18th century and translated into English in the 19th century. Similarly, the 17th-century melody was adapted to its present form in the 19th century.

\*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

Gloria Patri

*S Selwidge Street*



## 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

Isaiah 43:1-7

NRSVUE

<sup>1</sup> But now thus says the Lord,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name; you are mine.  
2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.  
3 For I am the Lord your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.  
I give Egypt as your ransom,  
Cush and Seba in exchange for you.  
4 Because you are precious in my sight  
and honored and I love you,  
I give people in return for you,  
nations in exchange for your life.  
5 Do not fear, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you;  
6 I will say to the north, "Give them up,"  
and to the south, "Do not withhold;  
bring my sons from far away  
and my daughters from the end of the earth—  
7 everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made."

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## ANTHEM

Wade in the Water

Roger Emerson  
(b. 1950)

### Refrain

*Wade in the water, wade in the water children,  
Wade in the water, God's agonna trouble the water.*

*River Jordan is chilly and cold,  
God's agonna trouble the water.  
Chills the body but not the soul,  
God's agonna trouble the water.*

### Refrain

*If you get up there before I do,  
God's agonna trouble the water.  
Just tell my friends I'm comin' too,  
God's agonna trouble the water.*

### Refrain

Select liturgy  
reprinted by  
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Worship Companion.  
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## SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 3:15-22

NRSVUE

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>18</sup> So with many other exhortations he proclaimed the good news to the people. <sup>19</sup> But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother’s wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, <sup>20</sup> added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

<sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

The Word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

“Singing Praises to God’s Beloved”

Rev. Nicole Jiskoot

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

#### \*HYMN 688

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

Stanzas 1,2 and 5

*Morecambe*

#### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.**

**He is head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.**

- Colossians 1:15-20

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Mothering Spirit,  
**Stir us with your power.**

#### Hymn 688 Note:

This reflection on Galatians 5:25 was written by a literary Anglican clergyman whose preaching drew people of many social classes to one of the formerly poorer London churches. The tune was created for “Abide with Me” (no. 836) but more often appears with the present text.



## 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/](http://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

## FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

### \*HYMN 480

Take Me to the Water

*Take Me to the Water*

Stanza 1 choir only

Stanzas 2-4 choir and congregation

### \*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

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#### Offering Note:

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

#### Hymn 480 Note:

This African American spiritual sums up the commitment of a candidate for baptism: the request for the rite, an expression of motivation, and a succinct affirmation of faith. The widening melodic lines build anticipation and give weight to the final phrase of each stanza.



### **Contact FPC**

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### **Mailing Address:**

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# VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

## WORSHIP

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Flowers
1/12	Alice Ensley	The O'Gwin Family	Jeane Jones
1/19	Annelle Scott	Robert & Rachel Smalley	Margaret Venable

## CHILDREN

Date	Nursery	Joy Makers	Faith Builders
1/12	Laura Goins & Jeff Granillo	Laura Goins & Leanna Granillo	Eric Haugen & Jeff Granillo
1/19	Alice Ensley & Jean Lowrey	Alice Ensley & Susan Bisson	Jeane Jones & Kayte Crocker

## MONTHLY

Communion (February 2)		Congregational Care		Little Free Pantry Pal	
Prep	Mary Hubbs	January	Sue Neelly	January	Eric & Lena Haugen
Servers	Rev. Nicole Jiskoot, Jeff Granillo, Jack and Pam Partain	February	Laura Allgood	February	Mary Hubbs

## Upcoming Events

### Sunday, January 12

Sunday School  
9:15 a.m.  
Fellowship  
10:00 a.m.  
Worship  
10:30 a.m.  
Connection Team Meeting  
12:30 p.m.

### Monday, January 13

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

### Tuesday, January 14

Church Women United  
11:00 a.m.  
Grateful Heart AA Mtg  
8:00 p.m.

### Wednesday, January 15

Congregational Life  
Team Meeting  
10:00 a.m.  
Women's Book Club  
noon  
Choir Rehearsal  
6:30-8:00 p.m.

### Thursday, January 16

Presbyterians at the Pub  
5:00 p.m.

### Friday, January 17

Grateful Heart AA Mtg  
8:00 p.m.

### Sunday, January 19

Sunday School  
9:15 a.m.  
Fellowship  
10:00 a.m.  
Worship  
10:30 a.m.  
Session Meeting  
11:30 a.m.

### Monday, January 20

Church Office Closed

### Tuesday, January 21

Saturday Sacks  
10:00 a.m.  
Grateful Heart AA Mtg  
8:00 p.m.

## PRAYERS

### **For Healing and Comfort for our Members:**

*Verutzka Soza*, who continues to recover 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 and is having cataract surgery soon;  
*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**

*For the family and friends of Patsy Burns*, a beloved friend of many in our congregation, as all mourn her passing;  
*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 Janine Vogel*, friend of Janice Sims, who is having a heart catheter procedure on Thursday and surgery for a heart aneurysm;  
*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.