



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
DALTON, GEORGIA EST. 1847

**“The Joy of the Lord is Our Strength”**



Service for the Lord's Day  
Sunday, January 26, 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

- Join us today, immediately following Worship, for **Coffee in the Commons**. Come enjoy light refreshments and fellowship.
- Do you love to sing? Our **choir is looking for new members** in all voice parts—especially tenors! This is a wonderful opportunity to serve the church, grow musically, and be part of a dedicated community. If you’re interested, please reach out to our Director of Music, Hye Jeong Kwon.
- 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 26, 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

Kathryn Sellers

God built the heavens, the earth, and everything in them.

**God calls us to be builders as well.**

God calls us to build our lives:

**To restore broken places and continue to grow.**

God calls us to build our faith:

**To study the Word and ponder its interpretation.**

God calls us to build our community:

**To build bridges of understanding and systems of justice.**

God calls us to build history by fulfilling the promises of Scripture:

**To preach the good news of God's love and liberation for all people.**

### \*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**Holy One, we thank you for the gift of the Bible, for its psalms and poems, myths and stories, histories, teachings, and prophecies. May the Holy Spirit who called out those ancient writings continue to call us out today, that our lives may reflect the first sermon of Jesus, our crucified and risen Christ, who brings good news to the poor and lets the oppressed go free. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

### \*HYMN 407

Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers

*Nun Danket All' Und Bringet Ehr'*

Stanzas 1,2 and 5

### CALL TO CONFESSION

The Call to Worship is from From Psalm 19, Nehemiah 8, and Luke 4.

#### Hymn 407 Note:

The subtle changes between the first and last stanzas here are important; they reveal how the gift of the Holy Spirit transforms and widens our concern from ourselves to the world around us. The tune is named for the text it first set, "Now let all thank and bring honor."

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

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

God of our Restoration, whenever we come home to you, we realize how far we have strayed and how much we have forgotten of your law and love. We have not loved you with our whole hearts or loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us, heal us, and restore us to our relationship with you; through Jesus Christ, in whom we trust. Amen.

## KYRIE

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

*Kyrie Eleison*



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us; Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

## 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 Selvidge Street*



Glor - y be to God the Fath - er, and to the Son: and to the Hol - y Ghost; As it



was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be:



world with - out end. A - men, A - men.

## 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

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

NRSVUE

<sup>1</sup> all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. <sup>2</sup> Accordingly, Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. <sup>3</sup> He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand, and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law... <sup>5</sup> And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people, and when he opened it, all the people stood up. <sup>6</sup> Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground... <sup>8</sup> So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

<sup>9</sup> And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. <sup>10</sup> Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord, and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ANTHEM

For the Beauty of the Earth

John Rutter

(b. 1945)

*For the beauty of the earth,  
For the beauty of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth  
Over and around us lies:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise.  
This our joyful hymn of praise.*

*For the beauty of each hour  
Of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale and tree and flower,  
Sun and moon and stars of light:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise  
This our joyful hymn of praise.*

*For the joy of human love,  
Brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth, and friends above,  
For all gentle thoughts and mild:  
Lord of all, to thee we raise  
This our joyful hymn of praise.*

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## SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 4:14-21

NRSVUE

<sup>14</sup>Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. <sup>15</sup> He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

<sup>16</sup> When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

<sup>18</sup> “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to set free those who are oppressed,  
<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

<sup>20</sup> And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup> Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

“The Joy of the Lord is Our Strength”

Rev. Nicole Jiskoot

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

#### \*HYMN 301

Let Us Build A House - All Are Welcome

*Two Oaks*

Stanzas 1,2 and 5

#### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God’s purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

- Romans 8

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

#### Hymn 301 Note:

Although it was written for a church dedication, this text is not about a physical structure but a spiritual one. The building is at best only a vessel for the essential love and hope, life and faith, peace and justice, hospitality and nurture that form the worshiping community.

## 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 772

Live into Hope

*Truro*

### \*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 772 Note:

This text on Luke 4:16–20, the author's first, was written for the United Presbyterian Women's National Meeting in July 1976 because the team planning worship could not find a suitable hymn on that passage. She wrote the words with this vigorous 18th-century tune in mind.



### **Contact FPC**

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### **Mailing Address:**

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# VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

## WORSHIP

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Flowers
1/26	Kathryn Sellers	Kathy Bridges & Janice Sims	Joanne Lewis
2/2	Bob Hubbs	John Beazle & Steve Sides	Jeane Jones

## CHILDREN

Date	Nursery	Joy Makers	Faith Builders
1/26	Jeane Jones	Jeff & Leanna Granillo	Bjorn & Nicole Jiskoot
2/2	Michelle or Rob Lively	Michelle & Rob Lively	Jean Lowrey & Priscilla Brown

## 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 26

Sunday School  
9:15 a.m.  
Fellowship  
10:00 a.m.  
Worship  
10:30 a.m.  
Coffee in the Commons  
11:30 a.m.

### Monday, January 27

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

### Tuesday, January 28

Grateful Heart AA Mtg  
8:00 p.m.

### Wednesday, January 29

Missions Team Meeting  
5:30 p.m.  
Choir Rehearsal  
6:30-8:00 p.m.

### Thursday, January 30

Knitting Group  
5:30-7:30 p.m.  
Selvidge Street Forum  
7:00 p.m.

### Friday, January 31

Grateful Heart AA Mtg  
8:00 p.m.

### Sunday, February 2

Sunday School  
9:15 a.m.  
Fellowship  
10:00 a.m.  
Worship - Scout Sunday  
10:30 a.m.

### Monday, February 3

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

### Tuesday, February 4

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

### Wednesday, February 5

Choir Rehearsal  
6:30-8:00 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**

*Those affected by the raging fires in Southern California*, may God bring rain to quench the earth and bring urgent relief to all who have lost their homes and loved ones, especially those most vulnerable of being overlooked;

*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 dealing with heart issues that require surgery;

*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 Morron*, 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.