



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

DALTON, GEORGIA EST. 1847

*My Sibling, My Enemy...  
My Valentine?*



Service for the Lord's Day  
Sunday, February 16, 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

- This past Sunday, the children of the church collected \$883.14 for our Little Free Pantry. We received 20 food items also. The breakdown for the Super Bowl was \$281.14 for the KC Chiefs and \$602 for the Philadelphia Eagles. **Souper Bowl of Caring** is a national movement that works to fight hunger and poverty in our community. Thank you to everyone that donated to this special cause!
- A **congregational meeting** is called for Sunday, February 23, immediately following Worship, for the purpose of receiving the 2024 annual financial report and the 2024 annual report of the activities of the church.
- Calling all volunteers who work with the children and youth of the church. We will offer the annual **child protection training** today immediately following Worship and on Sunday, February 23, at 9:15 a.m. Both sessions will be held in the Parlor in the Martin House. Please plan on attending one of the sessions.
- On Saturday, February 22 at 7:00 p.m., The DEO Clinic, in partnership with FPC, is hosting a concert featuring **Kathy Reed & Lonesome Redwing**. Volunteers are needed for this event. Please contact the church office if you are interested in volunteering.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 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**

Priscilla Brown

Take delight in the Lord, who satisfies the desires of your heart.

**Commit your way to the Lord and trust in God's actions.**

Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for God.

**The Lord is our salvation and our refuge in times of trouble.**

The Call to Worship is from Psalm 37.

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

God of abundant mercy, you alone can turn evil into good, sorrow into rejoicing, and death into everlasting life. Teach us your way of grace – to meet hatred with kindness, to answer curses with blessing, to love without holding back, to give without thought of return; all in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Hymn 410 Note:**

This wide-ranging text reminds us of the many surprising and urgent ways God calls to us, both to draw us near and to send us forth. In the third line of music it is especially effective at harnessing the momentum of the phrases that are each a note higher than the one before.

**\*HYMN 410**

God is Calling through the Whisper

*W Żłobie Leży*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not followed your ways or trusted your promises. We love only those who love us; we show kindness only to those who are kind to us; we give only when we expect to receive.**

**Forgive us, Lord. Fill our hearts with your selfless love. Change our lives by your matchless grace. These things we pray through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

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

## 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 Selwidge 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

Genesis 45:3-15

NRSVUE

<sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

<sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup> God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup> So it was not you who sent me here but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, “Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay. <sup>10</sup> You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there, since there are five more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not come to poverty.’ <sup>12</sup> And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. <sup>13</sup> You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” <sup>14</sup> Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ANTHEM

Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace

Mary McDonald

(b. 1956)

*Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace.*

*Where there is hatred, let me sow love,*

*Where there is injury, pardon.*

*Where there is doubt, faith,*

*Wherever there’s despair, hope.*

*Where there’s darkness, light.*

*Where there is sadness, joy.*

*Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace.*

*O Lord, grant that I may not so much seek*

*To be consoled as to console,*

*To be understood as to understand;*

*To be loved as to love.*

*Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace.*

*For it is in giving that we receive.*

*For it is by faith that we believe.*

*For in forgiving, we are forgiven.*

*It is in dying that we are born to eternal life!*

*Make me an instrument of Thy peace.*

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## SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 6:27-38

NRSVUE

<sup>27</sup> “But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. <sup>29</sup> If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you.

<sup>32</sup> “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup> If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. <sup>35</sup> Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup> “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup> give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

“My Sibling, My Enemy... My Valentine?”

Rev. Nicole Jiskoot

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### \*HYMN 346

For the Healing of the Nations

*St. Thomas (Wade)*

### \*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 346 Note:

The first line of this text quotes the declared purpose of the leaves of the tree of life growing beside the river of life in the heavenly Jerusalem Revelation 22:2). The hymn continues by identifying some of the many ways we are called to share with God in this healing work.

## 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 543

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

*Green Tyler*

### \*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 543 Note:

This hymn is a 21st-century adaptation of the traditional Celtic prayer style known as a lorica (Latin for “armor” or “breastplate”). Many such petitions for God’s presence and protection were never written down, but this one is based on an example attributed to St. Patrick.



### **Contact FPC**

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

Rev. Nicole Jiskoot, Pastor: [njiskoot@firstpresdalton.org](mailto:njiskoot@firstpresdalton.org)

Hye Jeong Kwon, Director of Music: [hkwon@firstpresdalton.org](mailto:hkwon@firstpresdalton.org)

Bjorn Jiskoot, Director of Children's and Youth Ministries: [bjiskoot@firstpresdalton.org](mailto:bjiskoot@firstpresdalton.org)

Erin Witt, Office Manager: [office@firstpresdalton.org](mailto:office@firstpresdalton.org)

#### **Mailing Address:**

PO Box 489 • Dalton, Georgia 30722



# VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

## WORSHIP

| Date | Liturgist       | Ushers              | Flowers     |
|------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------|
| 2/16 | Priscilla Brown | The Granillo Family | Mary Hubbs  |
| 2/23 | Henry Tharpe    | Dick & Sue Neely    | Becky Jolly |

## CHILDREN

| Date | Nursery         | Joy Makers                  | Faith Builders              |
|------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2/16 | Mary Hubbs      | Alice Ensley & Susan Bisson | Jeane Jones & Kayte Crocker |
| 2/23 | Leanna Granillo | Leanna & Jeff Granillo      | Nicole & Bjorn Jiskoot      |

## MONTHLY

| Communion (March 2)                 |  | Congregational Care |                 | Little Free Pantry Pal |                              |
|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Prep                                | Jeane Jones  | February            | Laura Allgood   | February               | Mary Hubbs & Priscilla Brown |
| Servers                             | Rev. Nicole Jiskoot, Dan Strain, Henry and Julie Tharpe                | March               | Priscilla Brown | March                  | Margaret Venable             |
| Communion (March 5 - Ash Wednesday) |  |                     |                 |                        |                              |
| Prep                                | Kathryn Sellers  |                     |                 |                        |                              |
| Servers                             | Rev. Nicole Jiskoot, Alice Ensley, John McPherson and Margaret Venable |                     |                 |                        |                              |

## Upcoming Events

### Sunday, February 16

Sunday School  
9:15 a.m.  
Fellowship  
10:00 a.m.  
Worship  
10:30 a.m.  
Child Protection Policy Training  
11:30 a.m. a.m.

### Monday, February 17

Morning Prayers  
11:00 a.m.  
The Lunch Bunch  
11:30 a.m.

### Tuesday, February 18

Saturday Sacks  
10:30 a.m.  
Grateful Heart AA Mtg  
8:00 p.m.

### Wednesday, February 19

Women's Book Club  
noon  
Missions Team Meeting  
5:00 p.m.  
Choir Rehearsal  
6:30-8:00 p.m.

### Thursday, February 20

Presbyterians at the Pub  
5:00 p.m.  
Knitting Group  
5:30-7:30 p.m.

### Friday, February 21

Grateful Heart AA Mtg  
8:00 p.m.

### Sunday, February 23

Child Protection Policy Training  
9:15 a.m.  
Sunday School  
9:15 a.m.  
Fellowship  
10:00 a.m.  
Worship  
10:30 a.m.  
Annual Congregational Meeting  
11:30 a.m.  
Session Meeting  
11:45 a.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**

*The congregation of the Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Church in California*, who suffered the loss of their entire church campus during the recent wildfires;  
*Culver City Presbyterian Church*, as they open their doors and share their facilities with the Pacific Palisades Church so that services can continue;  
*Pam Williams*, friend of Alice Ensley, Mary Ellen Gurley, and Berrien Long, who has been diagnosed with glioblastoma and is beginning treatment;  
*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 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 Randall Dockins, Jr., Patsy Townsend, and Janine Vogel*, friends of Janice Sims, each of whom is being monitored for multiple health concerns;  
*For Linda Leslie and Margaret Spivey*, who are being treated for cancer, for *Mark A. Spivey*, who suffered a fall and a stroke, and for *Emily Bringardner*, who is recovering from hip surgery and suffers from Parkinson's Disease, all of whom are friends and family of Sue Spivey and Kathy Bridges;  
*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;  
*Martha Bracey Henson*, cousin of Mary Hubbs, who continues to receive treatment for a brain tumor;  
*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.