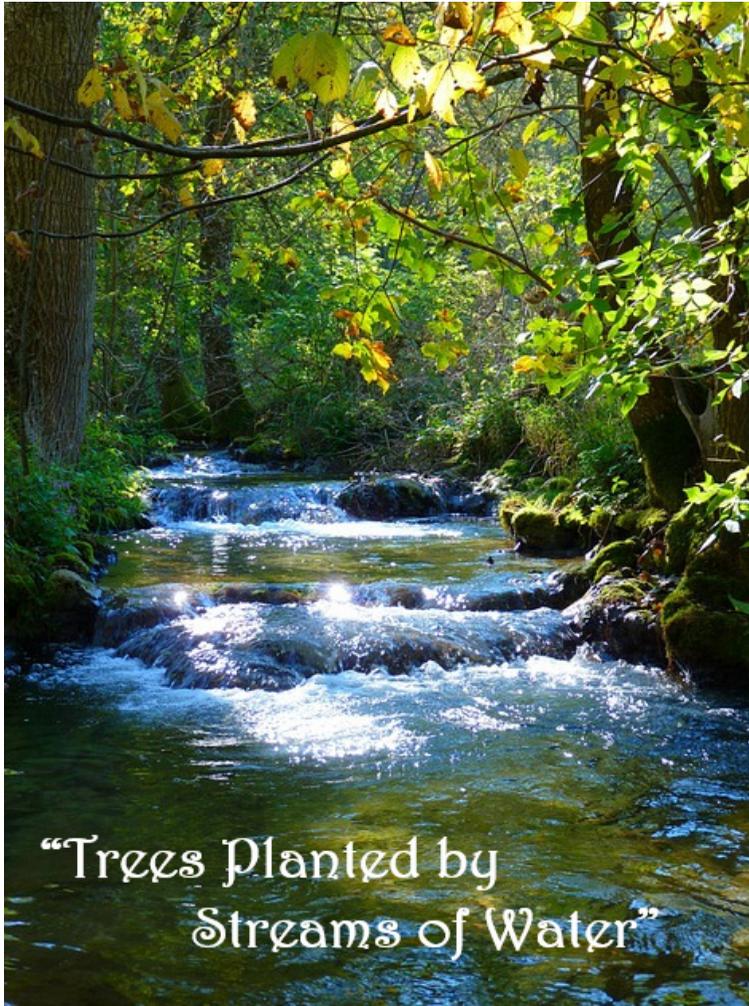




FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

DALTON, GEORGIA EST. 1847



“Trees Planted by
Streams of Water”

Service for the Lord's Day

Sunday, February 23, 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) 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

- A **Congregational Meeting** is called today, immediately following Worship, for the purpose of receiving the 2024 annual financial report and the 2024 annual report of the activities of the church.
- Join us today, immediately following the Congregational Meeting, for **Coffee in the Commons**. Come enjoy light refreshments and fellowship.
- Pastor Nicole will be out of the office February 26-28 attending the 2025 Columbia Theological Seminary Alumni Reunion.
- Join us for **Ash Wednesday Worship** at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 5, as we begin our observance of Lent, a forty-day season of preparation for Easter. The service will include communion and the imposition of ashes. The nursery will be available. All are welcome!
- Our Christian Education Team is excited to announce the launching of the **2025 Confirmation and New Member classes**. Six of our youth have signed up for the weekly Confirmation class. These students will be following the Big God, Big Questions curriculum, which has been made available through the PC(USA), and will be invited to select a mentor to walk this journey alongside them. We will also have a monthly informational class for adults who are interested in becoming official members of FPC Dalton. If you would like to know more, please contact Nicole at the church office.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 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**

Henry Tharpe

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked
or take the path that sinners tread or sit in the seat of scoffers,
but their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law they meditate day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.

In all that they do, they prosper.

The wicked are not so

but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous,
for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

***UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

God our Delight, your word guides us in paths that are true. We do not want to walk so long in sin that we take our place among those opposed to your ways or settle down in the company of ridicule. Watch over us, we pray, as we meditate on you day and night, and we will be happy. Amen.

***HYMN 47**

Bless All Who Trust in God

Franconia

The Call to Worship is from Psalm 1.

Hymn 47 Note:

This paraphrase of Psalm 128 effectively communicates the central theme of this short psalm that would have been sung by pilgrims while making their way to Jerusalem: trusting in God's sovereignty is the only true source of blessing, both for ourselves and for those we love.

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

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(A time of silent prayer and meditation.)

Merciful God, your call to discipleship is demanding. You call us to reorder our lives by the kingdom you are bringing in Jesus Christ. Yet we still pass by the ones you especially notice: people who are poor and hungry; people who weep. We have not stood with those who are hated, bullied, and excluded. Comfortable with the way things are, we are too complacent, even complicit with injustice and prejudice. Forgive us, O God, and turn us back to your gospel. We pray this now, for our sake, and for the sake of your world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 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

Jeremiah 17:5-10

NRSVUE

⁵ Thus says the Lord:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the Lord.

⁶ They shall be like a shrub in the desert
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷ Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.

⁸ They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹ The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—

who can understand it?

¹⁰ I the Lord test the mind
and search the heart,

to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Select liturgy
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Worship Companion.
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ANTHEM

Blest Are They

David Haas
(b. 1957)

Beverly Hidgon, Sienna Haugen, soloists
Hilliard Jolly, guitar

*Blest are they, the poor in spirit, theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow, they shall be consoled.*

Refrain

*Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!*

*Blest are they, the lowly ones, they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst, they shall have their fill.*

*Blest are they who show mercy, mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart, they shall see God!*

*Blest are they who seek peace, they are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith, the glory of God is theirs. Refrain*

*Blest are you who suffer hate, all because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom; shine for all to see. Refrain*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 6:17-26

NRSVUE

¹⁷ He came down with them and stood on a level place with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ “Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²² “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ “Woe to you who are full now,

for you will be hungry.
“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.
²⁶ “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated
the false prophets.

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

SERMON

“Trees Planted by Streams of Water”

Rev. Nicole Jiskoot

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 833

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

St. Margaret

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

**Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing
the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and
believe the gospel.**

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

**In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone
equally in God’s image, male and female, of every race and people, to
live as one community.**

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

**In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray
without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and
Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices
of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom,
and peace.**

**With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in
death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

- Excerpts from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

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.**

Hymn 833 Note:

This intense hymn of commitment to God (addressed as Love, Light, and Joy) closes with an invocation of the ultimate testimony to those attributes (the Cross). The composer, a Scotsman, named this specially-composed tune for the 11th-century patroness of Scotland.

Offering Note:

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

Hymn 549 Note:

The tune (“pure knowledge of God”), named for the son of the composer, was created to be a lullaby. The infant stopped breathing at one day old but was revived by the prompt action of nurses. The thankful mother wrote the English version of the Aaronic blessing (Numbers 6:24–26).

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

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 549

May the Love of the Lord

Soon Ti

Sing through twice

*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



DALTON, GEORGIA EST. 1847

Contact FPC

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Erin Witt, Office Manager: office@firstpresdalton.org

Mailing Address:

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VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

WORSHIP

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Flowers
2/23	Henry Tharpe	Dick & Sue Neelly	Becky Jolly
3/2	Hilliard Jolly	Berrien Long & Nathalie Sanders	Jeane Jones

CHILDREN

Date	Nursery	Joy Makers	Faith Builders
2/23	Leanna Granillo	Leanna & Jeff Granillo	Nicole & Bjorn Jiskoot
3/2	Priscilla Brown	Rob & Michelle Lively	Jean Lowrey & Priscilla Brown

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 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.
 Congregational Meeting
 11:30 a.m.
 Coffee in the Commons
 11:45 a.m.
 Session Meeting
 11:45 a.m.

Monday, February 24
 Morning Prayers
 11:00 a.m.
 The Lunch Bunch
 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, February 25
 Grateful Heart AA Mtg
 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 26
 Choir Rehearsal
 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 27
 Knitting Group
 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Friday, February 28
 Grateful Heart AA Mtg
 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 2
 Sunday School
 9:15 a.m.
 Fellowship
 10:00 a.m.
 Worship
 10:30 a.m.

Monday, March 3
 Morning Prayers
 11:00 a.m.
 The Lunch Bunch
 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, March 4
 Saturday Sacks
 10:30 a.m.
 Grateful Heart AA Mtg
 8:00 p.m.

PRAYERS

For Healing and Comfort for our Members:

Verutżka 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.