



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

DALTON, GEORGIA EST. 1847

Citizens of Heaven



Service for the Lord's Day

Sunday, March 16, 2025

Love First, Love All

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Dalton. We are glad you are here!

Stay In Touch! First Presbyterian has multiple Communication Channels in addition to Face-to-Face Contact. Check them often.

- Telephone: **706-278-8161**
- U.S.P.O: **Box 489, Dalton, GA 30722**
- E-Mail: **office@firstpresdalton.org**
- Facebook Public Page:
First Presbyterian Church Dalton
- Facebook for FPC Members:
FPC Dalton Connect
- Weekly Newsletter: **Midweek News**-sent by E-Mail unless a paper copy is requested by calling 706-278-8161

What is that person's name? Find current contact information for our members in the church directory, available on our website (www.firstpresdalton.org) under the "fellowship tab." Please email the church office for the directory password. Also, it is perfectly acceptable to ask someone's name, even if it's for the fifth or sixth time.

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**

We have several traditions within our service during which physical contact—shaking hands, joining hands, handing an item—may be an option. If, for any reason, you are uncomfortable with this kind of contact, feel free to refrain from participating. Know that our congregation is respectful and recognizes that our members and guests have different needs and comfort levels. We seek to be a “Non-Judgment Zone.”

Announcements

- The flowers today are given in celebration of the **marriage of Nancy and Steve Farrow**.
- **“Pray without ceasing.”** This biblical command is our collective commitment during Lent. Please join us by taking one day each week to lift prayers for those in need. Resources are available in the Commons or by email to office@firstpresdalton.org.
- This year we invite you to give to **“One Great Hour of Sharing”**—a denomination-wide mission effort that raises money for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, hunger programs, and cooperative development work with communities experiencing poverty around the world. Make a gift through the website or leave a check with “One Great Hour of Sharing” in the memo line. We will receive collections for this special offering through Easter.
- On Sunday, March 23, our church will recognize **Fred Rogers’ birthday** and celebrate his lifetime of being a good and loving neighbor to all. As part of this celebration the Missions Team will collect children’s books to donate to the Friendship House. Books should be appropriate for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years. See Priscilla Brown or the Midweek News for more information.

SUNDAY, MARCH 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

Spirit of the Living God

Daniel Iverson
(1890-1977)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

I seek to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,

to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud;

be gracious to me and answer me!

“Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!”

Your face, Lord, do I seek. Do not hide your face from me.

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Loving God, you save all who seek refuge in you. Grant that we who know your salvation may walk always in your light, take courage in your faithfulness, and rejoice in your astounding goodness to us. Through Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

*HYMN 841

God Is My Strong Salvation

Wedlock

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(A time of silent prayer and meditation.)

Merciful God, you have made us citizens of heaven, but we confess that we have set our minds on earthly things. We have let our desire for security restrain our commitment to serve the poor. We have let our fear of danger curb our obligation to love our enemies. We have let our love of things dull our generosity to the needy. We have let our craving for public status prevent our honesty about hidden sins.

Introit:

*Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.*

*Melt me; mold me; fill me;
use me.*

*Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.*

The Call to Worship is from Psalm 27.

Hymn 841 Note:

Preserving the author's intention, his abbreviated paraphrase of Psalm 27 appears here in two eight-line stanzas, the first containing general affirmations and the second assurances to his fainting soul. This sense of resolution is strengthened by the sturdy shape-note tune.

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

Yet, you know the desires of our hearts and nothing is hidden from you. By the power of the Holy Spirit, conform our sin-weakened bodies to the glory of Christ, that we may be the body of Christ for the world. 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

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

NRSVUE

¹ After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ² But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³ And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” ⁴ But the word of the Lord came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” ⁵ He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” ⁶ And he believed the Lord, and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷ Then he said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” ⁸ But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” ⁹ He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” ¹⁰ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other, but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him...

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates,

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Philippians 3:17-4:1

NRSVUE

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ^{4:1} Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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ANTHEM

How Firm a Foundation

Lloyd Larson
(b. 1954)

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!
What more can be said than you God has said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?*

*Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid.
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.*

*When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
For I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.*

*When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply.
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.*

*The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes.
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I will never, no, never, no, never forsake!*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 13:31-35

NRSVUE

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³² He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work.' ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Citizens of Heaven"

Rev. Nicole Jiskoot

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 49

The God of Abraham Praise

Leoni

Hymn 49 Note:
Shaped by its traditional Jewish tune, this selection of English stanzas conveys the essence of the Yigdal, a canticle based on a medieval Hebrew statement of faith about the nature of God and often used in synagogue worship, alternately chanted by cantor and congregation.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe

- that God has revealed God's self as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people; ¹
- that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged ²
- that God calls the church to follow God in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry; ³
- that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged; ⁴
- that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others. ⁵

- From *The Confession of Belbar*

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.

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 846

Fight the Good Fight

Duke Street

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Affirmation of Faith Note:

- 1 - Isaiah 42:1-7
- 2 - Luke 6:20-26
- 3 - Luke 4:16-19
- 4 - Psalm 82:1-5
- 5 - Leviticus 19:15

Offering Note:

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

Hymn 846 Note:

The opening phrase here (based on 1 Timothy 6:12) is not a military image but an athletic one, from a Greek verb meaning "struggle" or "grapple" or "wrestle." The sports context continues in later stanzas reflecting the experience of a runner (recalling Hebrews 12:1-2).

*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
3/16	James Hoskins	Steve & Carol Houston	Wedding Flowers
3/23	Margaret Venable	Mike Sarkowski & Valerie George	Margaret Venable

CHILDREN

Date	Nursery	Joy Makers	Faith Builders
3/16	Alice Ensley	Alice Ensley & Susan Bisson	Jeane Jones & Kayte Crocker
3/23	Jeane Jones	Jeff & Leanna Granillo	Bjorn & Nicole Jiskoot

MONTHLY

Communion (April 6)		Congregational Care		Little Free Pantry Pal	
Prep	Margaret Venable	March	Priscilla Brown	March	Margaret Venable
Servers	Rev. Nicole Jiskoot, Greg & Kim Epps and Leanna Granillo	April	Peggy Rollins	April	Jean Lowrey & Carol Houston

Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 16

Sunday School
9:15 a.m.
Fellowship
10:00 a.m.
Worship
10:30 a.m.
Session Meeting
11:45 a.m.

Monday, March 17

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

Tuesday, March 18

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

Wednesday, March 19

Congregational Life
Team Meeting
10:00 a.m.
Women's Book Club
noon
Missions Team Meeting
5:00 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal
6:00-8:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 20

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

Friday, March 21

Grateful Heart AA Mtg
8:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 23

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, March 24

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

PRAYERS

For Healing and Comfort for our Members:

Wayne Alderman, who had a minor stroke on Thursday evening and was taken to Hamilton Medical;
John McPherson, who is recovering from knee-replacement surgery;
Verutzka Soza, who continues to recover from outpatient surgery;
Jenny Cranford, who has been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease;
Bob Hubbs, who will be receiving some long-awaited medical treatment;
Charles Allgood, as he battles lung cancer;

Ongoing Concerns for our Members:

Nancy Rhine, in assisted living located near her daughter;
Stan Cranford, 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;
Dana Easley, friend of Sherri Stafford and many in our congregation, who recently underwent surgery in Birmingham, AL, and will receive chemotherapy in Dalton;
For Linda Leslie, who is 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, for a successful cataract surgery and a great recovery;
Kathy Householder, friend of Debbie and Mary Dennard, who is home from Mexico and doing well.