



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
DALTON, GEORGIA EST. 1847



Service for the Lord's Day
Sunday, March 9, 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

- Please join us for the **Second Sunday Fellowship Lunch** today, in Hollis Hall, immediately following Worship. All are welcome! After lunch, stay for the Connection Team meeting and see how you can help.
- **“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 9, 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)

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.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Alice Ensley

The season of Lent sets us on a journey.

The journey begins in the wilderness.

We follow the way of Jesus,

who faced trials, trouble, temptation, and testing.

Like Jesus, we are not alone.

The Holy Spirit is with us. God's Word is on our lips.

Our call is to trust God alone,

to do God's will in all things.

For God leads us not only into the wilderness,

but also through the wilderness. *

*Jeffery L. Tribble, *Pastoral Perspective* on Luke 4:1-13,
First Sunday in Lent, in *ibid.*, 48.

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God Most High, thank you for signs of your power and grace, shown to us even in the wilderness. Give us courage to stand firm in your Word in every time of trial and testing, that we may enter the land of your freedom and receive the salvation you so generously give; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN 336

We Gather Together

Kremser

Cover Art:

Koenig, Peter.
Temptation of Christ,
from Art in the
Christian Tradition,
a project of the
Vanderbilt Divinity
Library, Nashville, TN.
<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-image/act-image-link.pl?RC=58516>
[retrieved March 6,
2025]. Original source:
Peter Winfried (Cani-
sius) Koenig, <https://www.pwkoenig.co.uk/>.

The Call to Worship is
from Luke 4:1 and
Romans 10:8b.

Hymn 336 Note:

First published among
songs celebrating the
end of Spanish control
of the Netherlands,
this text's blend of
patriotism and piety
has made it popular
at (often ecumenical)
Thanksgiving Day
services. The tune is
named for the Viennese
arranger whose male
chorus popularized it.

*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.)

O God, our refuge and fortress, forgive us when we fail to trust in you. We fall to temptation; we are swayed by false words; we speak false words of our own. We choose our ease and comfort over your demanding claims upon us and upon the world. In turning from you, we settle for less than the abundant generosity you intend. Forgive us, we pray. Do not let us be put to shame, O God. Hear us as we call to you and show us your salvation. In Christ's name we pray. 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

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

NRSVUE

¹ “When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess and you possess it and settle in it, ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³ You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, ‘Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.’ ⁴ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, ⁵ you shall make this response before the Lord your God: ‘A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷ we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸ The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.’ You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. ¹¹ Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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Worship Companion.
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ANTHEM

Pilgrim's Hymn

Steven Paulus
(1949-2014)

*Even before we call on Your name
To ask You, O God.
When we seek for the words to glorify You,
You hear our prayer.
Unceasing love, O unceasing love,
Surpassing all we know.
Glory to the Father, And to the Son,
And to the Holy Spirit.*

*Even with darkness sealing us in,
We breathe Your name,
And through all the days that follow so fast,
We trust in You.
Endless Your Grace, O endless Your Grace,
Beyond all mortal dream.
Both now and forever,
And unto ages and ages,*

Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 4:1-13

NRSVUE

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tested by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³ The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." ⁴ Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" ⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And the devil said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸ Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

⁹ Then the devil led him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you,'

¹¹ and

'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

¹² Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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

SERMON

“In the Wilderness”

Rev. Nicole Jiskoot

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 783

When We are Tested

Angels of Healing

*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 God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind; ₄
- that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly; ₅
- that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering; ₆
- that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right; ₇
- that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream; ₈
- that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged; ₉
- 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. ₁₀

- From *The Confession of Belhar*

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

Hymn 783 Note:

Although the Temptation of Christ is mentioned in all three synoptic gospels (Matthew 4:1–11/Mark 1:12–13/Luke 4:1–13), this hymn is based on the Lukan version. It is notable that each stanza begins “when,” not “if”; temptation is not an optional feature of the spiritual life.

Affirmation of Faith Note:

- 1 - Isaiah 42:1-7
- 2 - Luke 6:20-26
- 3 - Luke 4:16-19
- 4 - Luke 7:22
- 5 - Psalm 146
- 6 - James 1:27
- 7 - Micah 6:8
- 8 - Amos 5:14-15, 23-24
- 9 - Psalm 82:1-5
- 10 - Leviticus 19:15

Offering Note:

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

*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 43

You Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord

On Eagle's Wings

*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

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VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

WORSHIP

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Flowers
3/9	Alice Ensley	The Hendrix Family	Kaye Clark
3/16	James Hoskins	Steve & Carol Houston	Wedding Flowers

CHILDREN

Date	Nursery	Joy Makers	Faith Builders
3/9	Laura Goins	Laura Goins & Leanna Granillo	Eric Haugen & Jeff Granillo
3/16	Alice Ensley	Alice Ensley & Susan Bisson	Jeane Jones & Kayte Crocker

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 9

Sunday School
9:15 a.m.
Fellowship
10:00 a.m.
Worship
10:30 a.m.
Second Sunday Fellowship Lunch
11:30 a.m.
Connection Team Meeting

12:30 p.m.

12:30 p.m.

Monday, March 10

Morning Prayers

11:00 a.m.

The Lunch Bunch

11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, March 11

Grateful Heart AA Mtg

8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 12

Worship Team Meeting

5:30 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 13

Knitting Group

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 14

Grateful Heart AA Mtg

8:00 p.m.

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.

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;
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;
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;
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.