



Second Sunday after Easter

Sunday, April 27, 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

- Plan to join us Wednesday, April 30 at 7:00 p.m. when we host the next **Selvidge Street Forum.** April's conversation will be facilitated by retired Professor Jane Sample with Pam Partain on "What's So Great About Gatsby? Revisiting Fitzgerald's Masterpiece 100 Years Later." The forum will be more conversation than lecture, and will take place in the foyer area of the Martin House, honoring the Martins' legacy of providing a comfortable, friendly venue for learning and exploration.
- Join us for **Confirmation Sunday** on Mother's Day, May 11. We will have a very special Worship service as we honor motherhood of all kinds with an anthem featuring our children's choir. Then, we will have a baptism and confirmation service featuring six of our youth who will publicly profess their faith and become active members of our congregation. Then, following Worship, we will host our **Second Sunday Fellowship Lunch** in Hollis Hall. We look forward to celebrating the growth of our church family with you!
- The Christian Education Team is thrilled to announce an incredible opportunity to take our new confirmands to the **Montreat Middle School Conference** at Maryville College in Tennessee from Wednesday, July 16, to Sunday, July 20. This year's theme is "Wonder Full," which embodies our youth to their core! Registration is \$475.00 per person, which includes meals, lodging, and programming during the conference, and our goal is to take all six of our confirmands this year. If you feel called to sponsor the cost for one or more of our youth, please contact Bjorn Jiskoot or the church office as soon as possible, as registration is limited. Help us give our youth an experience to remember as they grow in their faith and in the life of our congregation! bjiskoot@firstpresdalton.org

SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 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

Julie Tharpe

(from Psalm 150)

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

Alleluia! Celebrate God in this sacred space!

Celebrate God in all places under heaven!

Give praise for God's mighty deeds!

Give praise for God's resurrecting power!

Praise God with a fanfare of trumpets.

Praise God with the harp and the cello!

Praise God with tambourines and dancing!

Praise God with flutes and guitars!

Praise God with cymbals and drums!

Let everything with life and breath praise God!

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God of the Resurrection, you open the tomb and invite us to sing and dance in the new life you give us. In Jesus Christ, whose wounds are not erased but glorified in resurrection, touch our wounds that they may be transformed into channels of healing for others. Holy Spirit, breathe into us the power to forgive so that all may have new life. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Cover Art

LeCompte, Rowan and Irene LeCompte. Christ shows himself to Thomas, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. https://diglib.library. vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54879 [retrieved April 24, 2025]. Original source: http://www.flickr. com/photos/maryannsolari/5119341372/.

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

Hymn 33 Note:

Originally cast as two eight-line stanzas, this 19th-century paraphrase of Psalm 150 was slightly shortened when it was set to the present tune with recurring Alleluias. The Welsh tune is actually older than the text and bears a name meaning "the church of St. Mary."

*HYMN 33

Praise the Lord! God's Glories Show

Llanfair

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(A time of silent prayer and meditation.)

God of the empty tomb and our empty hearts...

When we are afraid to speak our faith in the world,

forgive us and help us to find our voice.

When we are afraid to forgive and to love again,

forgive us and give us the power to forgive.

When we are afraid to stand up to misguided authority,

join with the weak to make us all strong.

When we are confined by our hearts,

touch us with your wounded hands and set us free.

When we are locked behind our doubts and fears, pass through our barricades, open our hearts, and give us peace. Amen.

KYRIE





ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE



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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

Acts 5:27-32 NRSVUE

²⁷ When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Revelation 1:4-8 NRSVUE

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶ and made us a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all the tribes of the earth will wail on account of him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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ANTHEM

God so Loved the World

John Stainer (1840-1901)

God so loved the world, That He gave His only begotten Son, That who so believeth in Him Should not perish, but have everlasting life.

For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, But that the world through Him might be saved.

God so loved the world.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 20:19-31 NRSVUE

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

SERMON

"I Believe... Lord, Help My Unbelief"

Rev. Nicole Jiskoot

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 255

O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing

O Filii et Filiae

Stanzas 3-6 Only

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses.

We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. Jesus is the first and the last, the beginning and the end. He is our Lord and our God. Amen.

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 817

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

Dunlap's Creek

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Hymn 255 Note:

These stanzas from a 19th-century translation of a longer 15th-century Latin text are the continuation of hymn number 235 and are based on the traditional gospel reading for the Second Sunday of Easter. They are sung to a 15th-century French tune adapted for church use.

Offering Note:

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

Hymn 817 Note:

The opening line here is essentially a quotation of 2 Corinthians 5:7, but that affirmation is fleshed out by references to the appearance of the risen Christ to Thomas (John 20:19–29). The shape note tune, named for a stream in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, adds resolution to the words.

*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	Flower Guild
4/27	Julie Tharpe	Tommy & Jodi Johnson	Becky Jolly
5/4	Ben Johnson	Kathryn Sellers & Margaret Venable	TBD

CHILDREN

Date	Nursery	Joy Makers	Faith Builders	
4/27	Leanna	Jeff & Leanna	Bjorn & Nicole	
	Granillo	Granillo	Jiskoot	
5/4	Priscilla	Rob & Michelle	Jean Lowrey &	
	Brown	Lively	Priscilla Brown	

MONTHLY

Communion (May 4)		Congregational Care		Little Free Pantry Pal	
Prep	Julie Tharpe	April	Peggy Rollins	April	Jean Lowrey & Carol Houston
Servers	Rev. Nicole Jiskoot, James Hoskins, Sarah McCown and Ted Hogshead	May	Bobbie Anderson	May	Valerie George & Mary Hubbs

Upcoming Events

Sunday, April 27

Sunday School

9:15 a.m.

Fellowship

10:00 a.m.

Worship

10:30 a.m.

Session Meeting

11:30 a.m.

Music Recital

3:00 p.m.

Monday, Apri 28

Morning Prayers

11:00 a.m.

Lunch Bunch

11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, April 29

Grateful Heart AA Mtg 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 30

Choir Rehearsal

6:30-8:00 p.m.

Selvidge Street Forum 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 1

Knitting Group 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Friday, May 2

Grateful Heart AA Mtg 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 4

Sunday, April 27

Sunday School

9:15 a.m.

Fellowship

10:00 a.m.

Worship

10:30 a.m.

Monday, May 5

Morning Prayers

11:00 a.m.

Lunch Bunch

11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, May 6

Saturday Sacks

10:30 a.m.

Grateful Heart AA Mtg 8:00 p.m.

PRAYERS

For Healing and Comfort for our Members:

Wayne Alderman, who is recovering at home following a minor stroke; John McPherson, who is recovering from knee-replacement surgery; Bob Hubbs, who is receiving medical treatment; Charles Allgood, as he battles lung cancer;

Ongoing Concerns for our Members:

Nancy Rhine, in assisted living located near her daughter;

Stan and Jenny Crawford, who are battling mobility issues and Parkinson's Disease, respectively;

For Friends of First Presbyterian, Dalton

Paula Morrow, friend of Sarah McCown and of the church, who checked into Emory Hospital on April 5, for an extended stay to complete her bone marrow transplant;

Pam Williams, friend of Alice Ensley, Mary Ellen Gurley, and Berrien Long, who is being treated for glioblastoma;

Dana Easley, who is receiving 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 suffering 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 in Atlanta.

Martha Bracey Henson, cousin of Mary Hubbs, who continues to receive treatment for a brain tumor; Arden Brown, son of Amanda and Chris Brown, as they seek a cure for DMD;

Those affected by climate disasters;

The peace of Israel and Palestine and the well-being of Ukraine;

The families of victims of substance abuse;

Caregivers and aging parents.

Praises and Continuing Prayers!

Steve and Nancy Farrow, who were joyously united in matrimony on March 15, 2025; Kathy Householder, friend of Debbie and Mary Dennard;