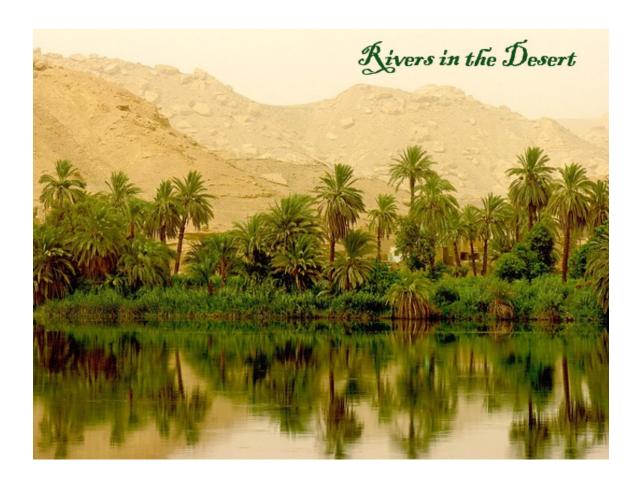


DALTON, GEORGIA EST. 1847



Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, April 6, 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 videoconference. 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

- Join us Sunday, April 13, for **Palm Sunday Worship** and the procession of palms by the choir and children. Sometimes referred to as Passion Sunday, this is the first celebration in Holy Week and commemorates the Triumphant Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. According to tradition, Jesus rode in on a donkey, reminiscent of the entry of King David and thus announced the beginning of a new Kingdom, the Kingdom of God. The people greeted Him with palm branches and pieces of clothing, another symbol of royal welcome.
- Holy Week begins next Sunday, April 13. See the Midweek News for a list and times of services and special traditions.
- "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.
- The Missions Team would like to invite you to volunteer at the **Friendship House** on Wednesday, April 16, from 9:00 11:00 a.m. to help distribute books at their "**Book Fair.**" It will be a treat to see the smiles on the faces of boys and girls as they receive a free book that we collected on Mr. Rogers Day! Please see Priscilla Brown for more details.

SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 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

Joanne Lewis

(from Psalm 126)

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter and shouts of joy.

We rejoiced: "The Lord has done great things for us."

May those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, come home with joy, carrying their sheaves.

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Creator God, you have formed us as your own, so whether we are weeping or laughing, dreaming or shouting for joy, we are always coming home to you. For all this and more, we thank you in Jesus' name. Amen.

*HYMN 73

When God Delivered Israel

Sheaves

CALL TO CONFESSION

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

Hymn 73 Note:

This condensed 20th-century paraphrase of Psalm 126 sketches Israel's central identifying narrative, the deliverance from bondage in Egypt, and uses it as a ground of hope for all who are now in distress. The modal tune created for these words gives them weight and urgency.

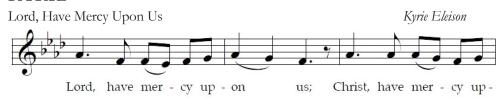
PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(A time of silent prayer and meditation.)

Purifying God, we grow comfortable with the way things are in our lives, in the church, and in the world. We do not always welcome the new life you offer in Christ, for you overturn our notions of power and protocol. Sure of our own righteousness, we are critical of others. Wanting to control our assets, we hoard the gifts you give us.

Forgive us, we pray, for seeking our gain at the expense of others. Help us bend our lives toward your own life of self-giving and sacrifice. Fill us, our homes and churches, the whole world, with the abundant love of Christ until all are made new. In Christ's name, we pray. 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

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

Isaiah 43:16-21 NRSVUE

Thus says the Lord,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
who brings out chariot and horse,

army and warrior; they lie down; they cannot rise;

they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:

- ¹⁸ Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old.
- ¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

²⁰ The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness,

rivers in the desert,

to give drink to my chosen people,

²¹ the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

A Lenten Meditation

Douglas E. Wagner (b. 1952)

Jesus, in Thy dying woes, even while Thy lifeblood flows, Craving pardon for Thy foes: Hear us, Holy Jesus.

May our hearts to Thee incline, looking from our cross to Thine; Cheer our souls with hope divine: Hear us, Holy Jesus.

When we seem in vain to pray, and our hope seems far away, In the darkness be our stay: Hear us, Holy Jesus.

May we thirst Thy love to know; Lead us in our sin and woe Where the healing water flow: Hear us, Holy Jesus.

Brighten all our heav'nward way with an ever-holier ray Till we pass to perfect day: Hear us, Holy Jesus.

May Thy life and death supply grace to live and grace to die, Grace to reach our home on high: Hear us, Holy Jesus.

Hear us, Holy Jesus.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 12:1-8 NRSVUE

¹ Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

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

SERMON

"Rivers in the Desert"

Rev. Nicole Jiskoot

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 201

A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar

How Can I Keep from Singing

Hymn 201 Note:

This text seeks to reverse the neglected witness of biblical women by celebrating the woman who washed Jesus' feet (unnamed in Matthew 26:6–13/ Mark 14:3–9/Luke 7:36–50; Mary of Bethany in John 12:1–8) and Mary Magdalene (John 20:1–18; Matthew 28:1–10/Mark 16:1–7/ Luke 24:10).

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe

- that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another;
- that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ;
- that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways;
 - in that we love one another;
 - that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another;
 - together come to know the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ;
 - together know and bear one another's burdens, thereby fulfilling the law of Christ;
- that the variety of spiritual gifts, opportunities, backgrounds, convictions, as well as the various languages and cultures, are by virtue of the reconciliation in Christ, opportunities for mutual service and enrichment within the one visible people of God;

- From The Confession of Belhar

THE OFFERING

www.firstpresdalton.org/giving/

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.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, you made the world to hum in harmony; you listened, and you called it good. In time, we broke off from singing the song and went our own way, but you called us back and when the time was right, you came in flesh and blood to live as one of us. Therefore, we join our voices with all those who sing your praise:

Offering Note:

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

(All sing together)

Holy, holy, holy, Lord. God of power and might.
Holy, holy, Lord. God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory;
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.
Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory;
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.

In Christ, dividing walls are broken down – no Jew or Greek, no male or female, no slave or free. You are there on every spectrum, in every color, at every table.

By your Spirit, make us one. By your Spirit, make us whole. By your Spirit, make this bread and wine your body and blood, that we may know communion with you and with each other. Take our hearts, our lives, our hands; mold us, change us, and send us out, that we may be your body in the world you so love, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION

We invite you to come forward for communion via the nearest accessible main aisle and return to your seat the way you came. Communion is served by intinction. Take a piece of bread held by one elder, dip it in the cup held by another, and then, "Taste and see that the Lord is good." Gluten-free elements are available from the left aisle.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 629

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

St. Agnes

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Hymn 629 Note:

The sweetness celebrated in this anonymous 12th-century Latin poem is not cloying or sentimental; it is more like an antidote to bitterness and a source of hope and healing. The best-known 19th-century translation is set here to a tune composed especially for these 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

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Upcoming Events

Sunday, April 6

Sunday School

9:15 a.m.

Fellowship

10:00 a.m.

Worship

10:30 a.m.

Monday, April 7

Morning Prayers

11:00 a.m.

The Lunch Bunch

11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, April 8

Saturday Sacks

10:30 a.m.

Grateful Heart AA Mtg

8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 9

Worship Team Meeting

5:15 p.m.

Children's Choir

Rehearsal

5:30 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Friday, April 11

Grateful Heart AA Mtg

8:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 13

Sunday School

9:15 a.m.

Fellowship

10:00 a.m.

Worship

10:30 a.m.

Connection Team

Meeting

11:30 a.m.

Monday, April 14

Morning Prayers

11:00 a.m.

The Lunch Bunch

11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, April 15

Grateful Heart AA Mtg

8:00 p.m.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

WORSHIP

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Flower Guild	
4/6	Joanne	The Haugen	Mary	
	Lewis	Family	Hubbs	
4/13	Jodi	Mary Hubbs &	Joanne	
	Johnson	Peggy Rollins	Lewis	

CHILDREN

Date	Nursery	Joy Makers	Faith Builders	
4/6	Rob or Michelle	Rob & Michelle	Jean Lowrey &	
	Lively	Lively	Priscilla Brown	
4/13	Jeff	Choir and Procession	Choir and Procession	
	Granillo	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	

MONTHLY

Communion (April 6)		Congregational Care		Little Free Pantry Pal	
Prep	Mary Ellen Gurley	April	Peggy Rollins	April	Jean Lowrey & Carol Houston
Servers	Rev. Nicole Jiskoot, Jeff & Leanna Granillo and John Beazle	May	Bobbie Anderson	May	Valerie George & Mary Hubbs

PRAYERS

For Healing and Comfort for our Members:

Janice Sims, who is concerned about testing her family has asked her to undergo this past week;

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 has been diagnosed with glioblastoma and is beginning treatment;

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;



Contact FPC

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