

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
DALTON, GEORGIA EST. 1847



Seventh Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday, July 12, 2026

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.

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-Judgement Zone."

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

• The Connections Team would like to invite you to participate in a **pine needle basket weaving class** for beginners on Saturday, July 25 from noon - 2:00 p.m. in Hollis Hall. Learn the basics of coiled pine needle basketry! This beginner-friendly class will teach you coiling technique, stitches, and show you how to work with foraged fibers that can be found in your own backyard. This class is limited to the first 15 participating pupils, but more may attend to watch if you'd like. There is no fee for this class but the Connections Team ask that you bring an item(s) for our Little Free Pantry. Please RSVP to the church office if you'd like to attend.

• Later this week, several of our youth and youth leaders will attend the **2026 Montreat Middle School Conference** held at Maryville College, a PC(USA) affiliated private college, located in Maryville, TN, between the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Knoxville. The theme this year is "Crafted by God" where our youth will discover how they are uniquely made during the 4 nights/5 days they are there. Through worship, small groups, and recreation, middle school students will explore identity, purpose, and faith in a welcoming, fun-filled environment designed to deepen their connections with God, others, and themselves. We can't wait to hear all about it!

SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2026

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

Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove

John Bacchus Dykes
(1823-1876)

*Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove,
With all thy quickening powers;
Kindle a flame of sacred love
In these cold hearts of ours.*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

James Hoskins

Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.

**I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,
to observe your righteous ordinances.**

I am severely afflicted;
give me life, O Lord, according to your word.

**Accept my offerings of praise, O Lord,
and teach me your ordinances.**

I hold my life in my hand continually,
but I do not forget your law.

**The wicked have laid a snare for me,
but I do not stray from your precepts.**

Your decrees are my heritage forever;
they are the joy of my heart.

**I incline my heart to perform your statutes
forever, to the end.**

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**Author of Life, Living Word, Holy Breath, we have stumbled through the
week and groped our way back to this place. Illumine the steps before us
and write your word on our hearts, for we carry the name of Jesus and would
walk in the light of his love. Amen.**

*HYMN 451

Open My Eyes, That I May See

Open My Eyes

CALL TO CONFESSION

Cover Art:

Seed and the Sower,
from Art in the
Christian Tradition, a
project of the Vander-
bilt Divinity Library,
Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57799> [retrieved July 9, 2026]. Original source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/ljguitar/1099799640/>.

The Call to Worship is
from Psalm 119.

Hymn 451 Note:

The first woman to
publish a collection of
her own anthems, this
author/composer has
created in this hymn a
sung prayer of
illumination. It not
only asks God to help
us understand scripture
but also prays for the
strength and courage to
make God's love known
to others.

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(A time of silent prayer and meditation.)

Patient and persistent God, we come, polished and presentable, to this comfortable room as if we knew what to expect, as if this were a safe and predictable place, as if we could simply observe. Holy One, forgive our tepid expectations. In the mystery of your love, overshadow us. Plant the seeds of your gospel in each of our hearts until we bloom and spill with your passion to serve in a world that is wasting. 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.

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PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 25:19-34

NRSVUE

¹⁹ These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham’s son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, ²⁰ and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. ²¹ Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife because she was barren, and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. ²² The children struggled together within her, and she said, “If it is to be this way, why do I live?” So she went to inquire of the Lord. ²³ And the Lord said to her,

“Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples born of you shall be divided;
the one shall be stronger than the other;
the elder shall serve the younger.”

²⁴ When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. ²⁵ The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle, so they named him Esau. ²⁶ Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau’s heel, so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

²⁷ When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. ²⁸ Isaac loved Esau because he was fond of game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

²⁹ Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. ³⁰ Esau said to Jacob, “Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!” (Therefore he was called Edom.) ³¹ Jacob said, “First sell me your birthright.” ³² Esau said, “I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?” ³³ Jacob said, “Swear to me first.” So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. ³⁴ Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 8:1-11

NRSVUE

¹ Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Select liturgy
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⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Hear My Cry, O God

César Franck
(1822-1890)

Tami Giusto, solo

*Hear my cry, O God, attend unto my prayer;
From the end of the earth will I cry unto Thee.
When my heart is overwhelm'd, lead me to the Rock
That is higher than I.
For Thou hast been a shelter for me and a strong tower,
A strong tower from the enemy.

When I cry unto God then shall my enemies turn back,
This I know, for God is for me.
In God will I praise His word, in God I have put my trust,
In God will I praise His word.
Let my mouth be fill'd with praise, and with Thy honor all the day.

Amen, Amen.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

NRSVUE

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!”

¹⁸ “Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one

who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing.²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

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

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Ken McKenzie

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 171

A Sower Came from Ancient Hills

Seachrist

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

He is head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.

- Colossians 1:15-20

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 & RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

Please place this week’s page of the Friendship Register in the plate, along with your tithes and offerings, so that we may keep you informed about the life and ministry of this community of faith.

You may also give online at www.firstpresdalton.org/giving/

THE OFFERTORY

Hymn 171 Note:

All three synoptic gospels record both the telling and the explanation of Jesus’ parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:3–8, 18–23/Mark 4:3–8, 14–20/Luke 8:5–8, 11–15). Because the seed equals “the word,” Jesus (as the Word made flesh) becomes the Seed in this expansion of the parable.

Offering Note:

Copy and paste the link under the Offering onto your browser to easily submit your online offering or scan the QR code below.



Hymn 714 Note:

Greater awareness has enlarged Christian stewardship to develop new dimensions of concern for people in all parts of the world. Because we believe that it is God’s will that the gifts we have received should be shared, this hymn concludes with that phrase from the Lord’s Prayer.

***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 714**

God of the Fertile Fields

Italian Hymn

***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**

Contact FPC

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VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

WORSHIP

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Flower Guild
7/12	James Hoskins	Janice Sims & Valerie George	Joanne Lewis
7/19	Margaret Venable	Mike & Priscilla Brown	Margaret Venable
7/26	Jeane Jones	Jean Lowrey & Renee Schuette	Mary Hubbs

MONTHLY

Communion (August 2)		Congregational Care		Little Free Pantry Pal	
Prep	Becky Jolly	July	Priscilla Brown	July	Beverly Higdon & Tami Giusto
Servers	Rev. Ken McKenzie, Tate O’Gwin, Kathryn Sellers & Kaye Clark	August	Mary Hubbs	August	Eric & Lena Haugen

Upcoming Events

Sunday, July 12

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

Tuesday, July 14

CLILA Food Boxes
10:00 a.m. - noon
Grateful Heart AA Mtg
8:00 p.m.

July 15-19

Montreat Middle School Retreat

Wednesday, July 15

Morning Prayers
9:30 a.m.
Women’s Book Club
noon

No Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, July 16

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

Friday, July 17

Grateful Heart AA Mtg
8:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 19

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

Monday, July 20

Lunch Bunch
noon

Tuesday, July 21

Grateful Heart AA Mtg
8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 22

Morning Prayers
9:30 a.m.
No Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, July 23

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

PRAYERS

For Family and Friends of Those Who Joined the Church Triumphant:

Jean Strain;

Muriel Phillips;

John Law;

Anne Sims;

Stan Cranford;

Charles Allgood;

Wayne Alderman;

For Healing, Comfort, and Ongoing Concerns for our Members:

Sue Spivey;

Berrien Long;

Walter Jones;

Nancy Rhine;

For Family and Friends of the Following Members:

Nicole Jiskoot, family and friends of David Pipkin, Nicole's Godfather, as they mourn his death;

Leanna Granillo, Robert Stromberg;

Mary Ellen Gurley, Dusty Eggleston and family; Tommy Brooks and family;

Janice Sims, Sharon and Debbie Bragg, Rodger and Brenda Boswell, Patsy Townsend; the family of

Karen Vaught; the family of Flosy Beard;

Kaye Clark, Becky Hansberry;

Kathy Bridges and Sue Spivey, Emily Bringardner;

For the Larger Community and the World:

Pete Wilson;

Arden Brown;

Those affected by climate disasters;

Peace in Iran, Israel, Palestine, and Ukraine;

The victims and families of victims of substance abuse;

The victims of gun violence;

Caregivers and aging parents.

Praises and Continuing Prayers:

For all our members and visitors, we offer our thanks to God.