



Eighth Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday, July 19, 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 asks that you bring an item(s) for our Little Free Pantry. Please RSVP to the church office if you'd like to attend. There are 11 spots left.
- The Congregational Life Team would like to invite everyone to a special edition of **Lemonade on the Lawn** on Sunday, July 26, immediately after Worship. We will celebrate the upcoming 2026-27 school year with side walk chalk and refreshments. Come join the fun and reconnect with your inner school child within!
- Attention ladies of the church: Join the Women's Leadership Council on Tuesday, August 11, for a special **Lunch & Learn** featuring local author and educator **Rachel Smalley** as she shares the inspiring story of Catherine Evans Whitener—the woman whose creativity and determination helped shape Dalton into the Carpet Capital of the World. Come enjoy lunch, connect with fellow change makers, and celebrate a story woven from innovation, resilience, and Northwest Georgia pride. The lunch event will be held at FPC in Hollis Hall from 12:00-1:00 p.m. If you would like to attend, please see the registration link in the midweek news.

SUNDAY, JULY 19, 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

Margaret Venable

The Call to Worship is
from Psalm 139.

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

**You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.**

You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.

**Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it completely.**

You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

Where can I go from your spirit?

Or where can I flee from your presence?

**If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.**

If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

**even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.**

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and night wraps itself around me,"

**even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.**

Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my thoughts.

**See if there is any wicked way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.**

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

Hymn 366 Note:
This text and this tune occur in almost all English-language hymnals (though not always together). The transforming power of love motivates the unending praise of the life to come, and this fine Welsh tune (whose name means “delightful”) gives us a foretaste of endless song.

***UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Rock of Israel and cornerstone of our common life, you are not bound by our visions, our structures, our doctrine. We cannot predict your coming or going, yet you have given us your story, your family, your work to do. Meet us here. Shape us for service in your world, for we carry the name of Jesus and live by the power of your breath. Amen.

***HYMN 366**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Hyfrydol

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(A time of silent prayer and meditation.)

Merciful God, your creatures cry – creation groans – but we turn away; we surround ourselves with noise. We are quick to excuse ourselves from responsibility: we are young; we are old; we are tired; we are busy. It is hard to imagine that we might make a difference.

Life-giving God, wash us clean. Restore our imaginations and our hearts. Let your courage and compassion flow through our veins until we love with abandon and our hands reach out in blessing, for creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God. 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.

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*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Gloria Patri

S Selvidge 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 28:10-19a

NRSVUE

¹⁰ Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹ He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. ¹² And he dreamed that there was a stairway set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring, ¹⁴ and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. ¹⁵ Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." ¹⁶ Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" ¹⁷ And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

¹⁸ So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. ¹⁹ He called that place Bethel.

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SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 8:12-25

NRSVUE

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Meditation on “He Leadeth Me”

Lani Smith
(1934-2015)

Hye Jeong Kwon, organ

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

NRSVUE

²⁴ He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹ But he replied, ‘No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.”
³⁷ He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Growing in Redemption”

Rev. Nicole Jiskoot

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 346

For the Healing of the Nations

St. Thomaas (Wade)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God’s purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

- Romans 8

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/

Hymn 346 Note:

The first line of this text quotes the declared purpose of the leaves of the tree of life growing beside the river of life in the heavenly Jerusalem (Revelation 22:2). The hymn continues by identifying some of the many ways we are called to share with God in this healing work.

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 769 Note:

This hymn from a noted New Zealand hymnwriter affirms that God’s hospitality transcends the barriers erected by human society and that we who have been created in God’s image are called to live in ways that reflect our Creator’s values: justice and joy, compassion and peace.

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 769

For Everyone Born

For Everyone Born

*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



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VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

WORSHIP

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Flower Guild
7/19	Margaret Venable	Mike & Priscilla Brown	Margaret Venable
7/26	Jeane Jones	Jean Lowrey & Renee Schuette	Mary Hubbs
8/2	Joanne Lewis	The Swinney Family	TBD

MONTHLY

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

Upcoming Events

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

No Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, July 23

Knitting Group

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Friday, July 24

Grateful Heart AA Mtg

8:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 25

Basket Weaving Class

12:00-2:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 26

Sunday School

9:15 a.m.

Fellowship

10:00 a.m.

Worship

10:30 a.m.

Lemonade on the Lawn

11:30 a.m.

Monday, July 27

Lunch Bunch

noon

Tuesday, July 28

CLILA Food Boxes

10:00 a.m. - noon

Grateful Heart AA Mtg

8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 29

Choir Rehearsal

6:30-8:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 30

Knitting Group

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Friday, July 31

Grateful Heart AA Mtg

8:00 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.