

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
DALTON, GEORGIA EST. 1847



Ninth Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday, July 26, 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 **johnncalvin**.

Announcements

- The Congregational Life Team would like to invite everyone to a special edition of **Lemonade on the Lawn**, immediately after Worship today. We will celebrate the upcoming 2026-27 school year with sidewalk chalk and refreshments. Come join the fun and reconnect with your inner school child!
- On Sunday, August 2, there will be a **Blessing of the Backpacks** during the Worship Service. Each student, preschool through college, and educator will receive a backpack tag as a reminder that they are loved and prayed for by members of their church family. All students and educators are encouraged to bring their backpacks for this service.
- There will be a **Congregational Meeting** on Sunday August 2, and on Sunday, August 9, for the purpose of electing one male and one female member of the congregation to serve on the Elder Nominating Committee. Please be prepared to nominate by secret ballot one male and one female member on August 2. The two males and the two females who receive the most votes will appear on the second ballot for the final election, by secret ballot, on August 9. Currently active elders are not eligible for election by the congregation.

Announcements are continued on the bulletin insert.

SUNDAY, JULY 26, 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

Jeane Jones

O give thanks to the Lord; call on his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples.
**Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.**
Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
**Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his presence continually.**
Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles and the judgments he has uttered,
**He is the Lord our God;
his judgments are in all the earth.**

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy God, we try to fix and fasten you, but you will not be stayed. You are love in motion: always breathing us into being, calling us to serve, sustaining us in the wilderness. Come to us as the morning breaks. Soften what has grown dry and brittle in our hearts until we worship with abandon, for we pray in the name of the Son you sent and through the Spirit that gives us life. Amen.

*HYMN 450

Be Thou My Vision

Slane

CALL TO CONFESSION

Cover Art:

Wesley, Frank, 1923-2002. Jacob and Rachel, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59200> [retrieved July 21, 2026]. Original source: Estate of Frank Wesley, <http://www.frankwesleyart.com/>

The Call to Worship is from Psalm 105.

Hymn 450 Note:

These stanzas are selected from a 20th-century English poetic version of an Irish monastic prayer dating to the 10th century or before. They are set to an Irish folk melody that has proved popular and easily sung despite its lack of repetition and its wide range.

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(A time of silent prayer and meditation.)

God of mystery, God of life, we imagine that we are capable judges of power and wisdom and goodness. We trust our own standards; we separate and categorize; we mark the performance of others. We fail to trust your power, hidden in all things. We fail to watch for you, working out your purposes.

Gracious God, hidden and manifest, transform our withered imaginations until we yield the judgments we trust to a love we cannot control. 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 Selridge 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 29:15-28

NRSVUE

¹⁵ Then Laban said to Jacob, “Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?” ¹⁶ Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷ Leah’s eyes were weak, but Rachel was graceful and beautiful. ¹⁸ Jacob loved Rachel, so he said, “I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.” ¹⁹ Laban said, “It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.” ²⁰ So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of his love for her.

²¹ Then Jacob said to Laban, “Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.” ²² So Laban gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast. ²³ But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in to her. ²⁴ (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) ²⁵ When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?” ²⁶ Laban said, “This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. ²⁷ Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years.” ²⁸ Jacob did so and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 8:26-39

NRSVUE

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

Select liturgy
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³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ 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.

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

ANTHEM

To God All Praise and Glory Roger C. Wilson
(1912-1988)

Hye Jeong Kwon, organ

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 NRSVUE

³¹ He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Hymn 307 Note:
This stirring hymn used at the opening of Riverside Church in New York in 1930 was penned by its widely-known and influential pastor, and it has gained a firm place in English-language hymnals around the world. The Welsh tune name honors the Rhondda Valley in Glamorganshire.

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

SERMON

“A Love Worth Waiting For” Rev. Nicole Jiskoot

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***HYMN 307**

God of Grace and God of Glory *CWM Rhondda*

***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

***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 305**

Come Sing, O Church, in Joy

Darwall’s 148th

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

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 305 Note:

This text was the winner in a hymn competition sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Bicentennial Committee for the 1988–1989 observance, which had the theme “Celebrate the Journey.” The late 18th-century tune (first used with Psalm 148) is appropriately celebratory.

***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
7/26	Jeane Jones	Jean Lowrey & Renee Schuette	Mary Hubbs
8/2	Joanne Lewis	The Swinney Family	Jeane Jones
8/9	Renee Schuette	The Hubbs 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

Announcements continued...

- The **church office is closed** July 27- 31. Pastor Nicole will also be out of the office that week. If any pastoral needs arise during this time, please contact Dick Neely 706-278-9905. Normal activities will resume on Monday, August 3rd.
- 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.

Cover art note: Wesley was born in Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh into a fifth generation Christian family of Hindu and Muslim descent. He belongs to the Lucknow school of painting. His paintings reflect this influence and that of the Chughtai school of painting that flourished in India at the turn of the century. Wesley made art based on both biblical and secular themes. He used water colours, oil paintings, miniatures and wooden carvings.

Wesley’s painting “Blue Madonna” was used for the first UNICEF Christmas card, while five of his paintings were exhibited at the 1950 Holy Year Exhibition in the Vatican. He is also known for designing the funeral urn for Mahatma Gandhi’s ashes.

Upcoming Events

- 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.
- July 27- July 31**
Church Office Closed
- 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.
- Sunday, August 2**
Sunday School
9:15 a.m.
Fellowship
10:00 a.m.
Worship - Blessing of the Backpacks
10:30 a.m.
Congregational Meeting
11:30 a.m.
- Monday, August 3**
Lunch Bunch
noon
- Tuesday, August 4**
Grateful Heart AA Mtg
8:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, August 5**
Choir Rehearsal
6:30-8:00 p.m.
- Thursday, August 6**
Presbyterians at the Pub
5:00 p.m.
Knitting Group
5:30-7:30 p.m.
- Friday, August 7**
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.