First Presbyterian Church

Dalton, Georgia Est. 1847

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, August 16, 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

• Please join us for the **Sunday Fellowship Lunch** on Sunday, August 23 in Hollis Hall, immediately following Worship. In support of **Share a Meal Sunday**, don't forget to drop off your Little Free Pantry items in the bins under the stairwell in the Commons area. If you would like to attend the lunch, please RSVP to the church office.

• Several **missions opportunities** are available again, including Saturday Sacks and Amigo Days. See the Midweek newsletter for dates and times. We hope to see you there!

• The **2026 Dalton Grand Prix** cycling event will affect the Worship service parking availability on Sunday, August 23. The race course will run along Selvidge Street in front of the church and turn and go along Gordon Street beside the church. On this day, setup will begin around 6:00 a.m. and the races will continue throughout the day. Church attenders will not be able to park on the streets adjacent to the church. You will be able to use the parking lot in front of the Accountability Courts and the post office.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 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

John Beazle

How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
For there the Lord ordained his blessing,
life forevermore.
Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,
that your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.
Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.
Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Almighty God, whose compassion embraces everyone, your blessings know no boundaries that faith cannot cross. Gather the outcast and the lost, heal the wounds of fear and distrust, and make us a community of reconciliation that we may embody your merciful love and rejoice in your astounding grace, for it is in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Cover Art:
Bourgeois, Leon Pierre Urbain. Joseph recognized by his brothers, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/55355 [retrieved August 13, 2026]. Original source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bourgeois_Joseph_recognized_by_his_brothers.jpg.

The Call to Worship is from Psalm 133 and 67.

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

Hymn 301 Note:
Although it was written for a church dedication, this text is not about a physical structure but a spiritual one. The building is at best only a vessel for the essential love and hope, life and faith, peace and justice, hospitality and nurture that form the worshiping community.

*HYMN 301

Let Us Build a House — *Two Oaks*

Stanzas 1,2 and 5

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

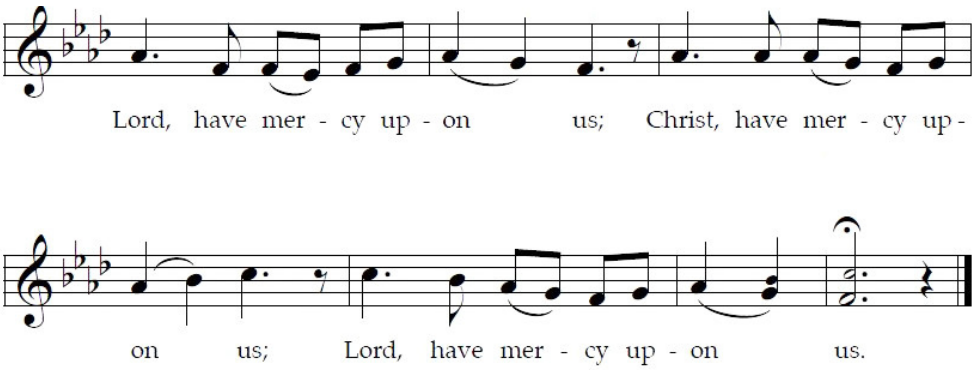
(A time of silent prayer and meditation.)

Have mercy on us, Lord Jesus, for we are tormented! We are dismayed at your presence, anguished by the fallout of our own failures. We cannot take back what we have said, nor undo what we have done, nor atone for the agony we have caused. We are haunted by the past, plagued by the present, and fearful of the future. We shrink away from your gaze as strangers outside your circle of blessing.

Yet the faith you have planted in us reaches out for your favor, returns to your presence, and hungers for your mercy. By the power of your Holy Spirit, free us from the prison of our disobedience. Help us to love as you have loved us that our lives may testify to your abounding grace through Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

KYRIE

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us — *Kyrie Eleison*

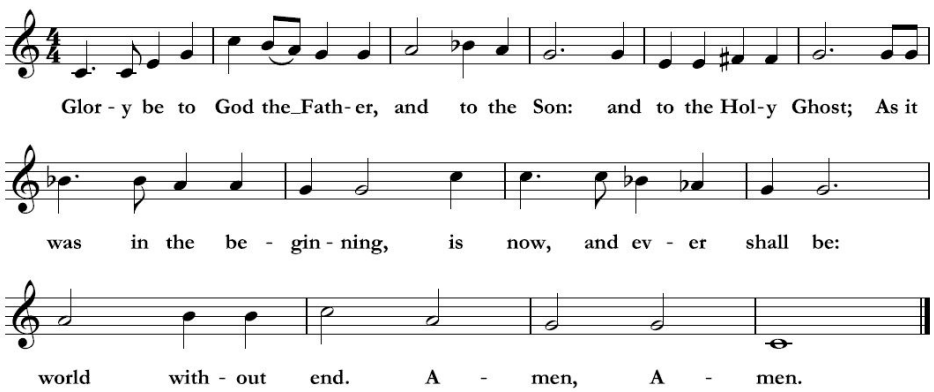


ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Glora Patri — *S Selvidge Street*



Permission to reprint/ podcast/stream music in this service is obtained from One License with license #A-722902. All rights reserved.

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 45:1-15 NRSVUE

[1] Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by
him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with
him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. [2] And he wept so loudly
that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. [3] Joseph said
to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not
answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

[4] Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer.
He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. [5] And now do
not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God
sent me before you to preserve life. [6] For the famine has been in the land these
two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing
nor harvest. [7] God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth
and to keep alive for you many survivors. [8] So it was not you who sent me here
but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler
over all the land of Egypt. [9] Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus
says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me;
do not delay. [10] You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me,
you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your
herds, and all that you have. [11] I will provide for you there, since there are five
more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you
have will not come to poverty.' [12] And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother
Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. [13] You must tell my
father how greatly I am honored in Egypt and all that you have seen. Hurry and
bring my father down here." [14] Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck
and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. [15] And he kissed all his brothers
and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 11:1-2a, 32-36 NRSVUE

[1] I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite,
a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. [2] God has not
rejected his people whom he foreknew.

Select liturgy reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion. Copyright 2015.

[32] For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

[33] O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

[34] "For who has known the mind of the Lord?
Or who has been his counselor?"
[35] "Or who has given a gift to him,
to receive a gift in return?"

[36] For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever. Amen.

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

ANTHEM

Many Gifts, One Spirit — Allen Pote (b. 1945)

Many gifts, one spirit, many songs, one voice.
Many reasons, one promise, many questions, one choice.
O God, we pray for unity, give guidance from above.
In our diff'rences unite us in the circle of your love.
O God, remind us we are not alone.
Though we move on diff'rent pathways, we are walking to your throne.

Help us learn to love each other, show us ways to understand.
We are members of one family, growing strong by joining hands.
O God, remind us we are not alone.
Though we move on diff'rent pathways, we are walking to your throne.

Take our many ways of working, blend the colors of each soul
Into the beauty of a rainbow,
Give us life, Lord, make us whole.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 15:10-28 — NRSVUE

[10] Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand:
[11] it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." [12] Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" [13] He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. [14] Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." [15] But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." [16] Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? [17] Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? [18] But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. [19] For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.
[20] These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

[21] Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. [22] Just
then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have
mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." [23]
But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying,
"Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." [24] He answered, "I was sent
only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." [25] But she came and knelt before
him, saying, "Lord, help me." [26] He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's
food and throw it to the dogs." [27] She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the
crumbs that fall from their masters' table." [28] Then Jesus answered her, "Woman,
great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was
healed from that moment.

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

SERMON

"Family Dynamics" Rev. Nicole Jiskoot

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 754

Help Us Accept Each Other *Baronita*

*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/

THE OFFERTORY

Hymn 754 Note:
The scriptural basis of this text is Romans 15:7, recast as a prayer in the opening two lines of the first stanza. The many implications of living as people who have been accepted by Christ fill the remaining stanzas. This tune was composed for the first publication of this text.

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 372 Note:
Everything longed for in this text is a reminder of how far our present world is from what God wants. Yet this is not just wishful thinking; it is a call to action, a summons to participate in the fulfillment of God's desire for all earth's people to live in radical shalom.

*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 372

O for a World *Azmon*

*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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DALTON, GEORGIA EST. 1847

Contact FPC

101 S. Selvidge Street Phone: 706-278-8161
Rev. Nicole Jiskoot, Pastor: njiskoot@firstpresdalton.org
Hye Jeong Kwon, Director of Music: hkwon@firstpresdalton.org
Grace Johnson, Director of Children & Youth Ministries: gjohnson@firstpresdalton.org
Erin Witt, Office Manager: office@firstpresdalton.org
Mailing Address:
PO Box 489 • Dalton, Georgia 30722

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

WORSHIP

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Flower Guild
8/16	John Beazle	Daniel Kim & The Jiskoot Family	Robyn Bryant
8/23	Julie Tharpe	Jean Lowrey & Janice Sims	Kathryn Sellers
8/30	Katie O'Gwin	The Youth	Joanne Lewis

MONTHLY

Communion (September 6)		Congregational Care		Little Free Pantry Pal	
Prep	Kathryn Sellers	August	Mary Hubbs	August	Eric & Lena Haugen
Servers	Rev. Nicole Jiskoot, Steve Farrow, Annelle Scott & Mary Ellen Gurley	September	Bobbie Anderson	September	Walter & Jeane Jones

Upcoming Events

Sunday, August 16
Sunday School
9:15 a.m.
Fellowship
10:00 a.m.
Worship
10:30 a.m.
Session Meeting
11:30 a.m.

Monday, August 17
Lunch Bunch
noon

Tuesday, August 18
Christian Education Team Meeting
5:00 p.m.
Grateful Heart AA Mtg
8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 19
Women's Book Club
noon
Missions Team Meeting
5:30 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal
6:30-8:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 20
Congregational Life Team Meeting
10:30 a.m.
Presbyterians at the Pub
5:00 p.m.
Knitting Group
5:30-7:30 p.m.

Friday, August 21
Grateful Heart AA Mtg
8:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 23
Sunday School
9:15 a.m.
Fellowship
10:00 a.m.
Worship
10:30 a.m.
Sunday Fellowship Lunch & Share a Meal Sunday
11:30 a.m.

Monday, August 24
Lunch Bunch
noon

PRAYERS

For Family and Friends of Those Who Joined the Church Triumphant:
Jean Strain;
Muriel Phillips;
John Law;
Anne Sims;
Stan Crawford;
Charles Allgood;
Wayne Alderman;

For Healing, Comfort, and Ongoing Concerns for our Members:
Sue Spivey;
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.