First Presbyterian Church

Dalton, Georgia Est. 1847

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, August 23, 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 in welcoming **new members** Chris and Robin Bryant! They are being received into membership at First Presbyterian Church in Worship this morning.

• Please join us for the **Sunday Fellowship Lunch** today 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.

• Calling all youth and their families! Join us tonight, from 5:00-7:00 p.m., as we kick-off a new year of **Presbyterian Youth Connection** (PYC) at Bob and Mary Hubbs' Lake Frances home. We will share all of the fun, upcoming activities that we have planned for PYC, as well as provide opportunities for families to help with future programming. This event will also be the perfect time to meet our new Director of Children and Youth Ministries, Grace Johnson. Come hungry, it's a cookout!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 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

Julie Tharpe

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;
I bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness,
for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.
On the day I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength of soul.
All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,
for they have heard the words of your mouth.
They shall sing of the ways of the Lord,
for great is the glory of the Lord.
For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly,
but the haughty he perceives from far away.
Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;
you stretch out your hand,
and your right hand delivers me.
The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Ever-present God, who is at the side of every creature in creation, renew our lives so that we may discern and do your will, what is good and acceptable and perfect. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Cover Art:
Raphael, 1483-1520 . Christ's Charge to Peter, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/55924 [retrieved August 20, 2026]. Original source: http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/articles/t/raphael-cartoons/.

The Call to Worship is from Psalm 138.

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

Hymn 403 Note:
In the first stanza "Zion" is not a general synonym for Jerusalem but a reference to the part of the city where the Temple stood. It prepares the way for the interior temple of the heart in stanza two. The pre-existing tune is by a prominent German Reformed hymnwriter.

*HYMN 403

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty — *Unser Herrscher*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

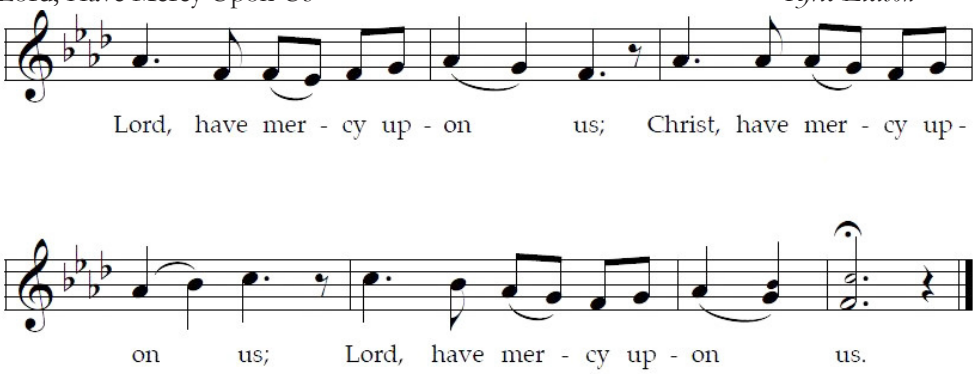
(A time of silent prayer and meditation.)

Forgiving God, we confess that we are conformed to this world.
We conform to this world's frantic pace, too hectic to notice all the blessings you provide.
We conform to this world's reckless waste, exploiting what you entrust to our care.
We conform to this world's shallow values, oblivious to the giftedness of people different from us.
We conform to this world's impatient attitudes, preferring the latest instead of the lasting.

Forgive our conformity and transform us, O God, for we pray in the name of your Son, our Lord. Amen.

KYRIE

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us — *Kyrie Eleison*

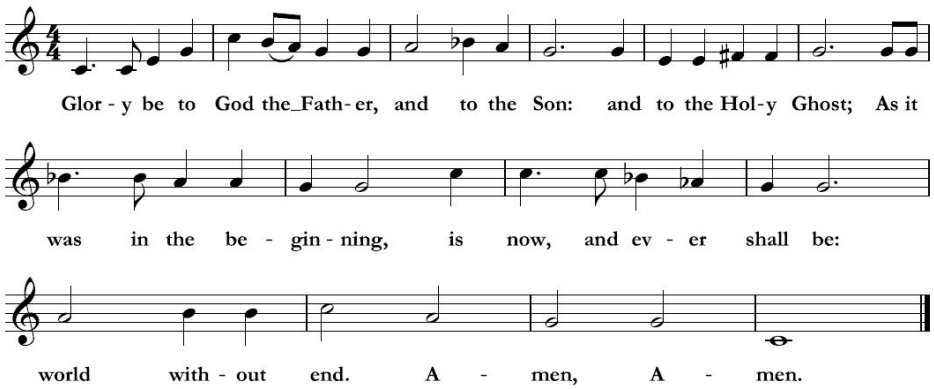


ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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*



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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

Exodus 1:8-2:10 NRSVUE

8 Now a new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph. 9 He said to his
people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than
we. 10 Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the
event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land."
11 Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor.
They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. 12 But the more they
were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians
came to dread the Israelites. 13 The Egyptians subjected the Israelites to hard
servitude 14 and made their lives bitter with hard servitude in mortar and bricks
and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they
imposed on them.

15 The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named
Shiphrah and the other Puah, 16 "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew
women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, kill him, but if it is a
daughter, she shall live." 17 But the midwives feared God; they did not do as
the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. 18 So the king
of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this
and allowed the boys to live?" 19 The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the
Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and
give birth before the midwife comes to them." 20 So God dealt well with the
midwives, and the people multiplied and became very strong. 21 And because the
midwives feared God, he gave them families. 22 Then Pharaoh commanded all
his people, "Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile,
but you shall let every daughter live."

2 Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. 2 The
woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she
hid him three months. 3 When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus
basket for him and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it
and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. 4 His sister stood at a
distance, to see what would happen to him.

5 The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants
walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid

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

to bring it. [6] When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. [7] Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" [8] Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. [9] Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. [10] When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 12:1-8 NRSVUE

[1] I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. [2] Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

[3] For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. [4] For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, [5] so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. [6] We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; [7] ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; [8] the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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

ANTHEM

The Church Is Our Salvation Eugene Butler (1935-2024)

The Church is our salvation, our guide, our hope, our friend.
Within its stately portals, our trials and fears will end,
Lift up your hearts, ye people and enter in today,
The Church is our salvation, our hope, our path, our way.

And we, Thy present children, sing praises to its name.
For here, our heav'nly Father our Lord, will ever reign!
Lift up your hearts, ye people and enter in today,
The Church is our salvation, our hope, our path, our way.

The Church is our salvation, our guide, our hope, our friend.
Within its stately portals, our trials and fears will end,
Lift up your hearts, ye people and enter in today,
The Church is our salvation, our hope, our path, our way.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 16:13-20 NRSVUE

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his
disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" 14 And they said, "Some
say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the
prophets." 15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter
answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." 17 And Jesus
answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has
not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you, you are Peter,
and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail
against it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever
you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will
be loosed in heaven." 20 Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone
that he was the Messiah.

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

SERMON

"You Are The Christ, and We Are Your Church" Rev. Nicole Iiskoot

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 265

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun *Duke Street*

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

*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.

Hymn 265 Note:
This hymn is a classic example of how Isaac Watts Christianized the Psalms, in this case Psalm 72:5–19, by turning their messianic language to New Testament equivalents. The tune was at first nameless and anonymous, but is now called by the address of the supposed composer.

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 766 Note:
This text was the winning entry in a hymnwriting competition seeking new texts dealing with poverty and homelessness, but as the stanza sung at the beginning and end of the hymn makes clear, such specific ministries grow out of an understanding of the church as love in action.

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 766

The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound *McKee*

*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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Mailing Address:
PO Box 489 • Dalton, Georgia 30722

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

WORSHIP

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Flower Guild
8/23	Julie Tharpe	Jean Lowrey & Janice Sims	Kathryn Sellers
8/30	Katie O'Gwin	The Youth	Joanne Lewis
9/6	Laura Allgood	Robert & Rachel Smalley	TBD

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

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Cover Art Note: "From the fifth century the two events depicted here were sometimes conflated. At Caesarea Philippi, Christ addresses his disciples and says to Peter: 'I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven.' After the Resurrection he appears to seven of the disciples at the sea of Tiberias and charges Peter : 'Feed my sheep.' These two texts from the Gospels were the most important scriptural justifications of papal authority. They emphasize that Christ selected Peter as the foundation stone of the Church, and demonstrate his pre-eminence among the Apostles. Here, Christ gestures with one hand towards the flock of sheep and with the other to the kneeling figure of Peter, at the head of the solid phalanx of Apostles. The focal point of this dramatic composition is Christ's pointing finger, which invests Peter with leadership of the Church.

The Raphael Cartoons were commissioned by Pope Leo X in 1515 and are among the greatest treasures of the High Renaissance. Painted by Raphael (1483-1520) and his assistants, they are full-scale designs for tapestries that were made to cover the lower walls of the Vatican's Sistine Chapel. The tapestries depict the Acts of St Peter and St Paul, the founders of the early Christian Church."

Upcoming Events

Sunday, August 23
Sunday School
9:15 a.m.
Fellowship
10:00 a.m.
Worship
10:30 a.m.
Called Session Meeting
11:30 a.m.
Sunday Fellowship Lunch & Share a Meal Sunday
11:30 a.m.
Youth Kick-Off Cookout
5:00-7:00 p.m.

Monday, August 24
Lunch Bunch
noon

Tuesday, August 25
CLILA Food Boxes
10:00 a.m. - noon
Saturday Sacks
10:30 a.m.
Grateful Heart AA Mtg
8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 26
Choir Rehearsal
6:30-8:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 27
Knitting Group
5:30-7:30 p.m.

Friday, August 28
Grateful Heart AA Mtg
8:00 p.m.

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

Monday, August 31
Lunch Bunch
noon

Tuesday, September 1
Grateful Heart AA Mtg
8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 2
Choir Rehearsal
6:30-8:00 p.m.

PRAYERS

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

For Healing, Comfort, and Ongoing Concerns for our Members:
Peggy Rollins;
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.