

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
DALTON, GEORGIA EST. 1847



Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, September 13, 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

- Today we welcome **guest minister**, Rev. Dr. Ken McKenzie. Rev. McKenzie is an Honorably Retired Minister Member of Cherokee Presbytery. He has served five parishes as pastor and Savannah Presbytery as General Presbyter. He and his wife, Vicki, reside in Blue Ridge, GA and are active in the Faith Presbyterian Church. He also served as interim pastor for FPC between 2022 and 2024.
- Please join us for the **Second Sunday Fellowship Lunch** today in Hollis Hall immediately following Worship. All are welcome! After lunch, stay for the Connection Team meeting and see how you can help.
- Calling all Sunday School teachers and students! **Rally Day** will be Sunday, September 20 during the Sunday School hour (9:15-10:00 a.m.) in Hollis Hall. We will introduce new curricula for the youth and adult classes and will give everyone a taste of what to expect this year. It is the perfect opportunity for those who would like to join a class for the first time to see what it is all about, but we encourage everyone who is involved in Sunday School to attend, especially parents of pre-school aged children and older. We will have some light refreshments for you to enjoy as we celebrate all that this new academic year has to offer! See you there!

Announcements continued on the bulletin insert.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 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

Lead me, Lord, in Thy Righteousness
Samuel Sebastian Wesley
(1810-1876)

*Lead me, Lord, lead me in Thy righteousness,
Make Thy way plain before my face.
For it is Thou, Lord, Thou, Lord, only,
That makest me dwell in safety.*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jeff Granillo

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.

**The Lord works vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**The Lord has established his throne in the heavens,
and his kingdom rules over all.**

Bless the Lord, O you his angels,
you mighty ones who do his bidding,
obedient to his spoken word.

**Bless the Lord, all his hosts,
his ministers who do his will.**

Bless the Lord, all his works,
in all places of his dominion.

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

O God who is our strength, you have protected us from those who would seek to oppress us. You have shielded us from those who would seek to destroy the good gifts you have put in us. Your love and power never fail. Thanks and praise to you, our safety and stronghold. We exalt you, O God, majestic in holiness, for there is none like you. Amen.

*HYMN 385

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

Old Hundredth

Cover Art:
Blackall, Pippa. Prophet Miriam, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/art-works/57589> [retrieved September 8, 2026]. Original source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/paullew/33172410852>.

The Call to Worship is from Psalm 103.

Hymn 385 Note:
In a pairing that began in 1561, this paraphrase of Psalm 100 by a Scot is set to a tune that a French composer originally created for Psalm 134 in the Genevan Psalter of 1551. They have appeared together in nearly every comprehensive English-language hymnal since then.

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

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(A time of silent prayer and meditation.)

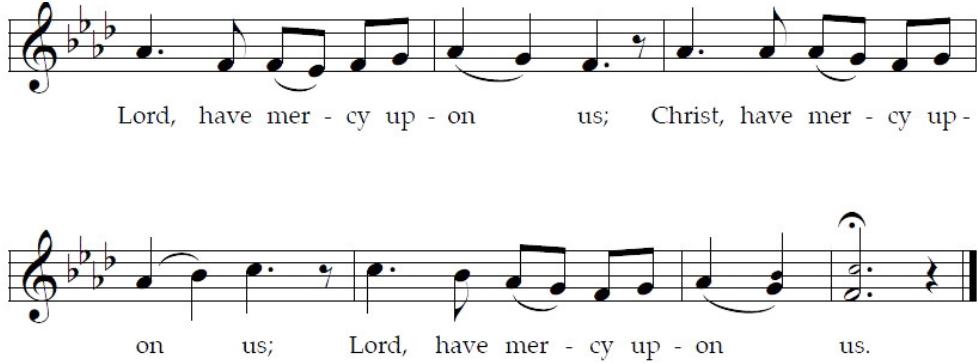
Loving God, we confess that we have failed to live in harmony with our sisters and brothers. We have been self-righteous in our attitudes, close-minded in our beliefs, and judgmental in our opinions. We have shunned those whose ways we do not understand, and we have despised those who do not endorse our convictions.

Forgive our sins of discord and conceit, and heal our divisiveness and quarreling. Help us to be charitable in our regard for others that we may dwell in peace with Christ, who is Lord of all. 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

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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 14:19-31 NRSVUE

¹⁹The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰ It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. ²² The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³ The Egyptians pursued and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh’s horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴ At the morning watch the Lord, in the pillar of fire and cloud, looked down on the Egyptian army and threw the Egyptian army into a panic. ²⁵ He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, “Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.”

²⁶ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.” ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹ But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

³⁰ Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

This is my name forever,
and this my title for all generations.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 14:1-12 NRSVUE

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them.

Select liturgy
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⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Prayer for Partnership

Tom Mitchell

*Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,
We respond with deep commitment, fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
Equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.*

*Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's dear call to work and worth,
Let us follow, never falt'ring reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old,
Blending human skills together gracious gifts from God, from God unfold.*

*Thus new patterns for Christ's mission in a small or global sense,
Help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge said with care,
Bring new pow'r and strength for action, make us colleagues free and fair.*

*So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
That surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
Messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence, hope and peace.*

Amen, amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 18:21-35

NRSVUE

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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

SERMON

“Guided and Delivered by God” Rev. Dr. Ken McKenzie

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 65

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah CWM Rhondda

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses.

We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. Jesus is the first and the last, the beginning and the end. He is our Lord and our God. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Hymn 65 Note:

Few Welsh hymns are as well known or loved as this 18th-century text that did not gain its popular tune until the early 20th century. In both its original text and in English translation, it is a stirring hymn of pilgrimage filled with vivid imagery from Hebrew scripture.

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 853 Note:

This lively Zulu/Xhosa freedom song originated in a Methodist young men’s group in South Africa and has gone on to become popular in many other languages around the globe. Some additional stanzas are suggested, but others may be improvised as appropriate to the occasion.

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 853

We Are Marching (& v. We are Praying) in the Light of God

Siyahamba

*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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Erin Witt, Office Manager: office@firstpresdalton.org

Mailing Address:

PO Box 489 • Dalton, Georgia 30722

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

WORSHIP

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Flower Guild
9/13	Jeff Granillo	Nancy Farrow & Laura Goins	Margaret Venable
9/20	Michelle Lively	Kaye Clark & Kayte Crocker	Jeane Jones
9/27	Nancy Farrow	John & Judi McPherson	Mary Hubbs

MONTHLY

Communion (October 4 - World Communion Sunday)		Congregational Care		Little Free Pantry Pal	
Prep	Jean Lowrey	September	Bobbie Anderson	September	Walter & Jeane Jones
Servers	Rev. Nicole Jiskoot, Rob Lively, Steve Farrow & James Joskins	October	Nancy Farrow	October	Kathryn Sellers

Announcements Continued...

- To help begin a jail ministry, the Missions Team is sponsoring a lunch for the employees and officers at the **Whitfield County Jail** on Thursday, September 24 at noon. If you are interested in helping “meet and greet” and serve lunch, please text or call Priscilla at 706.459.8140. Let’s make sure our church is well represented at this event.
- Calling all volunteers who work with the children and youth of the church. We will offer the annual **child protection policy training** on Sunday, September 20, at 8:00 a.m., followed by Rally Day at 9:15 a.m. We will have a second opportunity for training on Sunday, September 27, immediately following Worship. Both trainings will take place in Hollis Hall. Please plan on attending one of the sessions.
- Don’t forget to send in your **Elder Nominations** to the ENC or Pastor Nicole. If you have someone you would like to nominate as an elder, please contact one of the members of the ENC (Hilliard Jolly, Alice Ensley and Mike Brown).

Cover Art Note: Miriam, sister of Moses and Aaron, praising the Lord with all the women of Israel after they crossed the Red Sea.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, September 13
Sunday School
9:15 a.m.
Fellowship
10:00 a.m.
Worship
10:30 a.m.
Second Sunday
Fellowship Lunch & Share a Meal Sunday
11:30 a.m.
Connection Team Meeting
12:30 p.m.

Monday, September 14
Lunch Bunch
noon

Tuesday, September 15
Grateful Heart AA Mtg
8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 16
Congregational Life Team “Clean Up Day”
10:00 a.m.
Congregational Life Team Meeting
10:30 a.m.
Women’s Book Club
noon
Missions Team Meeting
5:30 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal
6:30-8:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 17
Presbyterians at the Pub
5:00 p.m.
Knitting Group
5:30-7:30 p.m.

Friday, September 18
Grateful Heart AA Mtg
8:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 20
Child Protection Policy Training
8:00 a.m.
Rally Day
9:15 a.m.
Fellowship
10:00 a.m.
Worship
10:30 a.m.
Session Meeting
11:30 a.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:

Bjorn Jiskoot;

Peggy Rollins;

Sue Spivey;

Walter Jones;

Nancy Rhine;

For Family and Friends of the Following Members:

Nicole Jiskoot, Jon Ballast and family;

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 expectant mothers: Hye Jeong Kwon, Lucy Partain Brown and Emma Ensley;

The Elder Nominating Committee, as they continue their work;

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