

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
DALTON, GEORGIA EST. 1847



Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday, September 20, 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

- Calling all volunteers who work with the children and youth of the church. If you missed this mornings **child protection policy training**, do not worry! Another session will be offered next Sunday, September 27, immediately following Worship in Hollis Hall. Everyone who works with children or is interested in working with children must attend one of the two trainings.
- Calling all artists! The Missions Team is promoting the **Whitfield Remembrance Project** in memory of the legacy of Juliette Derriote, a gifted speaker, educator and peacemaker whose faith and warmth inspired many. After a car accident near Dalton in November 1931, segregation kept her from the local hospital and she died the next day in Chattanooga. Her tragic death drew nationwide attention and led to the expansion of hospital wards for Black Americans and eventually desegregated hospitals. The Whitfield Remembrance Project is sponsoring the Derricotte Art Contest for students and adults across the region. See the newsletter for more details. Submission deadline is October 7.
- The Connections Teams is hosting a **baby shower** for Hye Jeong and Daniel in conjunction with **Lemonade On The Lawn** (with side walk chalk) on Sunday, October 11, following Worship. If you would like to contribute to a gift from the congregation you can either put a check in the offering plate or mail to the church office earmarked "baby shower".

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 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

Michelle Lively

The Call to Worship is
from Psalm 145.

I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.

**Every day I will bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.

**One generation shall extol your works to another
and shall declare your mighty acts.**

They will recount the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works I will meditate.

**They will proclaim the might of your awesome deeds,
and I will declare your greatness.**

They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

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

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Generous God, you come to us again and again, no matter how late it is in the day or in our lives. Calling to us, gathering us in, you give us your good work to do, daily bread, and boundless grace. Increase in us a generous spirit so that we may do your work with joy alongside others whom you also love. We celebrate the salvation we have in you. Align us with your ways and help us receive your gift of justice and mercy as good news. In Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

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

Hymn 396 Note:
This hymn comes out of the early 19th-century southern camp meeting experience, where believers were invited to pray for new converts, often likened to biblical characters such as Paul's jailer (Philippians 1:12–13). As its name shows, the five-note tune was created for this text.

*HYMN 396

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

Holy Manna

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(A time of silent prayer and meditation.)

God of abundant goodness, we confess that we want your grace for ourselves but often wish punishment or exclusion on others. We judge the efforts and motives of others while ignoring the faults of our own.

Forgive us, we pray, when we let jealousy overtake us. Forgive us, we pray, when we are petty, even in the presence of your generosity. Forgive us, we pray, when we feel slighted by you. We ask again for your mercy. Help us to be more merciful toward one another. We pray in the name of Christ Jesus, by whose grace we are saved. 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

Gloria Patri

S Selwidge 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 16:2-15

NRSVUE

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

⁴Then the Lord said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. ⁵On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” ⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?” ⁸And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.”

⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites: ‘Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’” ¹⁰And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. ¹¹The Lord spoke to Moses, ¹²“I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’”

¹³In the evening quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Philippians 1:21-30

NRSVUE

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far

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better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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

ANTHEM

Holy Manna

Joel Raney
(b. 1956)

Refrain

*Lord! Shower us with holy manna, Lord, shower us from above.
We gather here to sing hosanna, we gather to share your love.*

*We have gathered here to worship and adore the Lord, our God.
Will you pray with all your power while we try to preach the word?
All is vain unless the spirit of the Holy One comes down.
Christians pray, and holy manna will be showered all around. (Refrain)*

*Let us love our God supremely, let us love each other, too.
Let us love and pray for sinners, till our God makes all things new
Christ will call us home to heaven, at his table we'll sit down;
Christ will gird himself and serve us with sweet manna all around. (Refrain)*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 20:1-16

NRSVUE

¹ “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked

only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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

SERMON

“Feeding the Harvest”Rev. Nicole Jiskoot

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 846

Fight the Good FightDuke Street

*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

Hymn 846 Note:

The opening phrase here (based on 1 Timothy 6:12) is not a military image but an athletic one, from a Greek verb meaning “struggle” or “grapple” or “wrestle.” The sports context continues in later stanzas reflecting the experience of a runner (recalling Hebrews 12:1–2).

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 773 Note:

This stirring, prophetic hymn is organized around two recurring four-syllable phrases, the first of which introduces an idealized scenario of what Dietrich Bonhoeffer would call “cheap grace,” while the second announces the “costly grace” of God’s redeeming work in Jesus Christ.

*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 773

Heaven Shall Not Wait

Heaven Shall Not Wait

*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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VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

WORSHIP

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Flower Guild
9/20	Michelle Lively	Margaret Venable & Kaye Clark	Jeane Jones
9/27	Nancy Farrow	John & Judi McPherson	Mary Hubbs
10/04	Laura Allgood	Henry & Julie Tharpe	Margaret Venable

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	Annelle Hogshead	October	Kathryn Sellers

Upcoming Events

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.

Monday, September 21
Lunch Bunch
noon

Tuesday, September 22
Saturday Sacks
10:30 a.m.
Grateful Heart AA Mtg
8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 23
Christian Education Team Meeting
5:00 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal
6:30-8:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 24
Knitting Group
5:30-7:30 p.m.

Friday, September 25
Grateful Heart AA Mtg
8:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 27
Sunday School
9:15 a.m.
Fellowship
10:00 a.m.
Worship
10:30 a.m.
Child Protection Policy Training
11:30 a.m.

Monday, September 28
Lunch Bunch
noon

Tuesday, September 29
Grateful Heart AA Mtg
8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 30
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 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.