

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
DALTON, GEORGIA EST. 1847



Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday, September 27, 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 welcome today's **guest preacher**, Therese Howell. See the bulletin insert for her full biography.
- Calling all volunteers who work with the children and youth of the church. We will offer the **annual child protection policy training** today, immediately following Worship, in Hollis Hall. Everyone who works with children or is interested in working with children must attend the training.
- Great news! The Elder Nominating Committee is pleased to present a slate of nominees to the congregation for its consideration in electing the 2029 Class of Elders for our church. A **congregational meeting** is called for Sunday, October 4, near the end of Worship, for the purpose of electing three elders. Nominations are accepted from the floor on the day of the election with the understanding that permission of the nominee has been obtained.
- Join us for our **Ladies' Luncheon** on Wednesday, October 7, at 11:30 a.m. at Baja Coop. This is a great opportunity for the women of our church to fellowship as we break bread together. We meet at a different venue on the first Wednesday of every month, so make this part of your regular routine as we tour the town like the great "foodies" we are! Please contact Julie Tharpe at if you plan to attend this time around, and we'll see you there!

Announcements are continued in the bulletin insert.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 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**

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
O my God, in you I trust;
Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.

**Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.**

Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

**He leads the humble in what is right
and teaches the humble his way.**

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.
**The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him,
and he makes his covenant known to them.**

***UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**Gracious God, we thank you for being ever present with us. We know that
we are never alone. Your mercies have been faithful and rich. Pour out
your Spirit upon us, that we might do the work of your will. In the name
of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

***HYMN 81**

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken
Austrian Hymn

The Call to Worship is from Psalm 25.

Hymn 81 Note:
The Nazi appropriation of this tune for propaganda purposes has clouded a noble piece of music first associated with this text in 1889. In a 1779 collection, the author indicated that this hymn is primarily based on Isaiah 30:20–21 with allusions to several other passages.

*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.)

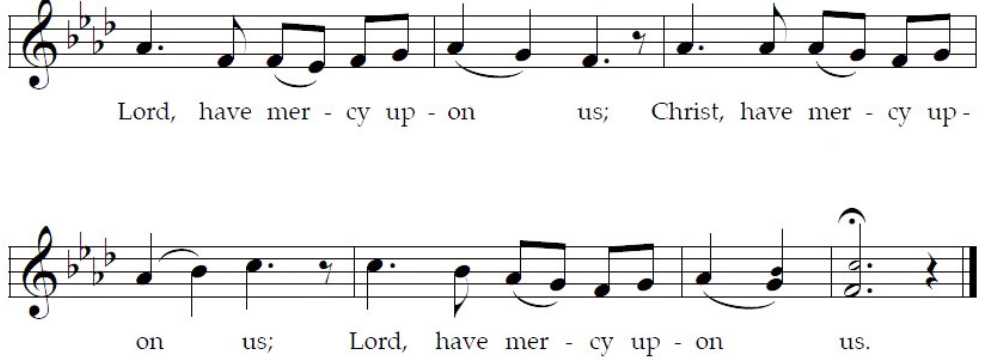
Almighty God, we have been wandering in the wilderness of sin. We have complained in the face of your mercy. We have been selfish and conceited in the face of your sacrifice. We have not done your will.

Teach us humility. Teach us gratitude. Infuse your Spirit into our beings so that we might be reconciled to you. In Jesus' name we pray. 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 Selvidge 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

Exodus 17:1-7

NRSVUE

¹ From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” ⁴ So Moses cried out to the Lord, “What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵ The Lord said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. ⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Philippians 2:1-13

NRSVUE

¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,
⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a human,
⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,
¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Select liturgy
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¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

ANTHEM

Wade in the Water

Roger Emerson
(b. 1950)

Refrain

*Wade in the water, wade in the water children,
Wade in the water, God's agonna trouble the water.*

*River Jordan is chilly and cold,
God's agonna trouble the water.
Chills the body but not the soul,
God's agonna trouble the water. (Refrain)*

*If you get up there before I do,
God's agonna trouble the water.
Just tell my friends I'm comin' too
God's agonna trouble the water. (Refrain)*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 21:23-32

NRSVUE

²³ When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.

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

SERMON

“Watering the Vineyard”

Therese Howell

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 36

For the Fruit of All Creation

Ar Hydy Nos

*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

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

**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.**

Old 100th

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 697

Take My Life

Stanzas 1,2,3 & 6

Hendon

Hymn 36 Note:

Originally called “Harvest Hymn,” this text is much more comprehensive than that title implies. It also deals with stewardship, thanksgiving, and God’s endless gifts that continue to astound us. It is set to a familiar Welsh tune whose name means “throughout the night.”

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 697 Note:

This hymn of consecration radiates from the repeated word “take,” resulting in a remarkably full survey of a person’s attributes and possessions and giving weight to the “all” at the end. The composer of the tune was influential in the renewal of Reformed hymnody in French.

*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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PO Box 489 • Dalton, Georgia 30722

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

WORSHIP

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Flower Guild
9/27	Nancy Farrow	Margaret Venable & Mike Brown	Mary Hubbs
10/04	Laura Allgood	Henry & Julie Tharpe	Margaret Venable
10/11	Rob Lively	The O’Gwin Family	Laura Allgood

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 Hoskins	October	Annelle Hogshead	October	Kathryn Sellers & Laura Allgood

Announcements continued...

- Calling all artists! The Missions Team is promoting the **Whitfield Remembrance Project** in memory of the legacy of Juliette Derricote, 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 Congregational Life Team is hosting a **baby shower** for Hye Jeong and Daniel in conjunction with **Lemonade On The Lawn** (with sidewalk 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”.

Therese Howell bio: Therese Howell lives in Franklin, TN where she is a member of Franklin First Presbyterian Church. She served the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee for 31 years, 25 as Stated Clerk. She retired in 2022, but God wasn’t finished with her yet - Wilson Kennedy contacted her and asked that she consider serving as the part time Stated Clerk consultant for Cherokee Presbytery.

Upcoming Events

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
Christian Education Team Meeting
5:00 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal
6:30-8:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 1
Presbyterians at the Pub
5:00 p.m.
Knitting Group
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Friday, October 2
Grateful Heart AA Mtg
8:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 4
Sunday School
9:15 a.m.
Fellowship
10:00 a.m.
Worship
10:30 a.m.
Congretational Meeting
11:30 a.m.
Music Recital
3:00 p.m.
Monday, October 5
Lunch Bunch
noon
Tuesday, October 6
Saturday Sacks
10:30 a.m.
Grateful Heart AA Mtg
8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, October 7
Ladies Luncheon
11:30 a.m.

She enjoyed working with everyone in the Presbytery, and was elected as part time Stated Clerk in 2023, and just elected to another three year term. Therese works remotely, and usually travels to Cartersville or Marietta once a month. Service to the PC(USA) includes serving on several PCUSA search committees for national staff, teaching moderator training and parliamentary procedure for 12 years, serving as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Constitution, and serving as a faculty member of Presbyterian CREDO for 14 years. Her favorite service has been to the General Assembly - she has served as a parliamentarian, committee assistant, floor parliamentarian, and parliamentary assistant since 1998. It is an opportunity to see behind the curtain, and watch the Church at work!

Therese has been married to her husband for 49 years, and they have two daughters, one son-in-law, one daughter-in-law, one granddaughter, a Labrador retriever, two granddogs, and a grandcat (not listed in order of importance). In her spare time, she enjoys reading, boating, needlepoint, and oil painting.

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:

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 conclude their work;

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