



Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday, September 6, 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.

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**

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.”

Announcements

• As a result of the action by the congregation, Hilliard Jolly and Alice Ensley will serve on the **Elder Nominating Committee**. Also by Session selection, Mike Brown will join with them to complete the team. In the coming weeks, the ENC will solicit elder nominations and prayerfully consider all names they receive. If you have someone you would like to nominate as an elder, please contact one of the members of the ENC, or Pastor Nicole. Let us add to our prayers these three as they begin their important discernment process.

• Please join us for the **Second Sunday Fellowship Lunch** on Sunday, September 13 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.

• Our **church office will be closed** on Monday, September 7 in honor of Labor Day, which prior to becoming a Federal holiday, was celebrated by labor activists to recognize the importance of the working class to our society. May we remember the laborers who put food on our tables and clothes on our bodies, as well as those who maintain our lawns and households, and work to ensure that they receive fair and equitable treatment (James 5:4). **Lunch Bunch** will resume on Monday, September 14.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 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

Mike Brown

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,
and I will observe it to the end.
**Give me understanding, that I may keep your law
and observe it with my whole heart.**
Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for I delight in it.
**Turn my heart to your decrees
and not to selfish gain.**
Turn my eyes from looking at vanities;
be gracious to me according to your word.
**Confirm to your servant your promise,
which is for those who fear you.**
Turn away the disgrace that I dread,
for your ordinances are good.
**See, I have longed for your precepts;
in your righteousness be gracious to me.**

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**Almighty God, whose ways are far beyond our understanding, help us to
trust your judgments so that we may do your will by loving you and one
another. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.**

*HYMN 275

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Ein' Feste Burg

Cover Art:

Andō, Tadao, 1941-.
Interior of the Church
of the Light, from Art
in the Christian
Tradition, a project of
the Vanderbilt
University Divinity
Library, Nashville, TN.
<https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/art-works/58956> [retrieved
September 3, 2026].
Original source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Church_of_Light.JPG.

The Call to Worship is
from Psalm 119.

Hymn 275 Note:

Long before Isaac Watts
began to Christianize
the Psalms, Martin
Luther had already done
so when he created
the text and tune for
this, his most famous
hymn, which is based
on Psalm 46. Luther
encouraged metrical
versions of psalms as
well as chanted psalms
and new hymns.

*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.)

Lord God, while we were still slaves to sin, you died for our salvation. Yet we still worship the false gods of the world, forgetting that you are Lord. Loving worldly wealth, we have not loved you with our whole heart nor loved our neighbors as ourselves. Trusting worldly strength, we have not trusted your word nor followed the Word-made-flesh.

Forgiving by worldly norms, we have not shown mercy to others as you have shown mercy to us. Forgive us yet again, we pray in Christ's name. 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 Schvidge 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 12:1-14

NRSVUE

¹ The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ² “This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³ Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴ If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. ⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶ You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷ They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸ They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹ Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰ You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn with fire. ¹¹ This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand, and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the Passover of the Lord. ¹² I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from human to animal, and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. ¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ “This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 13:8-14

NRSVUE

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

ANTHEM

True Light

Keith Hampton
(b. 1957)

Sienna Haugen, Adam Stark, solo

*This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine.
Almighty God is light. He lives in us as True Light.*

*In the beginning out of the darkness God created True Light
Almighty God is light. He lives in us as True Light.*

*Don't let the light that You've given me die,
And don't desert my mind.
But let the one who serves You
Praise You again and again.
He lives in us as True Light.*

*You are the one who judges right from wrong.
Your glory excites no envy.
But let the one who serves You
Praise You again and again.
He lives in us as True Light.*

*This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go, I want the world to know.
God gave the world True Light!*

*Hold on to the true light I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go, I want the world to know.
God gave the world True Light!*

*True Light I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go, I want the world to know.
God gave the world True Light!*

*God's love, God's grace, I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go, I want the world to know.
God gave the world True Light!*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 18:15-20

NRSVUE

¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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

SERMON

“The Armor of Light” Rev. Nicole Jiskoot

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 529

Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether Union Seminary

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

“Nicene Creed”

We believe in one God, The Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again; in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn 529 Note:
This communion text calls attention to the inherent sacramental nature of all meals and the communal dimensions of all human interaction. The tune, originally composed for an anthem setting of this text, honors the institution where the composer was trained and later taught.

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.



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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/

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.**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, we praise you. Let the heavens be joyful, and the earth be glad. We
bless you for creating the whole world, for your promises to your people Israel,
and for Jesus Christ in whom your fullness dwells.

Born of Mary, he shares our life. Eating with sinners, he welcomes us. Guiding
his children, he leads us. Visiting the sick, he heals us. Dying on the cross, he
saves us. Risen from the dead, he gives us new life. Living with you, he prays
for us. Therefore, we join our voices with the choirs of heaven and with all the
faithful of every time and place who forever praise your name:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Land of Rest

(All sing together)

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

With thanksgiving, we take this bread and this cup and proclaim the death and
resurrection of our Lord. Receive our sacrifice of praise.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us that this meal may be a communion in the body and blood of our Lord. Make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast. Unite us in faith, encourage us with hope, inspire us to love, that we may serve as your faithful disciples until we feast at your table in glory.

We praise you, eternal God, through Christ your Word made flesh, in the holy and life-giving Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God!

COMMUNION

We invite you to come forward for communion via the nearest accessible main aisle and return to your seat the way you came. Communion is served by intinction. Take a piece of bread held by one elder, dip it in the cup held by another, and then, “Taste and see that the Lord is good.” Gluten-free elements are available from the left aisle.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 203

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

Chereponi

*CHARGE AND 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

Hymn 203 Note:

Considering that this text comes from a part of the world where Christianity is not the primary religion gives these simple but powerful words even more depth and meaning. The tune name recalls the district in the Northern Region of Ghana where this tune was collected.

Upcoming Events
Sunday, September 6
Sunday School
9:15 a.m.
Fellowship
10:00 a.m.
Worship
10:30 a.m.
Monday, September 7
Church Office Closed
Tuesday, September 8
CLILA Food Boxes
10:00 a.m. - noon
Saturday Sacks
10:30 a.m.
Grateful Heart AA Mtg
8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, September 9
Worship Team Meeting
5:00 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal
6:30-8:00 p.m.
Thursday, September 10
Knitting Group
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Friday, September 11
Grateful Heart AA Mtg
8:00 p.m.
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 9.m.
Monday, September 14
Lunch Bunch
noon
Tuesday, September 15
Grateful Heart AA Mtg
8:00 p.m.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

WORSHIP

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Flower Guild
9/6	Mike Brown	Robert & Rachel Smalley	Robyn Bryant
9/13	Jeff Granillo	Nancy Farrow & Laura Goins	Margaret Venable
9/20	Michelle Lively	Kaye Clark & Kayte Crocker	Jeane Jones

MONTHLY

Communion (September 6)		Congregational Care		Little Free Pantry Pal	
Prep	Kathryn Sellers	September	Bobbie Anderson	September	Walter & Jeane Jones
Servers	Rev. Nicole Jiskoot, Kathy Bridges, Annelle Scott & Mary Ellen Gurley	October	Nancy Farrow	October	Kathryn Sellers

Cover art note: “Mr. Ando has shown an ability to suffuse rooms with light in surprising ways. One of his most famous projects is the Ibaraki Kasugaoka Church in Ibaraki, Japan, which is known as the Church of the Light because of the cruciform-shaped opening in the concrete wall behind the altar.” [from The New York Times, March 30, 2014.] -- “Dwelling in a house is a search for the mind (kokoro) as the locus of god, just as one goes to church to search for god. An important role of the church is to enhance this sense of the spiritual. In a spiritual place, people find peace in their mind (kokoro), as in their homeland.” [Jin Baek, Nothingness: Tadao Ando’s Christian Sacred Space. Routledge, 2009.] -- Tadao Ando was the recipient of the Pritzker Prize in Architecture in 1995. -- Photo by Attila Bujdosó.

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.



Contact FPC

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