

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
DALTON, GEORGIA EST. 1847



Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday, October 11, 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

• This spring, our congregation will have the opportunity to participate in a **church-wide retreat** in Montreat, NC, the weekend of April 30 - May 2. We will be staying adjacent to the Montreat Conference Center property in the William Black Lodge, giving us access to all the beauty that Montreat has to offer. The Lodge has available rooms to accommodate individuals, roommates, couples, and families with children. However, time is of the essence. Registration forms can be found in the Commons. Please return your completed form to the church office, along with a \$100 deposit per room or family earmarked as "Church Retreat" as soon as possible. We look forward to seeing you all in Montreat!

• Join us on Sunday, October 25, for our annual **Kirkin' O' The Tartans** as we celebrate the anniversary of the Reformation and our local church's 179th birthday!! Complete with bagpiper, procession of Tartans, and musical selections to mark the occasion, our Worship will remember and honor this tradition as we glorify and bear witness to our living God in Jesus Christ.

• Please join us for the **Second Sunday Fellowship Lunch** on Sunday, October 25, in Hollis Hall, immediately following Worship. Please RSVP to the church office if you'd like to attend. All are welcome!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 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

Rob Lively

You have been called to the banquet

This is the feast.

You have been summoned to the wedding.

This is the feast of life and light.

From the streets and the byways, God has invited us.

We have come to the banquet that has no end. Alleluia! Amen!

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Holy God, you set before us every day a bounty of good things. Bring us to your feasting table, hungry for your Word, eager to rebuild the cities you have made, and ready to receive strangers so that we celebrate at all times and in all places the peace which is life in you. Amen.

*HYMN 687

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

St. Anne

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(A time of silent prayer and meditation.)

You invite us to your feast, O God, and we do not come. You beg us to give thanks for life, and we fail in our thanksgiving. You made for us a wonderful earth, and we neglect the gift.

Forgive us for what we have done and for abandoning the pathway you desire for us. Be our guide and conscience. Turn our feet and hands to your will, that all we do might give glory to you. Amen.

Cover Art:

JESUS MAFA. The poor invited to the feast, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/48397> [retrieved October 8, 2026]. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr> (contact page: <https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr/contact>).

Hymn 687 Note:

Many people sing this hymn unaware that it paraphrases Psalm 90, partly because this text speaks so immediately to the human condition. Since the middle of the 19th century, it has usually been joined to this tune named for the London parish where the composer was organist.

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

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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 25:1-9

NRSVUE

¹ O Lord, you are my God;
I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
² For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of foreigners is a city no more;
it will never be rebuilt.
³ Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.
⁴ For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.
When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
⁵ the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶ On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.
⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;
⁸ he will swallow up death forever.
Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.
⁹ It will be said on that day,
“See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Philippians 4:1-9

NRSVUE

¹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Select liturgy
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⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

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

ANTHEM

Amazing Grace

arr. John Coates, Jr.
(1938-2017)

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!*

*Thro' many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.*

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 22:1-14

NRSVUE

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, “Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.” ⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, “The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.” ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the

streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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

SERMON

“Invite Everyone You Find” Rev. Nicole Jiskoot

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***HYMN 770**

I’m Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table *Welcome Table*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being born in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.

Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God, “Jesus Christ is Lord!” Amen.

- Philippians 2:5-11

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Hear us, O God;
your mercy is great.

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/

Hymn 770 Note:

The image of a great feast showing God’s welcome of all people was part of Jewish tradition (Isaiah 25:6–9) and underlies Jesus’ parable of the Great Banquet (Luke 14:15–24). Such equality remains as unknown to many people today as it was to the slaves who created this spiritual.

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 804 Note:

These stanzas are drawn from a much longer hymn created for the processional at an English choir festival in 1865. The original text lacked the refrain that gives the hymn so much of its energy and interest. That feature was added by the composer of this tune in 1883.

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 804

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

Marion

*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

101 S. Selvidge Street Phone: 706-278-8161

Rev. Nicole Jiskoot, Pastor: njiskoot@firstpresdalton.org

Hye Jeong Kwon, Director of Music: hkwon@firstpresdalton.org

Grace Johnson, Director of Children & Youth Ministries: gjohnson@firstpresdalton.org

Erin Witt, Office Manager: office@firstpresdalton.org

Mailing Address:

PO Box 489 • Dalton, Georgia 30722

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

WORSHIP

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Flower Guild
10/11	Rob Lively	The O’Gwin Family	Laura Allgood
10/18	Walter Jones	Margaret Venable & Kathryn Sellers	Kathryn Sellers
10/25	Renee Schuette	Berrien Long & Mary Hubbs	Mary Ellen Gurley

MONTHLY

Communion November 1 (All Saints Day)		Congregational Care		Little Free Pantry Pal	
Prep	Carol Houston	October	Annelle Hogshead	October	Kathryn Sellers & Laura Allgood
Servers	Rev. Nicole Jiskoot, Hilliard & Becky Jolly & Bob Hubbs	November	Joanne Lewis	November	Mary Hubbs & Valerie George

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Date	Joy Makers (PreK- 3 rd)	Faith Builders (4 th - 5 th)	Youth (6 th - 12 th)	Adult
10/11	Youth Connect Service Project	Youth Connect Service Project	Rob & Michelle Lively	Hilliard Jolly
10/18	Jeff & Leanna Granillo	Jean Lowrey & Priscilla Brown	Rev. Nicole Jiskoot & Grace Johnson	Beverly Higdon
10/25	Leanna Granillo & Laura Goins	Eric Haugen & Jeff Granillo	Rev. Nicole Jiskoot & Grace Johnson	Steve Farrow

Cover Art Notes: JESUS MAFA is a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. Each of the readings was selected and adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their interpretations were made, and these were then transcribed to paintings.

In this painting, we see a generous, wealthy host, choosing to hold a feast for the poor. A large group of disenfranchised people are gathered together eating, talking, and enjoying one another’s company. The faces of the host and all his guests show expressions of joy and gratitude. This scene reveals a community who took Jesus’ instructions from Luke 14:13 seriously: “But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.” Followers of Jesus are to remain humble, expecting nothing in return for the Christ-like love we are called to share with the world.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 11

Sunday School
9:15 a.m.
Fellowship
10:00 a.m.
Worship
10:30 a.m.
Lemonade on the Lawn
& Baby Shower
11:30 a.m.

Monday, October 12

Lunch Bunch
noon

Tuesday, October 13

Grateful Heart AA Mtg
8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 14

Choir Rehearsal
6:00-8:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 15

Presbyterians at the Pub
5:00 p.m.
Knitting Group
5:30-7:30 p.m.

Friday, October 16

Grateful Heart AA Mtg
8:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 18

Sunday School
9:15 a.m.
Fellowship
10:00 a.m.

Worship
10:30 a.m.

Session Meeting
11:30 a.m.

Monday, October 19

Lunch Bunch
noon

Tuesday, October 20

Saturday Sacks
10:30 a.m.

Grateful Heart AA Mtg
8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 21

Choir Rehearsal
6:00-8:00 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:

Ken McKenzie;

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;

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