

Adult

Bible 101: all ages, SS 212

A round-table discussion on the basic studies of Scripture following the Chalmers Center Guide. Currently studying *The Jesus Storybook Bible*.

Chapter by Chapter: ages 50+, Tower 804

Currently studying Philippians 4; mostly 50s+ but all ages welcome.

Fellowship Class: all ages, SS 210

Currently studying Isaiah verse-by-verse. Class is mostly seniors but welcomes all.

First Pres Forum Class: all ages, Fellowship Hall

Offering a rotating schedule of teachers and speakers.

See 1stPresbyterian.com/SundaySchool for the full class schedule.

The Joy of Learning: ages 30s - 70s, Tower 258

A no-pressure, discussion-based class currently studying God's Biblical responses to Screwtape/Satan in C.S. Lewis's book *The Screwtape Letters*.

Link Class: ages 60+, Tower 301

Currently studying Romans, followed by prayer requests and a time of prayer. Class is mostly seniors but welcomes all.

McCallie/Anderson Class: all ages, Chapel

Class dates back to 1924 and is named after legendary Sunday School teachers J. Park McCallie and Lee Anderson. Currently studying Isaiah verse-by-verse.

Reformed by the Word: ages 50s - 80s, Tower 10th Floor

An interactive class studying the Gospel according to Mark. Lessons are followed by a time of prayer.

Rocking Chair Class: all ages, Tower 302

Focuses on discovering "what sayest the Scripture." Currently studying John MacArthur's series, "The Rapture & the Day of the Lord."

International & Adult Bible Discussion: all ages, Tower 805

Part of the First Friends Ministry, welcomes international college students. Currently studying the Kingdom of God.

Young Couples: ages 20s - 30s couples, SS 211

A short lesson followed by group discussion. Class is currently studying the Book of Church Order from the Presbyterian Church in America's Constitution.

Young Professionals: ages 20s - 30s, Tower 304

NOTE: will meet in the Fellowship Hall through December. Aimed at connecting recent college graduates and newly-weds in their 20s and 30s, class begins with a time of fellowship followed by a short lesson.

Youth & Kids

Youth Large Group: 6th - 12th grade, Student Center (across McCallie Ave.)

Kid's Sunday School: Pre K - 5th grade, ground, 1st, & 2nd level Children's Wing

Nursery: Infant - 4-years-old

NEW & UPCOMING AT 1ST PRES

Holiday Worship Schedule

On Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24, we will have one combined service at 10am, and a 4pm evening service, and on New Years Eve, Sunday, December 31, we will have one combined service at 10am. There will be no Sunday School on either Sunday, and we will not have a service on Christmas Day.

Hearts & Hammers

Starting Saturday, January 20, our Community Outreach Ministry and Mercy & Compassion Diaconate Committee will be launching a monthly Service Day on the 3rd Saturday of each month called Hearts & Hammers. Ten months out of the year, members and congregants of 1st Pres have the opportunity to serve both within our church and in our local community. **Visit the display table in the Connector for more information on how to get involved!**

Ways to Serve This Holiday Season

This Holiday Season, our local ministry partners need our help in showing the Love of Christ to their clients and our community. A list of ways you can serve locally this season, and year-round, can be found on our website at 1stPresbyterian.com/Serve-Locally.

A New Year's Resolution

This is the time of year that we all make our New Year's Resolutions: losing weight, exercising more, repairing relationships, etc. This year, make getting involved at First Pres part of your resolutions! The Deacons are here to help you get plugged in and are available every Sunday worshipping or ushering at the Sanctuary doors!

Church Office Holiday Closures

1st Pres office will be closed for Christmas on Friday, December 22, and Monday, December 25, and will reopen Tuesday, December 26.

Midweek - Starting January 10

Midweek is back for the spring semester on January 10, with meals at 5:30pm and electives at 6:15pm! There's something for everyone at Midweek, including nursery, kids, youth, and adults! This semester's adult elective features guest experts who will examine the Biblical foundations of Western society and equip you to answer the objections raised against them. Go to 1stPresbyterian.com/Midweek for more details!



*New to 1st Pres?
We'd love to connect with you!
Scan with your phone camera
to fill out a connect card.*



*To make a secure contribution
to First Pres, scan the above QR
code with your phone camera or
text GIVE to 423-888-0345.*



At First Presbyterian, we seek to be a healthy church exhibiting all the fullness of Christ as we disciple believers who develop spiritually, connect relationally, and engage missionally to reach Chattanooga and the world with the gospel.

The Lord's Day

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023

11:00 AM

† *Please stand as you are able.*

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WORSHIP REFLECTION

Gaze on that helpless object of endless adoration!
Those infant hands shall burst our bands
and work out our salvation.
Strangle the crooked serpent,
destroy his works forever,
and open set the heavenly gate
to every true believer.

— *Charles Wesley*

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Holy Father, who are we that You should come to us?
Yet You have visited Your people and redeemed us in Your Son.
As we prepare to celebrate His birth,
make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of Your word,
and move us by Your Spirit to bless Your name
for Your wonderful gift of a Savior.
We thank You that His coming is certain
and that His day draws near.
We pray in the majestic name of our Lord Jesus Christ
Who lives and reigns with You forever and ever. Amen.

PRELUDE

"What Child Is This?" arr. Mark Hayes

Dr. Sigrid Luther, piano

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRAISE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING & PRAYER OF INVOCATION

CHORAL INTROIT

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" arr. Cliff Duren

Youth Choir

For more information on these and other upcoming events, subscribe to our Weekly Email Announcements on our website under the "Resources" tab, or go to 1stPresbyterian.com/Events.

†HYMNS OF PRAISE

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”
“Angels We Have Heard on High”

No. 203 (vv. 1-3)
No. 214 (vv. 1-3)

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 1

Pastor: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

**People: That I am not my own,
but belong—body and soul,
in life and in death—
to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.
He has fully paid for all my sins
with His precious blood,
and has set me free
from the tyranny of the devil.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

**Merciful Savior,
Give me a broken heart
and Your abounding grace for . . .
apologies not made, forgiveness not offered,
peace not pursued, family members not loved,
providences ignored, envy unchecked,
prayers unspoken, fears not conquered,
truth not defended, tongue unbridled,
eyes unguarded, time, talents, and treasure wasted.
Deliver me from these chains,
and free me to serve You without fear.
Keep me clinging to Your cross
and praising You for the wonder
of Your unfailing love. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

1 Timothy 1:15 ESV

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance,
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners,
of whom I am the foremost.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

“O Come, All You Unfaithful”

Bulletin

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

OFFERTORY

“All Praise to Thee” by Martin Luther & Elaine Hagenberg

GREETING & DISMISSAL TO CHILDREN’S CHURCH

Please take your PreK-1st grade children to the check-in
station by the 1st-3rd department on the main Sanctuary level.

†DOXOLOGY

Stay connected and informed with the 1st Pres app. Text APP to 423-888-0345.

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THE WORD FOR GOD’S PEOPLE

SERMON

Luke 2:25-35 — “Waiting in the Spirit”
“Waiting: Advent Stories from the Gospel of Luke”
Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer

OUTLINE

- 1. The Spirit of Worship
- 2. The Spirit of Revelations

†HYMN OF RESPONSE

“Once in Royal David’s City” No. 225 (vv. 1-5)

THE SENDING OF GOD’S PEOPLE

†BENEDICTION

adapted from 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Pastor: May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself
and God our Father,
Who loved us and through grace
gave us eternal comfort and good hope,
comfort your hearts and strengthen them
in every good work and word.

People: Thanks be to God! Amen.

POSTLUDE

“Capriccio in D” by Georg Böhm

Patrick Rice, organ

Giving Update	Deacons (General Fund)	World Missions
Annual Budget	\$3,046,380	\$850,000
Raised Year-to-Date	\$1,563,715	\$468,398

The flowers today are given in celebration of our Savior and Redeemer’s birth –
“Behold a virgin shall bring forth a son, and they shall call His name
Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”
We wish one and all a very Blessed Christmas,
Everett and Gayle Sorensen.

The flowers will be arranged by the Flower Committee and delivered by
volunteers to our homebound and hospitalized on Monday, December 18.

Hymn Sheet

O Come All You Unfaithful

Key: D

Musical score for "O Come All You Unfaithful" by Bob Kauflin & Lisa Clow. Includes Verse, Chorus, and Bridge sections with lyrics and musical notation.