

NEW & UPCOMING AT 1ST PRES

Men's Retreat - April 19-20

Tomorrow, April 15, is the last day to register for our Men's Retreat at Quail Run Farm, featuring Dr. Richard Phillips, Senior Minister at Second Presbyterian in Greenville, as our guest speaker! Dr. Phillips will lead 5 sessions on "The Masculine Mandate: God's Calling for Men." The cost is \$30 for general attendees and \$10 for college students. Please note that this is NOT an overnight retreat. Learn more and register at 1stPresbyterian.com/Events.

Kid's Playgroup - April 19

On the third Friday of every month from 9:00am - 11:00am, come to the Student Center and connect with other parents while your kids (ages 0-5) play in a safe and fun environment!

Evangelism Workshop - May 3-4

Learn how to share your faith at our next annual Evangelism Seminar on Friday March 3, from 6:30pm - 8:30pm and Saturday, May 4, from 8:00am - 12:30pm on the 10th floor of the Tower! Childcare is available for children ages 0-5. Learn more and register at 1stPresbyterian.com/Events.

Ministry Fair - May 5

Save the date for our next annual Ministry Fair! During the Sunday School hour, you are invited down to the Fellowship Hall to meet our community ministry partners and get to know the 1st Pres ministries available to you! There will be NO adult Sunday School, but youth and kids will still meet.

Officer Elections - May 19

On Sunday, May 19 during both the 9am and the 11am services, we will hold our church officer elections!

1st Pres Women Leadership Team

Last week, our 2024-2025 Women Leadership Team was commissioned, including: President, Marilyn Bonderud; President-Elect, Nancy Hill; Past President, Dee Lapihuska; Recording Secretary, Carol Schoner; Treasurer, Glenda Henegar; Communications Chair, Charlene Hatmaker; Bible Study Chair, Christy Dyer-Gultom; Nominating Chair, Jay Dunn; Hospitality & Special Events, Deb Gruner, Elissa Clark, and Lauren Tignor. Thank you to these women for dedicating their time and energy to leading our Women's Ministry this year!

Midweek - April 17

Midweek continues with a meal and fellowship at 5:30pm and electives for nursery, kids, youth, and adults starting at 6:15pm! Learn more at 1stPresbyterian.com/Midweek.



*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.*

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 10:15AM EACH SUNDAY

Adult

Bible 101: 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: Tower 804

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

Fellowship Class: SS 210

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

First Pres Forum Class: Fellowship Hall

Offering a rotating schedule of teachers and speakers. Currently studying "The Joy of Generosity; how worshipping God with our resources is a big part of living a joyful life in Christ."

The Joy of Learning: 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: SS 209

Fellowship and prayer followed by a study of Philippians. Class is mostly seniors but welcomes all.

McCallie/Anderson Class: 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: Tower 10th Floor

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

Rocking Chair Class: 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: SS 204-F

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

Welcome All Class, SS 202

Currently studying how Jesus lived as a person and what it means to be fully human as God planned, using Paul Miller's *The Person of Jesus*.

Young Couples: SS 211

A short lesson followed by group discussion. Currently studying the Westminster Standards, the Confession of Faith, and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms.

Young Professionals: Tower 304

Aimed at connecting recent college graduates and newly-weds in their 20s-30s; current series is "Soul Care: Spiritual Food for Hungry People," studying Psalms.

Youth & Kids

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

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

Nursery: Infant - 4-years-old

Find more info on our Discipleship Ministries at 1stPresbyterian.com/Discipleship.



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, APRIL 14, 2024

11:00 AM

† *Please stand as you are able.*

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WORSHIP REFLECTION

In our sermon text this morning, we learn about Paul's thorn that is not removed by the Lord in spite of Paul's focused prayers for its removal. There is an important lesson for all of us to learn: "The thing that troubles you right now, the thing that pains you, that frustrates you, the thing that burdens you the most and you wish you could get rid of . . . may be the very thing you want to keep . . . for it is the thing which will make God very dear to you and make you most useful for Him."

– Don Sunukjian

A lesson from Paul's unanswered prayer for his thorn's removal: Is the chief end of praying to get our prayers answered? Why pray at all? Is the basic purpose of prayer to get things from God? Certainly, the Bible assures us that God hears us, and, in response, gives us what we need. But is that the basic reason Jesus taught us to pray? What if God knows prayer to be the thing we need first and foremost? What if the main object in God's idea of prayer is a supplying of our great and endless need—our need of Himself.

– George MacDonald

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Lord God, Whose blessed Son, our Savior, gave His body to be whipped and His face to be spit upon, Give us grace to accept joyfully the sufferings of the present time, confident of the glory that shall be revealed; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

PRELUDE

*“Great Is Thy Faithfulness” arr. Abby Phillips Lockaby
William Navalon, violin & Sigrid Luther, piano*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRAISE OF GOD’S PEOPLE

CHORAL INTROIT

“The Majesty and Glory of Your Name” by Tom Fettke

†CALL TO WORSHIP

1 Peter 2:6,9 ESV

Pastor: For it stands in Scripture:
“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame.”

**People: But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood,
a holy nation, a people for His own possession,
that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him
Who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.**

†PRAYER OF INVOCATION

†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.**

†HYMN OF PRAISE

“Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation” No. 342 (vv. 1-5)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 31

Pastor: Why is He called “Christ,” meaning “anointed”?

**People: Because He has been ordained by God the Father
and has been anointed with the Holy Spirit
to be our chief prophet and teacher
Who fully reveals to us
the secret counsel and will of God
concerning our deliverance;
our only high priest Who has delivered us
by the one sacrifice of His body,
and Who continually pleads our cause with the Father;
and our eternal king
Who governs us by His Word and Spirit,
and Who guards us and keeps us
in the freedom He has won for us.**

†HYMN OF PRAISE

“The Church’s One Foundation” No. 347 (vv. 1,2,5,6)

CONFESSION OF SINS

**Merciful Father,
Grant us to hear Your voice assuring us of
how profoundly loved, completely forgiven,
and accepted we are in the Beloved, our Lord Jesus.
Give us a repentant 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,
and time, talents, and treasure
not invested in Your service.
Pardon us from presuming to be strong
when we are weak.
Help us to cling to and cherish the cross.
For we make our prayer in the mighty name of Jesus,
Who alone can subdue, comfort, and save us. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

1 Corinthians 10:4 ESV

They “all drank the same spiritual drink.
For they drank from the spiritual Rock
that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.”

†HYMN OF HEALING

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” No. 500 (vv. 1-4)

PRAYERS FOR HEALING

*Please come forward during the singing of the hymn if you would like to have a pastor
or elder anoint you and pray over you.*

OFFERTORY

*“Be Not Afraid” by Craig Courtney
based on Isaiah 43:1-4*

GREETING & DISMISSAL TO CHILDREN’S CHURCH

*Please take your PreK-1st grade children to the check-in station
at the PreK-K department on the Fellowship Hall level.*

†DOXOLOGY

THE WORD FOR GOD’S PEOPLE

SERMON

*“Facing Your Weakness to Find His Strength”
2 Corinthians 12:1-10 (p. 970)
Richard G. Cain*

SERMON OUTLINE

1. The Process: What is it that weakens us?

a. _____ Thorns (v. 7)

b. _____ Prayers (v. 8)

2. The Purpose: Why does God allow this weakening?

a. To diminish our _____ (v. 7)

b. To experience His _____ (v. 9)

c. To know His _____ (vv. 9-10)

†HYMN OF RESPONSE

“Abide with Me: Fast Falls the Eventide” No. 402 (vv. 1-3,5)

THE SENDING OF GOD’S PEOPLE

†BENEDICTION

1 Peter 5:10-11 ESV

Pastor: After you have suffered a little while,
the God of all grace,
Who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ,
will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen and establish you.
To Him be the dominion forever and ever.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

POSTLUDE

*“Prelude in Classic Style” by Gordon Young
Ann Shaw, organ*

Worship Leader

Darrin Hassevoort, *Director of Music & Worship*

Presiding Minister

Randy Nabors, *Pastor of Missions*

Minister of the Word

Richard G. Cain, *Senior Assistant Pastor*

*The flowers today are given to the glory of God by Don & Carolyn Nichols
in celebration of their 66th wedding anniversary.*

*The flowers will be arranged by the Flower Committee and delivered by volunteers
to our homebound and hospitalized on Monday, April 15.*