

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

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

Concert Series - Handel's Messiah, presented by the CSO - Dec 2 & 3

Please join us on Saturday, December 2 at 7:30pm, and Sunday, December 3 at 3pm, in the Sanctuary for Handel's *Messiah*, presented by the CSO. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased at the door or online at ChattSymphony.org, and discounted tickets are available for 1st Pres congregants using the code HANDEL23.

Concert Series - 1st Pres Christmas Concert - Dec 9 & 10

All are invited to our annual **free** 1st Pres Christmas Concert, presented by the 1st Pres Choir and Orchestra, led by our Worship and Music Director, Darrin Hassevoort, on Saturday, December 9 at 7:30pm, and Sunday, December 10 at 3pm, in the Sanctuary.

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.

It's a Wonderful Life! Senior Fellowship & Program - December 14

Inspired by one of our favorite musicians and song writers, Susan Whitacre, we will have a two-part program: first, the Four Bridges String Quartet playing some of their favorites, then they will conclude with our favorite Christmas songs. Fellowship begins in the Library at 10:30am, and the program starts in the **Fellowship Hall at 11am**. Please RSVP to Janette Barnes or Rosa Wrenn. The cost of lunch is \$8.

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.

First Takes, a Podcast from 1st Pres

1st Pres has launched a podcast! Featuring discussions between our pastors about faith and the life of our church, as well as guest interviews, all moderated by Gabe Fluhrer! Listen via Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or any major platform by searching "First Takes" or "1st Presbyterian Church Chattanooga."

NO Regular Evening Worship

There will be no regular 5:15pm Worship Services for the remainder of the year.

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 Offices Holiday Closures

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



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 3, 2023
9:00 AM

† Please stand as you are able.

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WORSHIP REFLECTION

James I. Packer writes,
"All of us are engaged in a constant, inescapable battle against spiritual degeneracy in three primary forms:
our unbelief of God's word,
our lack of forgiveness of others,
and our unhumiliated pride in what we are and have done."

Therefore, here are three bullet points for prayer for us and those whom we love during this Advent season:

- A growing capacity to trust God and His promises,
- An ability and willingness to forgive others the way that we have been forgiven,
- A life marked by humility, free from the cancer of pride.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Merciful God, Who sent Your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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.

THE PRAISE OF GOD’S PEOPLE

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING & PRAYER OF INVOCATION

†SONG OF PRAISE

CONFESSION OF SIN

**Gracious, heavenly Father,
all of us stand in fresh need of rescue and release
from the debt of our sin by our Lord Jesus Christ.
We confess as we begin this Advent that
instead of being peaceful, we are anxious;
instead of being joyful, we are irritable;
instead of being amazed, we are indifferent;
and in the place of anticipation, we are fearful.
In our unbelief, we have become impoverished.
Pardon and free us from these sins which plague us,
for we pray in the strong name
of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Matthew 1:21 NIV

“She will give birth to a Son,
and you are to give Him the name Jesus,
because He will save His people from their sins.”

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS & SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

New Members:

Crawford & Aly Logan

Baptisms:

*Anne Walker Logan, daughter of Crawford & Aly Logan
Palmer Grace Young, daughter of Campbell & Carter Young*

†DOXOLOGY

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES & OFFERING

GREETING & DISMISSAL TO CHILDREN’S CHURCH

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

THE WORD FOR GOD’S PEOPLE

SERMON

Luke 1:5-25 — “Grace That Is Greater”
“Waiting: Advent Stories from the Gospel of Luke”
Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer

OUTLINE

1. The Difficulty of Waiting (vv. 5-10)
2. The Difficulty of Believing (vv. 11-20)
3. The Difference Grace Makes (vv. 21-25)

†SONG OF RESPONSE

THE SENDING OF GOD’S PEOPLE

†BENEDICTION

Romans 15:13 NIV

Pastor: May the God of hope
fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him,
so that you may overflow with hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

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



*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.*

*The flowers today are given to the glory of our Lord and Savior and in loving
memory of Miss Nancy and her Dad Larry, by Betty Jones and Mo.*

*The flowers will be arranged by the Flower Committee and delivered by
volunteers to our homebound and hospitalized on Monday, December 4.*

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

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