

**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](http://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 10<sup>th</sup> 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:** 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade, Student Center (across McCallie Ave.)

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

**Nursery:** Infant - 4-years-old

**NEW & UPCOMING AT 1<sup>ST</sup> PRES**

**Concert Series - 1st Pres Christmas Concert - Today**

All are invited to our annual **free** 1<sup>st</sup> Pres Christmas Concert, presented by the 1<sup>st</sup> Pres Choir and Orchestra, led by our Worship and Music Director, Darrin Hassevoort. **Our final performance is this afternoon at 3pm.** Friends, family, and neighbors are invited! Nursery available; email [Emily@1stPresbyterian.com](mailto:Emily@1stPresbyterian.com).

**Hearts & Hammers**

Starting Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, our Community Outreach Ministry and Mercy & Compassion Diaconate Committee will be launching a monthly Service Day on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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!**

**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 will play 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.

**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](http://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!

**First Takes, a Podcast from 1<sup>st</sup> Pres**

1<sup>st</sup> 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 podcast platform by searching "First Takes" or "1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church Chattanooga."

**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 10, 2023**  
**9:00 AM**

† *Please stand as you are able.*

**THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

**WORSHIP REFLECTION**

"Many people are willing to believe regarding those things that seem probable to them. Faith has nothing to do with probabilities. The province of faith begins where probabilities cease and sight and sense fail. Appearances are not to be taken into account. The question is whether God has spoken it in His Word.

God delights to increase the faith of His children. We ought, instead of wanting no trials before victory, no exercise for patience, to be willing to take them from God's hand as a means. I say—and say it deliberately—trials, obstacles, difficulties, and sometimes defeats are the very food of faith."

— George Mueller

**PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ You have revealed Your glory among the nations. Preserve the works of Your mercy, that Your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of Your Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

## THE PRAISE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING & PRAYER OF INVOCATION

#### †SONGS OF PRAISE

#### †AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*from the Nicene Creed*

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only begotten of the Father before all worlds;  
God of God, Light of light,  
very God of very God;  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by Whom all things were made.  
Who, for us and our salvation,  
came down from heaven,  
and became incarnate by the Holy Spirit  
of the virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

#### CONFESSION OF SIN

**Almighty and merciful Father,  
You sent Your Son as the sunshine that rises  
to banish the darkness of sin and death.  
Forgive us for preferring the dark ways  
of self-centeredness and self-sufficiency.  
You sent Your Son to guide our feet into the path of peace.  
Pardon us for proudly persisting in warring ways  
that cause conflicts with others.  
Humble us and embolden us to follow Your lead  
in pursuing peace and reconciliation.  
This we pray in Jesus's strong name. Amen.**

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*Galatians 4:4-5 ESV*

But when the fullness of time had come,  
God sent forth His Son, born of woman,  
born under the law,  
to redeem those who were under the law,  
so that we might receive adoption as sons.

#### †SONG OF HEALING

#### PRAYERS FOR HEALING

#### MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES & OFFERING

GREETING & DISMISSAL TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH  
*Please take your PreK-1<sup>st</sup> grade children to the check-in  
station by the 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> department on the main Sanctuary level.*

#### †DOXOLOGY

### THE WORD FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

#### SERMON

**Luke 1:26-38 — “The Power of Faith”**  
*“Waiting: Advent Stories from the Gospel of Luke”*  
Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer

#### OUTLINE

1. Faith Rests on Unfailing Promises
2. Faith Responds with Unflinching Obedience

#### †SONG OF RESPONSE

### THE SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

#### †BENEDICTION

*adapted from Philippians 4:6-7*

Pastor: May the peace of God,  
which passes all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds  
in the knowledge and love of God,  
and of God's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;  
and may the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
abide with you always.

**People: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

<b>Giving Update</b>	<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 God and in loving memory of  
Edgar M. Jolley, Sr. and in celebration of the birth of  
our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by Nancy Jolley and family.*

*The flowers will be arranged by the Flower Committee and delivered by  
volunteers to our homebound and hospitalized on Monday, December 11.*

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

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