

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 Colossians; 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. This month, Dr. Herbert Ward, the Chair of the Biblical and Theological Studies Department at Covenant College, will be teaching a series on Old Testament Covenant Theology.

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

Fellowship and prayer followed by a study of Philippians. 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; current series is “Soul Care: Spiritual Food for Hungry People,” with a focus in the Psalms.

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

Woman at the Well - January 18

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, January 18, from 6:30pm - 8pm for Woman at the Well! We’ll enjoy a testimony from one of our women, fellowship, fun and a delicious dessert. No registration needed, and friends are welcome! For childcare, please email Emily@1stPresbyterian.com by January 15.

Inquirer’s Class - January 20

Are you interested in learning more about 1st Pres or would you like to become a member? We will have our next Inquirer’s Class on Saturday, January 20, 8:30am-12:00pm on the 10th floor of the Tower. Come hear about our church’s vision for the city, what we believe, and discipleship and ministry opportunities. Light breakfast will be provided. Register at 1stPresbyterian.com/Events.

Staffing Updates

Church Administrator Don Holwerda will be retiring at the end of January, after eleven faithful years on staff. To thank him for his service, we are holding a reception for him next Sunday, January 28; details are forthcoming!

On that same note, we are thrilled to be welcoming our new Director of Finance/ Office Manager, Becky Pearce! Becky recently moved on from her position as Administrator at Covenant Presbyterian, and holds a degree in Management from the University of Southern Florida.

We are also proud to announce our former Sound Engineer, Dylan Thomas, has taken on the role of Director of Media Arts, and our former Nursery Coordinator, Tracey Skillman, has moved into the front desk as our new Receptionist and Office Coordinator!

Gospel Fest - February 3

This season’s Concert Series continues Saturday, February 3 at 6pm with Gospel Fest, where we will be joined by local churches to celebrate Black History Month through songs and spirituals!

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. Go to 1stPresbyterian.com/Events for more information, or email Shad@1stPresbyterian.com.

Midweek - January 17

Midweek continues this week, with a meal and fellowship at 5:30pm and electives for nursery, kids, youth, and adults starting at 6:15pm. 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!



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH of
CHATTANOOGA

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, JANUARY 14, 2024
9:00 AM

† *Please stand as you are able.*

THE GATHERING OF GOD’S PEOPLE

WORSHIP REFLECTION

We can only trust with confidence
a LORD Who controls everything.
If He is unable to use wickedness to further His plan,
then evil remains free from His rule,
and we could never be sure of His final victory.
Sin may hinder God’s plans,
but it cannot ultimately defeat His purposes.
Good can be brought about in spite of evil.
And so it came to pass
that the very steps Joseph’s brothers took
to defeat God’s purposes
were used to fulfill Joseph’s dreams,
and, more importantly, to preserve and save their very lives...
those who were most unworthy of being rescued.

– adapted from W.H. Griffith Thomas

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Grant, O Lord,
that the course of this world
may be peaceably governed by Your providence
and that Your church may joyfully serve You
in confidence and peacefulness,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Who lives and reigns with You
and the Holy Spirit, one God,
forever and ever. Amen.

GATHERING SONG

“Made Me Glad”

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

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 103:1-4 NIV

Pastor: Praise the LORD, my soul;
all my inmost being, praise His holy name.
Praise the LORD, my soul,
and forget not all His benefits—

**People: Who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,
Who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion.**

†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.**

†SONG OF PRAISE

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q&A 34

Pastor: What is adoption?

**People: Adoption is an act of God’s free grace,
whereby we are received into the number,
and have a right to all the privileges,
of the sons of God.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

**Gracious heavenly Father,
thank You for sending us heaven’s Prince.
In Him, Your love to rebels has reached its height.
Forgive us for the ways that we distrust Your loving heart.
We confess our slowness to grieve over our sins
and acknowledge the ways that we have played the prodigal.
Today we return home saying, “Father, forgive us.”
Thank You for bringing forth the best robe.
May we wear it gladly as we marvel
at the exceeding wonder of Your grace
through Jesus Christ, our true Elder Brother. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Ephesians 1:7 ESV

In Him we have redemption through His blood,
the forgiveness of our trespasses,
according to the riches of His grace,
which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight.

†SONG OF HEALING

“Who You Say I Am”

†PRAYERS FOR HEALING & EDUCATORS

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES & OFFERING

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

THE WORD FOR GOD’S PEOPLE

SERMON

“Living the Nightmare”

Genesis 37:12-36

“Keeping Your Faith When Life Lets You Down: A Study of the Life of Joseph”
Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer

OUTLINE

1. A Pit

2. A Plan

3. A Purchase

†SONG OF RESPONSE

“And Can It Be”

THE SENDING OF GOD’S PEOPLE

†BENEDICTION

based on 2 Corinthians 13:14 ESV

Pastor: May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

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>	\$2,244,801	\$938,678*

**World Missions fiscal year ended as of December 2023*



*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 Bryce and
Sallie Holt by Thorny and Laura (Holt) Strang, Linda Holt, and David and Pat Holt.
“Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances.”*

I Thessalonians 5:16-18

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