

NEW & UPCOMING AT FIRST PRES

A Place at the Table – November 20

Join us for a FREE Thanksgiving meal and lots of fellowship at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall for our final Midweek of the fall semester! There will be NO electives or nursery that evening. All electives, except Rapha, Adult Choir, and Middle School Small Group, will take a break until Midweek resumes in January.

Officer Nominations Month – through November 30

During the month of November, First Pres members can nominate qualified men in our congregation who might be a good fit for Deacon or Elder. Nomination forms and drop-box are available at the Front Desk in the Connector. View the list of requirements and a sample form at 1stPresbyterian.com/Events. Forms may be submitted electronically to Tom55Hughes@gmail.com.

Channels of Love Thanksgiving Baskets – through November 24

We are proud to partner once again with Channels of Love, a Christian non-profit ministering to those affected by HIV, to help build Thanksgiving baskets for their clients by donating items like canned veggies, canned fruit, sweet potatoes, pumpkin, yams, cranberry sauce, stuffing mix, rice, flour, sugar, coffee, pasta, mac and cheese, toilet paper, paper towels, and dish detergent. Drop-off baskets are available around the church through November 24.

First Cup – December 3

Please join us for our First Cup Men's Breakfast on the first Tuesday of each month from 7:00am - 8:00am in the Nell Davis room. We'll continue our study "The Marks of an Emotionally Healthy Disciple of Jesus," and enjoy delicious egg & cheese biscuits from Bluegrass Grill (\$5) and lots of coffee!

"Messiah" – December 6, 7, 8

First Pres and the Chattanooga Symphony & Opera present Handel's *Messiah*, in the Sanctuary December 6 at 7:30pm, December 7 at 7:30pm, and December 8 at 3:00pm! General admission tickets are \$35, and premium tickets are \$65. A discount of \$10 is available for First Pres members on general admission tickets, and the code is available via our weekly announcement emails. Go to ChattanoogaSymphony.org to purchase tickets!

Kids Playgroup – December 13

Families are invited every second Friday of the month from 9:00am - 11:00am to the Student Center for fellowship and connection with other parents while your kids (ages 0-5) play in a safe and fun environment!

Children's Ministry – Volunteers Needed!

We need volunteers for our Children's Ministry! We especially ask that **parents whose child(ren) regularly participate in our Children's Ministry commit to volunteering with us at least once a quarter.** Note that a background check may be required for you to volunteer, and we will reach out to you if necessary. If you're interested, please fill out the interest form at 1stPresbyterian.com/Kids to indicate how often and in what areas you can volunteer.

Recently Bereaved

Please be in prayer for those in our congregation who have recently lost a loved one: First Pres members Steve & Sue Sawrie in the passing of their eldest son, Dr. Stephen Sawrie II, on October 16. A private service was previously held. Memorial gifts can be made to First Presbyterian Church of Chattanooga, as this was his home church. The family appreciates your thoughts and prayers.

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 10:15AM

Adult

Bible 101: SS 212, Martha Meeks

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, George Clark, Brad Gruner

Currently studying Colossians.

College Class: SS 203, Gunther Griffin

Invites rising and current college students.

Fellowship Class: SS 210, Donnie Bostick

Currently studying Isaiah verse-by-verse.

Foundations Class: Fellowship Hall, Ron Brown

A launch-pad for new-comers with no long-term commitment expected. Current series is "Order of Salvation – This Is Your Life! God's plan for your life, past, present, and future."

Icebreakers Class: SS 211, Joshua Adair

A short lesson followed by small group discussion, focused on understanding Reformed Theology. Currently studying the Westminster Standards.

The Joy of Learning: Tower 258, Steve & Sue Sawrie

A no-pressure, discussion-based class currently studying 1 Timothy.

Link Class: SS 209, Bruce & Leslie Cory

Fellowship and prayer followed by a study of Lamentations.

McCallie/Anderson Class: Chapel, Sam Clyatt

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 156 (Session Room), Jerry Stauffer

An interactive class studying Hebrews. Lessons are followed by a time of prayer.

Rocking Chair Class: Tower 302, Frank Eldridge

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, Andy & Lisa Fischer

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

Young Professionals: Tower 304, Dick Cain

Current series is "Psalms: Prayers of the Heart."

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

SS = Sanctuary Side



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, NOVEMBER 17, 2024

11:00 AM

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WORSHIP REFLECTION

Our sermon text this morning, Nehemiah 8, demonstrates the transformative power of Scripture when people gather to hear, read, understand, and obey God's Word.

Communal and individual renewal comes through the Spirit of God using the Word of God in the lives of the people of God.

God's people are reminded here that "the joy of the Lord is your strength" (8:10). Joy in the Lord, springing from forgiveness and obedience, becomes an anchor of strength to face life's challenges.

– adapted from John Gill

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Blessed Lord,
Who caused all holy Scriptures
to be written for our learning:
Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn,
and inwardly digest them,
that we may embrace and ever hold fast
the blessed hope of everlasting life,
which You have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ,
Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.

PRELUDE

"For the Beauty of the Earth" arr. Dan Forrest String Quartet

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRAISE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

CHORAL INTROIT

"Until I Reach My Home" arr. Brandon Boyd

*UTC Men's Chorus
Charles Geter, piano*

† Please stand as you are able.

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 28:6-7 *ESV*

Pastor: Blessed be the LORD!

For He has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy.

The LORD is my strength and my shield.

**People: In Him my heart trusts, and I am helped;
my heart exults,
and with my song I give thanks to Him.**

† PRAYER OF INVOCATION

† HYMN OF PRAISE

“Come, We That Love the Lord” No. 700 (vv. 1-5)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell;
The third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven
and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge
the quick* and the dead;
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic** church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**living **universal*

† HYMN OF PRAISE

“On Jordan’s Stormy Banks” Insert (vv. 1,2,4)

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

OFFERTORY

“Bye and Bye” arr. Rollo Dilworth

UTC Men’s Chorus

GREETING & DISMISSAL TO CHILDREN’S CHURCH

*Please take your PreK-1st grade children to the check-in station
at the 1st – 3rd grade Children’s Wing on the first floor behind the Sanctuary.*

† GLORIA PATRI

THE WORD FOR GOD’S PEOPLE

SERMON

“Renewed by the Word”

Nehemiah 8:1-18 (pp. 403-404)

A City That Lasts: Seeing Christ in the Book of Nehemiah

Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer

SERMON OUTLINE

1. Rejoicing in the Word (vv. 1-12)
2. Resting and Obeying (vv. 13-18)

THE TABLE FOR GOD’S PEOPLE

CONFESSION OF SIN

Gracious and Holy Father,
we confess that we have neglected Your Word
and have often strayed from Your paths.
Forgive us for the times
we have cast Your words behind our backs.
Pardon us for allowing other voices
to drown out Yours.
Like the people of Israel, we repent of our sin
and beseech You for Your mercy and forgiveness.
You told Your people of old,
“Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”
Replace our sorrow and shame over our sin
with the joy of You, our Lord.
Equip us to delight to do what You command,
not out of mere duty but with genuine delight.
We pray in Jesus’s name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*Isaiah 53:6 *ESV**

All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on Him
the iniquity of us all.

COMMUNION

- Communion, also called the Lord’s Supper or the Eucharist, is the family meal of Christians when we recall Jesus’s cross, relieve His anguish, and renew our vows to live as His followers.
- We invite all to participate in this meal:
who profess faith in Jesus Christ,
who are members of a gospel-proclaiming church,
who are endeavoring to live at peace with God and others,
and who seek strengthening grace to live more faithfully for Jesus.
- If you are not yet a follower of Jesus, we encourage you to spend this time considering Jesus’s broken body and shed blood. Pray and ask Him to forgive your sins and to give you eternal life.

† HYMN OF RESPONSE

“Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim” No. 165 (vv. 1-4)

THE SENDING OF GOD’S PEOPLE

† BENEDICTION

based on Romans 15:5

May the God who gives endurance
and encouragement through the Scriptures
grant you to live in such harmony with one another,
in accord with Christ Jesus. Amen.

POSTLUDES

“I’ll Fly Away” arr. Craig Courtney

UTC Men’s Chorus

Charles Geter & Sigrid Luther, piano

“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart” by Dick Torrans

Ann Shaw, organ

Worship Leader

Darrin Hassevoort, *Director of Music & Worship*

Presiding Minister

Ron Brown, *Pastor of Congregational Care*

Minister of the Word

Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer, *Senior Pastor*



*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 1st Pres, scan with your
phone camera or go to
1stPresbyterian.com/Give.*

Giving Update as of 11/3 – fiscal year April 1 - March 31

	<u>Deacons (General Fund)</u>	<u>World Missions</u>
<i>Annual Budget</i>	\$3,460,000	\$900,000
<i>Budgeted Giving</i>	\$2,062,692	\$536,538
<i>Raised</i>	\$1,755,253	\$425,683

Donations to First Presbyterian Church are tax-deductible. In accordance with IRS regulations, donors agree that ultimate control over donated funds lies with the church.

*The flowers today are given to the glory of God in appreciation
of Sue and Steve Sawrie, long-time encouragers and Sunday school teachers,
who show compassion and wisdom to the Joy of Learning class.*

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