



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH *of*
CHATTANOOGA

The Lord's Day

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2025

11:00 AM

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 GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WORSHIP REFLECTIONS

Today is Epiphany Sunday.
The word epiphany comes from a Greek word meaning “manifestation or appearance.”
In church history this word is closely associated with the revelation of Jesus Christ in connection with the visit of the Magi.
Epiphany is regularly observed on the Sunday closest to January 6.

What is the significance of the epiphany of our Lord?
We cannot know the Lord in a saving way apart from Him revealing Himself to us.
The Apostle Paul writes to Titus:
“But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy” (*Titus 3:4-5a ESV*).

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

O Lord, in this new year,
unveil Your beauty to our sight
that we might love You more.
Grant us the blessing of remaining faithful
to our divinely-appointed tasks,
and grant to us a child-like heart of trust
in You for Jesus's sake. Amen.

PRELUDE

William Navalon, violin & Sigrid Luther, piano

“My Jesus, I Love Thee” arr. Kristin Campbell

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

More news and other resources are located on pages 8-10.

THE PRAISE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

CHORAL INTROIT

Sanctuary Choir

*“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”
Please sing bold text.*

**Come, Christians, join to sing Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice, before His throne rejoice;
Praise is His gracious choice: Alleluia! Amen!**

(Choir) Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen!

† *Please stand as you are able.*

† CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 60:1-3, 16b ESV

Pastor: Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;

**People: But the LORD will arise upon you,
and His glory will be seen upon you.
And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising. . . .
You shall know that I, the LORD, am your Savior
and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

† HYMN OF PRAISE

“Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”

**Christ, Whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true, the only Light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise, triumph o'er the shades of night.
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.**

**Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by Thee.
Joyless is the day's return till Thy mercy's beams I see.
Till they inward light impart, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.**

**Visit, then, this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief.
Fill me, Radiancy divine; scatter all my unbelief.
More and more Thyself display, shining to the perfect day. Amen.**

O worship the King, all-glorious above;
 O gratefully sing His pow'r and His love,
 Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
 Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,
 Whose robe is the light, Whose canopy space.
 His chariots of wrath, the deep thunderclouds form,
 And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.

Your bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
 It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,
 It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
 And sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
 In You do we trust, nor find You to fail,
 Your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,
 Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend! Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q&A 26

Pastor: How does Christ execute the office of a king?

People: Christ executes the office of a king,
 in subduing us to Himself,
 in ruling and defending us,
 and in restraining and conquering
 all His and our enemies.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Almighty and merciful God,
 we confess that we have sinned against You and one another
 by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
 Jesus Christ has come among us as the light of the world,
 yet we often walk in the shadows,
 plagued by faithless fears, worldly anxieties, and arrogant pride.
 Purify us by the blood of Your Son so that we might walk in the light
 and the radiance of Jesus Christ might become more visible in us.
 We make our prayer in His great name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

2 Corinthians 5:21 *ESV*

For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin,
so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

No. 520 (*vv. 1,2,4,5*)

“Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”

**Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness, my beauty are, my glorious dress;
'Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed, with joy shall I lift up my head.**

**Bold shall I stand in Thy great day, for who aught to my charge shall lay?
Fully absolved through these I am from sin and fear, from guilt and shame.**

**Jesus, be endless praise to Thee, Whose boundless mercy hath for me—
For me a full atonement made, an everlasting ransom paid.**

**O let the dead now hear Thy voice; now bid Thy banished ones rejoice,
Their beauty this, their glorious dress, Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness.**

COVENANT BAPTISM

*Louise Woodall White
daughter of Cody & Margaret White*

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

OFFERTORY

“Heavenly Light” by Kopylow, arr. Wilhousky

Sanctuary Choir

Sent from heaven, Thy rays were given on great and small to shine,
O light Divine! May each soul in sorrow's night see the heavenly light!
Thou blessing to all creation, lead us to our salvation!
All those whose feet may falter, lead unto the sacred altar!
O shine from above, divine Light of love!
Show us the way unto our God, we pray!
Thou our beacon and guide shalt be! Light Divine, we praise Thee!

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.*

†DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, all creatures here below
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
Amen!

THE WORD FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

SERMON

"The Fullness of Christ"
Ephesians 4:11-16 (p. 977-78)
Randy Nabors

SERMON OUTLINE

More room for notes on p. 7.

1. Filled Up

2. Filled Out

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

**Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature, Son of God and Son of Man!
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor, Thou, my soul’s glory, joy, and crown.**

**Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight and all the twinkling starry host;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels heav’n can boast.**

**Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations! Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be Thine. Amen.**

THE SENDING OF GOD’S PEOPLE

†BENEDICTION

adapted from Philippians 4:6-7

May the peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
guard 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,
remain with you always. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Patrick Rice, organ

“Fugue in E Minor, BWV 566” by Johann Sebastian Bach

Worship Leader

Darrin Hessevoort, *Director of Music & Worship*

Presiding Minister

Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer, *Senior Pastor*

Minister of the Word

Randy Nabors, *Pastor of Missions*

Today’s Flowers

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mrs. Olan Mills, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Malone, and Mr. Charles G. Mills, by Mrs. Charles G. Mills and family.

The flowers will be arranged by the Flower Committee and delivered by volunteers to our home-bound and hospitalized on Monday, January 6.

RESOURCES

Connect with Us

New to 1st Pres? Scan the QR code with your phone camera to fill out a connect card, and one of our pastors will get in touch with you.



Sunday School

Scan the QR code, or go to 1stPresbyterian.com/SundaySchool to view a list of Sunday School offerings for adults, youth, and children. Flyers with adult classes are also available in the Connector and posted around the building.



Stay Up-to-Date

Sign up for our newsletter to receive a comprehensive email each Friday on all things First Pres and the occasional letter from our pastors with important updates. Scan the QR code, or go to 1stPresbyterian.com under the “Resources” tab.



Giving Update

as of 12/29

Fiscal year runs April 1 - March 31

	<u>Deacons (General Fund)</u>	<u>World Missions</u>
Annual Budget	\$3,460,000	\$900,000
Budgeted Giving	\$2,595,000	\$675,000
Raised	\$2,590,417	\$694,052



To make a secure contribution to 1st Pres, scan the QR code or go to 1stPresbyterian.com/Give.

NOTE: 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.

NEW & UPCOMING AT FIRST PRES

First Cup – January 7

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. Hank Wilson will continue our study "The Marks of an Emotionally Healthy Disciple of Jesus" with a devotional on applying the gospel to difficult relationships. Come enjoy delicious egg & cheese biscuits from Bluegrass Grill (\$5), good fellowship, and lots of coffee!

Midweek Spring Semester – starting January 8

Midweek is back for the spring semester! Please join us each Wednesday at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall for food and fellowship, followed by a variety of electives for all ages starting at 6:15pm! We are asking families to pre-register your children for nursery and for the children's electives (k-5th grade Kids Quest) for the semester. Keep an eye on your inbox and our social media next week for more information about our adult elective offerings. In the meantime, you can view our updated dinner prices, upcoming menus, and find the childrens registration at 1stPresbyterian.com/Midweek.

It's a Wonderful Life! Senior Fellowship & Program – January 9

This month, Todd Morgan of Preserve Chattanooga will speak on "The Power of Preservation." He'll give us an overview of local preservation efforts, explain why historic preservation is important to our lives and communities, and touch on some recent initiatives. Fellowship begins at 10:30am, followed by the program at 11:00am and lunch (\$8) at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Reservations are required; please email Janette.Barnes@Gmail.com or Rwrenn@Epbf.com.

Women's Winter/Spring Bible Studies – starting January 10 & 14

Women's Bible Studies start January 10th & 14th and we'd love for you to join us! Our women's studies offer a place to grow spiritually and connect with friends. There are 7 options to choose from in a variety of formats and meeting days/times and frequencies. For details on times and study topics and to register, go to 1stPresbyterian.com/Women. If you registered for a study in the fall, you do NOT need to re-register unless you are joining a different study. **Childcare** is available upon registration for the morning studies only.

McCallie/Anderson Class – New Study starting Today

After concluding its 3-year study of Isaiah, the McCallie/Anderson Class will begin a verse-by-verse study of Hosea this Sunday, and all are invited to join!

The Foundations Class – New Study starting January 12

Ron Brown is kicking off the new year with a study of Genesis during the Foundations Class in the Fellowship Hall! If you are not currently connected to a Sunday Class, we invite you to join this study!

High School Winter Retreat – January 17-20

Our High School students will be going to Pigeon Mountain Crossing in Lafayette, Georgia, for a weekend away. Gunther Griffin, 1st Pres College Ministry Director, will be our speaker! We will have times of fellowship, worship, games, hiking, teaching, prayer, and frisbee golf all on the beautiful 80-acre retreat center! Sign up today at 1stPresbyterian.com/Events.

NEW & UPCOMING AT FIRST PRES, CONTINUED

Gospel Fest – February 2

Celebrate Black history month with First Pres the other local churches on February 2 at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary as we worship the Lord together through song and spirituals!

Inquirer’s Class – February 22

Are you interested in learning more about 1st Pres, or would you like to become a member? Come hear about our church’s vision for the city, what we believe, and discipleship and ministry opportunities at our next Inquirer’s Class on Saturday, February 22, in the Nell Davis Room from 8:30am - 12:00pm! A light breakfast will be provided. Register at 1stPresbyterian.com/Events by Friday, February 14.

Nursery Coordinator Position

Our Interim Nursery Coordinator Mary Campbell Harris stepped away at the end of December. We are so thankful for the time and love she has poured into our Children’s Ministry during her time with us. If you, or someone you know, are interested in this part-time position, a job description and more information are available at 1stPresbyterian.com/Jobs.

“First Takes,” a Podcast from First Pres

I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:14 ESV)
Make this the year you learn Christ! Take some inspiration for your new year goals from Randy and Gabe in this episode from early last year. Just search for “*First Takes* Episode 15” anywhere you get your podcasts!

First Pres Sermons Podcast

Our sermons are available to listen to on your favorite podcast platform! Just search “First Presbyterian Church Chattanooga.”

Recently Bereaved

Please be in prayer for those in our congregation who have recently lost a loved one: First Pres member Becky Davidson and family, in the passing of her father, Tom Barker; First Pres member Debbie Smith, in the passing of her mother, Inez Smith.

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