



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH *of*
CHATTANOOGA

The Lord's Day

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2025

9:00 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

“When God promises His assistance,
it is as if He stretches out His hand to us,
that we may walk safely in the midst of all dangers,
leaning upon Him alone.
Hence, we gather that our courage
should be measured by His power
and not by our own weakness.”

– *John Calvin*

“God’s promise is the believer’s confidence.
It is not in his own strength, nor in his armies,
but in the abiding presence of the Almighty that he finds security.
The same promise given to Joshua applies to all believers:
‘I will never leave you, nor forsake you’
(Hebrews 13:5).”

– *Charles Spurgeon*

“God’s promise to Joshua is one of
the greatest promises in all of Scripture:
‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’
This is the foundation of true courage—not self-confidence,
but confidence in the unchanging presence
and faithfulness of God.
Joshua’s success did not depend on his abilities
but on God’s abiding power.”

– *James Montgomery Boice*

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Almighty God,
Whose blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ,
ascended far above all heavens
that He might fill all things,
mercifully give us faith to perceive that,
according to His promise,
He abides with His Church on earth,
even to the end of the ages.
We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

Welcome!

Please take a moment to reflect before the service begins. At First Presbyterian, our worship seeks to be God-centered, dialogical, and covenantal. This simply means you will notice a pattern of God speaking to us in His grace and our response to Him in adoration, praise, listening, and praying.*

During the service

we invite you to participate by reading and singing the words printed in bold!

*Parts of these explanations are derived from Covenant PCA, Nashville, TN and Covenant PCA, Chattanooga, TN

† Please stand
as you are able.

THE PRAISE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

† GATHERING SONG

“On Jordan’s Stormy Banks”

**On Jordan’s stormy banks I stand and cast a wishful eye
To Canaan’s fair and happy land where my possessions lie**

**All o’er those wide extended plains shines one eternal day
There God the Son forever reigns and scatters night away**

Chorus: **I am bound (I am bound), I am bound (I am bound)
I am bound for the promised land
I am bound (I am bound), I am bound (I am bound)
I am bound for the promised land**

**No chilling winds nor poisonous breath
Can reach that healthful shore
Sickness, sorrow, pain, and death
Are felt and feared no more** *Chorus*

**When shall I see that happy place and be forever blessed
When shall I see my Father’s face and in His bosom rest** *Chorus*

Call to Worship

Only God Himself can call us into worship. He sets the terms for worship because, through His Son, He makes worship possible.

† CALL TO WORSHIP

from Isaiah 43 ESV

Pastor: But now thus says the Lord. . .
“Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are Mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

People: **For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
Because you are precious in My eyes,
and honored, and I love you,
Fear not, for I am with you. . .
everyone who is called by My name,
whom I created for My glory,
whom I formed and made.”**

Invocation

This prayer addresses God in three persons, asking Him to be present with us in worship to help us worship Him according to His will.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

† SONG OF PRAISE

“Holy, Holy, Holy (Agnus Dei)”

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty
Early in the morning, our song shall rise to Thee
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity**

**Holy, holy, holy, though the darkness hides Thee
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see
Only Thou art holy, there is none beside Thee
Perfect in power, in love and purity**

Chorus: **Holy, holy are You Lord God Almighty
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb, You are holy
Holy are You Lord God Almighty;
Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb. Amen**

**Alleluia, alleluia for the Lord God Almighty reigns
Alleluia, alleluia for the Lord God Almighty reigns
Alleluia *Chorus***

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity**

Affirmation of Faith

Since the time of ancient Israel, believers have confessed their faith publicly (Deut. 6:4). Following this practice, we confess our faith each week, using the historic creeds and symbols of the church for the past two thousand years.

Intercession

This prayer addresses God on behalf of others; our church family, our local community, and beyond.

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

The Bible tells us to set aside a portion of our income and additional offerings of our resources for the work of God, for His glory. These acts of giving display of our joyful dependence upon God rather than ourselves.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**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*

The Apostles' Creed

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

More news & resources on pp. 10 - 13

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 Gloria Patri is a doxology, which is a hymn or word of praise to God for His goodness and glory.

Sermon

The Bible teaches that faith comes through hearing God's word (Romans 10:17). The sermon is an exposition and application of the Biblical text which aims to present Christ, in all His glory, as the all-sufficient Savior.

†GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father,
And to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
Is now, and ever shall be,
World without end.
Amen, amen.**

THE WORD FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

SERMON

"I Will Never Leave You or Forsake You"

Joshua 1:1-9 (p. 178)

Ron Brown

SERMON OUTLINE

1. God promises to never leave you or forsake you.
 - a. God will be with you to accomplish big and difficult things.
 - b. God's presence with you is the prize.

THE TABLE FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

Confession of Sin

Within the context of our relationship with God, we are invited in safety, not in shame, to confess our sins. We rehearse this truth each week by confessing our sins corporately, then silently. As we do, we learn that God is always ready to forgive us.

Assurance of Pardon

Scripture assures us, sinners saved by grace, that we are united to Jesus in His death and Resurrection.

CONFESSION OF SIN

**Gracious Father,
You have promised
“I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Joshua 1:5),
yet we live as if You are distant.
Fear overshadows faith (Isaiah 41:10),
doubt weakens trust (Mark 9:24),
and sin turns our hearts from You (Jeremiah 17:9).
You call us to be strong and courageous (Joshua 1:9),
but we confess our weakness and hesitation.
We trust in our own strength
instead of resting in Your abiding presence (Psalm 46:1).
We seek earthly comforts
rather than taking refuge in You (Psalm 73:25-26).
Forgive us, Lord. Cleanse us by Your mercy (1 John 1:9).
Renew us by Your Spirit (Titus 3:5).
Fix our hearts on Your steadfast love (Lamentations 3:22-23),
and grant us the courage to follow where You lead.
In Jesus’s name we pray. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Isaiah 43:25 ESV

I, I am He Who blots out your transgressions
for My own sake, and I will not remember your sins.

COMMUNION

Communion prayers available on p. 9

- Communion, also called the Lord’s Supper or the Eucharist, is the family meal of Christians when we recall Jesus’s cross, relive 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.

COMMUNION SONG

“His Forever”

Jesus, friend of sinners, loved me 'ere I knew Him
Drew me with His cords of love, tightly bound me to Him
'Round my heart still closely twined the ties that none can sever
For I am His and He is mine forever and forever

Jesus, friend of sinners, a crown of thorns You wore for me
Bruised for my transgressions, pierced for my iniquities
The wrath of God that I deserved was poured out on the Innocent
He took my place, my soul to save, now I am His forever

Jesus, friend of sinners, I love to tell the story
Redeeming love has been my theme and will be when in glory
Not death nor life nor anything can ever separate me
O love that will not let me go; yes, I am His forever

†SONG OF RESPONSE

“Who You Say I Am”

Who am I that the highest King would welcome me?
I was lost but He brought me in
Oh, His love for me; Oh, His love for me

*Chorus 1: Who the Son sets free, oh, is free indeed
I'm a child of God, yes, I am*

Free at last He has ransomed me; His grace runs deep
While I was a slave to sin
Jesus died for me,
Yes, He died for me *Chorus 1 & 2*

*Chorus 2: In my Father's house there's a place for me
I'm a child of God, yes, I am*

I am chosen not forsaken; I am who You say I am
You are for me, not against me
I am who You say I am *Chorus 1 & 2*

THE SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

† BENEDICTION

based on Deuteronomy 31:6,8

May the Lord renew your strength and courage
knowing that He goes with you
and He will not leave you or forsake you.
He is also the One Who goes before you.
Therefore, do not fear or be dismayed. Amen.

Benediction

The Bible tells us that God gets the first word and the last word in worship. A benediction is from the Latin terms for "good word." At the end of each service, God sends us into the world with His blessing as we seek to love our community in the power of the Holy Spirit!

We encourage you to take this bulletin home and use it for personal worship and devotions this week.

Worship Leader

West Breedlove, *Assistant Director of Worship*

Presiding Minister

Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer, *Senior Pastor*

Minister of the Word

Ron Brown, *Pastor of Congregational Care*

Today's Flowers

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Bob Payne by Karen Payne. *1 Corinthians 15:57.*

The flowers will be arranged by the Flower Committee and delivered by volunteers to our homebound and hospitalized on Monday, February 17.

COMMUNION PRAYERS

Please use the prayers below during communion as guides to reflect upon and respond to what God is doing in your life.

Prayer for Those Searching:

Jesus, You claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following You as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what You claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of Who You are. Give me an understanding of Yourself that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that You promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief:

Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, and yet, through You, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank You for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that You have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sin and receive You as Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Commitment:

Jesus, You have called us to follow You in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in Your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with Your people and live in the fullness of Your Spirit. Amen.

RESOURCES

Connect with Us

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



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 2/9

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 YTD	\$2,994,231	\$778,846
Raised	\$2,941,016	\$752,800



To make a secure contribution, scan the QR code or go to [1st Presbyterian.com/Give](http://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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult

Bible 101:

SS 212, Martha Meeks

Chapter by Chapter:

SS 208, George Clark, Brad Gruner

College Class:

SS 203, Gunther Griffin

Fellowship Class:

SS 210, Donnie Bostick

Foundations Class:

Fellowship Hall, Ron Brown

Icebreakers Class:

SS 211, Joshua Adair

The Joy of Learning:

Tower 258, Steve & Sue Sawrie

Link Class:

SS 209, Bruce & Leslie Cory

McCallie/Anderson Class:

Chapel, Sam Clyatt

Reformed by the Word:

Tower 156 (Session Room), Jerry Stauffer

Rocking Chair Class:

Tower 302, Frank Eldridge

International & Adult Bible Discussion:

Tower 405, Andy & Lisa Fischer

Young Professionals:

Tower 304, Dick Cain

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, ground level

Scan the QR code, or go to
1stPresbyterian.com/SundaySchool
to learn more!



SS = Sanctuary Side

Welcome Jessica Livermore!

We are pleased to welcome our new Director of Children's Ministry Jessica Livermore to First Pres this week! Jessica spent most of her growing up years in Florida and Indiana, in a family where the Gospel was central, and she came to trust in Jesus at an early age. She studied Elementary Education at Ball State University, then spent two years sharing the Gospel with college students in East Asia as an intern with Cru. After returning to the states, the Lord led her to serve as a children's ministry director for the last five years in Carmel, Indiana. Be sure to take a moment to welcome her this morning and in the coming weeks!

Middle School Night of Epicness – February 21

What starts on a trampoline and ends with dinner and a movie? Our annual Night of Epicness! Middle schoolers are invited for an evening of fun beginning at 6:00pm at Urban Air Adventure Park and ending at 10:00pm with dinner, a movie, and games in the Student Center. Register now at 1stPresbyterian.com/Events.

Hearts & Hammers – February 22

We have postponed this month's Hearts & Hammers, our service project day, to next Saturday, February 22, so we can help paint, spackle, and move furniture at LifeSpring Community Health. If you're interested in joining the team next week, or for a future date (we send teams out every third Saturday of the month except July and December), please contact our Director of Community Outreach Shad Guinn at Shad@1stPresbyterian.com.

Walker State Prison Mentor Orientation – February 22

We still have 52 prisoners at Walker State waiting for a male Christian mentor! The PCA's prison ministry Metanoia will host another new mentor orientation next Saturday, February 22, from 8:30am - 11:30am at Northshore Fellowship. Walker State is Georgia's full Faith & Character Based prison, one of only a few in the US, and we currently have 126 men from local churches participating in the mentor program. If you're interested in attending the orientation, or would like more information, please contact Barry Smith at BSmith@PcaNet.org or Alan Bonderud at ArBonderud@Gmail.com.

Town Hall Meeting – March 12

We will be hosting a Town Hall meeting directly following the Midweek meal in the Fellowship Hall. There will be NO adult electives or officer training that evening. Representatives from the Capital Campaign Committee and the Building Committee will be there to answer questions about the Master Plan, the Capital Campaign, and the upcoming renovation.

World Missions Retreat – March 29

"As You (the Father) sent Me into the world, so I have sent them into the world." *John 17:18*. Get inspired by missions! Join us for a fun day at Camp Vesper Point to learn more about our World Missions ministry and how you can get involved. Children are welcome, but will require supervision at all times. Register at 1stPresbyterian.com/Events by March 20.

Inquirer's Class – May 10

Interested in learning more about 1st Pres and how to become a member? Come hear about our church's vision for the city, what we believe, and our discipleship and ministry opportunities at our next Inquirer's Class on Saturday, May 10, in the Nell Davis Room from 8:30am - 12:00pm! A light breakfast will be provided. Register at 1stPresbyterian.com/Events by Friday, May 2.

Midweek – continues this Wednesday

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! Learn more about dinner prices, menus, and elective options at 1stPresbyterian.com/Midweek.

Sanctuary Flower Arrangements

The Flower Ministry is looking for donors to provide the beautiful flower arrangements that sit by the Sanctuary pulpit each Sunday! On Mondays, the flowers are separated into bouquets and delivered to our homebound members, those in the hospital, those who have recently lost loved ones, and those who have a new baby. If you're interested in providing flowers during the month of March and allowing the "Petal Pushers" the blessing of sharing the love of Jesus, please contact Connie Crawford at MissConnie2U@Epbfi.com.

Giving Statements

2024 Giving Statements have been sent out electronically to the email address on record. If you have questions, or you didn't receive yours, please contact our Director of Finance Becky Pearce at Becky@1stPresbyterian.com or call 423-267-1206 EXT 105.

Children's Ministry – Worship Bag Packing

If you're looking for a way to help out in Children's Ministry but can't volunteer on Sundays, we could use your help during the week putting worship bags together! Kids use these during the worship services, and it's a quick and easy way to help out; you could do it on your way to or from a Bible study or small group meeting at the church! If you're interested, please email the Children's Ministry Team at KidsMinistry@1stPresbyterian.com.

World Missions Internships

Applications are now open for our summer World Missions internships! This is a paid internship that supports the World Missions department by providing assistance with event planning, clerical work, and spreading the gospel through various outreach opportunities. Learn more and submit your application online at 1stPresbyterian.com/Jobs.

Nursery Administration Coordinator

We're looking for a part-time Nursery Administration Coordinator, who will recruit, schedule, and train nursery staff, among other things. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in this position, a job description and more information are available at 1stPresbyterian.com/Jobs.

554 McCallie Avenue, Chattanooga, TN 37402

(423)-267-1206

Office@1stPresbyterian.com

www.1stPresbyterian.com