



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH *of*
CHATTANOOGA

The Lord's Day

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 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

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!

“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.

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

PRELUDE

Josh Park, organ

“Prelude in C major” by Georg Böhm

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

More news & resources on pp. 10 - 13

THE PRAISE OF GOD’S PEOPLE

CHORAL INTROIT

Sanctuary Choir

*“Amazing Grace”
Please sing as directed.*

We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we’d first begun.

**Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.**

**When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we’d first begun.
Amen.**

† Please stand
as you are able.

† CALL TO WORSHIP

from Isaiah 43 ESV

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.

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

“Come, My Soul, with Every Care”

Come, my soul, with ev’ry care; Jesus loves to answer prayer.
 He Himself bids you to pray.
 He will never turn away, He will never turn away.

You are coming to a king—large petitions with you bring.
 For His grace and pow’r are such,
 None can ever ask too much, none can ever ask too much.

With my burden I begin; Lord, remove this load of sin.
 Let Your blood, for sinners spilt,
 Set my conscience free from guilt,
 Set my conscience free from guilt.

Lord, Your rest to me impart; take possession of my heart.
 There your blood-bought right maintain,
 And without a rival reign, and without a rival reign.

Show me what I am to do; ev’ry hour my strength renew.
 I would have your will, not mine;
 For it’s perfect, good, and kind,
 For it’s perfect, good, and kind.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*The Apostles’ Creed***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.

**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*

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.

Gloria Patri

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

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

OFFERTORY

Sanctuary Choir

“He Leadeth Me” arr. Joan Pinkston

He leadeth me, O blessed thought! O words with heav’nly comfort fraught!
Whate’er I do, where’er I be, still ’tis God’s hand that leadeth me.

Chorus: He leadeth me, He leadeth me! By His own hand He leadeth me!
His faithful foll’wer I would be, for by His hand He leadeth me.

Lord, I would clasp Thy hand in mine, never to murmur nor repine;
Content, whatever lot I see, since ’tis my God that leadeth me. *Chorus*

And when my task on earth is done, when, by Thy grace, the vict’ry’s won,
E’en death’s cold wave I will not flee, since God through Jordan leadeth me.

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

**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

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.

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.

“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

**Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need Thy tender care.
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us; for our use Thy folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.**

**We are Thine; do Thou befriend us; be the guardian of our way.
Keep Thy flock, from sin defend us; seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear, O hear us when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear, O hear us when we pray.**

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.

POSTLUDE

*Celtic Ensemble**“How Firm a Foundation” arr. Steve Pettit***Worship Leader**Darrin Hassevoort, *Director of Music & 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.

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.

Come, My Soul with Every Care

1. Come, my soul, with ev - 'ry care; Je - sus loves to
 2. You are com - ing to a king— large pe - ti - tions
 3. With my bur - den I be - gin: Lord, re - move this
 4. Lord, your rest to me im - part; take pos - ses - sion

an - swer prayer. He him - self bids you to pray. He will
 with you bring. For his grace and pow'r are such, none can
 load of sin; let your blood, for sin - ners spilt, set my
 of my heart. There your blood - bought right main - tain, and with -

nev - er turn a - way, he will nev - er turn a - way.
 ev - er ask too much, none can ev - er ask too much.
 con - science free from guilt, set my con - science free from guilt.
 out a ri - val reign, and with - out a ri - val reign.

5. While I am a pilgrim here,
 let your love my spirit cheer.
 As my guide, my guard, my friend,
 lead me to my journey's end,
 lead me to my journey's end.

6. Show me what I am to do;
 ev'ry hour my strength renew.
 I would have your will, not mine;
 for it's perfect, good, and kind,
 for it's perfect, good, and kind.

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@Epbf.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.

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