

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 10:15AM EACH SUNDAY

NOTE: THERE IS NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON THE 24th AND 31st; JOIN ONE IN THE NEW YEAR!

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 Philippians 4; 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.

See 1stPresbyterian.com/SundaySchool for the full class schedule.

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

Currently studying Romans, followed by prayer requests and a time of prayer. 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

NOTE: will meet in the Fellowship Hall through December. Aimed at connecting recent college graduates and newly-weds in their 20s and 30s, class begins with a time of fellowship followed by a short lesson.

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

10am Offering

Any offerings made during the 10am Christmas Eve service will go towards the PCA Geneva fund, "Look/After." This fund benefits PCA pastors and their wives or widows who do not have pensions or a retirement fund. To learn more, go to GenevaBenefits.org.

4pm Christmas Eve Service

Please join us again this evening for a special 4pm evening service to celebrate Christmas Eve with carols and a message from Gabe Fluhrer (no Children's Church or Nursery).

New Year's Eve Service & Reception

On New Years Eve, December 31, we will have one combined service at 10am (no Sunday School). Afterwards, we invite everyone to join us in the Fellowship Hall for light foods and a time of fellowship. Like to cook? We are looking for people to bring food for the reception. Sign up at Bit.ly/New-Years-Reception.

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 contact Director of Community Outreach Shad Guinn at Shad@1stPresbyterian.com.

A New Year's Resolution

This is the time of year that we all make our New Year's Resolutions: losing weight, exercising more, repairing relationships, etc. This year, make getting involved at First Pres part of your resolutions! The Deacons are here to help you get plugged in and are available every Sunday worshipping or ushering at the Sanctuary doors!

Church Office Holiday Closures

1st Pres office will be closed for Christmas on December 22 and 25, and for New Year's on December 29 and January 1.

Women's Winter/Spring Bible Studies - Starting January 5

Women's Bible Studies will start the first and second weeks of January! If you were in a study in the fall, you do **not** need to re-register for your study. If you weren't able to participate in the fall, we would love to have you join us in January! There are 7 studies to choose from with a variety of formats, meeting days and times, and frequencies. Go to 1stPresbyterian.com/Women for more information and to register.

Midweek - Starting January 10

Midweek is back for the spring semester on January 10, with meals at 5:30pm and electives at 6:15pm! There's something for everyone at Midweek, including nursery, kids, youth, and adults! 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!



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, DECEMBER 24, 2023

10:00 AM

† Please stand as you are able.

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WORSHIP REFLECTION

In the arena of adversity, the Scriptures teach us three essential truths about God—truths we must believe if we are to trust Him in adversity.

They are:

- God is completely sovereign.
- God is infinite in wisdom.
- God is perfect in love.

Someone has expressed these three truths as they relate to us in this way:

"God, in His love, always wills what is best for us.

In His wisdom, He always knows what is best,

and in His sovereignty, He has the power to bring it about."

— Jerry Bridges

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Gracious God and Father,

Empower us this day to gaze anew on our humble Lord, Your only begotten Son!

Those infant hands shall burst our bands and work out our salvation.

Those infant hands shall strangle the crooked serpent and destroy his works forever.

Those infant hands shall open heaven's gate to every believer.

Ignite our hearts with a renewed desire

to worship Him as our Savior and Lord

and to serve Him as our King in the fellowship of His church. Amen.

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.

PRELUDE

*“Es ist ein Ros’ entsprungen” arr. Vernon Taranto, Jr.
String Quartet*

GATHERING SONG

“O Holy Night (O Hear the Gospel Story)”

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRAISE OF GOD’S PEOPLE

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING & PRAYER OF INVOCATION

†HYMNS OF PRAISE

*“Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come” No. 195 (vv. 1-4)
“What Child Is This?”*

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

based upon Philippians 2:6-11

**I believe that Jesus was in the form of God,
but did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped.
He emptied Himself, took the form of a servant,
and was born in our own likeness.
I believe He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death.
I believe God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him
the name that is above every name.
I believe that at the name of Jesus
every knee in heaven and on earth and under the earth shall bow.
I believe that every tongue shall confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.**

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

OFFERTORY

“All Is Well” by W. Kirkpatrick & M.W. Smith, arr. Ron Huff

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.*

†GLORIA PATRI

THE WORD FOR GOD’S PEOPLE

SERMON

Luke 2:36-38 — “Waiting in Hope”
“Waiting: Advent Stories from the Gospel of Luke”
Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer

OUTLINE

1. Waiting When Life Falls Apart (vv. 36-37)

2. Waiting and Witnessing (v. 38)

THE TABLE FOR GOD’S PEOPLE

COMMUNION

- 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, 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

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

THE SENDING OF GOD’S PEOPLE

†BENEDICTION

Romans 15:13 ESV

Pastor: May the God of hope
fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit
you may abound in hope.

People: Thanks be to God! Amen.

POSTLUDE

“In dulce jubilo, BWV 729” by J.S. Bach

Patrick Rice, organ

<u>Giving Update</u>	<u>Deacons (General Fund)</u>	<u>World Missions</u>
<i>Annual Budget</i>	\$3,046,380	\$850,000
<i>Raised Year-to-Date</i>	\$1,563,715	\$468,398



*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 for today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of
Teeny and Lawrence Lassiter by Charlotte McNally, Lynn Lassiter-Kendrick, and
Charles Lassiter. “For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which
is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11.*

*The flowers will be arranged by the Flower Committee and delivered by
volunteers to our homebound and hospitalized on Tuesday, December 27.*

*Stay connected and informed with the 1st Pres app. Text APP to 423-888-0345.
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