

Easter Celebrations

Today, Easter Sunday, there will be **NO Sunday School**. Instead, we invite everyone to attend our Easter music and reception celebrations! The reception will be held in the Nell Davis between 9:30am and 11:30am, so those attending the 9am worship service can stop by following the 10:15am music celebration, and those attending the 11am can stop by before the music celebration. We also have a floral Easter cross out on the front lawn for pictures!

First Cup - April 2

1st Pres Men are invited to join us for our next monthly breakfast on the 10th floor of the Tower from 7am - 8am. Come get some good food, delicious coffee, and a soul-quenching devotional!

Women's Spring Conference - April 5-6

This **Wednesday, April 3, is the last day to register** for our Women's Spring Conference "Singing in the Dark; Finding Contentment Even When Life Hurts," featuring Emily Hartman, a counselor, pastor's wife, and former missionary. Emily will speak to us Friday, April 5, 6:30pm – 8:00pm (dessert & coffee) and Saturday, April 6, 8:30am – 11:30am (continental breakfast and snacks). The cost is \$25 and childcare will be available. Learn more and register at 1stPresbyterian.com/Women.

It's a Wonderful Life! Senior Fellowship & Program - April 11

Join us for IAWL to hear from composer, performer, recording artist, and worship leader James Ward! Fellowship begins at 10:30am, followed by the program at 11am in the Fellowship Hall, and lunch (\$8) at 12pm. RSVP to Janette.Barnes@Gmail.com or RWrenn@Epbfi.com.

Men's Retreat - April 19 - 20

Friday, April 12, is the last day to register for our Men's Retreat at Quail Run Farm, featuring Dr. Richard Phillips, Senior Minister at Second Presbyterian in Greenville, as our guest speaker! The cost is \$30 for general attendees and \$10 for college students. Register at 1stPresbyterian.com/Events.

Vacation Bible School - June 24-28

Registration is now open for VBS this summer for children 3-years-old through rising 5th grade! To learn more, register your child, and/or sign up to volunteer, go to 1stPresbyterian.com/Events.

Midweek - April 3

Midweek continues with a meal and fellowship at 5:30pm and electives for nursery, kids, youth, and adults starting at 6:15pm! Learn more at 1stPresbyterian.com/Midweek.



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

RESURRECTION DAY

SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2024

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

† *Please stand as you are able.*

SPECIAL EASTER MUSIC CELEBRATION

10:15am

"Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise" arr. Dan Forrest

"Coronation" by Craig Courtney

"How Great Thou Art" arr. Dan Forrest

"Agnus Dei" by Andre Thomas

"I Will Rise" by Craig Courtney

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WORSHIP REFLECTIONS

We are delighted that you have joined us for worship on Easter Sunday. Easter Sunday means everything to a follower of Jesus since "the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the crowning proof of Christianity. If the resurrection did not take place, then Christianity is a false religion. If it did take place, then Christ is God and the Christian faith is absolute truth."

– Henry Morris

This morning we will learn from Jesus's interaction with doubting Thomas and what happens when He pursues those who struggle with doubt. Thomas's life is a testimony to how kind and merciful Christ is to doubters. He bears with the infirmities of all His people. How do you respond to people where their faith is feeble? Remember Thomas's case and be compassionate and tender. Our Lord has many weak children in His family and many frail lambs in His flock. Yet He bears with them all and casts none away. Happy is that Christian who has learned to deal likewise with his brothers and sisters.

Giving Update for Deacons/General Fund

Annual Budget (fiscal year ends March 31):

\$3,046,380

Raised Year-to-Date:

\$3,291,930



*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 today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of
Mr. and Mrs. Cartter Lupton and Elizabeth Lupton Davenport.*

*The flowers will be arranged by the Flower Committee and delivered by volunteers
to our homebound and hospitalized on Monday, April 1.*

*The Easter Cross located on the front lawn is given in loving memory of
Matthew Rhodes Parker in celebration of his ninth birthday by his parents,
Kit and Gordon Parker, and his big brother Nicolas...
"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Matthew 5:8*

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Almighty God, Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ
overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life.
Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection,
may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

PRELUDE

*"All Glory, Laud, and Honor with Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" arr. David Winkler
Orchestra*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRAISE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

CHORAL INTROIT

"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" arr. John Rutter

† EASTER GREETING

from Psalm 118:24,14; Matthew 28:6 ESV

Pastor: This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**People: The LORD is our strength and our song;
He has become our salvation.**

Pastor: For Christ is risen!

People: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

† PRAYER OF INVOCATION

† HYMN OF PRAISE

"Come, People of the Risen King"

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from the Westminster Larger Catechism, Q&A 52

Pastor: Why did Jesus Christ rise and what are the benefits we receive?

**People: Christ rose again from the dead the third day by His own power;
whereby He declared Himself to be the Son of God,
to have satisfied divine justice,
to have vanquished death,
and him that had the power of it,
and to be Lord of the living and the dead:
All which He did . . . for our justification,
progress in grace, support against enemies,
and to assure us of our resurrection from the dead at the last day.**

† HYMN OF PRAISE

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

CONFESSION OF SINS

**O Mighty Father, the tomb calls forth my adoring wonder,
for it is empty and Christ is risen!
Grant me to be crucified with Christ that I may live a new life,
for I wish to be dead and buried
to sin, to selfishness, and to the world;
that I might not hear the voice of the charmer
and be seduced by his lusts.
Cleanse me from selfishness, pride, the fear of man,
and the desire for the approval of others.
Grant me more and more of His resurrection life;
may it rule me, may I walk in its power,
and be strengthened through its influence,
through Jesus Christ my risen Lord. Amen!**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Romans 4:25 NIV

He was delivered over to death for our sins
and was raised to life for our justification.

† HYMN OF ASSURANCE

"The Power of the Cross"

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

OFFERTORY

"Is He Worthy" arr. Dan Forrest

Soloists: David Luther & Christine Hassevoort

GREETING & DISMISSAL TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH

*Please take your PreK-1st grade children to the check-in station
at the PreK-K department on the Fellowship Hall level.*

† DOXOLOGY (AMEN)

THE WORD FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

SERMON

"The Blessing of Not Seeing"

John 20:24-29

Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer

SERMON OUTLINE

1. Skepticism's Resolution

2. Jesus's Benediction

† HYMN OF RESPONSE

"Behold Our God"

THE SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

† BENEDICTION

Hebrews 13:20-21 ESV

Pastor: Now may the God of peace
Who brought again from the dead
our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep,
by the blood of the eternal covenant,
equip you with everything good
that you may do His will,
working in us that which is pleasing in His sight,
through Jesus Christ,
to Whom be glory forever and ever.

People: Thanks be to God! Amen.

POSTLUDE

"Toccatà" from "Symphony No. 5" by Ch. M. Widor

Patrick Rice, organ

Worship Leaders

Darrin Hassevoort, *Director of Music & Worship*
West Breedlove, *Assistant Director of Worship*

Presiding Ministers

9am: Richard G. Cain, *Senior Assistant Pastor*
11am: Randy Nabors, *Pastor of Missions*

Preacher

Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer, *Senior Pastor*