



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Church

SPRING BROCHURE 2022



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FAITH FORMATION

What does it mean to mature in faith? One way we measure our own maturity is by how deeply we trust God. Though it is just one factor in a rich relationship with our loving God, trust does flourish more and more as we learn the stories of our faith, engage in practices that deepen our relationship with God, and live out our call to serve Christ in the world.

John Roberto, author of *Lifelong Faith: Formation for All Ages and Generations*, has an interesting vision of what lifelong maturing in Christian faith looks like. He defines goals that incorporate knowing and understanding more fully the Christian faith (informing), developing and deepening a relationship with Jesus Christ and the Christian community (forming), and living the Christian faith in every aspect of our lives (transforming).

What goals do you have for growing in faith this year? Do any of these resonate with your goals?

- Develop and sustain a personal relationship and commitment to Jesus Christ.
- Live as a disciple of Jesus Christ and make the Christian faith a way of life.
- Read and study the Bible and apply its message and meaning to living as a Christian today.
- Learn the Christian story and the foundational teachings of our faith tradition and integrate its meaning into life.
- Worship God with our community weekly and through the seasons of the church year.
- Pray, together and alone, and seek spiritual growth through spiritual practices and disciplines.
- Live with moral integrity guided by Christian ethics and apply Christian moral values to decision-making.
- Live the Christian mission in the world by serving those in need, caring for God's creation, and acting and advocating for justice and peace—locally and globally.
- Be actively engaged in the life, ministries, and activities of the Christian community.
- Practice faith in Jesus Christ by using one's gifts and talents within the Christian community and in the world.

FAITH FORMATION

How can First Presbyterian Church support you as you inform, form, and transform your faith? I am so grateful for those who participate, those who teach, and those who lead. You are invited to not only engage in the learning opportunities we have to offer this Spring, but also to help dream and develop new ways of resourcing and supporting our congregation. We want to hear what your needs are, what challenges you face, and your ideas.

I encourage you, too, to share with others your faith stories – both times when you’ve trusted and felt close to God and times when you’ve struggled with faith. Share in small groups, in Sunday School classes, as we gather intergenerationally, as we serve together in mission work, or over a cup of coffee with a friend.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

Children will be exploring biblical practices - practices Jesus did and taught us to do as faithful followers.

The first unit is *Baptize*. A baptism is a moment of marking and a moment of welcoming. God marks an individual whom God has created with an invisible mark of love and acceptance. The church welcomes that person whom God loves as part of the church family and the body of Christ. The *Baptize* unit picks up where the baptismal event leaves off. Baptized persons live into their identity as children of God through daily acts of discipleship on a lifelong journey of growing in faith.

Young children will explore:

- Remembering Baptism (Mark 1:1–11)
- Unifying Waters (Exodus 14:10–31)
- Living Waters (Jonah 1–3; Romans 6:3–11)
- Nourishing Waters (1 Corinthians 12:12–31)

Older children will explore:

- You Are God's Child (Mark 1:1–11)
- Crossing the Water: Becoming Community (Exodus 14:10–31)
- Growing in Faith (Mark 4:26–29; Jeremiah 17:7–8)
- Living Water (John 4:1–32)

The second unit is *Live in Community*. When God looked at the first human in Genesis 2:18, God proclaimed that it was not good for the human to be alone and created a partner to provide companionship and company. Since the beginning, humans have lived in some type of community. At their best, these communities work together to share abundant life. The church is a living community committed to gathering together across differences, feasting and listening together, uplifting those in need, and supporting those who depart. We will explore what living in community truly means with this *Live in Community* unit.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

Young children will explore:

- All Together Now (Mark 1:16–20)
- Build a Bigger Table (Acts 2:41–47)
- Who Needs a (Up) Lift? (Numbers 27:1–11)
- You Are Not Alone (John 14:15–23)

Older children will explore:

- Everybody's Got Something to Offer! (1 Corinthians 12:4–31)
- Trust and Share—All Are Fed! (Exodus 16:1–36; John 6:1–14)
- Calling the Helpers! (Acts 6:1–7)
- Traditions and Transitions (John 14:15–23)

Adult class

- The Apostles' Creed, Library, 5:30-6:30pm, Pastor Brett
- We said the Apostle's Creed every week for our Affirmation of Faith in the year 2020. These words became a part of us; maybe we memorized it long ago, or maybe last year was the first time it made its way into our memory. But what the heck does the Apostle's Creed actually mean? What is the main message coming out of it? What was the context in which it was written? What does it mean for our lives today? All these questions and more will be discussed in Pastor Brett's WNL class. Join as we take a deeper dive into one of the most famous creeds. Hope to see you there!



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

FPC understands that a relationship with Jesus is a lifelong journey and we seek to educate at all stages of maturity. The Adult Education Ministry aspires to the following goals:

- Teach the story of God and humanity to consider what God has done for us
- Examine and discuss who God has revealed God's self to be in the person of Jesus Christ
- Encourage all to participate in God's transforming work in the world
- Practice actions that encourage a trusting relationship with God through prayer and other spiritual disciplines

Classes are 9:30 - 10:30 am on Sundays.

Charles Danner Seminar Class

- Room 207- Bert Moore
- This class is reading and discussing *An Introduction to the Old Testament The Canon and Christian Imagination 3rd Edition* by Walter Brueggemann and Tod Linafelt. In this updated edition the authors introduce the reader to the broad theological scope of the Old Testament, treating some of the most important issues and methods in contemporary biblical interpretation. This clearly-written textbook focuses on the literature of the Old Testament as it grew out of religious, political, and ideological contexts over many centuries in Israel's history. Covering every book in the Old Testament (arranged in canonical order), the authors demonstrate the development of theological concepts in biblical writings from the Torah through postexilic Judaism.

Complex Topics in Under An Hour- Adult Sunday School Special Series (Jan. 9, 16, 23, and 30)

- John Allan Hall, The Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger
- In our tradition, there are doctrines and ideas that we often speak of but tend to shy away from discussing thoroughly because of their difficulty. This class will have two goals: giving a brief overview of four of these topics and sharing fellowship during the Sunday school hour. Topics presented will be the doctrine of the Trinity, the doctrine of Predestination, the Book of Revelation, and the theory of condemnation. Come prepared to learn something, but not everything about these topics.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Comrades

- Room 106- across from the Library, Bill Lummus & Dag Rowe
- The Comrades Class is a Bible study group organized by subject matter rather than by following a specific Bible book or section. The class places emphasis on basic Christian beliefs and how those beliefs should be translated into action in the lives of modern Americans. Contemporary issues are discussed in the context of Bible teachings. Previous topics covered include series on The Patriarchs, Christians in Society, Our Spirituality, Our Holiness and Our Relationship with God.
- Class members are predominantly senior adults, but the class material is pertinent to all ages and everyone is welcome.

Genesis

- Carriage House, Gideon Blackburn House, Becca Phillips
- Starting February 6, the Genesis class will be studying the Gospel of Matthew. The first book of the New Testament, Matthew starts with Jesus' birth and launches into his life and teachings. Accompany us as we walk down the path of Jesus' story a little bit each week. Whether you've heard the story once or a hundred times, come with an open heart and hear how God will speak something new every time.

Looking Ahead:

Adult Sunday School Special Summer Series

- Summer Saints with the Rev. Dr. Tara W. Bulger and Rev. Brett Gudeman
- Fellowship Hall
- Sundays, 9:30 – 10:30 am
- June 5 – August 7

ADULT SMALL GROUPS

Historical Books Bible Study

- March 8 - April 5, 12:00 - 1:00 pm, Library
- Throughout the season of Lent, Pastor Brett will be leading a Bible Study through the historical books. Every Tuesday at noon, beginning March 8th through April 5th, we will be looking at the books that helped to shape Israel's history, giving us a foundation for understanding the Old Testament. The books covered will be Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel, and 1 and 2 Kings. Come once, come all five weeks; all are stand-alone lessons. There are three ways to participate: you may attend in person in the library, you can attend on Zoom, or you can listen to the lectures after the fact. So, please sign up on the website, by emailing Pastor Brett, or by calling the church office and we'll get you the information you need. Looking forward to this journey with you all!
- The Rev. Dr. Tara Bulger will share a video message each week to enrich your Lenten journey at home.

Men's Bible Study

- Wednesdays, 7:00 - 8:00 am, Fellowship Hall
- Every Wednesday morning we gather in the Fellowship Hall to study Scripture, pray, and discuss whatever arbitrary thing comes to our minds. This is a great time to spiritually connect, grow, and have fun with a fantastic group. We also occasionally get lunch together.

Thursday Morning Prayer Group

- Thursdays, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, Meeting on Zoom
- This small group intentionally lifts the needs of each other and this congregation in prayer. They enjoy fellowship, study, and prayer as they explore the many different ways of being in relationship with God. Currently they discuss lectionary scripture texts and reflections from a devotional book *Daily Feast: Meditations from Feasting on the Word Year C*. All are welcome to join us! Contact Kathy Gillmore, dce@fpchsv.org to receive the Zoom link and readings.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday School- Classes are 9:30-10:30 am on Sundays

- Middle and High School Sunday School classes follow the RE:FORM curriculum, engaging and responding to God's word in history and the present. Both classes also participate in the LEAD program through which youth members learn to develop and execute a service project of their choosing. LEAD allows youth members to learn the logistics of church agenda and approval, while also serving the greater community.

PYC

- PYC (Presbyterian Youth Connection) is a weekly Sunday night youth gathering from 5:00-6:30 pm for grades 6-12. PYC incorporates fun, fellowship, community, missions, and lessons into each week's meeting. Friends are always welcome to join! If you are interested in sponsoring a PYC dinner or learning more information about PYC, please contact Anne Dillon Loflin at youth@fpchsv.org.



YOUTH MINISTRY

Off-site Events

- Off-site events are a wonderful opportunity for youth members to bond and connect outside of the church walls and create lasting memories alongside their brothers and sisters in Christ. This Spring, we will be attending a Huntsville Havoc game, bowling, volunteering at the Presbyterian Home for Children, and hosting the spring retreat again at Camp Maranatha. The monthly calendar will be emailed to youth parents and included in the upcoming bulletins and newsletters. Please reach out to Anne Dillon with any questions.

Missions

- Service is an integral part of our youth program and is incorporated into most lessons and meetings at both Sunday School and PYC. A few of our mission projects in 2021 included making blankets for homebound church members, making instruments for Second Mile Preschool, and organizing a sports equipment drive for the Boys and Girls Club. This year, we will continue working on several service projects including developing another LEAD Sunday School project, volunteering at the Presbyterian Home for Children, and having a work day at Lincoln Village.



PRESBYTERIAN KIDS CONNECTION

Presbyterian Kids Connection (PKC) is our youth group for 3rd - 5th graders! We meet one Sunday a month from Noon – 2:00 pm for lunch, a fun activity, a rope circle prayer, and, of course, we play lots of super fun youth group games! Please sign up so we can make sure we have enough food and activity materials for all. Each month parents will receive an email with the link to register for that month's event. To be on the email list please email dce@fpchsv.org, or visit our website at fpchsv.org/engage/children/ to find the registration link.

Coming up this Spring for PKC:

- January 23- A Field Trip to Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge with Park Ranger and FPC church member David Young guiding our visit to see cranes, ducks, geese, and other wildlife. It will be especially fun to see the thousands of sandhill cranes who winter on the refuge!
- February 27- Drum Circle activity with Betty Loeb – a percussion palooza where we'll make some of our own instruments
- March 27- Trivia Game with our own Anne Dillon Loflin
- April 10- Prepare an Easter Story puppet show that PKC will present to the younger children on Easter Morning, right before the Egg Hunt
- May 15- Make something delicious and discover a new way to face challenges

We always start in Fellowship Hall for a time of gathering and lunch. Join us!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Children's Ministry at FPC seeks to engage the children of our church with familiar images, wonderful stories, special relationships, and a faith tradition.

Values

- FPC seeks to create a nurturing environment for the children of our church, while instilling these values in the children who attend our programs:
 - Scripture as the primary source of our knowledge of God
 - Worship as our number one response to the gift of God's grace
 - Recognizing and treating one another as children of God
 - Service as our call to live into God's Kingdom

Goals for the year

- Learn the stories of our faith with creative storytelling and active responses
- Model sensitive caregiving to equip students to praise God and serve their neighbor
- Experience and understand the practices of our faith tradition
- Make connections between the content of faith and faithful living

Jesus was a masterful storyteller and caregiver. His parables were rooted in the stories and images of his culture and his actions spoke even louder than his words. Our storytelling and caregiving likewise seek to engage the children of our church with familiar images, wonderful stories, special relationships, and a faith tradition that prepares them to live responsibly and faithfully in the face of today's world.

Because of the enormous task of transmitting the knowledge and practices of the Christian faith to a new generation in culturally challenging times, our efforts are deliberate, intentional, and varied in method and means. Opportunities are found to grow in faith on Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings, and through many milestones, mission, and special events. All efforts are connected by encouraging children through knowing, interpreting, living, and doing the faith!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School- Classes are 9:30-10:30am on Sundays

Peepers (Preschool and Pre-K Sunday School)

- Children and their leaders will sing songs of our faith and explore stories from the Bible using the Walk with Me curriculum.
- Preschool children receive The Beginner's Bible, given each year on Rally Day to enjoy at home with their parents. If you are new to this church and wish to receive a copy contact Kathy Gillmore at dce@fpchsv.org.
- Infants and Toddlers are invited to participate in the music gathering and in Sunday school activities. They might also spend time in the Nursery (room 107).
- Class Schedule
 - 9:30-9:50 am: All children ages 2 thru Pre-K meet for worship through music in room 110/111.
 - 9:50-10:30 am: Peepers stay in room 110/111 for Bible time, and may stay here through the 11:00 worship service. Parents, please pick up your child here for worship and, after the Time for Young Disciples during 11:00 am service, they may come back down to room 110/111 for child care during worship.

Kingdom Kids (Kindergarten-5th grade Sunday School)

- Children become familiar with the stories of our faith by exploring scripture in creative and engaging ways. In early grades young children engage Bible stories with a worship focus. Students in the middle grades begin to compare the stories to what they know in their own life. In the later grades children develop Bible skills and explore major themes that run throughout the Bible, seeing those connections between Old Testament, New Testament, and faith lived out today.
- 9:30-9:50 am – Music Assembly!
 - Children gather in room #011 for musical activities and to sing the songs of our faith. They will sing in worship on September 26 and November 7.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

- 9:30-9:50 am – Music Assembly!
 - Children gather in Room 011 for musical activities and to sing the songs of our faith.
- 9:50-10:30 am – Class Time!
 - K & 3rd graders stay in Room 011 and follow an adaptation of the Godly Play curriculum, a Montessori method of storytelling with a worship focus. After experiencing the story they choose how to respond to the story using various creative materials. Kindergarten children received on Rally Day the Spark Story Bible to enjoy reading with their parents at home. Families are encouraged to explore the same story during the week.
 - 4th & 5th graders meet in the room at the end of the hall in the basement (Room 012). Using the Connect curriculum and a special Connect Bible they received on Rally Day when they are in 4th grade, they look up anchor texts and are pointed to other texts that explore a new theme each week. They enjoy fun building and creating activities as they explore connections to the theme and to their lives.

Looking ahead:

Vacation Bible School

- June 13 – 16
- 9:00 am – Noon
- Ages 4 – entering 5th grade
- Our Food Truck Party VBS invites children to get on a roll with God and to pray as Jesus teaches us in Matthew 6:11; "Give us this day our daily bread." These words serve as a reminder that everything we have comes from God — and that it's by turning to God in prayer that all of our daily needs are met.

Rally Day

- August 14

MILESTONES MINISTRY

The Milestones Ministry recognizes important steps in the life of faith:

- To provide children with information and experiences as they grow in faith
- To equip parents to be involved in the Christian education of their children
- To recognize and celebrate milestone events with the congregation
- To assist the congregation in fulfilling the vows made at baptism to nurture faith

We welcomed 1st and 2nd grade children to the Lord's Table last September with a Communion Education workshop and a special blessing in worship that day. They painted a picture using symbols that helped to explore the meaning of the sacrament.

Milestones coming up this Spring:

- “Walk with Me” – February 27, for 5th & 6th graders. Learn about the sacrament of Baptism and its connection to Confirmation with a workshop at 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall and a celebration in Worship at 11:00 am. Participants will receive a gift of a walking stick as a symbol of their journey of faith. To register contact Kathy Gillmore, dce@fpchsv.org.
- “Confirmation” – April 17, for 8th & 9th graders. Learn about the expectations and covenant relationships involved in church membership and a personal confirmation of the vows made at baptism, during weekly classes starting January 9.
- “Journey of Faith” – May 8. Blessing of our high school graduates.



INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY

Intergenerational Ministry - nurturing our relationships with God and God's people.

The “faith community” approach is an important way for children and youth to learn what it means to be a Christian. It's also a way older folks fulfil their vows to help a child know and follow Jesus Christ – by direct mentorship or merely being in the same room with them as they are going about the business of discipleship. All adults in a congregation teach by a smile in worship or in the hallway, sharing the experiences they have had making a difference in the world, and sharing their reflection on scripture and traditions that have impacted their life and times.

Jesus welcomed the children, preached to large crowds, taught in households, and gathered and engaged small groups. Let's, too, be varied, creative and all-age inclusive as we worship, learn, and serve together!

Intergenerational opportunities to worship, learn, and serve together:

- Wednesday Night Live! - 5:00 to 7:00 pm
 - January 12 – March 9
- Intergenerational Mission Project - March date and mission project to be determined yet

Adults and youth are welcome to join any of these combined (K-5th grade) classes in Fellowship Hall from 9:30 to 10:30 am on the following dates:

- February 20
- March 13



INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY

Adults, youth and children are encouraged to attend a special 5-week Generations Sunday School class in Fellowship Hall from 9:30 to 10:30 am. We'll be looking at the biblical practice of Joy. A biblical practice is something that Jesus did and calls us to do. We usually think of joy as a feeling, a response to something we experience. Scripture, however, invites us to experience joy as more than a passive response; instead, we practice joy as a faithful choice. Joy is something that we experience, something we savor, and something that is gifted to us by a loving and merciful God. While we experience joy individually, it is also a communal practice, one that is experienced in different ways by all God's people.

- April 24
- May 1
- May 8
- May 15
- May 22



WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY

- 8:30 am & 11:00 am- Worship Service (SAN)
- 9:30 am - 10:30 am- Charles Danner Seminar Class (Rm 207)
 - Complex Topics in Under An Hour (JAH) (January only)
 - Comrades Sunday School (Rm 106)
 - Connect 4th & 5th Grades (Rm 012)
 - Genesis (CH)
 - Godly Play K-1st Grade (Rm 009)
 - LEAD Youth (GBH Youth Rm)
 - Peepers Sunday School Preschoolers (Rm 110/111)
 - Spark 2nd & 3rd Grades (Rm 010)
- 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm- PKC 3rd-5th Grades FH (once a month)
- 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm- PYC Middle School (GBH)
- 6:00 pm - 6:30 pm- PYC Dinner Middle & High School (GBH)
- 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm- PYC High School (GBH)

TUESDAY

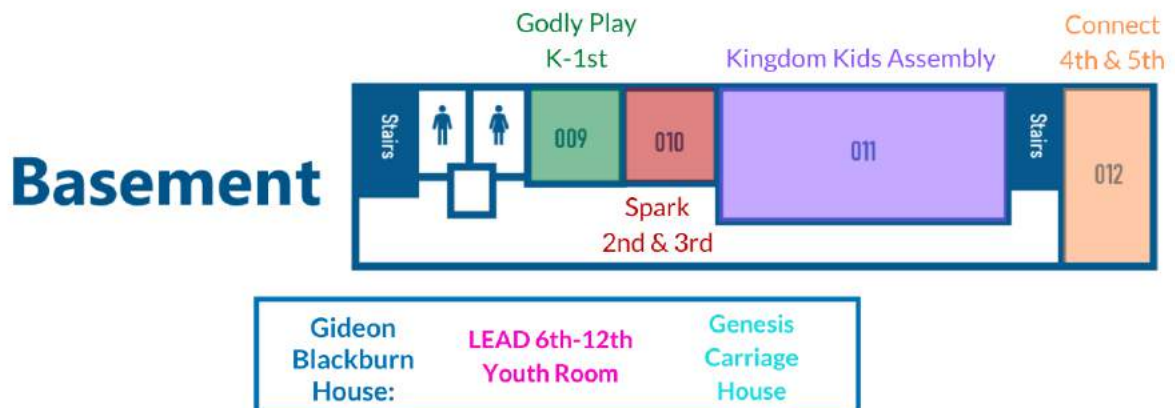
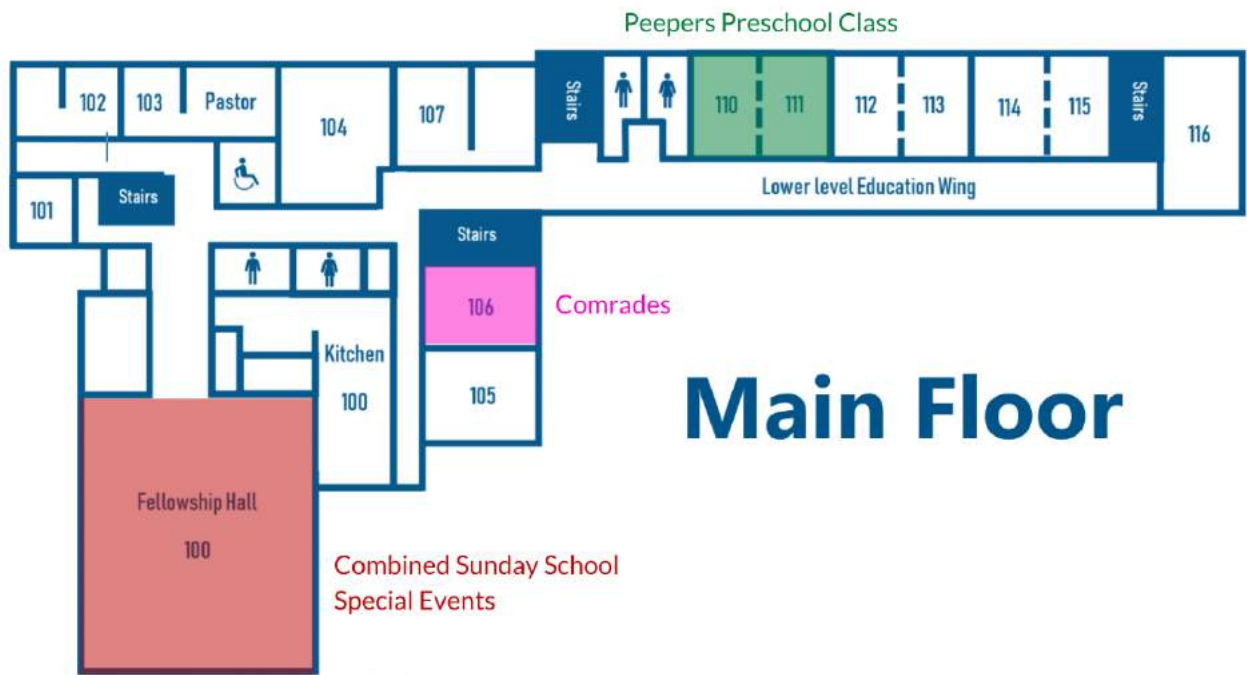
- 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm- Historical Books Bible Study (LIB/Zoom) (During Lent)

WEDNESDAY

- 7:00 am - 8:00 am- Men's Bible Study (FH)
- 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm- Prayer Shawl Ministry (LIB)
- 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm- Wednesday Night Live
- 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm- The Apostles' Creed (LIB)
- 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm- Chancel Choir Rehearsal (CR)

THURSDAY

- 11:00 am - 12:00 pm- Prayer Group (Zoom)
- 5:30 pm- Worship Service (JAH) (First Thursday of the month)



OTHER WAYS TO CONNECT

Worship is at the heart of who we are as a people, and our worship services are for everyone. Whether you are a long-time member or first-time visitor, there is a place for you in our worshiping community. Each worship service provides space and inspiration for the Holy Spirit to speak into our lives. Worship services are held Sundays at 8:30 am and 11:00 am. We also have a service on the first Thursday of the month at 5:30 pm. This is a quiet and meditative service held in John Allan Hall.

Children are always welcome in worship! They are an important part of our church community and we would love for them to stay for the whole service. Wiggles and giggles will not bother us. There is a nursery available downstairs (just ask an usher) if you would prefer.

Rocket City Lift, the podcast of First Presbyterian, puts out episodes three times a week, every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Our hope is to provide a spiritual lift to everyone's days through Scripture, discussion, prayer, and poetry. Each episode is 10-12 minutes long and is perfect for a commute, getting ready in the morning, cooking, or whenever you have a few minutes.

Presbyterian Women

- 2nd Monday of each month- Janis Williams
- Presbyterian Women is a caring and inclusive community of women who gather monthly to praise God, study scripture, and carry out missions. Join us for WHAT MY GRANDMOTHERS TAUGHT ME: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus by Merryl Blair and for the variety of missions in our community and around our globe. We offer morning and evening meeting times for our Circles September through May, and all circles come together quarterly for interesting programs and fellowship. We are closely connected to PW of the North Alabama Presbytery and the Synod of Living Waters to celebrate the gifts we are given to praise, study, and act. We invite you to join us.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Music Ministry Spring 2022

January

12- WNL Starts

15- Epiphany Party

February

12- Chancel Choir
Retreat

27- Children Choir
sing in Worship

March

2- Ash Wednesday

9- Children Choir
sing at WNL

April

7- Dr. Lois Lee Organ Recital

10- Children Choir sing in Worship

14- Maundy Thursday Service

15- Good Friday "In Calvary's Shadow" A Tenebrae
Service

17- Celebration of the Resurrection

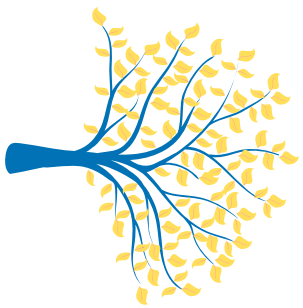
Chancel Choir Rehearsals
Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.

Music at Sunday School
9:30-9:45 a.m.

Handbell Choir Rehearsals
Sundays 9:30-10:30 a.m.

*Make a Joyful
Noise to the Lord!*

Join the Choir



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Church

307 Gates Ave SE

Huntsville, AL 35801