



God is with Us

First Presbyterian Church

December 21, 2025

# Welcome

to First Presbyterian Church of  
Huntsville, Alabama

*We are a congregation of the  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

## Notes About Our Worship Bulletin:

- An asterisk denotes standing--in body or Spirit.
- Bold text means the congregation is invited to recite the text together.
- There are margin notes throughout the service to increase understanding of the service.
- Children of all ages are a welcome blessing 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; tears and fears remind us we're human. Ushers can provide you with worship notebooks to engage your children during worship.
- Nursery care is available anytime between 8:15 am and 12:00 pm for infants and toddlers in Room 105 as needed.
- All children are invited to come forward during *This Little Light of Mine* for a message and prayer.
- Children are welcome (but never required!) to go to Room 205 for Children's Church after the Time for Young Disciples. Parents may escort them, or Children's Ministry Assistants are available to walk with them.
- Members, having children worship is a gift and a sign of health and vitality for our church. Please welcome children and offer parents a smile of encouragement.

Want more information about the church?  
Speak with an usher in the narthex, or visit our website at [fpchsv.org](http://fpchsv.org),  
or listen to sermons later in the week, at:



FOR APPLE



FOR ANDROID

## Worship Resources Adapted From:

Feasting on the Word Worship Companion Series, the Book of Common Worship, and Enterthebible.org  
CCLI 1345744 One License: A-722711

## **WELCOME**

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 21, 2025  
8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

## **GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

CHIMING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

*He is Born*

Arr. Alice Jordan

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please sign in on the pew pads found at the end of each row and share those with your neighbor. We thank God for your presence this day!*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Word became flesh and lived among us.

**People: We have seen his glory.**

Leader: The Baby born in Bethlehem was full of grace and truth.

**People: The Christ Child is our Savior.**

Leader: Let us worship God!

\*Advent Prayer of Praise and Adoration: (**unison**)

**Our Loving God, thank you for giving us new beginnings during this season of Christmas. We praise you for your grace that leads us home to Bethlehem. When we fall, you lift us up. In our joys and sorrows, you are with us. We give you our adoration in Jesus's name. Amen**

Lighting of the Advent Candles, fourth Sunday in Advent

8:30: Bobby & Cydnee Leahy

11:00: Gilfrich Family

\*HYMN 143

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*

REGENT SQUARE

**1** Angels, from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
you, who sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king!

**2** Shepherds, in the fields abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing;  
yonder shines the infant light:  
come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king!

**3** Sages, leave your contemplations;  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great desire of nations;  
you have seen his natal star:  
come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king!

**4** All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising  
to the eternal Three in One:  
come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king!

## **WORSHIP LEADERSHIP:**

Dr. Karl Kling,  
Transitional Pastor

Dr. Patricia Hacker,  
Director of Music

Dr. Lois Lee,  
Pianist/Organist

Chancel Choir  
Westminster Ringers

Liturgist:  
8:30 & 11:00am-  
Stephanie Hyatt

Ushers:  
8:30 am-  
Roy and Marilyn  
McCorkle

11:00 am-  
Lee and Jonna  
Patterson, Bo Lundy,  
Daniel Bryant

Acolyte:  
Anna Mac Gilfrich

Video and Sound:  
Tom Stroud  
Dave Young  
Maxwell R. Carter

*\*Those who are  
able, please stand.*

## CALL TO CONFESSION

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, he became like us in all things but without sin. Because of his grace, he promises to hear our confession and free us from our failures. Let us confess our sin to God.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

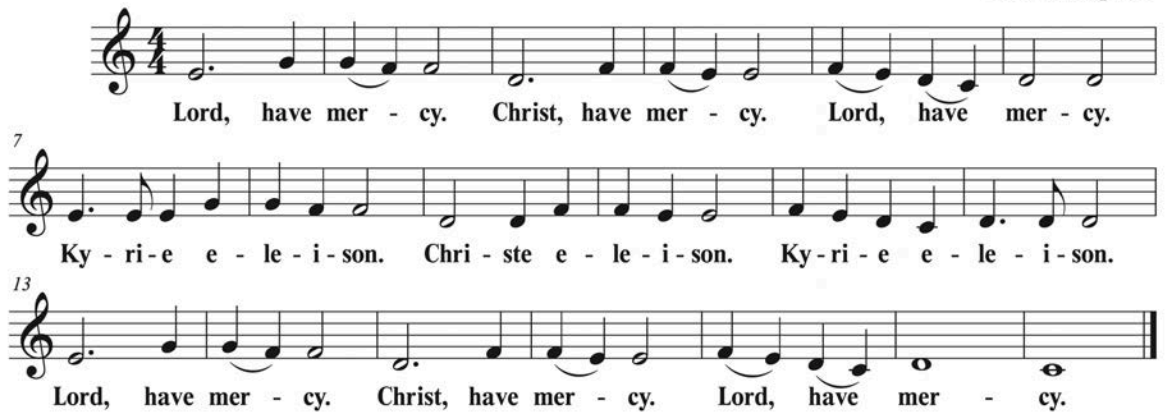
**Our Loving God, we confess that our lack of faith has made us fearful. May your angels sing again to us of peace. Sometimes we have cared about rules rather than about relationships. May your star once more set our course in your direction. Please forgive us through the gift of our Savior. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.**

*(Let us now continue our confession in silence.)*

## KYRIE

### Lord Have Mercy

Hal H. Hopson



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Having been reconciled to God in Jesus Christ, the people are invited to share signs of reconciliation and the peace of Christ. In sharing the peace, we express the reconciliation, unity, and love that come only from God, and we open ourselves to the power of God's love to heal our brokenness and make us agents of that love in the world.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, through the coming of Jesus Christ, the Lord has redeemed us. In Christ we receive the salvation of the Living God. Hear and receive the Good News of the Gospel, in Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## \*HYMN 113

*Angels We have Heard on High  
(Refrain Only)  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

GLORIA

## \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Dr. Kling

Leader: May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you

**People: And also, with you.**

*(Take a moment to greet one another in the peace of Christ and welcome those who are new to our church community)*

*\*Those who are able,  
please stand.*

## PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

All children are invited to come forward during  
This Little Light of Mine for a message and prayer.

### TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Following the Time for Young Disciples, children are invited to join Kathy Gillmore in Room 205 for Children's Church. Infant and toddler care is available in room 105.

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Dr. Kling

#### FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 7:10-14

<sup>10</sup> Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup> Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. <sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God**

#### ANTHEM

8:30 & 11:00

*Still, Still, Still*  
Westminster Ringers

Arr. Carol Moglebust

#### SECOND LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

A prayer for illumination may be offered before the reading and proclaiming of the scripture. This prayer seeks the illumination of the Holy Spirit and calls upon God to make us receptive to the life-giving Word, which comes to us through the scripture.

*\*Those who are able, please stand.*



## SERMON

## SILENT MEDITATION

\*Hymn 115

*Away in a Manger*

MUELLER

*Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.*

**RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (**unison**)

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (**unison**)

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will  
be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us  
our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver  
us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

## PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY  
8:30 & 11:00

*What is This Lovely Fragrance?*  
Westminster Ringers

Arr. Carol Mokebust

\*DOXOLOGY 606

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

We respond to  
God's word of  
forgiveness and  
love by affirming  
our faith, offering  
our resources, and  
singing our praise.

Want to give your  
offering via credit  
card? Scan below.



FOR ONLINE GIVING

\*Those who are able,  
please stand.

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

\*HYMN 145

*What Child is This?*

GREENSLEEVES

*What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary!*

*Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through;  
the cross be borne for me, for you.  
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh,  
the babe, the son of Mary!*

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
come, one and all, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high.  
The virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mary!*

**SHARE GOD'S LOVE WITH THE WORLD**

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Leader: And as God's people, we all say

**People: Alleluia! Amen.**

CHORAL BENEDICTION

*Love Has Come*  
Chancel Choir

BRING A TORCH

*Love has come and never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us.  
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
Love! Is the gift of Christmas. Love!  
Praise to you, God on high!*

Postlude

*Ding Dong! Merrily on High*  
Westminster Ringers, Diann Berry, piano

Arr. Lloyd Larson

*\*Those who are  
able, please stand.*



# Advent Services

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December 21<sup>st</sup> 8:30 & 11:00  
Services Westminster Ringers

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December 24<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 & 5:00  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

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December 28<sup>th</sup> 8:30 & 11:00 Services  
at John Allan Hall

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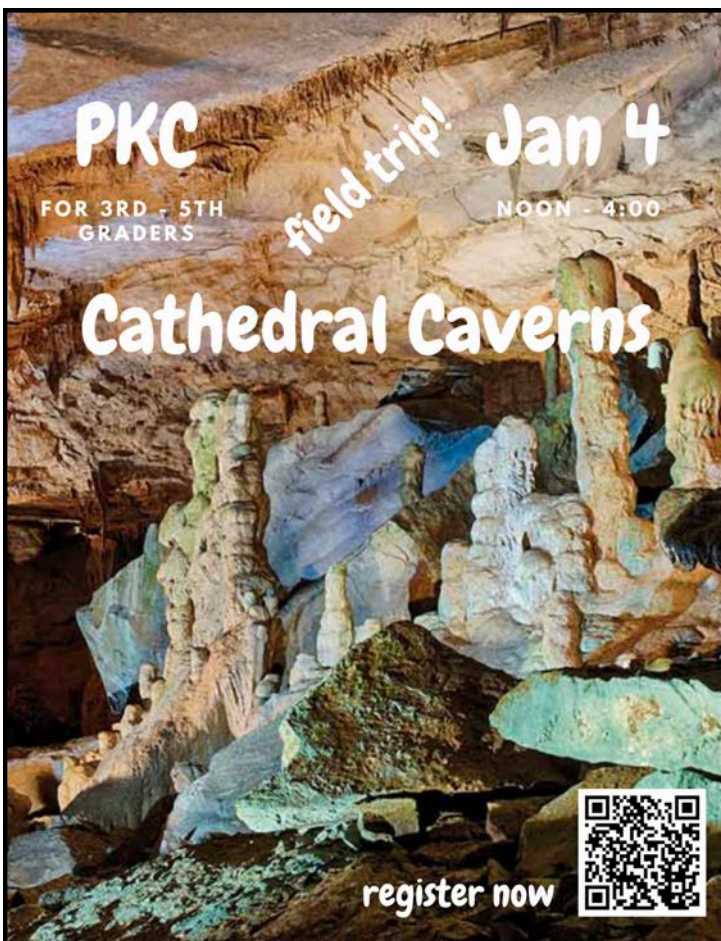
# PRAYER Milestone

**JAN 25**  
**9:30 - 10:30**

**FOR 1ST - 3RD GRADERS  
and older children**



Register at [fpchsv.org/events](http://fpchsv.org/events) or here





**PKC**  
FOR 3RD - 5TH GRADERS

*field trip!* **Jan 4**  
NOON - 4:00

# Cathedral Caverns

register now

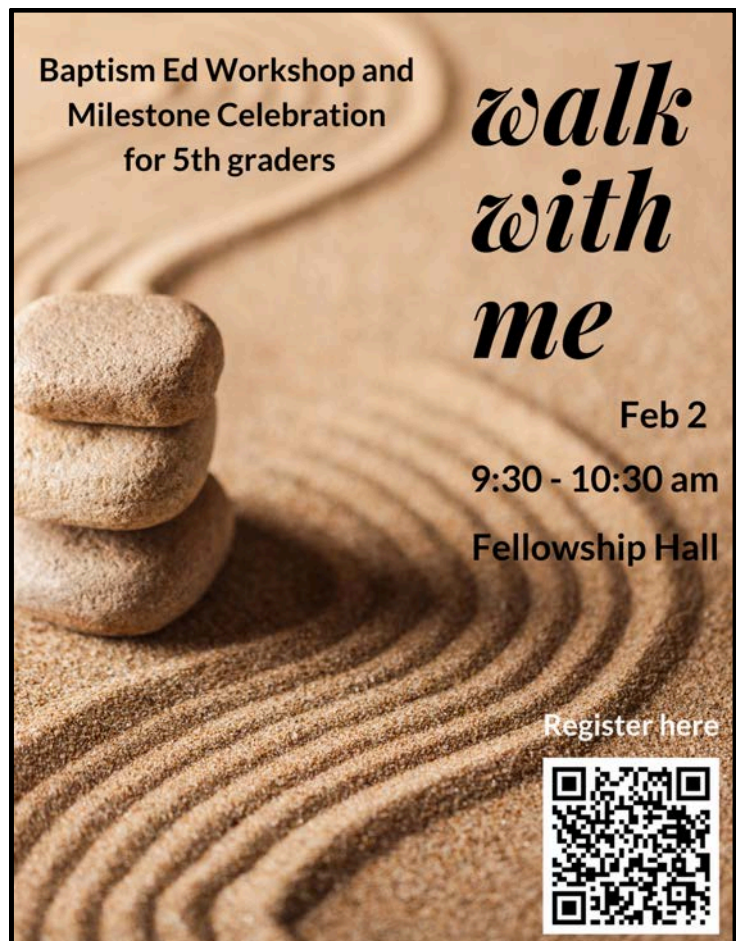



Baptism Ed Workshop and  
Milestone Celebration  
for 5th graders

# walk with me

Feb 2  
9:30 - 10:30 am  
Fellowship Hall

Register here



# THIS WEEK AT FPCHSV

## December 21-December 28

### **Sunday, December 21, 2025**

8:15am –12:00pm Nursery Room 105  
8:30am –9:30am Worship Service SAN Westminster  
Ringers  
8:45am –9:30am Children's Church RM 205  
9:30am –10:30am Charles Danner Seminar Class LIB  
9:30am –10:30am LEAD Youth GBH  
9:30am –10:30am Westminster Ringers BR  
10:00am –11:00am Combined Sunday School FH  
10:00am –10:30am Faith & Life Adult Class JAH  
10:30am –11:00am Chancel Choir Rehearsal/CR  
11:00am –12:00pm Worship Service with  
Westminster Ringers SAN  
11:15am –12:00pm Children's Church RM 205

### **Monday, December 22, 2025**

No First Friends

### **Tuesday, December 23, 2025**

No First Friends

6:30pm –8:30pm HMC CR

### **Wednesday, December 24, 2025**

Christmas Eve

No First Friends

2:45pm –6:45pm Nursery Room 105/106  
3:00pm –4:00pm Children's Church RM 205  
3:00pm –4:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
SAN  
5:00pm –6:00pm Children's Church RM 205  
5:00pm –6:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
SAN

### **Thursday, December 25, 2025**

Christmas Day  
Church Closed  
No First Friends  
12:00pm –1:00pm Al-Anon GBH

### **Friday, December 26, 2025**

No First Friends  
Church Closed

### **Sunday, December 28, 2025**

8:15am –12:00pm Nursery Room 105  
8:30am –9:30am Worship Service GBH Lessons & Carols  
8:45am –9:30am Children's Church RM 205  
9:30am –10:30am Westminster Ringers BR  
10:30am –11:00am Chancel Choir Rehearsal/Choir RM  
11:00am –12:00pm Worship Service GBH Lessons & Carols  
11:15am –12:00pm Children's Church RM 205

If you requested offering envelopes,  
please pick them up from the box in the  
Fellowship Hall. If you would like  
envelopes, but did not request them,  
there are extras available.

#### Calendar Legend:

<b>BR</b> - Bell Room (RM 204)	<b>GBH</b> - Gideon Blackburn
<b>CH</b> - Carriage House (GBH)	House
<b>CR</b> - Choir Room (RM 201)	<b>HR</b> - Historical Room
<b>FH</b> - Fellowship Hall	<b>JAH</b> - John Allan Hall
<b>LIB</b> - Library (RM104)	(GBH)
	<b>SAN</b> - Sanctuary

## PRAYER LIST

Names added to the prayer list will be removed after *six weeks*.

Please take the bulletin home to add these names to your daily prayers.

Prayer requests should be emailed to Kristin Pepper, Administrative Assistant, at [admin@fpchsv.org](mailto:admin@fpchsv.org).

### **Church Members:**

Joseph & Allison Davis and family  
Ida Jo Daughtry  
Betty Loeb  
Paula Weider  
Family of Ted Paludan  
Stella Wilson  
Sandra Stewart  
Carsten Schroer  
Frances Byrd  
Anne Whitfield  
Bob Monroe  
Betty Thompson  
Family of Richard McElveen  
Ed Green  
Maxwell R. Carter and family  
Becky Buckner  
Alicia Beam  
Janice Fowler  
Charlie Watkins  
Ted Buckner  
Barbara (Bonny) Morris  
Cay Lambert  
Amelia Beimrohr

### **Friends and Family:**

April Woods- great-niece of Dave & Peggy Galloway  
Chad Self- friend of Maxwell Carter  
Misty Short Anderson and family and friends  
Maggie Day & Josie-cousins of George Harsh  
Marlene Stark - mother of Lisa Everett  
The Wilmer Family - friends of Katy Bryan  
Melinda Thompson - daughter of Mary Edith Thompson  
Rob Klouw & Katherine Randall - friends of Rachel Harrod  
Chet Johnston - friend of Frederick Wessel  
Brian Cain  
Mike Moore  
Erik and Paul Davis

Family of Mike Galant - friends of Maxwell R. Carter  
David Barnes - friend of Maxwell R. Carter  
Frances Kyser - friend of Tam Bevel & Judy Howard  
Deborah Lamb - aunt of Kaitlyn Huaroto, sister of Pam Huaroto  
Emily Loeb Locke - daughter of Betty Loeb  
Mr. Bookout - friend of Ron & Lisa Stephens  
Mr. Wade - friend of Ron & Lisa Stephens  
Nathan Harsh Brown Chitty - cousin of George Harsh  
Bennie Jacks - friend of George & Eleanor Harsh  
Emily Neely - daughter-in-law of Serena Neely  
Katie Little Pickle - great niece of Dave & Peggy Galloway  
Nancy Neely Harris - sister of Mary Margaret Cofield  
Marie Mitchell - mother of Libby Smith  
Antony Leo - brother of Lori Smith  
Charles Trainosky - grandson of Charlie Watkins  
Grant Adams - brother of Glen Adams  
David, Jessi, and Emma Grace Hill-friends of Davis Carter  
Jared Breach  
Claudia Fahrner  
Sam Eidt - friend of Betty and Ed Green  
Patty Monnett- friend of Katy Bryan

### **Members and Relatives in Specialty Care:**

Marlyn and Hoyt Harris (Brookdale)  
Cay Lambert (Huntsville Health & Rehab)  
Chuck Hooker (Floyd E. Tut Fann State Veteran's Home)  
Annewhite Fuller (Whitesburg Gardens)  
Kathleen Perry (Valley View)

### **Military & International:**

Prayers for Haiti and our mission partners. This is a critical time as the civil unrest there may undermine all humanitarian work.  
All those serving in the armed forces; particularly  
LT Connor Howard, U.S. Navy Pilot

# Leadership at First Presbyterian Church

## Ministry Team and Staff

(256) 536-3354

Dr. Karl Kling, *Transitional Senior Pastor*.....seniorpastor@fpchsv.org  
Lora Bohan, *First Friends Director*.....ffdirector@fpchsv.org  
Ellen DeAngelo, *Director of Finance & Administration*.....finance@fpchsv.org  
Kathy Gillmore, *Director of Christian Education*.....dce@fpchsv.org  
Dr. Patricia Hacker, *Director of Music*.....music@fpchsv.org  
Dr. Lois K. Lee, *Organist/Pianist*  
Anne Dillon Loflin, *Youth Director*.....youth@fpchsv.org  
Kristin Pepper, *Administrative Assistant*.....admin@fpchsv.org  
Gary Whited, *Facilities Coordinator*.....facilities@fpchsv.org

## CHURCH OFFICERS

### Elders:

Class of 2025  
Leigh Brown, Christian Education Committee  
Buddy Guynes, Finance Committee  
John Howard, Jr., Mission and Evangelism Committee  
Serena Neely, Worship Committee  
  
Class of 2026  
Caitlin Thomas, Christian Education Committee  
Houston Matthews, Finance Committee  
Diann Berry, Mission and Evangelism Committee  
David Young, Worship Committee  
  
Class of 2027  
James Lee, Christian Education Committee  
Hamilton Holliday Sr., Finance Committee  
Erin Cobb, Mission and Evangelism Committee  
Nicole Schroer, Worship Committee

### Pastor Nominating Committee:

Davis Carter  
Heath Causey  
Woodward Howard  
Stephanie Hyatt  
James Lee  
Barbara Rahrer  
Janis Williams

### Deacons:

Class of 2025  
Daniel Carter, Care Committee  
June Guynes, Fellowship Committee  
Clinton Wann, Hospitality Committee  
  
Class of 2026  
Katy Bryan, Care Committee  
Hudson Cornelius, Fellowship Committee  
Courtney Allen, Hospitality Committee  
  
Class of 2027  
Ginger Bryant, Care Committee  
Jenny Schreeder, Fellowship Committee  
Vicky Goodwin, Hospitality Committee

### Class of 2028 Officers-Elect

#### Deacons:

Marian Bevel-Care  
Dave Goodwin-Hospitality  
Brent Cobb- Fellowship

#### Elders:

Daniel Carter-Finance/Personnel  
Nancy Lundy-Missions/Evangelism  
Libby Rentz-Christian Education  
Sherry Smith-Worship

#### Trustees:

Mac Martinson, Andy Watson

### Trustees:

Class of 2025  
Jerry Gattis  
Charlie Watkins  
  
Class of 2026  
Roy McCorkle  
Angela Rawls  
  
Class of 2027  
Ryan Parker  
Melissa Rowe

### Presbyterian Women

Stella Wilson, Moderator



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**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

307 Gates Ave SE  
Huntsville, AL 35801