

Welcome to Worship



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Fayetteville, N.C. | Established 1800

STRANGERS AT
THE MANGER

JANUARY 4, 2026
11 a.m.

DR. MIKE GARRETT
SENIOR PASTOR

Service of Divine Worship

11:00 a.m. | January 4, 2026

Enter Reverently. Meditate Quietly. Worship Devoutly.
Leave Gratefully. Serve Christ Faithfully.

Prelude

"Swiss Noel"
Dr. Marcia Mervin, organ

Louis Calude D'Aquin

Welcome and Announcements

Dr. Mike Garrett

Call To Worship #132 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!" vs. 1 IN DULCI JUBILO

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!*

Prayer of Adoration

Hymn #150

"As With Gladness Men of Old"

DIX

Call to Confession

Rodney Baker

Prayer of Confession

O God, our guide, you once used a star to lead strangers to the light of Christ. We confess that we, your people, too often choose darkness over light. We ignore your spiritual direction, trusting ourselves more than we trust you. Forgive us God, for our waywardness. Shine your light once again in our lives, through the mercy of Christ, and guide our feet to walk a righteous path. Hear now the silent confessions of our hearts. (We pray in silence.) Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Response #581

"Glory Be to the Father"

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.*

Anthem	"Love Came Down At Christmas" The Celebration Choir Vickie Wells, soloist Alice Ann Campbell, accompanist	Allen Pote
Morning Prayer & The Lord's Prayer		Elder Rodney Baker
	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.	
Offering		
Offertory Anthem	"Jupiter Chorale from The Planets" Martha VorderBruegge, cello Alice Ann Campbell, accompanist	Gustav Holst
Doxology, #609	"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" <i>Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;</i> <i>Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!</i> <i>Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.</i> <i>Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!</i>	LASST UNS ERFREUEN
Offertory Prayer		
Time for Children	<i>Children are invited to Children's Church*</i>	
Scripture	Matthew 2:1-12	
Message	"Strangers At The Manger"	Dr. Mike Garrett
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper		
Communion Anthem	"Noel" Dr. Marcia Mervin, organ	Theodore Dubois

Benediction**Benediction Response***"Go Now In Peace"*

Besig and Price

*Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
 God will go with you each hour of every day.
 Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
 Know He will guide you in all you do.
 Go now in love, and show you believe.
 Reach out to others so all the world can see.
 God will be there watching from above.
 Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.*

Postlude

"Glory to God in the Highest" Giovanni Battista Pergolesi
 Dr. Marcia Mervin, organ

• Children's Church is available for elementary age children and younger, and meets in room 118 of the Nursery Wing. Childcare is available for all worship services in the Nursery Wing

**Join us for a time of fellowship immediately following the service in Eller Hall.
 Thank you to today's hosts: David's Mighty Men**

Today's Flowers

The Sanctuary flowers this Sunday are given to the glory of God
 and in loving memory of Maclyn 'Mackie' McDaniel Weeks by her family.

The Chapel flowers are given to the glory of God
 by the Chapel Flower Guild.

**Sanctuary flower donors are needed
 for January & February.**

Contact Debra Chestnutt at debra@chestnutt.com or (910) 818-9006

Monetary donations are welcome for flowers in the Sanctuary.
 Just indicate "Flower Fund" on envelope or check.

**Giving & Tithes**

Contributions help us continue our ministry and mission to serve Christ and share His gospel through meaningful worship, loving fellowship, spiritual growth, and compassionate outreach. Scan the code to the right to make a financial contribution -or- visit www.firstprez.com/give



HAPPENING TODAY

- 9 a.m. Worship Service
- 10 a.m. Sunday School
- 11 a.m. Worship Service
- 12:15 p.m. Music Vision Team Meeting
- 4:30 p.m. Kingdom Kidz & S.U.R.G.E.
- 5 p.m. The Gathering: Foundations

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday, January 5

- 5:30 p.m. Engagement Committee
- 6 p.m. Mission Committee

Tuesday, January 6

- 8:30 a.m. S.A.L.T. Breakfast at JK's
- 5:30 p.m. Worship Committee
- 6:30 p.m. CE Committee
- 7 p.m. Basketball in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, January 7

- 5 p.m. Women's Ensemble
- 5:30 p.m. All In Fellowship Meal
- 6:30 p.m. Adult Class with Dr. Garrett
- 6:30 p.m. Celebration Choir Devotional
- 7 p.m. Celebration Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 8

- 10 a.m. Tapestry
- 4 p.m. Upwards Pickleball League
- 4 p.m. Men of God
- 5 p.m. Hannah Circle
- 6 p.m. Courtside Connections Pickleball

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan 11 • Crossing Thresholds Sunday
- MomCo Meeting
- Jan 12 • Message Seekers
- Jan 13 • Martha Circle
- Stated Deacons Meeting
- Jan 14 • Stretch & Scripture
- Jan 16-19 • Youth Ski Trip
- Jan 19 • Church Office closed
- Personnel Committee
- Jan 20 • S.A.L.T. Lunch at Sammios
- 2026 Mission Conference Committee
- Stated Session Meeting
- Jan 25 • MomCo Meeting
- Jan 26 • Forty Days of Prayer begins
- David's Mighty Men
- Jan 27 • COAP Meeting (Zoom)
- Feb 24 • S.A.L.T. trip to NC Museum of Art
- Feb 28 • Ash Wednesday

**KINGDOM KIDZ
& S.U.R.G.E.
RESUME TODAY!
4:30 TO 6:30 P.M.
AND BEGIN THE
BIBLEYMPICS!**

**COME DRESSED TO SUPPORT THE
COUNTRY OF YOUR CHOICE!**



ALL IN FELLOWSHIP MEALS

with potluck sides, family & friends.

The church will provide the main entree. You can bring a salad, side, dessert or bread that will serve 8 to 10 people or pay \$8 per adult (age 13+) and \$3 per child (age 5-12). The meal cap is \$20 per family. Childcare available upon request—contact Wanda (wanda@firstprez.com) no later than the Sunday prior. Vegan & Gluten-Free options are available!

January 7 - Spaghetti from Sammio's

For planning purposes, please register online by Tuesday January 6 at 12 p.m. at bit.ly/AIFJan7 or scan the QR Code.



January 14 - Baked Chicken

with dressing & gravy from Kinlaw's

For planning purposes, please register online by Tuesday January 13 at 12 p.m. at bit.ly/AIFJan14 or scan the QR Code.



CROSSING THRESHOLDS

Visioning Journey

Sunday, January 11

After months of planning, we are so eager to launch our congregational visioning process on January 11. This process will result in discernment of our collective aspirations as a church for the next season of life and ministry, while also equipping our Pastor Nominating Committee for searching for our next Senior Pastor. After months of planning and preparation, Launch Sunday moves us into the Visioning Journey proper with the two following events.

Morning Worship

During worship, we will be collectively commissioned to engage the Crossing Thresholds Visioning Journey. Rev. Mark Tidsworth, our visioning consultant, will bring the sermon, launching us forward into a season of dreaming dreams and spiritual imagination. In a very fitting way, we are also ordaining and commissioning our Elders and Deacons for 2026 on Launch Sunday.

Crossing Thresholds Launch Banquet, 4:45 to 6:30 p.m.

Our Crossing Thresholds Coordination Team invites our church to this Launch Event, featuring:

- An overview of the Crossing Thresholds Visioning Journey with visioning consultant Rev. Mark Tidsworth. Mark will describe each step in the journey, informing our congregation on how we can participate in shaping our future vision.
- An engagement activity around church identity. Rev. Tidsworth will facilitate an opportunity for us to clarify and embrace our identity as FPC of Fayetteville. ***We need your voice for this activity to be aligned with who we are as a church.***
- Receive your copy of Crossing Thresholds Prayer Guide, along with guidance on how to participate in our Forty Days of Prayer, January 26-March 12. Also, we will learn how worship and small groups will work with our Forty Days of Prayer to strengthen our spiritual growth and visioning.



For planning purposes, please register for the Crossing Thresholds Launch Banquet.

You may register online at bit.ly/FPCCrossing or by scanning the QR code. For assistance, please contact the church office.

Scan Me

s.a.l.t.

Seasoned Adults
Learning Together

S.A.L.T. Fellowship Breakfast

Tuesday, January 6

JK's Deli at 8:30 a.m.

Lunch at Sammio's - Tuesday, January 20 at 11:30 a.m.

We will meet at Sammio's, located at 2623 Raeford Road. Cost will be lunch. Please RSVP by January 13. Contact Sarah Cromartie at 910-977-1813.

Adult Christian Education Class

with Dr. Garrett

beginning Wednesday, January 7 at 6:30 p.m.

The Scripture Practice

a 4 week video & discussion series

The library we call "the Bible" can connect us to God and change who we are, but distraction, hurry, and confusion can hinder our experience with these ancient texts. Rediscover how to engage Scripture as an apprentice to Jesus.



**PICKLEBALL YOUTH LEAGUES
ARE COMING**

TO FIRST PREZ!

**STARTS
THURSDAY
JANUARY 8**



Grades 4-12

ONLY TWO OPEN SPOTS LEFT!

To register, contact Jess Jones

at youth@firstprez.com

**REGISTER
TODAY!**

BEGINNING JANUARY 8 ...

THURSDAYS ARE PICKLE-TASTIC!



4 P.M. Upward Pickleball Youth Leagues
in Fellowship Hall

6 P.M. Courtside Connections Pickleball

A fun, friendly night for all skill levels. No experience needed.

Open to everyone 6th graders through adults.

Upward players are encouraged to continue the fun
with players of all skill levels!





First Presbyterian Church
102 Ann Street Fayetteville, N.C.

ARE YOU A FIRST TIME VISITOR?

We'd love to connect with you!

Be sure to fill out a Connect Card and put it in the offering plate or leave it with the pastor on your way out. We also have a gift for you!

PASTORAL STAFF

Dr. Michael Garrett, Senior Pastor
Rev. Chris Carson,
Minister of Pastoral Care

CONTACT US

(910) 483-0121
info@firstprez.com

PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. Marcia Mervin,
Director of Music Ministry & Organist
Jessica Jones,
Director of Youth Ministry &
Interim Director of Children's Ministry
Nichole Russ,
Director of Communications
Anji Martinez,
Office Manager

STAY CONNECTED!

WEBSITE

www.firstprez.com

LIVE STREAM

www.firstprez.com/worship-with-us

FACEBOOK

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instagram.com/firstprezfay

SUPPORT STAFF

Storie Smith, Administrative Assistant
Nina McLaughlin, Facility Supervisor

AUDIO VISUAL

Don Perkins
Stephen Kelly
Hoyt K.
Scott M.
Bruce McRae
Jacob Regensburger
Martha Vorder Bruegge

MUSIC SUPPORT STAFF

Alice Ann Campbell, Accompanist & Assistant Organist
Tim Lloyd, Section Leader
Joe Evans, Section Leader
Erin Jackson, Choral Scholar
Bruce McRae, Choral Scholar
Theodore Schwamm, Choral Scholar
Annalise Sears, Choral Scholar

Sunday Services

9 a.m. Early Service, Chapel | 11 a.m. Service, Sanctuary

Our mission at First Presbyterian Church is to **serve** Jesus Christ and **share** His gospel through meaningful worship, loving fellowship, spiritual growth, and compassionate outreach within our community and throughout the world.

#ServeandShare