

## SUNDAY SCHOOL - 10:15 AM EACH SUNDAY

NOTE: THERE IS NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY; 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](http://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 10<sup>th</sup> 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:** 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade, Student Center (across McCallie Ave.)

**Kid's Sunday School:** Pre K - 5<sup>th</sup> grade, ground, 1<sup>st</sup>, & 2<sup>nd</sup> level Children's Wing

**Nursery:** Infant - 4-years-old

## NEW & UPCOMING AT 1<sup>ST</sup> PRES

### ***New Year's Eve Reception***

Please join us following the service in the Fellowship Hall for a casual time of food and fellowship!

### ***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 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](http://1stPresbyterian.com/Women) for more information and to register.

### ***First Cup Men's Breakfast - January 9***

1st Pres Men are invited to join us for our next monthly breakfast on Tuesday, January 9 on the 10th floor of the Tower from 7am - 8am. Come get some good food, delicious coffee, and a soul-quenching devotional!

### ***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](http://1stPresbyterian.com/Midweek) for more details!

### ***Woman at the Well - January 18***

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, January 18 from 6:30pm - 8pm for Woman at the Well! We'll enjoy a testimony from one of our women, fellowship, fun and a delicious dessert. No registration needed, and friends are welcome! For childcare, please email [Emily@1stPresbyterian.com](mailto:Emily@1stPresbyterian.com) by January 15.

### ***Hearts & Hammers***

Starting Saturday, January 20, our Community Outreach Ministry and Mercy & Compassion Diaconate Committee will be launching a monthly Service Day on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://1stPresbyterian.com/Events) for more information, or contact Director of Community Outreach Shad Guinn at [Shad@1stPresbyterian.com](mailto:Shad@1stPresbyterian.com).



*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 31, 2023

10:00 AM

† Please stand as you are able.

### THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

#### WORSHIP REFLECTION

It is well that there is one stable rock amidst the changing billows of this sea of life. For how many and how grievous have been the changes of this last year?

The satisfaction that the mariner feels when, after having been tossed about for many a day, he puts his foot upon the solid shore, is just the satisfaction of a Christian when, amidst all the changes of this troublesome life, he plants the foot of his faith upon such a text as this — "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever."

— adapted from Charles Haddon Spurgeon

#### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Lord, we launch our boats on the unknown waters of this new year, with You, O Father, as our harbor, with You, O Son, at our helm, and with You, O Holy Spirit, filling our sails. Give us Your abounding grace so that our lives are more satisfying and less selfish, more fulfilling and less driven, more peaceful and less guilt ridden, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### GATHERING SONG

**"His Mercy Is More"**

#### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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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](http://1stPresbyterian.com/Events).

## THE PRAISE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

### † CALL TO WORSHIP

*Hebrews 13:5b-6 NIV*

Pastor: God has said,  
“Never will I leave you;  
never will I forsake you.”

**People: So we say with confidence,  
“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.  
What can mere mortals do to me?”**

### † PRAYER OF INVOCATION

### † HYMNS OF PRAISE

*“Our God, Our Help in Ages Past” No. 30 (vv. 1-4,6-7)  
“All Glory Be to Christ”*

### † AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor: What value do you place on knowing Christ?

**People: Indeed, I count everything as loss  
because of the surpassing worth  
of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.  
For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things  
and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ  
and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own  
that comes from the law,  
but that which comes through faith in Christ,  
the righteousness from God that depends on faith.**  
*– Philippians 3:8-9*

### CONFESSION OF SIN

*adapted from The Valley of Vision, A Collection of Puritan Prayers*

**Gracious Father, we come pleading Your pardon.  
For we are slow to learn, prone to forget and weak to climb.  
We are in the foothills when we should be on the heights.  
We are pained by our graceless hearts,  
our prayerless days, our poverty of love,  
our slothfulness in the heavenly race,  
our sullied consciences,  
our wasted hours, and unspent opportunities.  
We are blind while the light shines around us.  
Take the scales from our eyes.  
Grind to dust our heart of unbelief.  
Make it our highest joy to study You,  
meditate on You, and gaze upon Your beauty.  
May we sit, like Mary, at Your feet;  
lean, like John, on Your breast,  
appeal, like Peter, to Your love,  
count, like Paul, all things loss  
in light of knowing Jesus Christ our Lord.  
We believe; help our unbelief. Amen.**

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*Hebrews 9:14 ESV*

How much more will the blood of Christ,  
Who through the eternal Spirit  
offered Himself without blemish to God,  
purify our conscience from dead works  
to serve the living God.

### HYMN OF ASSURANCE

*“Nothing but the Blood”*

### COVENANT BAPTISM

*Palmer Grace Young, daughter of Campbell & Carter Young*

### PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

### OFFERTORY

*“Our Faith in God Alone” by Mary McDonald*

### GREETING & DISMISSAL TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH

*Please take your PreK-1<sup>st</sup> grade children to the check-in  
station by the 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> department on the main Sanctuary level.*

### † DOXOLOGY

## THE WORD FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

### SERMON

***“The Steady Savior”***  
**Hebrews 13:8**  
Gabriel N.E. Fluhrer

### OUTLINE

1. The Stability We Crave
2. The Savior Who Satisfies

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*Stay connected and informed with the 1st Pres app. Text APP to 423-888-0345.  
554 McCallie Avenue Chattanooga, TN 37402  
Office (423) 267-1206 Office@1stPresbyterian.com [www.1stPresbyterian.com](http://www.1stPresbyterian.com)*

### † HYMN OF RESPONSE

***“Be Thou My Vision”***

## 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

*“Praise Him, Praise Him” arr. Susan Whitacre*

*Celtic Ensemble*

<b>Giving Update</b>	<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	\$494,713



*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.*

*2024 – This year marks the 100th anniversary of the  
McCallie/Anderson/Clyatt Sunday school class. The flowers are given today in  
celebration and to the Glory of God.*

*The flowers will be arranged by the Flower Committee and delivered by  
volunteers to our homebound and hospitalized on Tuesday, January 2.*