



CHURCH PROFILE

Revised October 2026



300 North Cherry Street
Winston Salem, North Carolina 27101
1stpres.com

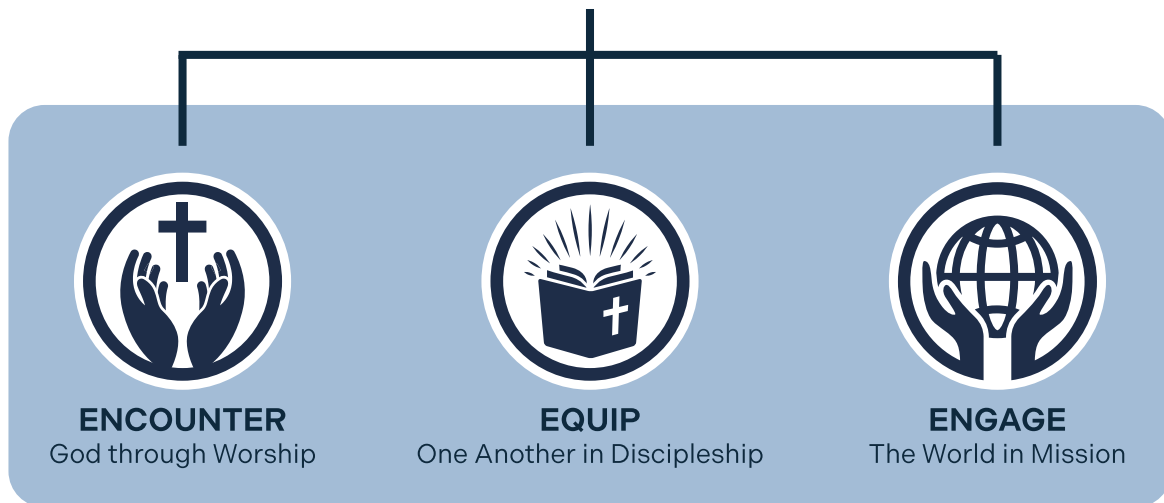
ABOUT US

OUR LEGACY

Since 1862, First Presbyterian Church has been a light for Christ in downtown Winston Salem, proclaiming the truth of the Gospel to our neighbors and serving those in need, both near and far.

OUR MISSION

To invite all people to say **"Yes!"** to Jesus with their whole lives through worship, discipleship, and engaging in mission. We do this as we:



OUR FUTURE

The staff and covenant partners at First Presbyterian Church are excited about the future! We have a body of strong lay leaders and teachers, partnering with our pastors to shepherd our community through our missional strategy of Encountering God through Worship, Equipping One Another in Discipleship, and Engaging the World in Mission.

Through our programs and ministries, we seek to meet the needs of a multi-generational church body and to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus alongside our missional partners. Our church has been richly blessed with opportunities and resources, and we take seriously what is required of those to whom much has been given. We strive to be good forgivers and encouragers, to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8).

OUR IDENTITY

We are a community of Christians who are reliant upon God's grace, the promise of His Word, and the power of His Holy Spirit. We are a body of believers who pray for and serve one another, our city, and our global partners, committed to inviting all people to say "yes!" to Jesus with their whole lives. We remind each other of our own need for daily submission and surrender to Christ, who has the power to heal and transform us into His image.

The covenant partners at First Presbyterian Church are grateful for the legacy of a thriving downtown church, active in Winston-Salem since 1862. And we are excited about our future! In our church, you'll find a blend of contemporary and traditional, current and historic, looking inward and reaching outward.

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In February 2025, Reverend Blake Daniel was called as Senior Pastor of First Presbyterian Church. A graduate of Duke Divinity School, Blake previously served for nearly a decade as pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Sylva, North Carolina. During his first year and a half, Blake has demonstrated gifts as a preacher, pastor, and leader, and the congregation has welcomed him enthusiastically. Under his leadership, the church has experienced steady growth, completed a major renovation, and explored ministry themes of "Godspeed" (focusing on the pace of God) and "With" (focusing on the presence of God). The addition of an Executive Pastor has been part of the church's leadership vision since before Blake's arrival, and the church is now entering that search with hope and anticipation.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Historical Timeline

October 4, 1862

First Presbyterian Church of Winston was founded with 8 members.

1887

163 active members and 25 non-resident members.

January 26, 1890

New church building is completed & dedicated; Sunday School building added in 1906.

1913

The Moravian town of Salem and the city of Winston merged to form the new city of Winston Salem.

1953

First Presbyterian Church expands to 2 services & commits to staying at its downtown location.

1972

New Sanctuary & education wing are built in the original location on Cherry Street in downtown Winston Salem.

Mid-1990s

First Presbyterian Church begins offering a contemporary worship service.

2007

Newly constructed Worship Center is built as a location for the contemporary worship services & other various uses for the Church & community.

2015

First Presbyterian Church changes its denominational home to ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians.

2025

First Presbyterian Church completes a \$2MM campus enhancement project with updates to the Fellowship Hall, office building, and campus layout (parking, grounds, etc.)

Pastoral Staff

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor for Congregational Care

Associate Pastor for Discipleship & Mission

Executive Pastor (new)

Additional Staff

Full-time = 13

Part-time = 15

Covenant Partners (Members)

Total = 1,062

2026 average attendance through July 30:

In-person: 491

Online (live views): 47

Financial Report

2026 Budget: \$ 3,133,920

First Presbyterian Church is debt free.

Our Campus



BUILDING A

Sanctuary, Chapel, Fellowship Hall, Children's Ministry, Adult Discipleship



BUILDING B

Church offices, Student Ministry



BUILDING C

Worship Center

PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES

Encounter God through **WORSHIP**

Worship is primarily about God: who God is and what God has done. We are summoned to give glory, honor, thanks, and praise to the Triune God with our whole selves, everywhere we find ourselves. But gathered worship is the foundational means for us to be the people of God together in God's presence. Gathered worship shapes us more into the image of Jesus as we tell and participate in God's True Story over and over again.

A typical worship service at First Presbyterian includes a message based on Scripture; music which enriches the message, and liturgical elements. We also celebrate the sacrament of Communion monthly and on special occasions.

We embrace two styles of worship at First Pres:



TRADITIONAL Sanctuary

This service features an organ and choir and is comprised of traditional music and liturgy.



MODERN Worship Center

This service features a liturgical framework similar to the traditional service but with contemporary music.

Though styles may differ, the messages and themes of the weekly services strive to present the Gospel consistently in ways that speak effectively to diverse audiences.

PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES

Equip one another in **DISCIPLESHIP**

We view discipleship as being transformed together into the image of Jesus for the sake of others. Growing in the image of Jesus is not simply an individual thing; it is a communal one. We encourage and equip one another to create space in our lives for the Spirit to shape us so that we may love God and love others as Jesus does.



Children's Ministry

Preschool and Elementary

Discipleship opportunities for our little ones include Sunday morning and Wednesday evening programming rich with age-appropriate lessons. During the Sunday morning worship hour, children grades K-3rd may participate in Children's Church. Other opportunities throughout the year include VBS and Preschool Storytime.



Student Ministry

Middle and High School

Discipleship opportunities for students include Sunday School, high school youth group, middle school Connect, and other opportunities throughout the year.

Eighth grade students may participate in Confirmation, a year-long process of mentoring with the option to affirm their faith at its conclusion.



Adults

Adult discipleship opportunities include Sunday School, small groups, Bible studies for both men and women, MomCo, and five to six retreats each year.

To learn more about opportunities for adults, visit the following pages on our website: [Men's Ministry](#), [Women's Ministry](#), [Small Groups](#), and [Sunday School](#).

For more information on children's and student's discipleship at First Pres, click on the images above.

PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES

Engage the World in **MISSION**

To engage the world in mission is to participate joyfully in the Triune God's mission to reconcile all things to Him. We do so by proclaiming the Gospel with our words, by serving humbly and by living into God's work of reconciliation, peace, and justice in the world. We do all this wherever we find ourselves, and wherever God leads.



LOCAL MISSION

First Presbyterian has a rich history of pouring into the community via our local missional partners. These missional partners focus on a variety of needs: homelessness, addiction recovery, education, hunger, and many more. Our covenant partners faithfully give their time and energy to show Christ's love to these community partners and our neighbors, and as a church, we financially support 15+ of these local organizations.



GLOBAL MISSION

First Presbyterian has several decades long relationships with missional partners across the globe. Our covenant partners consistently travel to connect relationally, provide labor, and share the Gospel with our global brothers and sisters. We financially support 8+ of these global missional partners.

For more information on missions at First Presbyterian, click on the images above.

OUR DESIRED EXECUTIVE PASTOR

Our desired Executive Pastor is grounded in a deep love for God, translating that love into action through effective organizational leadership, sound biblical scholarship, pastoral presence, and a commitment to ECO's Essential Tenets. An ordained (or ordainable) pastor holding an M.Div., this leader possesses a proven understanding of how healthy, effective ministries operate. Core gifts include big-picture strategic planning, team leadership, financial and human resources oversight, governance, and administrative systems management.

Working in close partnership with the Senior Pastor, the Executive Pastor will share in the ministry of stewardship and holy alignment, translating leadership's vision into clear, sustainable execution. This leader will unify the gifts of our staff, lay leaders, and covenant partners into a cohesive plan supporting First Pres' mission of inviting all people to say "yes" to Jesus with their whole lives.

As an Associate Pastor, this minister will anchor our full range of ministries, evaluate opportunities for growth, assist in worship leadership and sacraments, and participate in officer development. The Executive Pastor will directly supervise key administrative and operational leaders—including our Business Administrator—ensuring that our systems serve our spiritual mission.

Managing change with skill, grace, and wisdom, our ideal candidate understands timing, sequencing, and feasibility, embodying "traditioned innovation"—a way of thinking and leading that points toward the future in light of our past.

JOB DESCRIPTION

EXECUTIVE PASTOR (an Associate Pastor position)

PURPOSE: The Ministry of Stewardship and Holy Alignment

The Executive Pastor is called to a ministry of stewardship and holy alignment, ensuring that the staff, systems, and strategies of FPC produce healthy and effective ministries. Recognizing that “all things should be done decently and in order,” this role provides shepherd-like oversight of the common life of our congregation.

The Executive Pastor ministers to the church and staff through the graceful exercise of administrative gifts, stewarding the church’s policies, committee structures, and operational systems to foster a staff culture that is spiritually vibrant and organizationally sound. This is a distinct calling of “second-chair” leadership, focused on the health of the institution alongside the Senior Pastor, who is devoted to the Ministry of the Word and shepherding the congregation.

In this role, therefore, the Executive Pastor serves as the leader for staff and organizational alignment, exercising pastoral and organizational authority to lead the church in the unified execution of its mission and vision.

MINISTRY RESPONSIBILITIES

In Service to the Senior Pastor

- Cultivate a partnership with the Senior Pastor marked by grace, candor, and trust.
- In a spirit of shared leadership, work in close partnership with the Senior Pastor in the development of staff, with the goal of establishing clear and sustainable patterns of leadership and accountability across the church.
- Represent the vision of the Senior Pastor and the mission of FPC, serving as a strategic catalyst to translate this vision into effective ministry planning and execution.

Strategic Planning & Discernment

- Lead Strategic Planning, establishing three-year goals that align with our vision, mission, and core values.
- Establish and monitor Vibrancy Markers that provide ongoing visibility into the spiritual health and effectiveness of First Presbyterian Church.
- Encourage the Session and committees toward greater alignment, ensuring our governance structures support the movement of the Spirit.

Shepherding the Staff

- Staff Development: Provide direct leadership and development of church staff, including Associate Pastors and ministry leaders, to foster both spiritual vitality and ministry effectiveness.
- Staff Leadership: Lead regular staff meetings, goal setting, and performance development processes, ensuring clarity of direction and unity of purpose.
- Staff Flourishing: Cultivate a healthy staff culture of trust, humility, collaboration, and shared mission.

Organizational Alignment & Operations

- Organization: Ensure that all ministries and departments are aligned with the mission, vision, and strategic priorities of the church, conducting prayerful and ongoing discernment of staff architecture, the health of our reporting relationships, and the clarity of our shared calling.

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- **Operations:** Work closely with the Business Administrator, who oversees the implementation and execution of operational systems (e.g., finance, facilities, HR, and IT), while providing direction, alignment, and pastoral oversight for these functions in service of the church's mission.
- **Resource Alignment:** Provide pastoral oversight of budgeting process (with execution by the Business Administrator), ensuring that resources are aligned with ministry priorities.
- **Legacy Giving:** Provide pastoral oversight of our ongoing Legacy Giving program.
- **Special Initiatives:** Lead the church in capital campaigns, campus development, church planting strategy, and other strategic initiatives as necessary.

Ecclesial & Sacramental Service

- **Officer Development:** Support the Nominating Committee in identifying, preparing, and discipling Elders and Deacons.
- **Pastoral Presence:** Assist in Sunday services, preach occasionally, officiate weddings and funerals, and participate in visitation to strengthen unity and shared mission.

REQUIREMENTS & QUALIFICATIONS

- **Education:** Master of Divinity or equivalent degree is required.
- **Ordination:** Must be ordained or eligible for ordination in ECO.
- **Theology:** Must be committed to the Essential Tenets of the Reformed Christian Tradition as outlined in ECO documents, with a vibrant and maturing personal faith.
- **Progressive management experience,** preferably in a large church setting, in regard to:
 - Leadership development, team building, and delegation
 - Organization/administration
 - Strategic planning
 - Financial principles
 - Human resource principles
 - **Commitment:** A willingness to commit to at least five years of service in this role.

RELATIONSHIPS

- Serves as an ex-officio member of Personnel, Facilities and Finance, and Strategic Planning Committees of the church.
- Directly supervises the Business Administrator, Communications Manager, and Lead Administrative Assistant, while providing leadership and guidance to the other Associate Pastors as determined.
- Evaluated by the Personnel Committee of Session and the Senior Pastor.

How to Apply

Please e-mail the following to our Executive Pastor Nominating Committee at epnc@1stpnes.com.

1. **Cover Letter:** A letter of introduction that includes your personal story of faith.
2. **Resume:** Your professional resume highlighting experience and strengths related to this position.
3. **Work Samples:** Links to two or more recorded sermons, teachings, or other presentations.
4. **Short Response:** A brief description of your approach to coordinating teams and specific ways you have helped teams stay aligned around a mission.

ABOUT WINSTON SALEM

A City of Education, Medicine, and Innovation

Winston Salem is a beautiful city located in the heart of North Carolina's Piedmont region. With just over 250,000 residents, Winston Salem is thriving. Our rankings for job growth outlook and safety are among the best nationwide. Our cost of living is lower than our in-state neighboring cities of Charlotte and Raleigh.

Winston Salem is approximately a two-hour drive from the Appalachian Mountains – not to be missed each fall – and four hours from the beautiful beaches of the Atlantic coast. The closest airport, located in Greensboro, NC is just 25 minutes away and two additional international airports, Charlotte and Raleigh-Durham, are each less than two hours away.

Winston Salem is a city of education and home to multiple universities and colleges:

Forsyth Technical Community College
Salem College
University of North Carolina School of the Arts
Wake Forest University
Wake Forest University School of Medicine
Winston-Salem State University

Highlights:

Forsyth Technical Community College is a public community college, one of the largest in the North Carolina Community College System with an enrollment of over 11,000 credit students and over 24,000 Corporate and Continuing Education students. Forsyth Tech offers a dual enrollment program for high school students to earn college credit.

Wake Forest University is ranked No. #51 in National Universities and No. #12 in Best Undergraduate Teaching (2026 edition of Best Colleges). Wake Forest is home to 5,600 undergraduate students and offers professional education in law, business, medicine, and divinity. Wake Forest hosts a full range of intercollegiate athletics, competing in the Atlantic Coast Conference and is home of Reynolda House, a major museum of American art.

Winston-Salem State University, founded in 1893, is a respected HBCU which ranks number one in the North Carolina university system for in-state job placement for graduates. It also has a nationally ranked nursing program.

Winston Salem is home to two large medical systems: Atrium Wake Forest Baptist and Novant Health. Atrium Wake Forest Baptist brings a multitude of medical students, interns, and residents to the area through its partnership with Wake Forest University School of Medicine. It is home to Brenner's Children's Hospital, the region's first and only Level One Pediatric Trauma Care unit and dedicated pediatric emergency department which operates 24/7. Novant Health's Forsyth Medical Center serves as the largest healthcare facility in the Novant Health network, offering extensive medical, surgical, and emergency care. Together, these institutions provide superb medical care to our city and beyond.

Winston Salem is a hub for innovation. Winston Salem's Innovation Quarter is one of the country's leading innovation districts – a mixed-use hub of innovation, creativity, and economic activity. This district, located in the heart of the city just a few blocks away from First Presbyterian Church, has seen over one million square feet of old tobacco factory space transformed into labs, co-working spaces, residences, restaurants, and retail stores.

EXPLORE OUR CITY

Click images to view links.

