

Frequently Asked Questions about First Presbyterian Church

Where are you located? 500 Park Street is between the Hwy 250 bypass and downtown Charlottesville, at the corner of Maple and Park Streets.

Is there parking? There is a large lot (northeast of the building) accessed from Maple and 7th. A small lot next to the sanctuary has a Park Street driveway and connects to the large lot. This upper lot has handicapped-accessible spaces; the entire lot is reserved for the walking impaired on Sundays only.

What accommodations are made for physical disabilities? Listening devices for the hearing impaired are available from the ushers.

Large print copies of worship bulletins are available from the ushers. Projectors are used in the sanctuary to project Bible verses and music lyrics.

There is a ramp for entry to the sanctuary adjacent to the north parking lot, where there are handicapped-accessible parking spaces. Access to the lower level classrooms is available from the drop-off area of the upper lot. Access to the Chapel is from an accessible sidewalk along Maple Street.

Accessible restrooms are located on both floors.

What about childcare? We provide care for children during each of our Sunday morning services (by appointment only for the 8 a.m. service) with staffed nurseries that cater to infants and toddlers in particular. Equipped with a parent paging system, we assure good care for children during those seasons in life when it is difficult for them to participate in worship with their families. In addition to child care during worship services, we also offer a Sunday school experience for children of all ages during the Sunday school hour, when parents can also attend adult classes on their own.

Who can receive communion? All baptized persons or those who put their trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, are welcome at the Lord's Table, regardless of church affiliation.

How do we become members? Membership is open to anyone who professes faith in Jesus Christ as Savior, accepts his Lordship in all of life and who desires to worship, grow and serve with us. The Session (the governing body of elders and ministers of the church) receives new members upon their transfer of membership from another church, reaffirmation of faith, profession of faith or profession of faith and baptism. New member classes are offered three times a year: late September/October, late January/February, and May.

How soon do I have to join after I start attending? Membership is not required for inclusion in all aspects of congregational life, except election to office.

Do I have to give money to be a member? No.

How do I schedule a wedding here? Scheduling is through the church office. Non-members attend a new members class series but are not required to join the congregation.

How do I schedule a baptism, a funeral or a memorial? Contact the church office or one of the pastors. When death has occurred or is imminent, the pastors or church office should be notified promptly so that pastoral care can be provided to the family.

How do I make a prayer request? Through the church office, by contacting a pastor, or by completing a prayer request card in the church foyer (narthex) or the welcome center, where submission boxes are located.