

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Bringing hope to the heart of Charleston and beyond.



Palm Sunday
April 13, 2025 | 10:30am

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

16 Leon Sullivan Way • Charleston, WV 25301 • 304-343-8961 • www.firstpresby.com

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. William C. Myers

Ministers: All members of the congregation

*A warm welcome is extended to all who worship today.
May the gift of worship we offer honor God and serve as a blessing to you.*

We are grateful you chose to worship with us today. Please take a moment to sign in via the Friendship Pads located at the ends of the pews. We use this information to keep in touch about church events. We hope you will take a moment to read about news and events happening in the life of the church, found in the worship bulletin after this morning's order of service. Please share news and notes with your friends and neighbors!

All children are welcome and encouraged to participate in worship.

A reflection for worship:

*"Trust the past to God's mercy, the present to God's love, and the future to God's providence."
Augustine of Hippo*

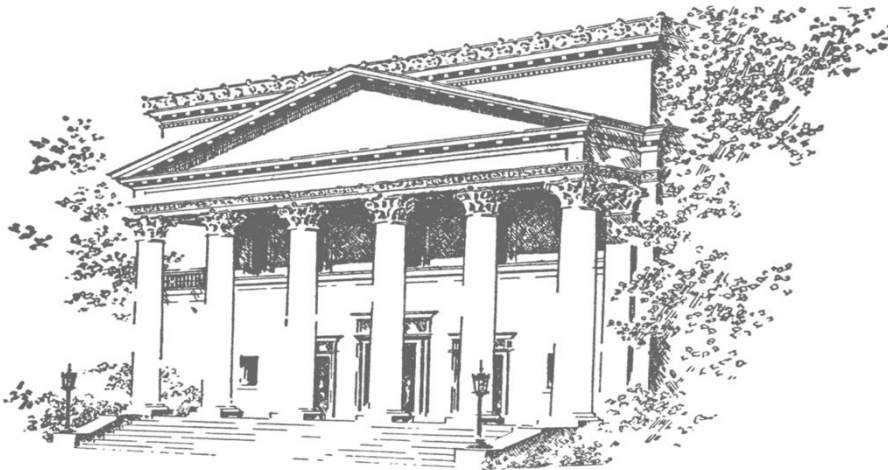
The following scriptures are provided for silent meditation during the prelude:

Liturgy of the Palms
Luke 19:28-40 • Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Liturgy of the Passion
Isaiah 50:4-9a • Psalm 31:9-16 • Philippians 2:5-11 • Luke 22:14-23:56

Cover art:

Entry into the City
John August Swanson (b. 1938)



*Seek the welfare of the city
where I have sent you...
and pray to the Lord
on its behalf for in its welfare
you will find your welfare.
Jeremiah 29:7*

The Worship of Our Lord

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO...

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

**indicates congregation standing, as able.*

PROCESSIONAL

Processional on "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

arr. Cynthia Dobrinski
First Presby Handbells

WELCOME

Pastor Myers

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRAISE ALMIGHTY GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Taylor Raab

One: Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good!

All: God's steadfast love endures forever!

One: Open to us the gates of righteousness, that we may enter and give thanks to the Lord.

All: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!

One: Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

All: Hosanna in the highest!

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Taylor Raab

All: Almighty God, with palms in our hands and praise on our lips, we welcome you today as the one who saves. You hold all of creation in your hands, and yet, you came humbly to serve, to heal, and to redeem. As we journey from celebration to sorrow, may we trust that your hands hold us always. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE #196 All Glory, Laud, and Honor

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

CONFESS TO OUR FORGIVING CREATOR

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Myers

One: As we wave palm branches today, we are reminded of our fickle hearts – so quick to praise and yet so quick to turn away. The same heart that welcome Christ may also resist his call.

All: Let us confess our sins before the one who holds us in grace.

**Triumphant God,
We join the crowds of the ages
In shouting your praises.
While our lips give you glory,
Our lives seldom reflect your purposes.
We sing easily of your greatness,
But living faithfully is often beyond us.
We hear of your salvation,
Yet sin is still close and real,
Daily leading us away from you.
Have mercy on us.
Ride into our hearts with healing grace.
Forgive what we have done
And direct what we shall be.
Lord, save us. Hosanna!**

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Hear the good news: Though Christ was in the form of God, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him and given him the name above all names, that every knee should bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. In him, we are forgiven.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is primarily homophonic, with chords moving in parallel motion. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - - men, a - - men." The score consists of four systems of two staves each (treble and bass clef). The piece concludes with a final cadence marked with a double bar line and a fermata.

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Pastor Myers

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 19:28-40

Taylor Raab
page 83, *New Testament*

SCRIPTURE LESSON Psalm 31:9-16

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Taylor Raab
page 506, *Old Testament*

ANTHEM**Ave Verum Corpus**

Edward Elgar

*Ave verum corpus,
natum de Maria virgine,
Vere passum, immolatum
in cruce pro homine.
Cujus latus perforatum
vero fluxit sanguine;
Esto nobis prægustatum,
mortis in examine.*

*O Clemens, O pie,
O dulci Jesu,
Fili Mariæ.*

Hail, true body,
Born of the virgin Mary;
Who has truly suffered, slaughtered
On the cross for humanity.
Whose side was pierced,
And it flowed with blood.
Be a foretaste for us
During our ordeal of death

O mercy, O holy,
O sweet Jesus,
Son of Mary.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 23:13–46

Pastor Myers

One: This is the word of the Lord.

page 88, New Testament

All: **Thanks be to God.**

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

Pastor Myers

Children in grades 1–5 are dismissed to Children’s Church in Room E–117/119
or they may remain in the sanctuary with their parents.

SERMON

“The Hands that Hold Us”

Pastor Myers

***HYMN #197**

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

ELLACOMBE

DEDICATE OUR LIVES TO GOD***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—from the Confession of 1967 - PC(USA)**

Taylor Raab

The church gathers to praise God, to hear [God’s] word for [humanity], to baptize and to join in the Lord’s Supper, to pray for and present the world to [God] in worship, to enjoy fellowship, to receive instruction, strength, and comfort, to order and organize its own corporate life, to be tested, renewed, and reformed, and to speak and act in the world’s affairs as may be appropriate to the needs of the time. The church disperses to serve God wherever its members are, at work or play, in private or in the life of society. Their prayer and Bible study are part of the church’s worship and theological reflection. Their witness is the church’s evangelism. Their daily action in the world is the church in mission to the world. The quality of their relation with other persons is the measure of the church’s fidelity.

JOYS & CONCERNS

Pastor Myers

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Pastor Myers

All: **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.**

Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther,
 there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.
 Thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions they fail not.
 As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
Refrain
 Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!
 Morn - ing by morn - ing, new mer - cies I see.
 All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed.
 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!

OFFER OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

*Please bring your offering forward during the offertory.
 You may also text "firstpresby" to 73256 to give from your mobile device.*

OFFERTORY

Thy Rebuke Hath Broken His Heart

G.F. Handel

Behold, and See If There Be Any Sorrow

Tom Marchio, tenor

Thy rebuke hath broken his heart;

Behold, and see, if there be any sorrow like unto his sorrow.

He is full of heaviness.

He looked for some to have pity on him,

But there was no man,

Neither found he any to comfort him,

***OFFERING RESPONSE #607** Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise Christ, all people here below
 Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
 Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

OLD HUNDREDTH

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION**

GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN #198	Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!	ST. DROSTANE
*BENEDICTION		Pastor Myers
CLOSING VOLUNTARY	Toccatina in D minor	J.S. Bach

OUR WORSHIP CONTINUES IN OUR SERVICE TO OTHERS.

Worship is broadcast at 11:00am on WCHS 580AM
Worship is also available on our YouTube channel: First Presby WV
Follow us on Facebook: First Presbyterian Church Charleston, WV

WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Dr. William C. Myers
Taylor Raab

CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS

Doug & Janet Chambers
Kathryn Pinto

AUDIO & VIDEO

Byron Goodew
David Cottrell

THE MUSIC TODAY

Jayson Keeton, Director of Music & Organist
Tom Marchio, tenor
The Sanctuary Choir
First Presby Handbells
Kathy Lynch, director

NURSERY

Margaret Jones

CUSTODIAL SERVICES

David Feibelmann

THE STAFF OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

William Myers, Pastor/Head of Staff
Jayson Keeton, Director of Music & Organist
Jenny Pitchford, Financial Services Manager
Diana Vorhees, Office Administrator
Chelsea Greathouse, Office Assistant

Anne Moses, Director of the Preschool
Erin Stone, Preschool Office Administrator
Bernard Wooten, Preschool Custodian
Steven Barrett, Facilities Manager
Jeff Kirk, Church Custodian

VBS 2025

Vacation Bible School will take place in the evenings on June 9th – 12th. Stay tuned for more info!

GOOD FRIDAY ORGAN MEDITATION

You don't want to miss the 12-hour organ mediation on Good Friday, April 18th right here at First Presby. Please note that all doors will be open for the two main services at 12pm and 7pm but for the rest of the day into the evening, the only accessible entrances will be the front sanctuary doors on Virginia St.

CHILDREN'S CLOTHING DRIVE

First Presby Preschool is partnering with The Gabriel Project from April 1st through the 18th to help fulfill a community need of young children's clothing. We ask that donated and used clothing, sized 18M to 4T, be in good condition with no stains or tears. Thank you for your consideration in helping young families in Charleston with this need!

GRADUATING STUDENTS

We can't believe it is almost that time of year again already! If you know anyone graduating this spring whether it is Preschool, High School, College or Graduate programs, we want to feature them in our graduation booklet in May. Please send Diana their name(s) and a photo with a few sentences about their feelings about the next chapter, future plans and any interests. We can't wait to hear from you!

CHANDLER WEEKEND FOOD BAGS

Thanks to the generosity of First Presby, we continue to send 20 bags of weekend food supplies to Chandler Academy. If you would like to help this mission, you may donate individual items such as pop top pastas, chicken noodle soup, granola bars, mini muffins, snacks, sweets, and 16 oz creamy peanut butter. You may also donate funds designated for Chandler. This mission will continue through the school year.

HOPE AND JUSTICE FAIR TRADE MARKET

The Fair Trade Market will have boxes of Palestinian Medjool Dates for sale for \$13.75/box. Dates, with their rich caramel-like sweetness, offer endless possibilities in the kitchen. You can blend them in a smoothie, chop them for a sweet and texture filled salad topping or stuff them with goat cheese and wrap them in bacon with a drizzle of spicy honey for a treat on the more savory side. Contact Linda Elliott (304-410-2562) for more information.

SCATTER TO SERVE

We can all look forward to a morning of great comradery and serving our community on Saturday, April 26! This exciting and fun event will commence in the dining room at 8:30 a.m. for coffee, a breakfast assortment, pictures and a prayer. Most will be at their work site by 9:30 and usually done by 1pm. Work includes dog walking and clearing walking trails at Kanawha Charleston Humane Association, gardening at Habitat for Humanity, Manna Meal Gardens as well as Hubbard Hospice House, packing food boxes for veterans at Mountaineer Food Bank and cleaning an empty apartment/house for Rea of Hope. Sign-up sheets for each job are in the main church hallway and the back of the church or you can use the QR code to sign up digitally.



Open your phones camera to scan the QR code. Click the yellow link that pops up and it will automatically take you to the QuickSignup link for Scatter to Serve.

GUNS TO GARDENS

The Second Annual Guns to Gardens event will be held on May 3, 2025 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at St. Mark's Methodist Church. People are encouraged to bring any unwanted firearms to be dismantled and cut up on site. The remaining metal and wood is then used to make garden tools and jewelry. Last year, 26 firearms were collected and dismantled. Folks bringing in firearms are offered grocery gift cards in amounts commensurate with the type of weapon surrendered as a token of appreciation.

Some of the most common reasons for relinquishing firearms are:

The guns were inherited and never wanted;

Circumstances in the home have changed: children are now present, a family member has developed a mental illness, or perhaps dementia;

The owner used to hunt, but no longer does; or most sadly

The gun was used in a suicide.

The guns must be in working order, unloaded, and stored in the car trunk. The guns will be inspected to make sure they are unloaded prior to being dismantled.

If you have questions or wish to volunteer, please contact Dina Mohler at (304) 444-2211.

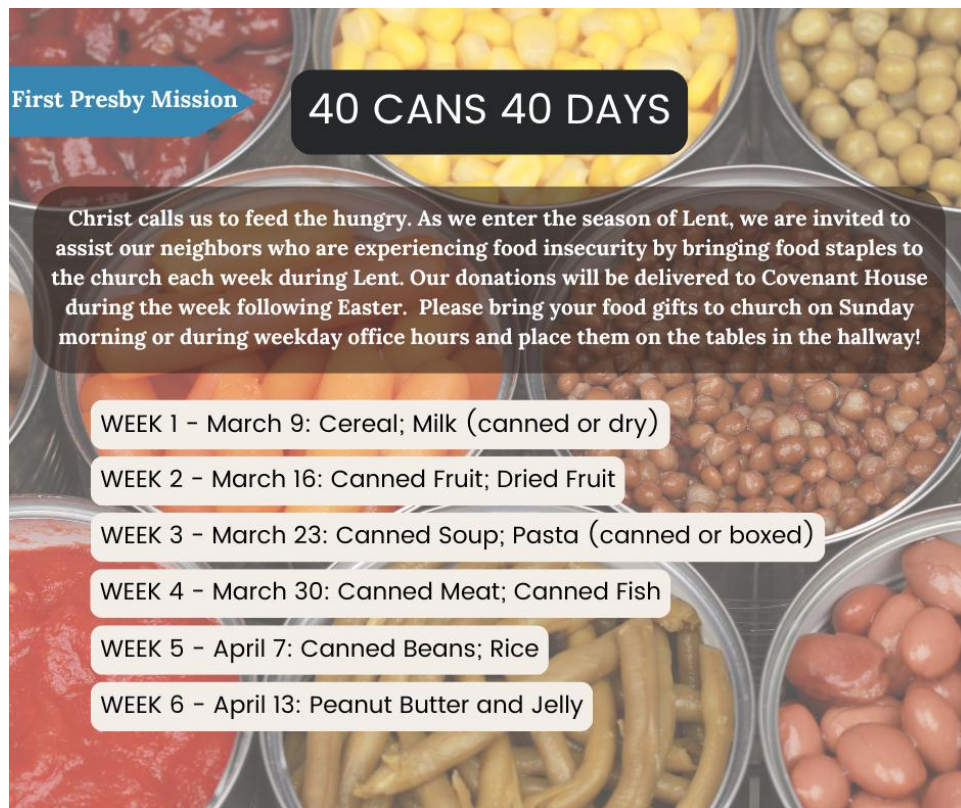
Let's talk about the benefits of planned giving at First Presby soon!

40 CANS FOR 40 DAYS

"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat..." Matthew 25:35

First Presby's Lenten tradition of addressing food insecurity by donating canned goods to Covenant House is coming to an end and all donations will be picked up this week. Thank you for all who contributed and made a major impact in our community.

"Truly i tell you, whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me"
Matthew 25:40



First Presby Mission

40 CANS 40 DAYS

Christ calls us to feed the hungry. As we enter the season of Lent, we are invited to assist our neighbors who are experiencing food insecurity by bringing food staples to the church each week during Lent. Our donations will be delivered to Covenant House during the week following Easter. Please bring your food gifts to church on Sunday morning or during weekday office hours and place them on the tables in the hallway!

- WEEK 1 - March 9: Cereal; Milk (canned or dry)
- WEEK 2 - March 16: Canned Fruit; Dried Fruit
- WEEK 3 - March 23: Canned Soup; Pasta (canned or boxed)
- WEEK 4 - March 30: Canned Meat; Canned Fish
- WEEK 5 - April 7: Canned Beans; Rice
- WEEK 6 - April 13: Peanut Butter and Jelly

PRESBYTERY CHURCH PRAYERS

Each week we pray for other congregations in our presbytery, along with the Presbytery of West Virginia and other ministry partners. This week please pray for Elk Hills Presbyterian Church in Charleston and Glenville Presbyterian Church.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Sunday, April 13

9:15am	Discovery Class	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
10:30am	Worship – Palm Sunday	<i>Sanctuary & YouTube</i>
11:00am	Worship Radio Broadcast	<i>WCHS-580AM</i>
11:30am	Egg Hunt	<i>Chapel</i>

Monday, April 14

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
9:30am	PEO Meeting	<i>Ruffner Room</i>

Tuesday, April 15

10:00am	Staff Meeting	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
4:30pm	Finance Meeting	<i>E117</i>

Wednesday, April 16

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
10:00am	Knitting Group	<i>Room 406</i>
7:00pm	Session Meeting	<i>A201</i>

Thursday, April 17 – Maundy Thursday

8:00am	Shoney's Group	<i>Zoom</i>
5:30pm	Handbell Rehearsal	<i>Choir Room</i>
6:30pm	Maundy Thursday Service	<i>Sanctuary</i>

Friday, April 18 – Good Friday

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
12:00pm	12-hour Organ Meditation	<i>Sanctuary</i>
12:00pm	Good Friday Service	<i>Sanctuary</i>
7:00pm	Good Friday Concert	<i>Sanctuary</i>

Saturday, April 19

Sunday, April 20 – Easter

9:15am	Discovery Class	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
10:30am	Worship	<i>Sanctuary</i>
11:00am	Worship Radio Broadcast	<i>WCHS-580AM</i>

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

Sunday, April 13	Matthew 21:12-17
Monday, April 14	John 12:9-19
Tuesday, April 15	John 12:20-26
Wednesday, April 16	John 12:27-36
Thursday, April 17	John 17:1-11 (12-26)
Friday, April 19	John 13:36-38; 19:38-42
Saturday, April 20	Romans 8:1-11

DISCOVERY CLASS

April 13	YWCA Programs Update – Sonya Hairston, CEO
April 20	NO CLASS – Easter Breakfast in the Dining Room
April 27	Alicia Bossie – Donor Relations Office at Mountaineer Food Bank



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF CHARLESTON**