

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Bringing hope to the heart of Charleston and beyond.



The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
February 1, 2026 | 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:

“Compassion asks us to go where it hurts, to enter into places of pain, to share in brokenness, fear, confusion, and anguish.”

— Henri Nouwen

“The cross is God’s critique of power — white power, black power, all power — that seeks to control others.”

— James Cone

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

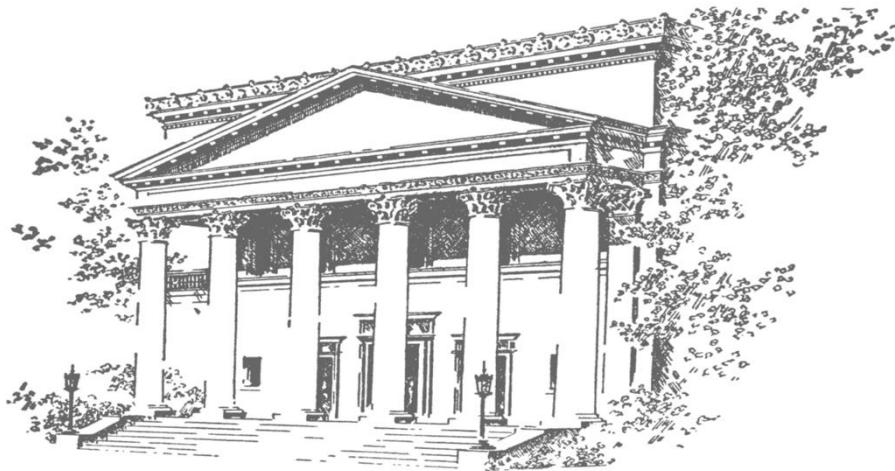
Micah 6:1-8 • Psalm 15 • 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 • Matthew 5:1-12

Cover art:

Sermon on the Mount

Károly Ferenczy, 1896

Hungarian National Gallery



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.

OPENING VOLUNTARY Chorale Prelude on *Wenn mein Stündlein vorhanden* Johann Christoph Bach

INTROIT God Welcomes All John L. Bell
God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends.

WELCOME Pastor Myers

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRAISE ALMIGHTY GOD

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Theron Raab

One: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
All: **For they shall be filled.**
One: Blessed are those who mourn,
All: **For they shall be comforted.**
One: Come, let us walk humbly with our God.
All: **Let us worship the Lord.**

***PRAYER OF ADORATION** Theron Raab

All: Holy and faithful God, we praise you because you are just and merciful, holy and near.
You see what is hidden, hear the cries of the wounded, and remain steadfast when the world falters. You have spoken through prophets, walked with us in Jesus, and still lead us by your Spirit. We adore you - not because life is easy, but because you are faithful. Receive our worship, ground us in your truth, and draw us closer to your heart. Amen.

***HYMN OF PRAISE #327** From All That Dwell Below the Skies LASST UNS ERFREUEN

CONFESS TO OUR FORGIVING CREATOR

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Pastor Myers

One: The God we worship is just and merciful, holy and near.
All: **Trusting not in our own righteousness, but in God's steadfast love, let us confess our sin — and our need for grace. Let us pray.**

Merciful God,
We confess that we long for peace, but often avoid the work of justice.

We desire unity, but resist the humility it requires.

**We are quick to speak, slow to listen,
and hesitant to love mercy when it costs us something.**

**Forgive us when we confuse silence with faithfulness,
and comfort with righteousness.**

**Teach us again what you require of us:
to act justly, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you.**

Hear us now in our silent prayers.

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor Myers

One: Hear the good news: Blessed are those who mourn, for God has drawn near.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for God has not abandoned them.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

All: **Thanks be to God.**

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Great Is Thy Faithfulness (vs. 1)

FAITHFULNESS



Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father, 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!

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!

*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

Micah 6:1-8

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Theron Raab

page 866, *Old Testament*

ANTHEM

The Beatitudes

Richard Shephard

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.
 Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
 Blessed are they that hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
 Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
 Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.
 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.
 Blessed are they who are persecuted, for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 5:1-12

Pastor Myers

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

page 4, *New Testament*

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

Pastor Myers

Birth - K may meet in the Nursery (Room 114) for a lesson and a snack.
 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

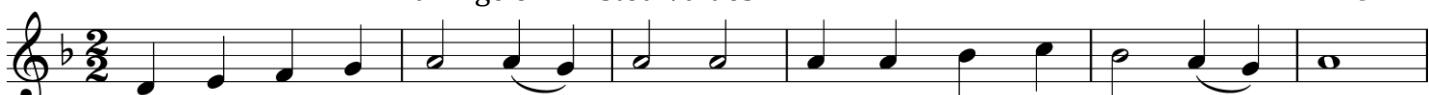
"What the Lord Requires"

Pastor Myers

*HYMN

In an Age of Twisted Values

PICARDY



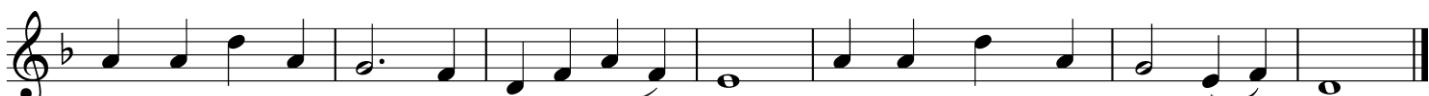
1. In an age of twist - ed val - ues we have lost the truth we need.
 2. We have built dis - crim - i na - tion on our prej - u - dice and fear.
 3. When our fam - i - lies are bro - ken, when our homes are full of strife,
 4. We who hear your word so of - ten choose so rare - ly to o - bey.



In so - phis - ti - cat - ed lan - guage we have jus - ti - fied our greed.
 Ha - tred swift - ly turns to cruel - ty if we hold re - sent - ments dear.
 when our chil - dren are be - wil - dered, when they lose their way in life,
 Turn us from our will - ful wan - dering; give us truth to light our way.



By our strug - gle for pos - ses - sions we have robbed the poor and weak.
 For com - mu - ni - ties di - vid - ed by the walls of class and race,
 when we fail to give the a - ged all the care we know they need,
 In the pow - er of your Spir - it come to cleanse us, make us new;



Hear our cry and heal our na - tion; your for - give - ness, Lord, we seek.
 hear our cry and heal our na - tion; show us, Lord, your love and grace.
 hear our cry and heal our na - tion; help us show more love, we plead.
 hear our cry and heal our na - tion till our na - tion hon - ors you.

DEDICATE OUR LIVES TO GOD

JOYS & CONCERNS

Pastor Myers

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

Andantino

Louis J.A. Lefébure-Wély

CELEBRATE OUR COMMUNION WITH CHRIST AND EACH OTHER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal God creator and ruler of the universe...

...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

SUNG RESPONSE

One Bread, One Body (*Refrain*)

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY



One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless. And we, though many, through out the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.

One: You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord...

...Great is the mystery of faith.

SUNG RESPONSE

One Bread, One Body (*Refrain*)

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

One: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us...

...Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE

One Bread, One Body (*Refrain*)

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

(This morning we share the bread and the cup together, gathered and scattered, united in Christ at the Table.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All: Gracious God, we thank you for feeding us with Christ's body and blood, for drawing near to us in our hunger and our grief. May what we have received shape our lives to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you. Send us from this table to live faithfully, and to serve your world in hope. Amen.

GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN #320	The Church of Christ in Every Age	WAREHAM
*BENEDICTION		Pastor Myers
CONCLUDING VOLUNTARY	Air	John Blow

OUR WORSHIP CONTINUES IN OUR SERVICE TO OTHERS

Worship is broadcast on Sundays 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
Theron Raab

AUDIO & VIDEO

Byron Goodew
David Cottrell

THE MUSIC TODAY

Jayson Keeton, Director of Music & Organist
The Sanctuary Choir

CUSTODIAL SERVICES

David Feibelmann

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THE STAFF OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting will immediately follow worship Sunday, February 1st in the Sanctuary. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the Annual Report for 2025, including Financial Statements. We will also receive our budget for 2026, which was approved by Session on January 21st, and vote on any changes to the terms of call for Pastor Myers. Copies of the Annual Report are located on the tables in the back of the sanctuary.

SUNDAY ADVENTURE – FEBRUARY 15th

The Clay Center is offering us an afternoon of fun on Sunday, February 15th. From 1:00 – 3:00, there will be a special planetarium show just for us, a chance to see their new Digital telescope, plus a STEM activity in the classroom. Afterwards you are free to explore the museum. This adventure is for all ages! The cost for this special adventure is \$6.50 for children under 18 and \$9 for Adults. Please let Susan Smith know if you plan to attend. You can reach Susan by email susan@firstpresby.com or phone 870-665-2128.

LIFT: WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAM

LOGOS is now LIFT – Living in Faith! Everyone is welcome to join us for a free dinner (Pizza dinner this Wednesday!) and a time of fellowship starting at 5:45pm. After dinner children K-5th can attend a class just for them. This 45 minute fast paced class uses the *Growing in God's Love* curriculum which includes a Bible story, an activity, and music. Adults can choose to attend Pastor Myer's class or stay in the dining hall and continue fellowshiping. At 7:00 we celebrate communion in the Chapel; this short 15 minute worship service is for all who wish to attend.

LIFT AFTER DARK with PASTOR MYERS

Feb 4 WEEK 4 — “Reforming Our Personal Priorities”

Time, Talents, Treasure Through a Christ-Shaped Lens

Purpose: Move from theory to self-examination on personal life choices.

Focus Areas:

- How Christians decide:
 - What matters?
 - How to spend time?
 - How to use gifts?
 - How to handle money?
- Introduce the idea of a **Personal Rule of Life**.
- Scripture anchor: **Micah 6:8, Matthew 6:19–34**.

Engagement:

- “The Calendar Audit”:
Compare your weekly schedule to what you say your priorities are.
- “Treasure Questions”:
What spending decisions reflect faith? What doesn't?

Goal: Begin reshaping worldview at the level where people actually live

YOUTH GROUP

The Youth group will meet every second Sunday from 3:00 – 5:00. There will be fun, food, and fellowship for middle school and high school students. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk with Susan. Our next meeting is Sunday, February 8th.

TIME FOR REFRESHMENT

Join Pastor Myers on Thursday afternoons at 4:30pm in the Ruffner Room starting September 18 for tea, shortbread/cookies, and conversation. We'll talk about life, faith, church, politics, maybe even church politics! Bring your opinions. Bring your questions. All are welcome. Whatever is on your mind, we'll talk about it! You can come occasionally. You can come every week. Our only purpose is to enjoy the fellowship and get to know each other a little better. Please enter through the side ramp door.

MISSION COMMITTEE LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

The Mission and Witness Committee is a vibrant group of church members who find ways each month to make our community and our world a better place for people to live in. We are a busy bunch who together have helped keep people warm, fed, housed, clothed, addition free and in touch with their spiritual selves. We are energetic and have a need for more members with various interests and skills. Think about joining us. We meet the first Thursday of each month. Email Karen Scherr (kmscherr100@gmail.com) if you are interested or call the church office (304-343-8961). We would love to work together frequently or occasionally, whenever you might be available.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Year End contribution statements were emailed on Wednesday, January 28th and mailed to those who requested a hard copy. If you would like to be included on the list of those who receive a hard copy in the mail, please call the office.

ACOLYTES NEEDED

We are looking for children in 4th grade and up who would like to be an acolyte. Acolytes at the beginning of our service light our two white candles in the front of the church and then at the end of the service they extinguish the candles and carry the light out. Acolyte robes are provided. Those wishing to be an acolyte must be able to arrive by 10:15am on Sunday. Please contact Susan Smith if you are interested. **Too young to be an acolyte** but still want to be involved? Talk to Susan Smith about learning how to ring the Trinity bell.

PW AT EDGEWOOD SUMMIT

The Women's Bible Study at Edgewood Summit will resume Tuesday, February 17th at 1:00pm and will continue meeting on the third Tuesday of the month. Our monthly study will be using the Horizon PW study "Celebrating Sabbath." Contact Susan Smith for more information.

PS REGISTRATION

First Presby Preschool is registering for the 2026-2027 school year. Registration for current preschool families and church members opens on Monday, February 2nd. Open enrollment starts on February 9th. Visit preschool.firstpresby.com to register! If you have any questions or would like to schedule a tour, please contact Anne Moses at anne@firstpresby.com or call (681) 205-1815.

CENTS-ABILITY

This program will benefit local hunger ministries as well as the national and international projects of the Presbyterian Hunger Program. Children and youth will collect your change to benefit local hunger ministries as well as national and international Presbyterian Hunger Program projects. Cents-Ability Sundays are scheduled for every third Sunday so, bring your change for the buckets on February 15th! Bills will also be accepted.

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 Alexander Memorial Presbyterian Church in Stony Bottom and Bethlehem Presbyterian Church in Shinnston.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Sunday, February 1

9:15am	Discovery Class	<i>Act. Bldg. Rec. Room</i>
10:30am	Worship	<i>Sanctuary & YouTube</i>
11:00am	Worship Radio Broadcast	<i>WCHS-580AM</i>
11:30am	Annual Meeting	<i>Sanctuary</i>

Monday, February 2

8:30 am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
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Tuesday, February 3

10:00am	Staff Meeting	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
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Wednesday, February 4

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
5:45pm	LIFT – Pizza for dinner!	<i>Dining Room/Various</i>
6:00pm	LIFT – After Dark	<i>Ruffner Room</i>

Thursday, February 5

8:00am	Shoney's Group	<i>Zoom</i>
4:30pm	Time for Refreshment	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
6:30pm	Mission Meeting	<i>E117</i>

Friday, February 6

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
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Saturday, February 7

Sunday, February 8

10:30am	Worship	<i>Sanctuary</i>
11:00am	Worship Radio Broadcast	<i>WCHS-580AM</i>

DISCOVERY CLASS SCHEDULE

Feb 1 “Jesus as Exorcist and Healer” – John Nesius

Feb 8 “Let Your Light Shine” – Rob Kuenzel

Feb 15 “A Rabbi’s Journey” –Rabbi Adam Berman
of Banai Jacob

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

Sunday, February 1 Mark 8:22-20

Monday, February 2 John 6:27-40

Tuesday, February 3 John 6:41-51

Wednesday, February 4 John 6:52-59

Thursday, February 5 John 6:60-71

Friday, February 6 John 7:1-13

Saturday, February 7 John 7:14-36



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF CHARLESTON

