

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Bringing hope to the heart of Charleston and beyond.



The First Sunday in Lent
February 22, 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:

"The Lord God called to the man and said to him, 'Where are you?'"
— Genesis 3:9

"Our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee."
— Augustine of Hippo

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

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 • Psalm 32 • Romans 5:12-19 • Matthew 4:1-11

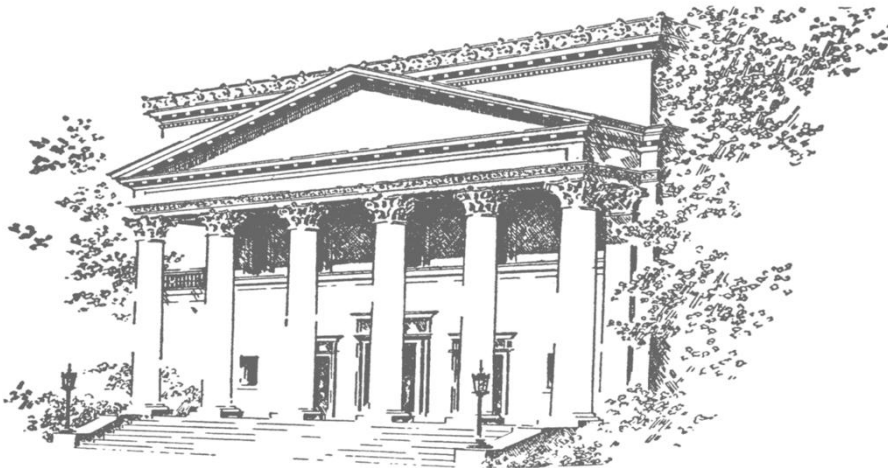
Cover art:

Temptation in the Desert

James Tissot (1836–1902)

Brooklyn Museum, New York, NY

Tissot's *Life of Our Lord Jesus Christ* project took nearly ten years to complete. When it was done, it chronicled the entire life of Jesus as recorded in the New Testament in a series of 350 watercolors.



*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.*

PRELUDE

Lenten Prelude

Dennis Janzer

INTROIT

There in God's Garden

SHADES MOUNTAIN

There in God's garden stands the tree of Wisdom,
Whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nations:
Tree of all knowledge, tree of all compassion, tree of all beauty.

WELCOME

Pastor Myers

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRAISE ALMIGHTY GOD

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Susan Smith

One: God walks with us in the garden of our lives.

All: Even when we hide, God calls.

One: God pursues relationship, not punishment.

All: We come, trusting the One who will not walk away.

***PRAYER OF ADORATION**

Susan Smith

All: God of steadfast love, you formed us, breathed life into us, and entrusted us with your world. Yet we often hide, grasping for security apart from you. Open our eyes to your mercy this day, and teach us to step into your presence with confidence. Amen.

***HYMN OF PRAISE #166** Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days

ST. FLAVIAN

CONFESS TO OUR FORGIVING CREATOR

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Myers

One: Let us acknowledge where we have walked away from God

All: Trusting God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Merciful God,

we confess that we have doubted your goodness.

We have listened to voices that distort your truth.

We have grasped for control and sought security apart from you.

When we felt exposed, we hid in shame and fear.

When we felt vulnerable, we blamed others and withdrew.

We have walked away in small compromises and quiet silences,

believing distance was easier than trust.

Forgive us, O God.

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor Myers

One: Beloved, hear the good news. "I acknowledged my sin to the Lord, and you forgave me." God has not walked away. We are forgiven. We are restored.

All: Thanks be to God!

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** My Faith Looks Up to Thee

OLIVET

1. My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2. May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,

Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray; take all my
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, O may my

guilt a - way; O let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
love to thee pure, warm, and change - less be, a liv - ing fire!

***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

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

Susan Smith

page 2, Old Testament

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalms 32

Susan Smith

One: This is the word of the Lord.

page 506, Old Testament

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Lord Jesus, Think on Me

arr. Georgiann H. Toole

Lord Jesus, think on me, and purge away my sin;
From earthborn passions set me free, and make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me, amid the battle's strife;
In all my pain and misery be thou my health and life.

Lord Jesus, think on me, nor let me go astray;
Through darkness and uncertainty, point thou the heavenly way.

Lord Jesus, think on me, that when this life is past,
I may eternal brightness see, and share thy joy at last.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 4:1-11

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.Pastor Myers
*page 3, New Testament***A TIME FOR CHILDREN**

Susan Smith

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

"God Won't Walk Away"

Pastor Myers

***HYMN 833**

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

ST. MARGARET

DEDICATE OUR LIVES TO GOD**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.**

SUNG RESPONSE TO PRAYER

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

OLIVET

1. While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
2. When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream

be thou my guide; bid dark - ness turn to day; wipe sor - row's
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love, fear and dis -

tears a - way; nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
- trust re - move; O bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

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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

Meditation on ST. AGNES

Neil Harmon

***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

Pastor Myers

GO FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN #839

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

ASSURANCE

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Myers

POSTLUDE

Andante e Maestoso (from Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 5*)

arr. Stewart Landon

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
Susan Smith

AUDIO & VIDEO

Byron Goodew
David Cottrell

CUSTODIAL SERVICES

David Feibelman

THE MUSIC TODAY

Jayson Keeton, Director of Music & Organist
The Sanctuary Choir

Service music is reprinted under CCLI License No. 3604127.

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

LENT DEVOTIONALS? IT'S IN THE BAG!

This year's Lenten devotion comes in a simple brown bag. It contains everything you need to do a weekly interactive devotion during Lent. Brought to you by the Center for Excellence in Christian Education, your CE Committee and Susan Smith. The Lent at home bags are available in the hall outside the sanctuary and in the back of the sanctuary. One bag per household.

MONTREAT YOUTH CONFERENCE

Montreat Youth Conference is an opportunity to gather with hundreds of highschool youth and explore how we find ourselves both wondering and wandering on our journeys of faith through a week of small groups, keynotes, worship, recreation and fellowship. This week of summer fun and exploration takes place in North Carolina (near Asheville) from June 14 – 20th. Expenses will be paid for by the church. More information and registration forms will be in the back of the sanctuary and due by March 25th.

MISSION UPDATE: 40 CANS FOR 40 DAYS Returns!

Last year's **40 CANS FOR 40 DAYS**, our Lenten outreach, was a great success. Together, we collected and shared hundreds of canned goods that were delivered to Covenant House to help our neighbors who are experiencing food insecurity. Imagine the amount if each of us contributed 40 items during the 40+ days of Lent!

Use the following list to help organize your shopping, *and **please bring your donations to the church during the week or on Sunday mornings.**

OUR SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

Week 1: Peanut Butter and Jelly

Week 2: Canned Soup and Canned Pasta, Sauce

Week 3: Canned Fruit and Dry Fruit (raisins, etc.)

Week 4: Canned Meat (Spam, sausage, chicken); Tuna

Week 5: Canned or Dried Beans and Rice

Week 6: Cereal, Canned/Dry Milk, Pancake mix, Syrup

DATES

Week beginning **Sunday 2/22**

Week beginning **Sunday 3/1**

Week beginning **Sunday 3/8**

Week beginning **Sunday 3/15**

Week beginning **Sunday 3/22**

Week beginning **Sunday 3/29**

***Suggestion from Covenant House:** *In order to maximize your shopping dollars, check the Dollar Tree for shelf-stable milk, cereal, pancake mix, syrup.*

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matt. 25:40)

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The work done in support of the causes supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) – disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, and immigration/migration and refugees – serves individuals and communities in need. This work provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

Today, projects supported by One Great Hour of Sharing are underway in more than one hundred countries, including the United States and Canada.

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 First Presbyterian Church in Thomas and Keller Presbyterian Church in Pence Springs.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Sunday, February 22

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>

Monday, February 23

8:30 am	Aerobics	<i>Act. Bldg. Rec. Room</i>
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Tuesday, February 24

10:00am	Staff Meeting	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
5:30pm	Hope Center Board Meeting	<i>Fourth Floor</i>

Wednesday, February 25

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Act. Bldg. Rec. Room</i>
12:15am	Lenten Organ Recital	<i>Sanctuary</i>
1:00pm	Women's Lenten Bible Study	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
5:45pm	LIFT	<i>Dining Room/Various</i>
6:30pm	LIFT After Dark	<i>Ruffner Room</i>

Thursday, February 26

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

Friday, February 27

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Act. Bldg. Rec. Room</i>
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Saturday, February 28

Sunday, March 1

9:15am	Discovery Class	<i>Act. Bldg. Rec. Room</i>
10:30am	Worship	<i>Sanctuary</i>
11:00am	Worship Radio Broadcast	<i>WCHS-580AM</i>
4:00pm	Concert Series: The Crucifixion	<i>Sanctuary</i>

DISCOVERY CLASS

Feb 22	"Mr. Rogers" – Susan Smith
Mar 1	"My Story of Appreciation" – Steve Barrett, Facilities Manager

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

Sunday, February 22	John 12:44-50
Monday, February 23	Mark 1:1-13
Tuesday, February 24	Mark 1:14-28
Wednesday, February 25	Mark 1:29-45
Thursday, February 26	Mark 2:1-12
Friday, February 27	Mark 2:13-22
Saturday, February 28	Mark 2:23-3:6



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF CHARLESTON**

