

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Bringing hope to the heart of Charleston and beyond.



The Second Sunday in Lent
March 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:

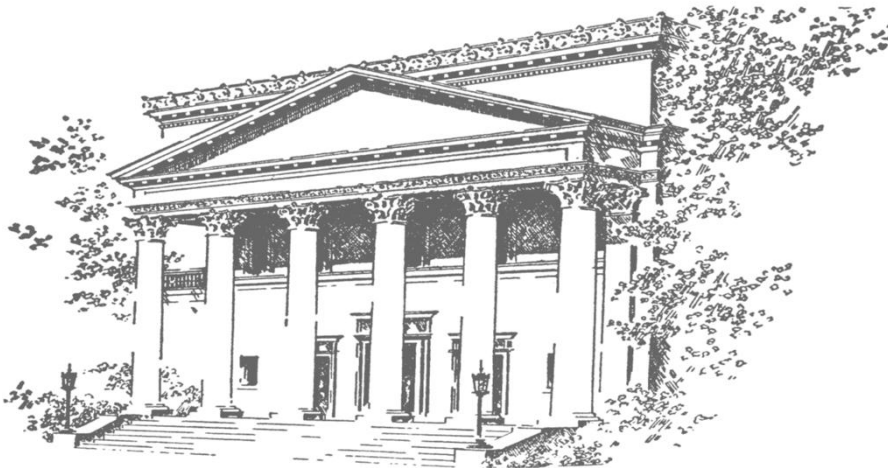
"The ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world that it leaves to its children."
— Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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

Genesis 12:1-4a • Psalm 121 • Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 • John 3:1-17 • Matthew 17:1-9

Cover art:

Mountain Landscape
Hercules Brabazon (1821-1906)
Phillips Collection, Washington, DC



*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 Elegy on *There Is a Green Hill Far Away* John S. Dixon

INTROIT There in God's Garden SHADES MOUNTAIN
Its name is Jesus, name that says, "Our Savior!" There on its branches see the scars of suffering;
See there the tendrils of our human selfhood feed on its lifeblood.

WELCOME Pastor Myers

MINUTE FOR MISSION One Great Hour of Sharing Karen Scherr and Barb Hopta

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRAISE ALMIGHTY GOD

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Barb Hopta

One: We lift our eyes to the hills—

All: Where does our help come from?

One: Our help comes from the Lord,

All: The Maker of heaven and earth.

One: The Lord does not slumber or sleep.

All: The Lord keeps us in our going out and our coming in.

One: Let us worship the One who holds our lives together.

***PRAYER OF ADORATION** Barb Hopta

All: Faithful and watchful God, Maker of heaven and earth, you neither slumber nor sleep. You guard our going out and our coming in. When we are strong, you are our strength. When we falter, you hold us fast. Your love is steady. Your mercy endures. Your faithfulness outlasts every season. We praise you, our Keeper and our Help. Receive our worship this day; we belong to you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN OF PRAISE #41** O Worship the King, All Glorious Above! LYONS

CONFESS TO OUR FORGIVING CREATOR

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Pastor Myers

One: Trusting in God's steadfast love, let us confess the ways we have placed our trust elsewhere.

All: When we rely on our own strength, when we measure our worth by achievement, when we look to lesser things to hold our lives together, God invites us back.

Gracious God,

We confess that we live as though everything depends on us.

We measure our worth by achievement

and seek security in what is visible and immediate.

Forgive us when we forget that you are our keeper.

Turn our hearts—and the hearts of our children—back to you.

Teach us to rest in your steady faithfulness;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor Myers

One: Hear the good news: The One who keeps Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps. The One who watches over you does not grow weary. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, held, and made new.

All: Thanks be to God.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

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!

*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 12:1-4a

Barb Hopta

page 10, Old Testament

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalms 121

Barb Hopta

page 571, Old Testament

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

A Simple Song (from *Mass*)

Leonard Bernstein
Lindsay Marchio, soprano

Sing God a simple song: Lauda, Laude...
Make it up as you go along: Lauda Laude...
Sing like you like to sing. God loves all simple things,
For God is the simplest of all.

I will sing the Lord a new song to praise him, to bless him, to bless the Lord.
I will sing his praises while I live all of my days.
Blessed is the man who loves the Lord, blessed is the man who praises him.
Lauda, Lauda, Laude... and walks in his ways.

I will lift up my eyes to the hills from whence comes my help.
I will lift up my voice to the Lord, singing Lauda, Laude.
For the Lord is my shade, is the shade upon my right hand,
And the sun shall not smite me by day nor the moon by night.

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 3:1–17

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor Myers
page 93, New Testament

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

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.

Pastor Myers

SERMON

“Who Holds Your Life Together?”

Pastor Myers

*HYMN #816

If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

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

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

arr. Ronald Turner

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

Come to the Table of Grace

TABLE OF GRACE



Come to the ta - ble of
 grace.____
 peace.____
 love.____

Come to the ta - ble of
 grace.____
 peace.____
 love.____



This is God's ta - ble; it's not yours or mine. Come to the ta - ble of
 grace.____
 peace.____
 love.____

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

Come to the Table of Peace

TABLE OF GRACE

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

...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

Come to the Table of Love

TABLE OF GRACE

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: Faithful God, we thank you for feeding us with the bread of life and holding us in your
 steadfast love. As we go from this table, keep our hearts anchored in you. Shape our
 lives by your presence, and teach us to trust you in all our going out and coming in.
 Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

GO FORTH TO SERVE***HYMN #828**

More Love to Thee, O Christ

MORE LOVE TO THEE

***BENEDICTION**

Pastor Myers

POSTLUDE

Andante moderato

J.L. Battmann

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
Barb Hopta
Karen Scherr

AUDIO & VIDEO

Byron Goodew
David Cottrell

THE MUSIC TODAY

Jayson Keeton, Director of Music & Organist
Lindsay Marchio, soprano
The Sanctuary Choir

CUSTODIAL SERVICES

David Feibelman

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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

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 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 efforts 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.

WOMEN'S LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

There will be a Women's Lenten bible study starting Wednesday, February 18th from 1:00 – 2:00 in the Ruffner room. Come and enjoy Jayson's noon time Lenten organ playing and then join us for a Study using the book *Pause Spending Lent with the Psalms*. This Bible study will meet weekly throughout Lent. If you wish to purchase a book it is available on Amazon as a paperback or kindle. Feel free to bring your lunch. Contact Susan Smith for more information susan@firstpresby.com

LIFT: WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAM

Everyone is welcome to join us for a free dinner 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

March 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.

SUNDAY ADVENTURE

Our next Sunday Adventure will be roller skating in the Rec Room on March 22nd from 2-4pm. Come listen to music, dance and roller skate together! Roller skates are supplied, we have kids and adult sizes.

CENTSABILITY

Last Sunday we raised \$162.67 for Centsability. That takes us to over \$1,000 total collected! Bring your change for the kids buckets for the next Centsability collection on March 15th.

COFFEE FAIR TRADE

The Hope and Justice Fair Trade Shop is open during office hours and on Sundays from 9:00-noon. During office hours, please see the office staff to shop. On Sundays, please put your cash or check in the provided envelopes on the table in the shop and put them in the drop slot in the door by the Panera table. We are keeping it stocked with all your favorites! Only cash and check are accepted at this time.

YOUTH GROUP

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

TIME FOR REFRESHMENT

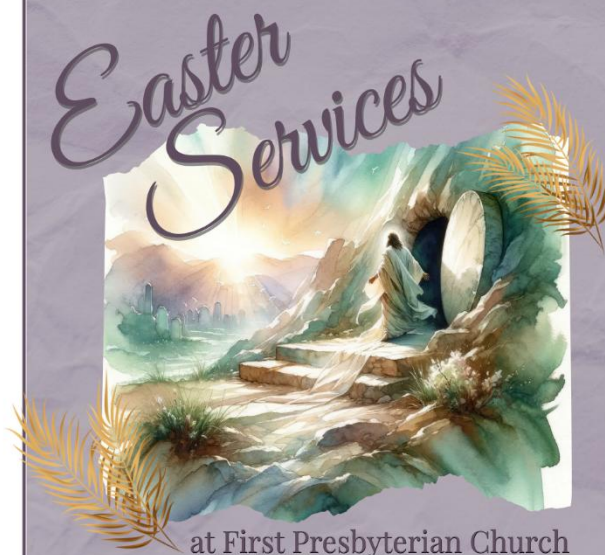
Join Pastor Myers on Thursday afternoons at 4:30pm in the Ruffner Room for tea, shortbread/cookies, and conversation. We'll talk about life, faith, church, politics, maybe even church politics! Bring your opinions. Bring your questions. All are welcome. Whatever is on your mind, we'll talk about it! 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.

PALM SUNDAY
MARCH 29

MAUNDY THURSDAY
APRIL 2 | 6:30PM

GOOD FRIDAY
APRIL 3 | 6:30PM

EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 5



at First Presbyterian Church

All are welcome!

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 Beverly Presbyterian Church and Teays Valley Presbyterian Church in Scott Depot.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Sunday, March 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>
4:00pm	Concert Series: The Crucifixion	<i>Sanctuary</i>

Monday, March 2

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

10:00am	Staff Meeting	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
6:30pm	Deacon's Meeting	<i>A201</i>

Wednesday, March 4

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Act. Bldg. Rec. Room</i>
10:00am	Knitting Club	<i>Room 406</i>
12:15pm	Lenten Organ Recital	<i>Sanctuary</i>
1:15pm	Women's Lenten Book Study	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
5:30pm	LIFT	<i>Dining Room/Various</i>
6:00pm	LIFT After Dark	<i>Ruffner Room</i>

Thursday, March 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, March 6

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Act. Bldg. Rec. Room</i>
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Saturday, March 7

Sunday, March 8

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>

DISCOVERY CLASS

Mar 1	"My Story of Appreciation – Steve Barrett, Facilities Manager
Mar 8	Kanawha Valley Fellowship Home Dick Daugherty, Exec. Director
Mar 15	WV Health Right – Angie Settle, CEO

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

Sunday, March 1	John 5:19-24
Monday, March 2	Mark 3:7-19a
Tuesday, March 3	Mark 3:19b-35
Wednesday, March 4	Mark 4:1-20
Thursday, March 5	Mark 4:21-34
Friday, March 6	Mark 4:35-41
Saturday, March 7	Mark 5:1-20



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF CHARLESTON**

