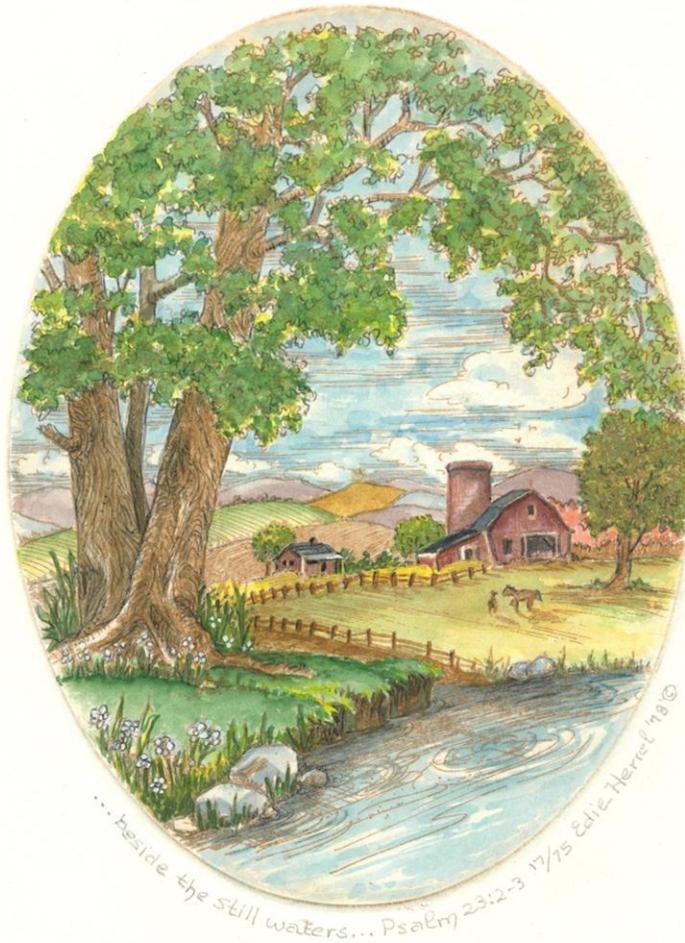


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Bringing hope to the heart of Charleston and beyond.



The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 15, 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:

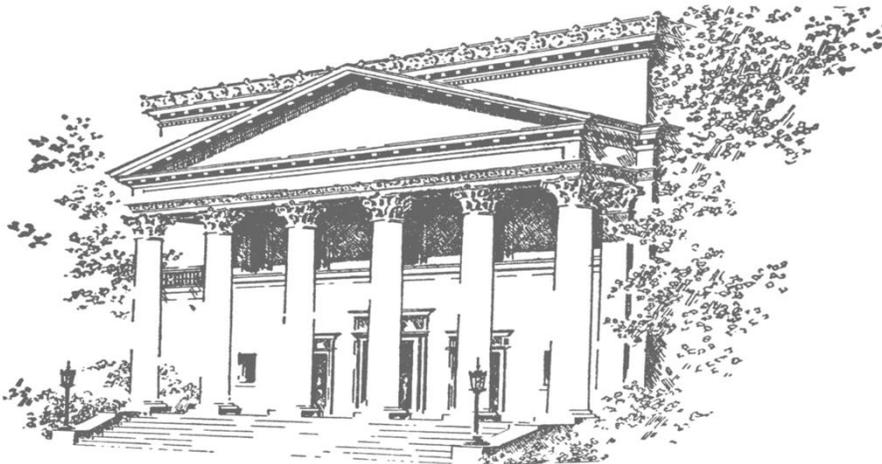
"The Psalmist is not afraid of the dark valley, because he knows that God is with him"
— C.S. Lewis

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

1 Samuel 16:1-13 • Psalm 23 • Ephesians 5:8-14 • John 9:1-41

Cover art:

Beside the Still Waters (1978)
Eddie Mae Herrel
Columbus, Ohio



*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 Watch and Pray Matthew McConnell

INTROIT There in God's Garden SHADES MOUNTAIN
See how its branches reach to us in welcome; hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye weary!
Give me your sickness; give me all your sorrow; I will give blessing."

WELCOME Jayson Keeton

MINUTE FOR MISSION Amy Isaac & Dawn Hawkins

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRAISE ALMIGHTY GOD

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Beth Vorhees

One: We come to sanctify ourselves.

All: We come seeking to be worthy of our call.

One: The Lord looks not at our outward selves,

All: but seeks to know what is in our hearts.

One: Let us learn what is pleasing to the Lord,

All: that we might live as children of the Most High.

***PRAYER OF ADORATION** Beth Vorhees

All: Gracious and merciful God, source of light in our darkness, we praise you for your steadfast love that never fails. You open our eyes to your truth, you lead us from blindness into sight, and you call us to walk as children of the light.

***HYMN OF PRAISE #377** I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light HOUSTON

CONFESS TO OUR FORGIVING CREATOR

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Barbara Hopta

One: How do we know when our actions are right?

All: When the fruits of our labors are good and true.

One: Christ is the light that exposes all we keep hidden, but offers us healing and renewal instead of judgment. Therefore, let us hold up our sin to Christ's gaze.

All: God of compassion and mercy, we sometimes fail to see what you are doing in the world. We want you to act in ways we predict, but we forget: you do what is good, not what is expected.

Forgive us when we do not recognize your miracles.

Forgive us when we doubt the wisdom of your actions.

Most of all, forgive us when we do not respond to your call,

ignoring what we need to do to show the world your love and grace. Amen.

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Barbara Hopta

One: We know that God is with us even in our sufferings, for suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, character produces hope,

All: and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts. Thanks be to God!

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #182** I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

KINGSFOLD

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Barbara Hopta

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON 1 Samuel 16:1-5, 10-13

Beth Vorhees
page 259, Old Testament

SCRIPTURE LESSON Ephesians 5:8-14

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Beth Vorhees
page 194, New Testament

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #349 "Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us (*vs. 1*)

WACHET AUF

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.

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 9:1-12

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Barbara Hopta
page 102, New Testament

ANTHEM Panis Angelicus

César Franck
Tom Marchio, tenor

*Panis angelicus fit panis hominum,
Dat panis caelicus figuris terminum.
O res mirabilis maducat Dominum,
Pauper, pauper, servus et humilis,*

O Lord most holy, O Lord most mighty,
O loving Father, thee would we be praising always.
Help us to know thee, know thee and love thee;
Father, Father, guide and defend us.

Rule thou our willful hearts, keep thine our wandering thoughts;
In all our sorrows let us find our rest in thee;
And in temptation's hour, save through thy mighty power,
Thine aid O send us; hear us in mercy.
Show us Thy favor, so shall we live, and sing praise to thee.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Psalm 23 (from *The 1599 Geneva Bible*)

Jayson Keeton

HYMN #801 The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

CRIMOND

SCRIPTURE LESSON Psalm 23 (from *The Complete Jewish Bible*)

Beth Vorhees

ANTHEM Sheep May Safely Graze

J.S. Bach

Sheep may safely graze and pasture where their shepherd guards them well.
Those who rule with wisdom guiding, bring to hearts a peace abiding.
Bless this land with joy made bright. Rest and peace abiding.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Psalm 23 (from the *Contemporary English Version*)

Barbara Hopta

***HYMN #803** My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

RESIGNATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON Psalm 23 (from *The Message*)

Beth Vorhees

DEDICATE OUR LIVES TO GOD

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.**

SUNG RESPONSE TO PRAYER

What Wondrous Love Is This (vs. 3)

WONDROUS LOVE

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will
sing; to God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am, while mil - lions join the
theme, I will sing, I will sing; while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing!

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

My Song is Love Unknown

arr. Cathy Moglebust
First Presby Handbells

***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

Beth Vorhees

GO FORTH TO SERVE

***HYMN #187** Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

BRADBURY

*BENEDICTION

Beth Vorhees

POSTLUDE Andantino in G minor (from *École d'Orgue*)

Jacques Lemmens

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

Jayson Keeton
Beth Vorhees
Barbara Hopta

AUDIO & VIDEO

Byron Goodew
David Cottrell

THE MUSIC TODAY

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

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

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. The deposit 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!

As of Monday, March 9, we have collected and delivered 1,357 food items to Covenant House! Thank you, First Presby, for addressing the hunger problem in our community as we continue to support 40 Cans for 40 Days.

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:

DATES

Week 1: Peanut Butter and Jelly

Week beginning **Sunday 2/22**

Week 2: Canned Soup and Canned Pasta, Sauce

Week beginning **Sunday 3/1**

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

Week beginning **Sunday 3/8**

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

Week beginning **Sunday 3/15**

Week 5: Canned or Dried Beans and Rice

Week beginning **Sunday 3/22**

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

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.

FLAT JESUS ADVENTURES

Grab a flat Jesus from the back table in the sanctuary, color him and take him with you on your spring break adventures, sports games, recitals, etc! Then send your pictures to diana@firstpresby.com.

DEVOTIONALS ON THE GO

Can't be in church on Sunday? You can still make time to build a relationship with God. Grab one of the "Devos on the Go" or "1 Minute Sabbath" to take with you wherever you go. These are quick ways that you can spend time with God and your family no matter where you are to let the light and love of God shine upon you.

WOMEN'S LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

There is a Women's Lenten bible study on Wednesdays from 1:00 – 2:00 in the Ruffner room. Come and enjoy the noon time Lenten organ recital 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 18 WEEK 5 — "Reforming How We See Our Neighbor"

Compassion, Justice, and Civic Life

Purpose: Apply a Christ-shaped lens to relationships, community, and public life (without turning it into partisan debate).

Topics:

- Christian call to justice (Hebrew prophets, Jesus, James)
- Caring for neighbors we like... and don't like
- Handling political differences in Christlike ways
- Discernment vs. outrage
- Truthfulness in a misinformation culture

Engagement:

- Case studies:
Situations involving immigration, poverty, racial tension, or civic disagreements.
Groups answer: *What would Christ see here? How would he respond?*

Goal: Help people move away from gut-level partisanship toward thoughtful Christian discernment

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 skates for both children and adults!

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.

EASTER ACTIVITIES

Along with the Holy Week worship services, First Presby will be hosting the annual Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday after church and a pot luck style Easter Brunch before church on Easter Sunday. More information coming soon!

A poster for Easter Services at First Presbyterian Church. The poster features a central illustration of a landscape with a path leading to a stone archway, surrounded by greenery and palm fronds. The text is arranged in a list on the left and a welcome message at the bottom right.

PALM SUNDAY
MARCH 29

MAUNDY THURSDAY
APRIL 2 | 6:30PM

GOOD FRIDAY
APRIL 3 | 6:30PM

EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 5

Easter Services

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 Bramwell Presbyterian Church and Gilbert Presbyterian Church.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Sunday, March 15

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

Monday, March 16

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
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Tuesday, March 17

10:00am	Staff Meeting	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
1:00pm	PW Bible Study	<i>Edgewood Summit</i>
4:30pm	Finance Meeting	<i>E117</i>

Wednesday, March 18

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
10:30am	Knitting Group	<i>Room 406</i>
12:15pm	Lenten Organ Recital	<i>Sanctuary</i>
1:00pm	Women's Lenten Bible Study	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
7:00pm	Session Meeting	<i>A201</i>

Thursday, March 19

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

Friday, March 20

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
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Saturday, March 21

9:00am	Festival of Faith	<i>Various</i>
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Sunday, March 22

9:15am	Discovery Class	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
10:30am	Worship	<i>Sanctuary & YouTube</i>
11:00am	Worship Radio Broadcast	<i>WCHS-580AM</i>
2:00pm	Sunday Adventure – Skating	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
7:00pm	Concert Series – “Still, My Soul Sings”	<i>Sanctuary</i>

DISCOVERY CLASS

Mar 15	“He, Not I or We” – Rob Kuenzel
Mar 22	“The Word” – Sallie Daugherty
Mar 29	HospiceCare – Sierra Jones, Community Liason

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

Sunday, March 15	John 6:27-40
Monday, March 16	Mark 7:24-27
Tuesday, March 17	Mark 8:1-10
Wednesday, March 18	Mark 8:11-26
Thursday, March 19	Mark 8:27-9:1
Friday, March 20	Mark 9:2-13
Saturday, March 21	Mark 9:14-29



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF CHARLESTON**

