

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Bringing hope to the heart of Charleston and beyond.



The Third Sunday in Lent
March 8, 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 person is not where we stand in moments of comfort and convenience, but where we stand in times of challenge and controversy."

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer

*"Live a life worthy of the calling you have received:
with humility, gentleness, patience, bearing with one another in love."*

— Ephesians 4:1-2

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

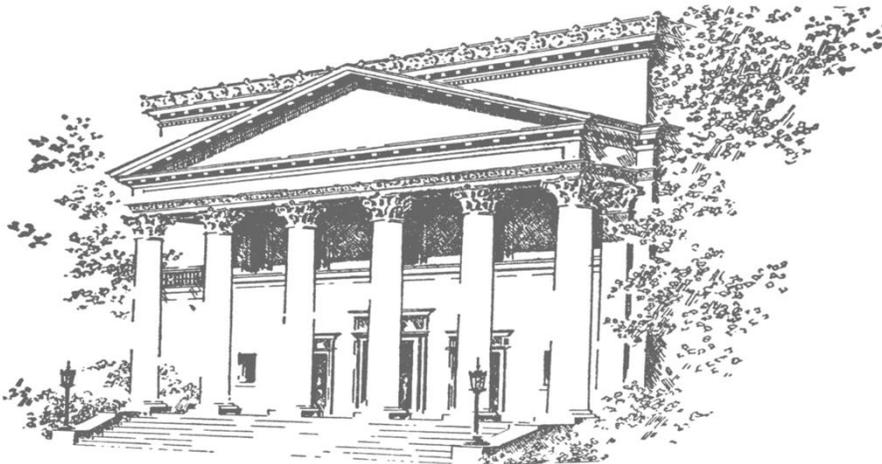
Exodus 17:1-7 • Psalm 95 • Romans 5:1-11 • John 4:5-42

Cover art:

Christ and the Samaritan Woman (c.1308-1311)

Buoninsegna di Duccio (-1319?)

Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid, Spain



*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 As On the Cross the Savior Hung Gilbert M. Martin

INTROIT There in God's Garden SHADES MOUNTAIN
Thorns not its own are tangled in its foliage; our greed has starved it; our despite has choked it.
Yet, look! It lives! It's grief has not destroyed it nor fire consumed it.

WELCOME Pastor Myers

MINUTE FOR MISSION One Great Hour of Sharing Dina Mohler and Debbe Moredock

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRAISE ALMIGHTY GOD

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Dina Mohler

One: *"The ultimate test of a person is not where we stand in moments of comfort and convenience, but where we stand in times of challenge and controversy."* (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

We gather in such a time, a wilderness of uncertainty, fear, and moral complexity.

All: God of the wilderness, you are our rock and our refuge. Your love sustains us when the way is hard, and your Spirit guides us when we cannot see the path.

One: Even when leaders falter, when history presses upon us, when our hearts thirst for truth, we come seeking your presence, your courage, your grace.

All: We praise you, O God, for your faithfulness, your mercy, and your living water that gives life.

***PRAYER OF ADORATION** Dina Mohler

All: Holy God, we enter the wilderness - thirsty, uncertain, and in need of your guidance. You are our Rock, our living water, our hope. Even when the way is hard, your love sustains us, your Spirit guides us, and your truth calls us to the more excellent way. We praise you. Amen.

***HYMN OF PRAISE #81** Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken AUSTRIAN HYMN

This hymn celebrates God's faithfulness and the hope of Zion, a vision of God's kingdom on earth.

Though the melody was desecrated by the Nazis, its sacred purpose endures, reminding us that God's presence, justice, and love cannot be claimed or corrupted by human power.

CONFESS TO OUR FORGIVING CREATOR

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Pastor Myers

One: The wilderness exposes us - our fears, our doubts, our impatience. We grumble, we cling to comfort, we harden our hearts, even when we know better.

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

God, forgive us when fear drives our words or actions.

Forgive us when we fail to honor the humanity of others.

Renew our hearts, guide our steps, and lead us in your truth and love.

Forgive us, O God.

(Silence is kept for personal confession.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Pastor Myers

One: Beloved, hear the good news. The God who meets us in the wilderness pours the love Living Water into our hearts. In Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and called to courage.

All: Thanks be to God!

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

HAMBURG

1. When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
2. For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the

Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
death of Christ my God; all the vain things that

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.

***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

Exodus 17:1-7

Dina Mohler
page 64, Old Testament

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ephesians 4:1-7, 14-16

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Dina Mohler
page 193, New Testament

ANTHEM

Amazing Grace

Arlen Clarke, John Newton

Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me,
I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.

Twas grace that taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieved,
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

Through many danges, toils and snares, I have already come;
Tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun.

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 4:5-18, 28-30, 39-42

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor Myers
page 94, 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

"Living the More Excellent Way, Even in the Wilderness"

Pastor Myers

***HYMN 65**

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CWM RHONDDA

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

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (vs. 3)

PASSION CHORALE

What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,
for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?

O make me thine for - ev - er; and should I faint - ing be,

Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.

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 Offertory on "From Deepest Woe I Cry to Thee" Matthew McConnell

***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 #321** The Church's One Foundation AURELIA

***BENEDICTION** Pastor Myers

POSTLUDE Andante in A 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

The Rev. Dr. William C. Myers
Dina Mohler
Debbe Moredock

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

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 2, we have collected and delivered 741 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:

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.

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 11 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!

CENTSABILITY

Last month 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

There will not be Time for Refreshment this week as Pastor Myers will be out of town.



The graphic features a central illustration of a stone path leading to an open tomb entrance, surrounded by greenery and a bright sunburst. The text is arranged as follows:

- 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 Anderson Memorial Presbyterian Church in Welch and Salem Presbyterian Church in Ronceverte.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Sunday, March 8

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>
3:00pm	Youth Group	<i>Youth Lounge</i>

Monday, March 9 – Spring Break

8:30 am	Aerobics	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>
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Tuesday, March 10 – Spring Break

10:00am	Staff Meeting	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
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Wednesday, March 11 – Spring Break

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 12 – Spring Break

8:00am	Shoney’s Group	<i>Zoom</i>
1:00pm	Shepherd Center	<i>E117</i>
3:30pm	Book Club	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
4:30pm	<u>NO</u> Time for Refreshment	<i>Ruffner Room</i>

Friday, March 13 – Spring Break

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Act. Bldg. Rec. Room</i>
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Saturday, March 14

Sunday, March 15

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

DISCOVERY CLASS

Mar 8	Kanawha Valley Fellowship Home Dick Daugherty, Exec. Director
Mar 15	WV Health Right – Angie Settle, CEO
Mar 22	“The Word” – Sallie Daugherty
Mar 29	HospiceCare – Sierra Jones, Community Liason

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

Sunday, March 1	John 5:25-29
Monday, March 2	Mark 5:21-43
Tuesday, March 3	Mark 6:1-13
Wednesday, March 4	Mark 6:13-29
Thursday, March 5	Mark 6:30-46
Friday, March 6	Mark 6:47-56
Saturday, March 7	Mark 7:1-23



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF CHARLESTON**

