

The First Presbyterian Church
300 South Main Street
Greensburg, Pennsylvania
The First Sunday in Lent – March 9, 2025 – 10 a.m.
Simulcast Service

THE GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Echo for Organ and Brass

Samuel Scheidt

CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

Out of Christ's fullness we have all received grace upon grace.
He is our eternal hope; he is patient and full of mercy;
The Lord is generous to all who call upon him.
Save us, Lord.

✠HYMN 618

O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High

DEO GRACIAS

✠PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

God of mercy, Prayer of Confession you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

✠ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND THE PEACE

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

✠CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Kyrie Eleison. (Lord, Have Mercy) (Hymn 577)

Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Romans 10:8b-13

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Children are invited to the chancel steps for the children's sermon and then be dismissed to Sunday School.

ANTHEM

Rise Up, O Saints of God

Kenneth Jennings

Rise up O Saints of God! Have done with lesser things; give heart and soul and mind and strength to serve the King of kings. Rise up, O Saints of God! The kingdom tarries long, tarries long; bring in the day of truth and love and end the night of wrong. Rise up, O Saints of God! The Church for you doth wait; her strength unequal to her task; rise up and make her great! Lift high the Cross! Tread where his feet have trod; led onward through the spirit's power. Rise up, O Saints of God!

SECOND READING

Luke 4:1-13

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Martin R. Ankrum

THE RESPONSE

✠HYMN 783

When We Are Tested

ANGELS OF HEALING

✠AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES' CREED (*unison*)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - THE LORD'S PRAYER (*unison*)

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.

OUR JOYFUL RESPONSE - TITHES & OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Deep River

arr. David Schorr

✠RESPONSE

Doxology (*hymnal p. 606*)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

✠PRAYER OF DEDICATION

✠HYMN 694

Great God of Every Blessing

AURELIA

✠BENEDICTION

✠POSTLUDE

Canzone in B-flat Major

Andrea Gabrieli

✠ *Those who are able to stand comfortably may do so*

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP THIS MORNING:

Rev. Dr. Martin R. Ankrum, Pastor/Head of Staff; Dr. Jeffrey Jones, Minister of Music / Organist; Mr. John Dickson, Lector; Chancel Choir; Mainstreet Brass; Mr. Mark Golden, Video Technician.

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FIRST NEWS: The News of FPC

PRAYER LIST: Bob Bark, Tonna Bogac, Trudy Brunot, Lisa Bulger, Bob Burdette, Gloria Christofano, Roy Clemens, Sandy Cole, Bob Colflesh, Dan & Ginger Collier, Beverly & William Courtney, Edna Mary Cox, Mark Cuneo, Bob Dittman, Karen Dubosky, Michael Felice, Duffy Greba, Edgar and Joanne Highberger, Gretchen Highberger, Lucas James, Lee Jamison, Brett Johnson, Weston Johnson, Heather Jones, Don Kemerer, Jim L., George Maser, Joanne McIlhattan, Jim & Gail Miller; Melanie Murphy, Gary Nicewonger, Bob Noel, John Noel, Dan P., Nancy Pallitta, Victoria Piekut, Gerry Pricer, Marnie Abraham Russell, Wilson Saul, Jenny Schuchman, Sharyn Sekora, Nancy Skrot, Mary Smith, Jerry Sohick, Nancy Stahl, Dorothy Steele, Crystal Stryker, Brooke Stutzman, Sonny & Jo Thomas, Lynda Turin, Linda & Tom Turin, Matt Washil, Ron Watkoski, Doug Wessling, Lisa Wessling, Don Whipkey.

VISITING IN WORSHIP TODAY? If you are visiting in worship today or have been for a while, please sign the Visitor Card found in the pew racks and place in the offering plate or hand to an usher. We would love to be able to contact you and answer any questions you may have about FPC. Please take a moment to greet Dr. Ankrum at the end of the service; he would love to get to know you and welcome you to our faith community.

NURSERY HOURS! 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. – Drop off care is available in the FPC nursery each Sunday morning for children Birth through Pre/K. Gali Clark is excited to welcome FPC's youngest members and friends for a time of play, music, fun, or a nap! For safety reasons, caregivers are asked to provide their own drinks and snacks for their child. Registration forms can be found in the nursery. See you there!

CHILDREN'S RESOURCE TOTES - First Presbyterian Church also provides a comfort room and age-appropriate worship resource totes for families with young children to use during the service. They are in the narthex, or by asking an usher for assistance. *Children's bulletins are available at the 3rd Street entrance.*

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED SPONSORING A FELLOWSHIP HOUR? Provide 6 dozen baked goods **or** \$35 donation to cover the cost. Use the sign-up sheet on the Dining Room bulletin board. Hours are held on the first and third Sundays of every month in the Dining Room. Coffee is provided by the Millers of 19 Coffee.

FIRST FRIDAYS: NEWS & UPDATES: If you haven't been receiving our First Fridays: News & Updates, please call Kim at the church office (724-832-0150) to verify and/or update your correct email address.

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS: A DAILY DEVOTIONAL – By ten o'clock in the morning each day, Monday through Friday, Martin posts a new devotion for the day. Please join in the practice of daily devotion for such a time as this.

FINANCIAL REPORT: (as of February 26)

Year to Date Expenses	\$156,115
Year to Date Receipts:	\$ 86,641
Year to Date Deficit:	(\$ 69,474)

DO YOU WISH TO GIVE ONLINE?



To set up your own recurring donations, either visit the church website or scan the QR code with your smart phone, or contact the church office for help. *Starting August 31, 2024, the church will accrue a monthly fee for those who give by credit or debit card. The church currently also incurs a 2.84% fee plus 45 cents on every credit or debit card donation. These fees are not incurred for the church for donations routed through Vanco from a checking account.* Your support of Christ's church in this place is greatly appreciated!

MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY - EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING AT 7:30 A.M.: This Bible study has many wonderful ingredients: warm fellowship, good friendships, open discussions, great breakfasts AND the opportunity to grow in faith together. We gather every Wednesday morning at 7:30 a.m. at Eat n' Park across from Westmoreland Mall. We are currently studying the Gospel of Mark.

ADULT FORUM ON SUNDAY MORNING. We meet **Sundays at 9 a.m.** in the PW Lounge on the first floor of the CE Wing. We are reading and discussing a wonderful book written by the late Rev. Peter Gomes: *The Good Book: Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart*. Gomes unpacks the scriptures for his reader, covering how the Bible is often misunderstood by Christians and others alike. The book helps to open up our hearts and minds to the profound words of scripture that give us comfort and challenges our faith as well.

THE GATHERING – Tuesday, March 11, 2025; 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. On the second Tuesday of each month, we reserve space at The Boulevard, a local restaurant and invite those who are available to join us for lunch, conversation and a bit of education. We'll hear from folks that you already know and folks that you haven't yet met. The topics will be informative and helpful to our faith and some will be just fun and allow us to learn a bit more about each other. **Our speaker this month is Jerry Cumer, the church librarian, who will speak on the Laird Memorial Library and all its resources available to you. Join us on March 11, but make sure you reserve your spot by Monday, March 10 at 12 noon with the church office.**

THE LAST TUESDAY BOOK CLUB: We'll gather on Tuesday, March 25 at 7 p.m. in the PW Lounge on the first floor of the CE Wing. We will be reading short stories from *100 Great Short Stories: Dover Thrift Edition*, which can be obtained through Amazon. We will discuss the following three stories: Nathaniel Hawthorne – Dr. Heidegger's Experiment; Mary E. Wilkins Freeman – A New England Nun; Willa Cather – The Enchanted Bluff

THRU THE BIBLE CLASS: We'll gather on Monday, March 31 at 7 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the church building. We have been working our way through the Bible from cover to cover and will be discussing the first third of the Book of Revelation (Rev. 1-7). The class lasts just an hour and is led by Dr. Ankrum. Please join us for a lively discussion!

JOIN US SUNDAY, APRIL 6, as we once again observe *Tartan Day* during Fellowship Hour. The Worship Committee invites you to celebrate our Scottish roots with festive attire and share in shortbread, scones and other Scottish fare. This is also a Communion Sunday, so come celebrate our unity in Christ at the table of our Lord, and then remain to mark our Scottish heritage.

SAVE THE DATE: We are planning another field trip to The Star Theater in Sugar Creek, Ohio on July 12, 2025. The play is *The Road to Damascus*. We will leave from the church lot at 8:00 a.m. and return by 8:00 p.m. There will be a buffet lunch at the Dutch Valley Restaurant at 11:30. The play will begin promptly at 1:00 p.m. The cost for the play, lunch, van transportation and gratuities is \$76. You may sign up during fellowship hour.

PIE (AND OTHER GOODIES) DAY!!!!

SUNDAY MARCH 23 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP!

Mark your calendars now for the Stewardship Committee's upcoming PIE Day in March. On March 23, the congregation will gather for fellowship, coffee and pies following the worship service. More information to come, but you can begin signing up for this event this month during the Fellowship Hours. Most everyone likes a good pie and there are a lot of good bakers in the congregation. Of course, you can sign up to provide goodies other than pies; all desserts welcome! But either way please make sure that you reserve the date, sign up and join us for good old-fashioned pies and fellowship.

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Sundays in Lent ...

Lent 2 – March 16 – 10:00 a.m.

Lent 3 - March 23 – 10:00 a.m.

Lent 4 – March 30 – 10:00 a.m.

Lent 5 – April 6 – 10:00 a.m.

Communion Service

Palm Sunday – April 13 - 10:00 a.m.

Mid-Week Lenten Services: Wednesdays in Lent – 7:00 p.m. – The Memorial Chapel

During the Wednesdays in Lent, we will gather for a thirty-minute service of prayer, meditation, music and a homily. These services will return to our Memorial Chapel and will be available on simulcast. Wednesdays, March 12, 19, 26 and April 2 & 9.

GOOD FRIDAY EGG HUNT AND BREAKFAST: APRIL 18 – 9:30-11:30 AM: Come enjoy a hearty cooked breakfast, participate in an egg hunt, and complete an Easter focused craft. **All children of the congregation, preschool, community, and friends are welcome to attend.** Register now through April 4 to ensure we have enough supplies for all attendees. Registration forms can be dropped off to Sunday school or preschool teachers, emailed to Wendy McCann at tjmwam@netzero.com or by calling the church office at 724-832-0150.

EASTER LILIES 2025 - Prepaid Orders Due by Sunday, April 13 The Worship Committee is making lilies available for \$15.00 each. If you wish to place one or more flowers in the sanctuary for Easter, please return this form to the church office with \$15.00 for each plant desired. If you wish, you may place your lilies "In Memory Of" and/or "In Honor Of" loved ones. The deadline for orders is Sunday, April 13. Lilies may be picked up following the Easter Sunday Service.

My Name: _____

Place my flower(s) "In Memory Of":

Place my flower(s) "In Honor Of":

Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ (quantity) flowers

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

9:00 a.m. Adult and Youth Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship and Children's Sunday School

12:00 p.m. Second Sunday Supper – Kitchen/Dining Room

MONDAY, MARCH 10

9:00 a.m. Sewing – Fletcher Room

6:00 p.m. Membership & Evangelism Committee – Assembly Room

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

11:30 a.m. The Gathering – The Boulevard, Greensburg

6:30 p.m. Deacons Meeting – Dining Room

7:30 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous – Fletcher Room

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast Bible Study – Eat n' Park

10:00 a.m. Abigail Circle - Refectory

12:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous – Fletcher Room

1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting – Assembly Room

5:00 p.m. Property & Finance Meeting - Refectory

7:00 p.m. Wednesday Lenten Service - Chapel

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

5:30 p.m. Wind Ensemble - Sanctuary

6:30 p.m. Kirk Ringers Practice – Bell Room

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice – Choir Room

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

9:00 a.m. Adult and Youth Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship and Children's Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour – Dining Room

11:00 a.m. Youth Group Meeting – Youth Room

618 O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High

1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high, be - yond all
 2 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly
 3 For us by wick - ed - ness be - trayed, for us, in
 4 For us he rose from death a - gain; for us he
 5 All glo - ry to our Lord and God, for love so

thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of
 fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tions
 crown of thorns ar - rayed, he bore the shame - ful
 went on high to reign; for us he sent the
 deep, so high, so broad: the Trin - i - ty whom


God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake.
 sharp he knew, for us, the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
 cross and death; for us gave up his dy - ing breath.
 Spir - it here to guide, to strength - en, and to cheer.
 we a - dore for - ev - er and for - ev - er - more.

Reducing a twenty-three-stanza Latin text to these five English stanzas intensifies this survey of the mystery of the Incarnation and strengthens the repeated reminder that all was done "for us." A comparable tone of proclamation animates this 15th-century song celebrating a military victory.

When We Are Tested


783

Capo 2: (Dm) Em (Am) Bm (Dm) Em (Am) Bm




1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
 2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
 3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
 4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,

(Em) (B7) (Em) (Dsus) (D)
 F#m C#7 F#m Esus E




fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
 plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
 trad - ing the truth for the power to con - trol,
 sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,

(G) (D) (Em7) (F)
 A E F#m7 G



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
 lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
 teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
 Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,

(Am6) (C) (Dm) (Am) (E)
 Bm6 D Em Bm F#



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
 trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
 seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
 an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

Although the Temptation of Christ is mentioned in all three synoptic gospels (Matthew 4:1–11/Mark 1:12–13/Luke 4:1–13), this hymn is based on the Lukan version. It is notable that each stanza begins “when,” not “if”; temptation is not an optional feature of the spiritual life.

694 Great God of Every Blessing

1 Great God of ev - ery bless - ing, of faith - ful, lov - ing care,
 2 Your Word is our sal - va - tion, the source of end - less grace,
 3 Your Spir - it is our teach - er, the light that guides our search,

you are the fount of good - ness, the dai - ly bread we share.
 in death and life ex - tend - ing your cov - e - nant em - brace.
 trans - form - ing bro - ken peo - ple in - to the ho - ly church.

How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:
 In Christ we are one bod - y; each mem - ber has a part:
 For feed - ing us with mer - cy, for wis - dom you im - part:

sin - cere - ly and com - plete - ly I of - fer you my heart.

Written for the 500th anniversary of John Calvin's birth, this text sums up his liturgical theology, ending each stanza with his motto: *Cor meum tibi offero, Domine, prompte et sincere*. By moving from plural to singular the stanzas show how corporate faith becomes personal piety.