



LENT
REFUGE
RENEWAL
RESTRAINT
REPENTANCE REASSURANCE
REMEMBRANCE RECONCILIATION
RESTORATION RESURRECTION
REFLECTION
READINESS
RADIANCE
REVERENCE
RELIANCE
RELEASE
RETURN

First Presbyterian Church

25 West Main Street | North East, PA 16428

(814) 725-8641 | FPCNE.ORG | Follow us on Facebook

WELCOME



WELCOME TO ALL. You enter this church not as a stranger, but as a child of God, joining in worship with our Christian family. Please take a moment to complete a Visitor/Guest Card, located in the pew racks, and place it in the collection plate at the back of the sanctuary or give directly to Pastor Gregg. We are glad you are here.

TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP, please turn off or silence cell phones and other devices upon entering the sanctuary.

FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN, nursery care is available for infants and young children through pre-K.

RESTROOMS are located across from the office area and down the hallway in the Christian Education wing.

PARKING IS AVAILABLE in the designated church parking spaces on the south and east side of the church, as well as street parking. The municipal building parking lot west of the church is also available during evening hours and on Sunday mornings.

TODAY'S LITURGICAL COLOR IS PURPLE, which is used during the penitential season of Lent as a vivid reminder of the contempt and scorn Christ endured and the sacrifice he made for our eternal salvation.

WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER AND DEVOTIONAL is held on Facebook on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM (ET). Please contact Pastor Gregg directly to share any prayer requests.

CONTACT INFO YOU MIGHT NEED

- Contact Pastor Gregg anytime at (814) 460-3123 (call or text) and pastortownsend@yahoo.com.
- Contact music director Jane Livingston at (814) 504-1135 (call or text) and jmlivingston20@outlook.com.



First Presbyterian Church

Announcements and Things to Know

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION WILL BE HELD ON TODAY, following the worship service. Please plan to stay.

LIBRARY MONTH BOOK REVIEWS

“A Jonah Day” by Phil Smouse. A story of Jonah is retold in rhyme with colorful pictures. “Cathedral Cats” by Richard Surman. The life stories of cats that make their home in Britain’s cathedrals. Thank you to Al and Sue Mohnkern for donating these books. Visit the library, sign out a book of your choice and sign up for the gift card and bear drawing.

CHECK OUT A BOOK OR TWO! For every book signed out, you’ll get a chance to win a \$30 Tia Bookstore gift card or a big stuffed bear. Winners will be announced today!

PICK UP A LENTEN FLIER AT THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY. Plan ahead and put all our Holy Week services on your calendar.

SIGN UP TO PROVIDE FLOWERS ON SUNDAY MORNING IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE OR OCCASION. Please email jmlivingston20@outlook.com with bulletin details.

Bulletin submissions are due on Wednesdays.

SENDING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

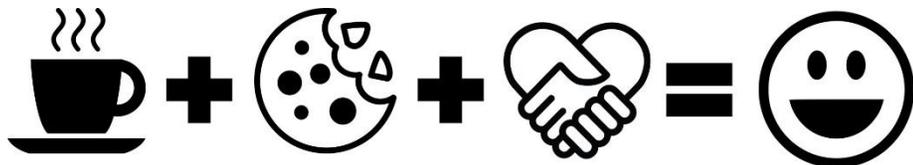
* CLOSING HYMN “See How He Loves Us”

See insert

* OFFERING OUR TENTH AND GIFTS BEYOND

* BENEDICTION AND POSTLUDE

* * * * *



OFFERING OUR TENTH AND GIFTS BEYOND

1. Place your envelopes in the plates at the back of the sanctuary.
2. Give through PayPal at paypal.me/fpcne or [FPCNE.ORG](https://www.fpcne.org).
3. Scan the QR code in the pew pocket to go right to the church's Paypal account.
4. Speak with Pastor Gregg for details on setting up direct deposit.

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Hymns | “What Wondrous Love Is This” CCLI Song # 197297 Alexander Means | William Walker ©
Words and Music: Public Domain || “Kind and Merciful God” CCLI Song # 20034 Bryan Jeffery Leech
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First Presbyterian Church

North East, PA

February 22, 2026, 10:30 A.M.

First Sunday in Lent

Jane M. Livingston, Director of Music

Gregg D. Townsend, Pastor

**Indicates to stand if you are able*

SHARING OUR JOYS, CONCERNS, AND PRAYER REQUESTS. Please fill out a Prayer Card located in the pew racks and give to Pastor Gregg before the service.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

Pastor Gregg Townsend

* GREETING

* CALL TO WORSHIP “Come, Let Us Return to the Lord”

See Insert

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jean LaFuria

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. With this in mind, let us confess our sin to God

—Psalm 51:17, NRSV

O God, our great shepherd, you tenderly gather us as lambs, carrying us with your all-embracing love. Yet, like sheep, we wander from you: following our own ways, ignoring your voice, distrusting your provisions. Forgive our stubborn rebellion, our hardened hearts, our lack of trust. Refresh us once again by your quiet waters of mercy and restore our souls by your redeeming love. Guide our paths, that we might follow you more closely.

Silent confession

Through Jesus Christ, our good shepherd, we pray.
Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Those who love me, I will deliver, says the Lord; I will protect those who know my name. When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them and show them my salvation. Receive the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

—based on Psalm 91:14-15, NRSV

*** SONG OF THANKSGIVING** “What Wondrous Love Is This”

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul.
What wondrous love is this, O my soul.
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss.
To bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul.
To bear the heavy cross for my soul.

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 millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing.
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death, I’m free, I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on.
And when from death, I’m free, I’ll sing on.
And when from death, I’m free, I’ll sing and joyful be.
And through eternity I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on.
And through eternity I’ll sing on.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

CHILDREN’S BLESSING

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE READING

Ezekiel 8:1-18
Pew Bible, Page 677

MESSAGE

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*** RESPONDING IN SONG** “Kind and Merciful God”

Kind and merciful God, we have sinned in Your sight.
We have all wandered far from Your way.
We have followed desire. We have failed to aspire,
To the virtue we ought to display.

Kind and merciful God, we’ve neglected Your Word,
And the truth that would guide us aright.
We have lived in the shade of the dark we have made,
When You willed us to walk in the light.

Kind and merciful God, we have broken Your laws,
And in conduct have veered from the norm.
We have dreamed of the good but the good that we could.
We have frequently failed to perform.

Kind and merciful God, in Christ’s death on the cross,
You provided a cleansing from sin.
Speak the words that forgive that henceforth we may live,
By the might of Your Spirit within.

Kind and merciful God, bid us lift up our heads
And command us to rise from our knees.
May our hearts now be changed and no longer estranged,
Through the pow’r of Your pardon and peace, Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

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.