

Holy Week Services _____

Palm Sunday, March 29 at 10:30 AM

Welcome the King into Jerusalem! Celebrate Christ's kingship and God's everlasting covenant.

Maundy Thursday, April 2 at 7:00 PM

Join us for Maundy Thursday as we journey together through the Garden of Gethsemane, sharing in communion and reflection.

Good Friday, April 3 at 7:00 PM

Join us on Good Friday for a moving worship service centered on the sacrifice of Jesus, a time of reflection and prayer.

Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 4 at 7:49 PM (Sunset)

Gather with us at sunset on the church steps as we begin our Easter Vigil and carry the light of Christ into the sanctuary.

Easter Sunday, April 5 at 10:30 AM

Celebrate Easter with us, and experience the joy of the Resurrection, uplifting music, and a sanctuary filled with spring beauty.



LENT

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, Sunday School and nursery care are available for infants and young children.

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

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

PICK UP AN EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM at the back of the sanctuary. All flowers are \$10 each, with orders due by March 22. Please give your payment and order forms to Jane.

SQUARE CIRCLE WILL MEET WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, AT 6:30 PM at the home of Deanna Ott, 90 Isabella Street. All women are welcome to join us for devotions, prayer, and fellowship.

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.

MARCH IS FPCNE'S MONTH TO VOLUNTEER AT THE NORTH EAST FOOD PANTRY on Fridays and Saturdays from 9:15 AM for a few hours. Please sign up in the Assembly Room.

Bulletin submissions are due on Wednesdays by 12:00 Noon.



Check out the bulletin boards throughout the Assembly Room and hallways.

PLEASE SIGN UP TO HOST COFFEE HOUR. Many hands make light work! We appreciate your help in making coffee hour a success!

SENDING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

* **CLOSING HYMN** “See How He Loves Us”

See insert

* **OFFERING OUR TENTH AND GIFTS BEYOND**

* **BENEDICTION AND POSTLUDE**

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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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“Come Let Us Return to the Lord” Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Michael Cochren CCLI Song #7255876 © Getty Music Hymns and Songs; Getty Music Publishing; Love Your Enemies Publishing; Messenger Hymns | “In the Cross of Christ, I Glory” CCLI Song #36499 Ithamar Conkey | John Bowring © Public Domain | “See How He Loves Us” Jon Althoff, Marc Willerton CCLI Song #7138119 © Sovereign Grace Worship | Draw Me to the Cross © Jane Livingston 2019

First Presbyterian Church

North East, PA

March 15, 2026, 10:30 A.M.

Fourth 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

Janice Hirneisen

For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with great compassion I will gather you. In overflowing wrath for a moment, I hid my face from you, but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you, says the Lord, your Redeemer. Let us confess our sins to almighty God.

—based on Isaiah 54:7-8, NRSV

Most merciful God whose Son, Jesus Christ, was tempted in every way, yet was without sin, we confess before you our own sinfulness; we have hungered after that which does not satisfy; we have compromised with evil; we have doubted your power to protect us. Forgive our lack of faith; have mercy on our weakness. Restore in us such trust and love that we may walk in your ways and delight in doing your will. Amen.

Silent confession

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The Lord God said: I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. Brothers and sisters: In Christ, all God's promises are "Yes." Hear the good news:

Through Christ, our minds and hearts are cleansed, healed, and renewed!

—based on Ezekiel 36:26; 2 Corinthians 1:20, NIV

*** SONG OF THANKSGIVING** "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

In the cross of Christ I glory. Towering o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'ertake me. Hopes deceive and fears annoy.
Never shall the cross forsake me. Lo it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming. Light and love upon my way.
From the cross the radiance streaming, adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure. By the cross are sanctified.
Peace is there that knows no measure. Joys that through all time abide.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE READING

Ezekiel 36:22-32
Pew Bible, Page 704

MESSAGE

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*** RESPONDING IN SONG** "Draw Me to the Cross"

Draw me to the cross, there I will meet you.
Ransomed Son of Man, you who came to serve.
Paying all the price I've been set free.
My Lord, my Lord, what have you done for me?

Draw me to the cross, there I will meet you.
Powerless and ungodly though I was.
Even still you died on my behalf.
Now I'm justified, safe from God's wrath.

**Draw me nearer, nearer blessed Lord.
To the cross where Thou hast died.
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer blessed Lord...
To Thy precious bleeding side.**

Draw me to the cross, there I will meet you.
Caught in sin's grip, enemy of yours.
You came seeking, reconciling me.
Saved and now a friend, wrapped within your love. **(Chorus)**

Draw me to the cross, there I will meet you.
I fear no one who would condemn me.
There is no pow'r so great as yours.
The cross, a sure sign of your victory. **(Chorus)**

SILENT REFLECTION

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.