



*First
Presbyterian
Church*



First Presbyterian Church

First Sunday in Lent

February 18, 2024

* = You are invited to stand if able
Items in **bold** are congregational responses

– ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME–

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOYS AND SORROWS

PRAYER OF PREPARATION AND PRELUDE

God of the hungry times, God of the difficult times, God of all the times of our lives, sometimes it is difficult to understand the direction we need to go. With all the choices we have in our lives, sometimes we’re not sure when to say “Yes” or when to say “No.” So we ask for your guidance. We ask for wisdom. We ask for Spirit. In our worship, in our work, in our choices, in our lives. May it be so, loving God! Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We trust in you, O God, for you are faithful.

People: Show us your ways and teach us your paths.

Leader: We wait for you.

People: Lead us in your paths of truth.

Leader: Do not remember our failures.

People: Out of your merciful grace, forgive us.

Leader: You are faithful, O God. Your love is steadfast.

People: We lift up our souls to you and praise you always.

OPENING PRAYER

Alpha and Omega, Beginning and End, in this time, may we pause and listen for Your word right here and now. You hold all of eternity, yet our time is brief. We give over this time now, so that in all our time, we may draw closer to You, Ancient of Days, Holder of Tomorrow. Amen.

HYMN: “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days” Blue 81

INVITATION TO RECONCILIATION Pastor

CHORUS: “Spirit of the Living God” Blue 322

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, as we begin this Lenten wilderness journey with Jesus, we confess our neglect of you and our faith. We make idols of nation, money, and power. We build walls instead of better relationships. We fail to follow Jesus to the poor, the destitute, the stranger. Empty us this Lent, Holy God. Guide us in our faith so we can leave this wilderness season in right relationship with you. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

***KYRIE: *Lord, have mercy upon us;
Christ, have mercy upon us;
Lord, have mercy upon us.***

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Remember and receive these hopeful words . . . Accept the freedom God provides.

By the grace of our God, we are forgiven. Praise our God. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI (Glory Be to the Father . . .)**

***SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE**

GREETING OUR NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS

RE-GATHERING CHORUS "The Family of God" Screen

– PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD –

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of grace, help us seek you and the truth you intend for us today. Let us not be distracted by worldly pursuits or pleasures. Help us to focus our hearts and minds on you and your Word read and proclaimed. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT: 1 Peter 3:13-22 Liturgist

GOSPEL: Mark 1:9-15 Pastor

SERMON: "The Bright Side of Temptation" Pastor

HYMN: "My Faith Has Found a Resting Place" Red 75

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: APOSTLES CREED Blue 14

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

God calls us to lives of grateful generosity. Let us praise the Giver of all good gifts through our offering today.

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY

DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS

God of grace, you provide for us in amazing ways. Accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude and bless them to further Christ's ministry and mission among the poor, the suffering and the destitute. Amen.

HYMN: "God Will Take Care of You" Red 56

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

RESPONSE "Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen!"

– GO OUT TO SHARE THE WORD OF GOD –

THOSE SERVING AMONG US TODAY

The Liturgist today is Kay Nelson.
Greeter today was Nancy Komlos.

Last Sunday's Attendance: 40

Last Sunday's Offering: \$1,493

Thank you for your faithfulness in service and in giving.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

TODAY: Worship at 10 am

TUESDAY: Food & Fellowship from 11 am – 1 pm

WEDNESDAY: Liturgy & lunch at First United Methodist
from 12-1 pm; Session at 6 pm

SATURDAY: Chicken & Biscuit dinner from 12-4 pm

NEXT SUNDAY: Worship at 10 am

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES	
Feb. 18- Joe Burnsworth Feb. 21- Eva Bukovitz	Feb. 22- Bruce Patterson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHICKEN AND BISCUIT DINNER: Mark your calendars for our chicken and biscuit dinner this Saturday, February 24th, from 12-4 pm that benefits our 150th anniversary. Tickets will be \$12 for adults and \$6 for children. The dinner includes mashed potatoes, green beans, and cake. All help would be appreciated. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Bobbi Jo Huebner or call the church office to reserve tickets.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY, PRAYER, AND PRAISE—Throughout Lent, you are invited to join the pastor in reading through and meditating on the life of Christ in the Gospel of Luke, an average of 28 verses per day or four chapters per week.

Each Monday in Lent, beginning tomorrow, the living room of the Parish House will be open for a time of reflection/study of what we have read, a time for praise and worship, and a time of guided prayer. Times will be 1 pm and 6:30 pm, and the meetings will last an hour. The sessions will be available on Zoom, as well, for those who cannot attend in person.

Zoom: Call 1 929 205 6099 (phone) or log in on the Zoom app on your computer, phone, or tablet: Meeting ID: 818 3672 6212, Passcode: 123456

If you have questions, please contact the pastor

Verses for this week: 2/20, 4:14-44; 2/21, 5:1-26; 2/22, 5:2-6:16, 2/23, 6:17-42; 2/24, 6:43-7:23; 2/25, 7:24-50; 2/26, 8:1-25

EASTER FLOWERS: It's time to order flowers to be placed in the sanctuary for Easter. The price for all flowers is \$10. If you would like to order flowers, please complete the order form, put it in an envelope with payment (marked **EASTER FLOWERS**) and place it in the collection plate or give to Susan Aten. The ABSOLUTE last day to order flowers is Wednesday, February 28th. No late orders can be accepted. Please make all checks payable to First Presbyterian Church.

LITURGY AND LUNCH SCHEULE: Join us for a brief service and lunch at local churches at 12 pm on Wednesdays during Lent. The services will be led by pastors of the churches with assistance by other local ministers. Each church will serve a soup and bread lunch (with dessert) after the service.

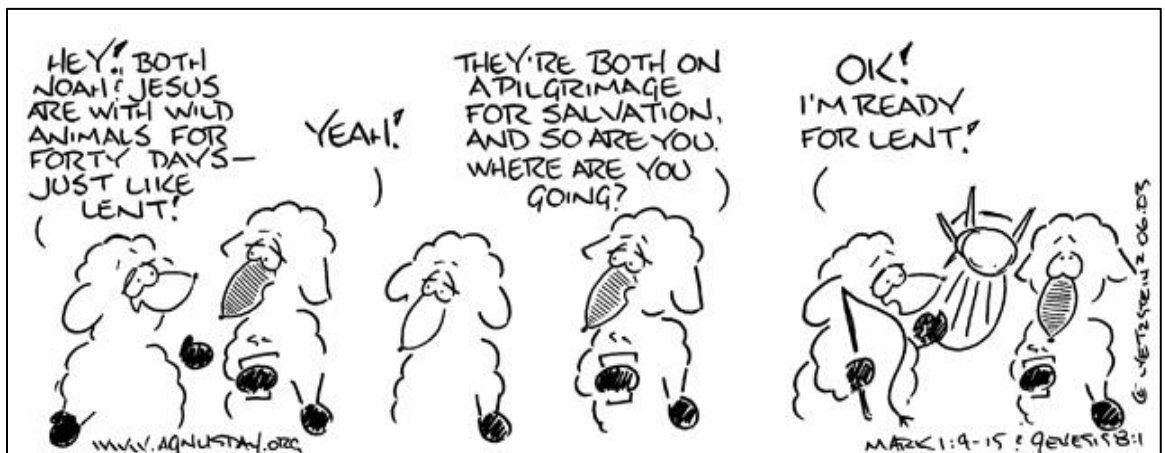
Feb. 21 First United Methodist, 200 State Street

Feb. 28 Lynwood Lutheran, 900 Washington Road

Mar. 6 Fells United Methodist, 1268 Fells Church Road

Mar. 13 First Presbyterian (here)

Mar. 20 Rehoboth Presbyterian, 442 Rehoboth Road



PRAYER LIST

Please remember the following people in your thoughts and prayers.
Please call the office with prayer needs, updates, and questions
or e-mail the church at.

Anita † Lisa Aten † Kaiden Bane † Dolores Beatty † Bill Behrens
† Joann Bellora † Mary Lou Berish † Bob & Carol Berish † Carl
Boone † Frank Britton † Cameron Burnardza † Joe Burnsworth †
Colin † Sally Callaway † Sally Campbell † Carol Carcella † Milana
(Berish) Cerniga † Chloe Chachaula † Rev. Ian Chikoti † Nancy Craig
† Glenn Crownover † Tena Crutcher † Sue Currie † Family & friends
of Sandy Davis † Rich & Kathy Davies † Carol Driver † Sandy Elder †
MaryAnn Falk † Norm Floyd † Howard Forsyth † Janis Garofalo †
Louise Gerber † Glenn Hart † Sarah Hepple & Baby † Brittany
Heckathorn † Wayne Helster † Frieda Hilman † Patti Huyck † Diane
Johnston † Zoey Johnson † Janet † June Kefover † Donna Kearns
† Cameron Kennedy † Irene Leyda † Mike Lemley † Gordon Lucas †
Ronnie Lynn † Laura Martin † J.T. Mateka † Taylor McGee † Bruce
Merritt † Dean Migliori † Phil Morrow † Lynette Murray † Betsy Neel
† Jim Palfrey † Scott Palfrey † Marge Pawlaski † Kim Pierce † David
Plasman † Helen Pulgino † Kaylee Rabon † Lucille Rapchak † Dennis
Raymer † Alina Shaw † Linda Shuler † Chris Sicora † Rose
Smarachek † Toi Smith † Walter Smith † Gianna Smoyer † Candy
Sokol † Lewis Stiltner † Ginger Thorp † Jerry Tregembo † Shirl
Walsh † Sandy Walters † Joseph Waywood † Edna Weaver

**Pray for the safety and protection of First Responders
(police, fire, EMTs), Military Personnel, Medical Personnel,
Caregivers who deplete themselves caring for others,
those affected by senseless violence and war,
and those affected by natural disasters.**

*(If you have a prayer concern or to update the list, please call the office at
724-929-7616 or fill out a prayer card and place in the offering plate)*

Sermon Notes
The Bright Side of Temptation
1 Peter 3:13-22; Mark 1:9-15

Mark gives the _____ version of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness.

Our struggles, suffering, and trials have a bright side—We are _____.

The mysticism of a God-experience—a dramatic healing, a beautiful revelation, an unexpected blessing—is _____ to carry us through this life.

Often the trials are the very things that bring _____, that make us _____, and that _____ the God we serve.

I wonder if we could ask ourselves, “How might God be at work during this difficult period? What can I get out of this? How might God use me to help someone else?”

1. Jesus _____ on God and found _____ and _____.
2. Jesus didn't _____ from temptation, but responded with _____ and the _____ of God.

3. Jesus didn't _____ to temptation or trial, but rather _____ the temptation with what was within, with the Spirit's presence and power.

“To preach the temptation of Jesus in Mark is to call attention to our greatest temptation — the temptation to _____ that God is not _____.” Epperly

Peter tells us that trials will come, and they can be overcome by:

1. Know that you are _____ when you do _____, in spite of your trials (v. 2)
2. Don't _____ what the world does, but be sure to keep Christ as _____ of your life.
3. Be ready to share your _____ with those who want to know about your _____.
4. Reply to those who demand an accounting with _____ and _____.
5. Keep your conscience _____, being sure to keep current with God, so the truth will win out.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of Belle Vernon

501 Fayette Avenue, Rostraver Twp., PA 15012

Church Offices: 511 Fayette Avenue

Office Hours: M - F: 9:00 to 1:00

Church Phone: 724- 929-7616

Fax and Fellowship Hall Phone: 724-929-0209

Pastor's Cell Phone: 724-243-2871

Web: www.fpresbv.org **e-mail:** office@fpresbv.org

Pastor:	Mary Kay Glunt	243-2871
Clerk of Session:	Sharon Zunic	929-4463
Church Secretary:	Natalie Brewer	929-7616
Organist:	Joe Balogh	379-0149
Chairman of Deacons:	Susan Aten	929-6406
Head Usher:		
Custodian:	Patty Gillon	929-7616
H. O. A:	Linda Aten	929-6406

E L D E R S

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Lori Lamberski	Fred Exley	John Conger
Carol Tragesser	Doug Cole	Sharon Zunic
David Burdis	Jack Backo	
Linda Aten		

D E A C O N S

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Jessica Phillabaum	Susan Aten	Patty Gillon
Dave Neel	June Exley	Eileen Kunca
Kay Conger	Barb Moskala	
Brenda Kennedy		

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We live and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through worship, service, and witness.

As a Christ-centered church empowered by the Holy Spirit, we seek God's plan for each of us and all of us. We welcome everyone to journey with us as we strive to grow in love, faith, trust, and discipleship.

(Adopted October 10, 1998; revised February 2, 2013)