

First Presbyterian Church

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January 25, 2026

We welcome you not as strangers but as a part of God's family! We are a community of faith that gathers to praise our Lord and Savior, serve others, search for answers, and enjoy the fellowship of one another. We hope today you will be challenged and discover encouragement. The peace of Christ be with you!

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

January 25th, 2026

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

*Worship begins with the Prelude. Please use this time for **silent** preparation.*

PRELUDE

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

Diane Bish

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

CHORAL INTROIT

Michael Morgan

“Make a Joyful Noise to God”

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
People: *The light shines in our midst today.*
Leader: The Lord is our light and our salvation.
People: *Whom shall we fear?*
Leader: Jesus calls, “Follow me.”
People: *We come to walk in the light of Christ.*
Leader: Come, let us worship the God who calls us out of darkness.
People: *Let us follow Christ, the light of the world.*

PRAYER OF PRAISE

*HYMN OF ADORATION # 463

“How Firm a Foundation”

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Merciful God, you call us to follow in the way of Jesus, but we hesitate. We prefer to cling to what seems safe and familiar. We have focused on our own needs and neglected the needs of your kingdom. You shine your light, yet we hide in the shadows of doubt and fear. Forgive us, God of grace. Draw us into your light. Give us courage to walk in your way of love, peace, and justice, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

*DECLARATION OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.*

A MOMENT WITH OUR CHILDREN

*HYMN OF PREPARATION # 14

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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.

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 9: 1-4, page 638

ANTHEM

“We Walk by Faith and Not By Sight”

Henry Alford

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 4: 12-23, page 3

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.
People: *Thanks be to God.*

SERMON

The Rev. Edna Ann Loftus

“Turn Around”

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

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“Apostles’ Creed”

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

Horatius Bonar

“Meditation on Penitentia”

***DOXOLOGY**

Hymn # 606

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

SENDING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN OF COMMITMENT # 213**

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

CHARGE AND BLESSING**CHORAL RESPONSE**

Traditional

“Danish Amen”

***POSTLUDE**

Rudolph Tonnesen

“Rejoice, Give Thanks”

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**Please stand if able.*

Opportunities for the Week of January 25th – February 1st

Sunday: 8:45 a.m. Sunday School
9:00 a.m. Choir Practice
10:00 a.m. Worship Service / Dr. Edna Ann Loftus
5:00 p.m. Youth Group

Tuesday: 6:30 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting

Wednesday: **Distribute February Church Mouse / Newsletter**

Sunday: 8:45 a.m. Sunday School
 9:00 a.m. Choir Practice
 10:00 a.m. Worship Service / Rev. Karen Allen
 11:00 a.m. Congregational Meeting
 5:00 p.m. Youth Group

Announcements

Please take a moment and welcome Dr. Edna Ann Loftus. Dr. Loftus is a qualified ruling elder and member of Laurinburg Presbyterian Church. She graduated from Sweet Briar College and earned a Ph. D. from Princeton University and preached for congregations in our area for more than 10 years. Dr. Loftus and her husband, Bill, have enjoyed life in Scotland County for more than 40 years. They have one grown son, Will, who now lives in Asheville, North Carolina.

Due to the weather this coming weekend, the Soup/Salad luncheon has been postponed. We have rescheduled the Soup / Salad luncheon until February 8th, immediately following worship service.

The Fellowship & Mission are collecting canned goods for “Souper Bowl of caring”, between Jan 25-Feb 8th. After all canned goods are collected they will be delivered to Robbins Food Bank. Please be sure to bring your canned goods and support the Robbins Food Bank.

There will be a brief congregational meeting immediately following worship on Sunday, February 1st. This meeting will be to approve the 2026 Nominating Committee.

Free Gospel Music Concert: GloryWay will be providing a free gospel music concert on Saturday, January 31st, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. and, also at Sunday Worship Music on Sunday, February 1, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. All events will take place at Carthage United Methodist Church, 401 McReynolds St. Carthage.

The flowers in the sanctuary is given to the glory of God by Pat Jackson.