

First Presbyterian Church

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March 22, 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

5th Sunday in Lent

March 22nd, 2026

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

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

PRELUDE

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive; from Psalm 130)

Leader: I wait for the Lord and in his word, I hope.
People: *My soul waits for the Lord, more than those who watch for the morning.*
Leader: O people, hope in the Lord.
People: *For with the Lord there is steadfast love.*
Leader: With him there is great power to redeem.
People: *Come; let us worship the Lord.* ^[CB]

PRAYER OF PRAISE

*HYMN OF ADORATION # 286

“Breath on Me, Breath of God”

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Living Christ, with whom we journey to the cross, we confess that we are always looking for an easier way. We long for the fulness of life with you, but we are slow to abandon the comforts of the life we know. We seek the fruit of new life, but we are not willing to die to ourselves. You call us to life in community, but we stubbornly cling to “me and mine.” Yet you continue to offer us the grace of an abundant life, even and especially when our best efforts fall short. Forgive us; transform us; renew us. Set us free from our attachment to what was, so that you might bring us into the glory of what will be. We pray in the name of 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 # 407

“Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers”

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

Ezekiel 37: 1-14, page 806

ANTHEM

“Have You Been to Calvary”

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

John 11: 17-27, 38-45, page 105

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

SERMON

Dr. Edna Ann Loftus

“Can These Bones Live”

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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“Apostles’ Creed”

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

“Worthy of Worship”

*DOXOLOGY

Hymn # 606

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING GOD’S WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT # 69

“Here I Am Lord”

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*CHORAL RESPONSE

*POSTLUDE

“Whispering Hope”

**Please stand if able.*

Opportunities for the Week of March 22nd – March 29th

- Sunday: 8:45 a.m. Sunday School
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 April Church Mouse / Newsletter**
12:00 p.m. Community Lenten Service / Mt Olive AME Zion Church
5:45 p.m. Choir Practice
- Sunday: 8:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship Service / Rev. Nancy Wazenegger
11:10 a.m. Palm Sunday Covered Dish Meal / Easter Egg Hunt
3:00 p.m. Sandhills Crop Hunger Walk /UPHS

Announcements

Please take a moment and welcome back Dr. Edna Ann Loftus.

Community Lenten Service will be held at Mt Olive AME Zion Church on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, beginning at 12:00 p.m.

The Adult Sunday School class will be going to Pik N Pig after Worship service today. We hope you will be able to come out and bring a friend. We would love to have you.

The Fellowship & Mission Committee are hosting a covered dish meal after Worship Service, March 29th, for Palm Sunday and the Children Education Committee will host an Easter egg hunt following lunch. Spread the word, invite your friends and family. All are welcome!

For all those attending, we will be ready for CROP walk after lunch at 3pm at Union Pines!

Easter Lilies will be placed in the church in honor of our RISEN LORD. Please bring your Lily on Easter morning and place it on the pulpit. If you wish to honor someone, please call the church office by Wednesday, March 25th and provide the names.

We will be having our Easter Sunrise service at 7:00 a.m. on April 5th. Fellowship & Mission Committee will be hosting Sunrise Service breakfast which will follow the service. Don't forget we will decorate the cross with flowers on Easter morning.

One Great Hour of Sharing: We will be collecting the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Easter, April 5th, 2026. This offering is broken down into three categories – Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People. Please plan to contribute to this special offering and help make a difference in the lives of others.