

# First Presbyterian Church

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March 15, 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

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026

### GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

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

PRELUDE

Edward Broughton

“The Precious Blood of Jesus”

### GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

CHORAL INTROIT

Richard Hillert

“Create in Us a Clean Heart, O God”

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: Can you hear the voice of God?

People: We hear God calling us by name.

Leader: Are you troubled or distressed?

People: We come here to find a place to rest for awhile.

Leader: Come and find a guide who knows these lands.

Unison: We come to praise our Shepherding God, whose pathways and doors lead to life.

\*HYMN OF ADORATION # 490

“Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters”

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

*Shepherding God, be with us in our need. Like sheep who have gone astray—we have not heeded your voice, calling us to follow the right paths, beckoning us to lie down and be restored; we have acted as if our salvation lies in busyness and control. We do not want to be sheep—dependent on a shepherd for everything. We want to do it alone—to maintain our independence. Forgive us for rejecting your shepherding care and your love and guidance.*

*Forgive us for our need to do it by ourselves, to be separate from the flock. Forgive us for doubting your presence in times of trouble. Forgive us our despair in the face of seemingly unrelenting evil and death. Lead us back to the path of life. 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

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 23, Page 501

ANTHEM

David Haas

“You Are Mine”

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

I Thessalonians 5:12-25, page 205

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION

The Rev. Laura Lupton

“The Imperfection of Prayer”

\*HYMN OF PREPARATION # 525

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving 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.*

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

Pécslyi Király Imre

"There in God's Garden"

\*DOXOLOGY

Hymn # 606

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING GOD'S WORD INTO THE WORLD

\*HYMN OF COMMITMENT # 816

"If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee"

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

\*CHORAL RESPONSE

Traditional

"Return to the Lord Your God"

\*POSTLUDE

Robert Hughes

"Garden of Gethsemane"

*\*Please stand if able.*

**Opportunities for the Week of March 15<sup>th</sup> – March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Sunday: 8:45 a.m. Sunday School  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service / Communion / Rev. Laura Lupton  
11:00 a.m. Fellowship & Mission Committee Meeting  
5:00 p.m. Youth Group  
Tuesday: 6:15 p.m. Men's Bible Study Group, *conference room*  
Wednesday: **Deadline for Church Mouse / Newsletter**  
12:00 p.m. Community Lenten Service / *Carthage United Methodist Church*  
5:45 p.m. Choir Practice  
Friday: No School  
Sunday: 8:45 a.m. Sunday School  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service / Dr. Edna Ann Loftus  
5:00 p.m. Youth Group

## **Announcements**

Today we welcome Rev. Laura Lupton who is our Presbytery's Associate General Presbyter for Mission Coordination and Assoc. Stated Clerk. She lives in Fayetteville where she coordinates the Cumberland County CROP Hunger Walk (3/22) – and she encourages our participation in the Sandhills CROP Hunger Walk on March 29 at Union Pines HS.

Community Lenten Service will be held at Carthage United Methodist Church on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, beginning at 12:00 p.m.

The Adult Sunday School class is planning a luncheon at Pik N Pig on Sunday, March 22, after Worship Service. Come on out and join us for some amazing fun, food and fellowship. We will meet there, so come on out and bring a friend. We would love to have you.

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 25<sup>th</sup> and provide the names.

We will be having our Easter Sunrise service at 7:00 a.m. on April 5<sup>th</sup>. 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 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026. You will see special inserts in the bulletin beginning next week. 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.

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God by Debbie and Robert Gordon.