

First Presbyterian Church

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February 8, 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 after Epiphany

February 8th, 2026

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

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

PRELUDE

G. F. Händel

"Thanks be to Thee"

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

CHORAL INTROIT

Doris Akers

“There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive; from Psalm 100)

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

People: *Worship the Lord with gladness.*

Leader: Know that the Lord is God.

People: *He has made us, and we are his.*

Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise.

People: *Give thanks to him and bless his name.*

Leader: For the Lord is good.

People: *His steadfast love endures forever.*

Leader: His faithfulness is to all generations.

People: *Come, let us worship the Lord.*

PRAYER OF PRAISE

*HYMN OF ADORATION # 65

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehova”

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Gracious and merciful God, we confess that this life of faith is harder to follow than we expected. You call us to live lives of justice, righteousness, and love. But we fall short of those expectations. We have followed too much the desires of our own hearts. We have become busy and distracted. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done. We have done those things which we ought not to have done. Lord, have mercy upon us. Forgive those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to the world in Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant, most merciful God, for his sake, that we may be salt and light to a world in need, to the glory of your holy name. 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 # 629

“Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee”

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 58: 1-9a, Page 688

ANTHEM

Sebastian Temple

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 5: 13-20, page 4

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

SERMON

Dr. Edna Ann Loftus

“Salt and Light”

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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“Apostles’ Creed”

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

Louisa Stead

“Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus”

*DOXOLOGY

Hymn # 606

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING GOD’S WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT # 377

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Traditional

“Danish Amen”

*POSTLUDE

Karl Sigfrid-Elert

“Praise the Lord with Drums and Cymbals”

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**Please stand if able.*

Opportunities for the Week of February 8th - February 15th

Today: 8:45 a.m. Sunday School
 9:00 a.m. Choir Practice
 10:00 a.m. Worship Service / Dr. Edna Ann Loftus
 11:00 a.m. Congregational Meeting
 11:15 a.m. Session Meeting
 No Youth Group

Wednesday: 6:30 p.m. Building & Grounds Committee Meeting
Thursday: 11:00 a.m. PWCT Meeting
Friday: Early Release from School
Sunday: 8:45 a.m. Sunday School
9:00 a.m. Choir Practice
10:00 a.m. Worship Service / Communion / Rev. David Dudley
No 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.

Ash Wednesday Service will be held on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, beginning at 7:00 p.m. with the Rev. Maggie Beamguard officiating. Our Youth will be providing a Pancake Supper at 6:00 p.m. Please come out and join us and bring a friend.

Office hours for February: The church office will be open on Wednesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Sonya will be working from home on Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and can be reached by email at infofpc397@gmail.com. If you need assistance after these hours, please do not hesitate to send an email as emails are checked periodically.

The Sandhills Crop Hunger Walk will be held on March 29, 2026, at Union Pines High School track. Please visit the link provided for more information or to start signing up teams.
<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/event/sandhillsnc>

The flowers in the church are given in the Glory of God by Karen and Tim Helms.