



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD FEBRUARY 1, 2026

First Presbyterian Church is an inclusive community of faith called to proclaim the good news of the love of Jesus Christ for all people, and to join God in the building of a just, peaceful, and compassionate world.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

THE GATHERING

CANDLEMAS

Those who are able are invited to move to the front steps during the opening voluntary to participate in the Candlemas Procession.

OPENING VOLUNTARY

THE CANDLEMAS PROCESSION

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Diane Bowers

THE EXHORTATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Forty days ago we celebrated the joyful feast of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Today we recall the holy day on which he was presented in the temple, fulfilling the law of Moses and at the same time going to meet his faithful people. Led by the Spirit, Simeon and Anna came to the temple, recognized Christ as their Lord, and proclaimed him with joy. United by the Spirit, may we now go to the house of God to welcome Christ the Lord. There we shall recognize him in the breaking of bread until he comes again in glory. Let us pray. God our Father, source of all light, today you revealed to Simeon your Light of revelation to the nations. Bless these candles

and make them holy, that we who observe their light in your temple may come with joy to the light of glory. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us go forth in peace to meet the Lord.

HYMN

In His Temple Now Behold Him

REGENT SQUARE

1. In His temple now behold Him,
See the long expected Lord;
Ancient prophets had foretold
Him—
God has now fulfilled His word.
Now to praise Him, His redeemed
Shall break forth with one accord.
2. In the arms of her who bore Him,
Virgin pure, behold Him lie,
While his aged saints adore Him
Ere in faith and hope they die.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Lo, th'incarnate God most high.
3. Jesus, by Thy presentation,
Thou, who didst for us endure,
Make us see our great salvation,
Seal us with Thy promise sure.
And present us in Thy glory
To Thy Father, cleansed and pure.
4. Prince and Author of salvation,
Be Thy boundless love our theme!
Jesus, praise to Thee be given
By the world Thou didst redeem.
With the Father and the Spirit,
Lord of majesty supreme!

Christ is the Light of the nations:
And the glory of Israel, his people.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty and everliving God, we humbly pray that, as your only-begotten Son was presented in the temple, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CALL TO RECONCILIATION AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God has told us what is good, what is required:
Do justice. Love kindness. Walk humbly with God.
These commands are so simple,
yet we know we have not always followed them.
With that knowledge, we confess.

Merciful God, we fail to do what is right. Instead, we pursue evil and do not speak the truth. Even when we try our best to be faithful, still we turn away from you. Forgive us, accept us, and redeem us, that we may seek to do what you call good.

A brief silence is kept for personal prayer.

PRAYER RESPONSE (HYMN 702)

Christ Be Beside Me

BUNESSAN

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom and righteousness, sanctification and redemption, is the one who judges us. Christ is the one who was born for us and forgives us with abundant love.

We will boast of all the good God has done for us! Thanks be to God!

*GLORIA PATRI (Hymn 581)

GREATOREX

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

During the hymn of response, children are invited to gather at the front of church, where they will depart for Worship and Wonder.

*SUNG RESPONSE (HYMN 156)

Sing of God Made Manifest

SALZBURG

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Saving God, source of our calling, your Word is full of power and glory. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us so that we may receive your grace and live as your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Psalm 84 (O.T. p. 543)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Luke 2:21-40 (N.T.p. 59)

The Gospel of the Lord. **May Jesus Christ be praised.**

SERMON

Rev. Jill Kaetzel

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 402

How Lovely, Lord

MERLE'S TUNE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving all of humanity in all times. The power of God's love in Christ transforms the world, reveals the Redeemer as Lord and Creator of all. In the holy Spirit, in the love of our Triune God, all glory and honor. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We approach God in prayer not as strangers,
but as beloved children, baptized in Christ Jesus.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As children of God, we pray for the church . . .
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As children of God, we pray for the earth . . .
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As children of God, we pray for all nations . . .
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As children of God, we pray for this community . . .
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As children of God, we pray for loved ones . . .
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy One, help us to live in a way that listens, heals, and protects. As you have called us to listen to Christ, Help us to always heed his word and seek his will. These things we pray on the name of Jesus, Our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

As Joseph and Mary brought gifts to the temple in thanksgiving for the birth of their son, so we offer tokens of our thankfulness for the blessings of that same Son. Accept them for the sake of the Child who was presented this day, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

This Little Light of Mine

arr. Howard Helvey

*PRESENTATION OF GIFTS (Hymn 708)

We Give Thee But Thine Own

**We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.**

SEALING THE WORD WITH THE SACRAMENT

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Sung by all: (Hymn 552)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.

The prayer continues.

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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All who seek God are invited to the table, regardless of church affiliation or any other condition or identity. Ushers will guide you forward to partake by taking a piece of bread and dipping it in the cup. Servers will come to those who prefer to remain in their seats.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray: God our Father, source of all light, you revealed to aged Simeon your light that enlightens all nations and have now filled our hearts with the light of faith through this holy supper. Lighten our path that we may walk in the way of holiness until we come to the Light that shines forever, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 546

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

SICILIAN MARINER

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Jill Kaetzel*

Liturgist: *Diane Bowers*

Communion Servers: *Meredith Bowers & Madeline Howell*

Kids' Kirk: *Marsha Nash*

Each year on February 2, the church celebrates the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple, also known as the Feast of the Purification, and Candlemas. This feast commemorates the 40th day after Jesus' birth, when he was presented in the Jerusalem Temple and Mary was purified in accordance with Jewish Law.

The Book of Leviticus mandates that, after childbirth, a woman must go to the temple to offer "two turtle-doves or two pigeons, one for a burnt-offering and the other for a sin-offering; and the priest shall make atonement on her behalf, and she shall be clean" (Leviticus 12:8).

The Presentation of Jesus at the Temple is chronicled in the Gospel of Luke, when St. Simeon the Righteous saw Jesus in the temple and "took him in his arms and praised God," saying, "My eyes have seen your salvation" (Luke 2:30).

We bring new candles to be blessed today to represent the light of salvation that Simeon saw in the Christ child. Let these candles lighten your lives, and through you, the lives of all you encounter.

THE STAFF OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sasha O'Bryan, *Office Manager and Pastoral Assistant*
Stephanie Dube, *Director of Children and Youth Ministries*
Patrick Ritsch, *Director of Music*
Debbie Hutchinson, *Bookkeeper*
Candice Baize, *Custodian*

The Life of the Church

Today we welcome to the pulpit, Rev. Jill Kaetzel. Jill is an ordained elder in the United Methodist church. She has served 8 churches since 1999, with the most recent a new church start in Santa Claus. Jill has also served as a hospital chaplain and a hospice chaplain. Jill is a resident of Spencer County Indiana and has 2 grown children and 3 grandchildren.

This Week at FPC

Sunday, February 1

9:15 Choir Rehearsal

9:30 Adult Sunday School in the Parlor

9:30 Children's Sunday School

9:30 Men's Bible Class in person and via Zoom

10:30 Sunday Worship in-person in the Sanctuary and via Facebook Live

Monday, February 2

9:15 Staff Meeting

Tuesday, February 3

10:15 PWS

11:00 Personnel Committee

Wednesday, February 4

10:00 Book Study

10:15 PWS

Thursday, February 5

10:15 PWS

Sunday, February 8

9:15 Choir Rehearsal

9:30 Adult Sunday School in the Parlor

9:30 Children's Sunday School

9:30 Men's Bible Class in person and via Zoom

10:30 Sunday Worship in-person in the Sanctuary and via Facebook Live

11:30 Worship & Music Committee Meeting

5:00 Youth Group