



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BAPTISM OF THE LORD JANUARY 11, 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

OPENING VOLUNTARY

GREETING

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

CHORAL INTROIT

Heavenly Display

arr. K. Siegfried

*LITANY FOR BAPTISM OF THE LORD

In the beginning, darkness covered the deep, and God said: Let there be light.
The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

Through the words of the prophet, the Lord said: When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

Do not fear, says the Lord; I am with you. I have called you by name; you are mine.
The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

When Jesus was baptized by John, suddenly the heavens were opened.
The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

And as Jesus was coming out of the water, the Spirit of God rested on him like a dove.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

And a voice said: You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit, and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep us, your children born of water and the Spirit, faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*HYMN 265

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

DUKE STREET

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Holy God, you sent your Son to be baptized among sinners, to seek and save the lost. May we, who have been baptized in his name, never turn away from the world, but reach out in love to rescue the wayward. Trusting in God's Grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life, making us part of the body of Christ. We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves, separated from one another. We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges, and show reluctance to welcome one another. We allow the past to hold us captive. In your loving-kindness, have mercy on us, and free us from all sin. Fulfill the promises of our baptism so that we may rise to new life, and live together in grace.

A brief silence is kept for personal prayer.

PRAYER RESPONSE (HYMN 575)

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

KYRIE ELEISON

*RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

Hear these words from holy scripture:

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

For in the one spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we were all made to drink of one spirit.

You may place your hand over your heart here, as the promises of baptism are recalled and renewed.

Beloved people of God, our baptism is the sign and seal of our cleansing from sin, and of our being grafted into Christ. Through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Christ, the power of sin was broken and God's kingdom entered our world.

Through our baptism we were made citizens of God's kingdom, and freed from the bondage of sin. Let us celebrate that freedom and redemption through the renewal of the promises made at our baptism.

I ask you, therefore, once again to reject sin, to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, and to confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we were baptized.

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn away from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

I do.

Who is your Lord and Savior?

Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?

I will, with God's help.

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Remember your baptism and be thankful.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*HYMN 306

Blest Be the Tie That Binds
(v. 1 & 4)

DENNIS

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

*SUNG RESPONSE (HYMN 182)

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

KINGSFOLD

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Diane Bowers

May God be with you in worship here.

May God be with you in worship there.

Children may depart the sanctuary for Kids' Kirk. They will return before communion.

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 29 (O.T. p. 504)

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

Matthew 3:13-17 (N.T.p. 3)

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

RESPONDING TO THE WORD***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, as you are well pleased with Christ, help us to live in a way that will be pleasing to you. As you have called us to listen to Christ, help us to always heed his word and seek his will. These things we pray in the name of Jesus, your beloved Child, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Let us return to God the offerings of our life and the gifts of the earth.

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING*Come to the Water*

arr. J. Schrader

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS (Hymn 708)We Give Thee But Thine Own*

SCHULMANN

**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 *(using debts/debtors)*

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

We give you thanks and praise, O God, that you have fed us with your mercy and poured out your Spirit in this place. Continue to nourish and fill us each day, that we may live as your beloved people; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE CREATED ORDER

*HYMN 317

In Christ There Is No East or West

MC KEE

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Dr. Matthew Covington*

Liturgist: *Pat Corkran*

Communion Servers: *Judy Hughes & Debbie
Hutchinson*

Kids' Kirk: *Marna Loucks*

THE STAFF OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

The Life of the Church

Today we welcome to the pulpit, Rev. Matthew Covington. Matthew has most recently served as the Interim Pastor here at First Presbyterian Church Owensboro. He retired after 21 years of serving as pastor of The Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green, Kentucky. He has served the Presbytery of Western Kentucky in numerous ways, as Moderator of the Presbytery, as Moderator of the Commission on Ministry, as a Commissioner to General Assembly, and as Chair of the task force to rewrite the Presbytery's Manual of Operations. Matthew and his wife Ann met as students at Davidson College. They have two daughters, and three grandchildren.

The **Annual Congregational Meeting** will take place next Sunday, January 18th, following worship.

Printed copies of this week's **PresbyNotes** newsletter are available on the table in the hall.

Financial Update Our ministry is funded by the giving of members and friends. Thank you for your generosity.

Year-To-Date (thru Dec. Final)

Income: \$ 688,832.64

Expense: \$ 627,746.94

Balance: \$ 61,085.70

Month To Date (Dec.)

Income: \$ 77,668.24

Expense: \$ 42,653.13

Balance: \$ 35,015.11

Week of Dec. 28

Income: \$ 18,087.44

Expense: \$ 14,009.33

Balance: \$ 4,078.11

Keep your pledge current and look for more good news here.

Congregational Nominating Committee

Due to circumstances surrounding the calling of a new pastor and the difficulty in finding people willing to serve, the Nominating Committee did not bring a slate of officers to the congregation in September 2025. Because some elders and one trustee were elected in 2024 to serve an additional year during our transition period as we searched for a new pastor, classes going forward are out of balance. In order to remedy the situation the committee recommends adding members to the elder and trustee classes of 2027 and also electing elders and trustees to the class of 2028. We submit the following slate for election at the Annual Meeting January 18, 2026.

Elders Class of 2027

Allison Bates (1)
Will Clancy (1)
Anne Leazenby (1)

Elders Class of 2028

Tom Furlong (2)
Patti Price (2)
Marna Loucks (1)
Ellen Sweet (1)

Trustees Class of 2027

Jerry Price (1)

Trustees Class of 2028

Tina Temple (2)
Diane Bowers (1)

Deacons Class of 2028

Judy Hughes (2)
Karen Taylor (2)
Nancy Harrison (1)

Congregational Nominating Committee Members At Large

These committee members are elected for one year and may serve up to three terms.

Suzanne Guyer (2)
Kim Lashbrook (2)
Marsha Nash (3)
Debbie Bowley (1)