



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
JANUARY 18, 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

*Womb of Life and Source of Being
(The text can be found at Hymn 3)*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

To those who want to follow him, Jesus asks, "What are you seeking?"

Teacher, we do not seek worldly power, but a better way to live.

"What are you seeking?"

Teacher, we do not seek worldly wealth, nor the prizes of paradise, but simply to be with you.

"What are you seeking?"

**Teacher, we do not seek worldly praise or fame, only that you call us by name.
Amen.**

*OPENING PRAYER

Lamb of God, you take on the sins and suffering of the world. Call us into partnership with you, to love and serve your people by your side. Call us to witness your goodness and to join your ongoing work of liberation. Call to us by name, and we will delight in your ways. Call to us by name, and we will follow you forever. **Amen.**

*HYMN 39

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Like the early disciples, we are curious about this Jesus, this Son of God. We may be tempted to stay away, for we know we are not worthy of him. But Jesus does not care about worth, wealth and power. Jesus seeks those who would follow honestly, willing to face their failures in order to grow closer to God. In that spirit, let us turn to Christ.

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

God of the ages: We do not always wait with patience. We do not always sing your praises. We do not always recognize your work in our lives. We would rather take the credit for ourselves. We would rather take the easy way out. We would rather step on others if it means more for ourselves. Forgive us for all the ways we forget you. Help us to delight to do your will. Help us to trust in you and return us to the path of righteousness.

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

The Lamb of God takes away the sins of the world. The Lamb of God takes away the sins of each and every one of us.

Christ has mercy on us, forgiving our sins. Alleluia!

*GLORIA PATRI (Hymn 581)

GREATOREX

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

*SUNG RESPONSE (HYMN 442)

Just as I Am, without One Plea

WOODWORTH

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

Isaiah 49:1-7 (O.T. p. 679)

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

John 1:29-42 (N.T.p. 92)

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

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Matthew Covington

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 726

Will You Come and Follow Me

KELVINGROVE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Adapted from the Confession of 1967

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 sinful men and women. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.

(The people sit.)

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

There is only one Lord and God, from whom all things come and for whom we live.
Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

Children of the Heavenly Father

arr. Paul Sjolund

*Children of the heav'nly Father
Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven
Such a refuge e'er was given.*

*God His own doth tend and nourish;
In His holy courts they flourish;*

*From all evil things He spares them;
In His mighty arms He bears them.*

*Praise the Lord in joyful numbers:
Your Protector never slumbers;
At the will of your Defender
Every foeman must surrender.*

*Though He giveth or He taketh,
God His children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them pure and holy.*

*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 (*using debts/debtors*)

(*Hymnal page 11*)

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 463

How Firm a Foundation

FOUNDATION

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

The Annual Congregational Meeting of First Presbyterian Church will begin following the voluntary. Those in attendance who are not members are welcome to depart now.

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Dr. Matthew Covington*

Liturgist: *Jerry Price*

Communion Servers: *Ashley Johnson & Allison Bates*

Kids' Kirk: *Kim Lashbrook*

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 today immediately following worship. Annual Report Packets are available for pickup by the entrances to the sanctuary.

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 (Jan.)

Income: \$ 22,865.00

Expense: \$ 18,635.39

Balance: \$ 4,229.61

Week of Jan. 11

Income: \$ 11,570.00

Expense: \$ 7,361.35

Balance: \$ 4,208.65

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

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*

This Week at FPC

Sunday, January 18

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 Annual Congregational Meeting

Monday, January 19

Office Closed

Tuesday, January 20

9:15 Staff Meeting

10:15 PWS

10:30 PrimeTimers

Wednesday, January 21

10:15 PWS

3:00 Outreach & Evangelism Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 22

10:15 PWS

Friday, January 23

Office Closed

Sunday, January 25

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 Property Committee Meeting

11:30 Mission Committee Meeting