



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY  
JANUARY 25, 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**

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**THE GATHERING**

OPENING VOLUNTARY

GREETING

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the sea of life's daily stress and strife,  
In the struggle to keep our heads above the waves,  
Jesus calls us from the shore:  
"Follow me, and be fishers of people!"

**God gathers us into new boats  
Built with room for friend and stranger.**

"Follow me, and use your gifts with purpose.  
Follow me, and build abundant life."

**We will be weavers of community,  
Creators of justice and joy,  
Gardeners of compassion and peace.**

## OPENING PRAYER

God our light and our rescue, our fortress in times of trouble, when human powers seek to crush us, protect us in the hidden places of your heart. Ease our fears and let us rest in you. When we are safe, but other lives are threatened, fortify our resolve to be your protection for all our kin and all your good creation. When the work is done, we ask only to live in your house and enjoy your beauty forever. **Amen.**

\*HYMN 321

*The Church's One Foundation*

AURELIA

## CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Christ calls us to follow, knowing that we are human. Jesus knows we are not perfect, that we will not always get it right. All he asks is that we try, learn, and try again. Let us go to God, telling how we have tried and failed, that God may teach us what we must learn.

## PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

**Christ, our Messiah, you call us to fish for people, but we are hesitant to leave our boats. We are afraid to let go of the things we acquire, believing they make us secure. We are afraid to put our trust in you, afraid to follow, afraid we will fail. Forgive us. Transform our fear into faithfulness. Enable us to walk with you, that we may be part of your work in the world. Amen.**

*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

Just as Jesus called the disciples, so Christ calls us: freed to follow him, and freed to serve, let us answer Christ's call.

**Christ calls us, forgives us, heals us, and teaches us. Thanks be to God!**

\*GLORIA PATRI (Hymn 581)

GREATOREX

## \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

From the fullness of God we have all received grace upon grace. Let us now share this grace with one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

\*SUNG RESPONSE (HYMN 769)

*For Everyone Born*

FOR EVERYONE BORN

May God be with you in worship here.

**May God be with you in worship there.**

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 9:1-4 (O.T. p. 518)

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

\*Matthew 4:12-23 (N.T.p. 3)

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

SERMON

Rev. Marilyn Ericksen

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

\*HYMN 721

*Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*

PESCADOR DE HOMBRES

\*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

Let us return to God the offerings of our life and the gifts of the earth. Freely you have received, freely give.

#### MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

*Now Let Us All Praise God and Sing*

G. Young

#### \*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

**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 WORLD

\*HYMN 720

*Jesus Calls Us*

GALILEE

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

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*\*Rise in body or spirit*

*The flowers in the sanctuary today are in memory of Ashlyn Dube  
on what would have been her 23<sup>d</sup> birthday.*

## LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Marilyn Ericksen*

Liturgist: *Debbie McCoy*

Communion Servers: *Tamara Warren & Creda Heffelfinger*

Kids' Kirk: *Allison Bates*

## 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. Marilyn Ericksen.**

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.

<b>Year-To-Date (thru Dec.)</b>	<b>Month To Date (Jan.)</b>	<b>Week of Jan. 18</b>
Income: \$ 688,832.64	Income: \$ 32,485.00	Income: \$ 9,620.00
<u>Expense: \$ 627,746.94</u>	<u>Expense: \$ 29,099.99</u>	<u>Expense: \$ 10,171.74</u>
Balance: \$ 61,085.70	Balance: \$ 3,385.01	Balance: (-\$ 551.74)

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

## **This Week at FPC**

### **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

### **Monday, January 26**

**9:15** Staff Meeting

**10:30** Christian Education Committee Meeting

**4:00** Congregational Life Committee Meeting

### **Tuesday, January 27**

**10:15** PWS

**4:00** Worship & Music Committee Meeting

### **Wednesday, January 28**

**10:15** PWS

### **Thursday, January 29**

**10:15** PWS

### **Friday, January 30**

**Office Closed**

### **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



My star word is:

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What it means to me:

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