

March 17, 2024
First Presbyterian Church
5th Sunday in Lent

We Gather in God's Name

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude *Abide With Me* Whitworth

Welcome Rev. Maxwell Michaels

We Worship Together

***Call to Worship** Elder Tom Hammer

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love;

According to your abundant mercy, blot out our transgressions.

You desire truth in our deepest selves, so teach our hearts wisdom.

Let us hear your joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

Create in us clean hearts, O God; put new and right spirits within us.

Sustain in us willing spirits and restore us to the joy of your salvation. Let us worship God!

***Hymn** 182 *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say* KINGSFOLD

Invitation to Confession (the congregation is seated)

Let us pray for the cleansing of our hearts, confessing our sins to the One whose mercy is everlasting.

Prayer of Confession

Living Christ, with whom we journey to the cross, we confess that we are always looking for an easier way. We long for the fullness of life with you, but we are slow to abandon the comforts of the life we know. We seek the fruit of new life, but we are not willing to die to ourselves. You call us to life in community, but we stubbornly cling to “me and mine.” Yet you offer the grace of life abundant, even and especially when our best efforts fall short. Transform us, renew us, and free us from our attachment to what was, so that you might bring us into the glory of what will be. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, hear the good news! We worship a God who forgives our iniquities and remembers our sins no more. Proclaim the good news with me:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us now greet one another with a sign of Christ’s peace.

***Holy Interruption** *We greet our neighbors in Christ’s love*

***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.

Anthem *Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed* Watts/Forrest
Chancel Choir

Gina Goddard, soloist; Libby Pierce, Wind Chimes

Children’s Message

We Receive God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading Jeremiah 31:31-34

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Gospel Reading John 12:20-33

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Message “The Times They Are A-Changin’ ” Rev. Maxwell Michaels

Affirmation of Faith *(from Heidelberg Catechism, Q.1)*

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

That we are not our own, but belong – body and soul, in life and in death – to our faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. Because we belong to him, Christ, by the Holy Spirit, assures us of eternal life and makes us wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for God.

***Hymn** 215 *What Wondrous Love is This* (vs 1, 4) WONDROUS LOVE

Announcements

Pastoral Prayers and 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.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Interlude *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* Burkhardt

***Doxology Hymn** *All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night* TALLIS’ CANON
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, it is our joy to return the gifts of our lives to you. May our offering this morning forever bring glory to your name, and may we continue to work tirelessly for the well-being of your whole creation. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

***Hymn** 216 *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* ST. CHRISTOPHER

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response** 202 *An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare* Green
Chancel Choir

No end there is! We depart in peace. He loves beyond our uttermost: in every room in our Father’s house Christ will be there, as Lord and Host. Amen.

***Postlude** *Palladio* Jenkins

Please wait until the end of the benediction response by the choir before exiting.

*Those who are able, please stand as directed at the items marked with an asterisk

The flowers are placed in the sanctuary today by Richard & Libby Pierce in honor of all missionaries past and present.

The Church This Week (3/17/2024)

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| Today | 10:00 a.m. | Sunday School |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Worship |
| | 5:00 p.m. | Confirmation Class |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Youth |
| Mon. | 8:30 a.m. | MMO |
| | 10:00 a.m. | Lenten Study |
| Tues. | 6:00 p.m. | Women's Community Bible Study |
| Wed. | 8:30 a.m. | MMO |
| | 9:00 a.m. | Women's Community Bible Study |
| | 3:15 p.m. | Fun Program |
| | 5:30 p.m. | Spaghetti Supper |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Chancel Choir Rehearsal |
| Thurs. | 6:00 p.m. | Session |
| Sun. | 10:00 a.m. | Sunday School |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Worship |

Prayer List as of March 17, 2024

Gerry & Bobby Rogers
 Ina Coggeshall
 Gray & Bea Sloop
 Bennie and Benny Lou Moore
 Bobbie Jones
 Keller Smith
 Dr. Sue Arledge and her husband, Bob
 Shenell Malloy (Susan & Bill's daughter-in-law)
 Edward Tinsley
 Kathie Cook
 Penny Angle
 Barbara Dickson

Mary Gulledge and Eve Nobles will have activities and a Bible story in the nursery during the Maundy Thursday service on 3/28/24.

Listed below are links to sign up to volunteer in the nursery, put flowers in the church, and monitor students at Pathfinders. Please prayerfully consider these opportunities. If you are interested, please just click on the proper link. If you need help in signing up, please contact Cathy Chapman.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0545AF22AB9-nursery#/>

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0545AF22AB9-flowers1#/>

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0545AF22AB9-45315196-pathfinders#/>

The sanctuary is equipped with a hearing loop. For individuals with hearing aids, please activate your T-coil to utilize this feature. Spare headsets are also available.

March 30- Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Egg Hunt
 Breakfast will start at 9:30am and go on until 10:00am. Egg Hunt will start at 10:00am.
 All ages are invited to come have breakfast with the Easter Bunny. Bring your camera and make some memories!

Montreat Youth Announcement:

To all the parents of youth from the 9th grade through recently graduated, the Montreat Commitment Form has been sent out to you! This includes the cost breakdown and information your teen needs for the trip. Please complete this form and return it to either Pastor Max or Elder Kelli Beck before the April 1st deadline. This will secure your child's spot in Montreat! Additional copies of the Montreat Commitment Form can be found in the Youth Newsletter box outside the Church Office. We are looking forward to Montreat this year!

Massanetta Springs Spaghetti Supper on March 20th!

Hey y'all! On March 20th, we will be holding a Spaghetti Supper to help fundraise for the Mission at Massanetta Springs Trip this Summer! This meal will be at 5:30 PM, and we will also take orders for the T-shirts that the Youth designed and Voted on! Each T-shirt will cost \$45, which will cover the cost of the T-shirt, and go into the Mission Fund to help send these kids to Massanetta Springs!

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be taken on Sunday, March 31st.

Session of First Presbyterian Church

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <u>Class of 2024</u> | <u>Class of 2025</u> | <u>Class of 2026</u> |
| Marietta Melton Burch | Kelli Beck | Mary Anderson |
| Cathy Chapman | Avery Dickson | Andrew McLeod |
| Dan Tillman, III | Mary Jane Evans | Kristen Miller |
| Charlene Tillman | Jean Page Watson | Richard Pierce |

The Church Staff

| | |
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| Rev. Maxwell Michaels, Pastor | Mrs. Mary Louise Baker, Music Director, DCE |
| Mrs. Carolyn S. West, Secretary | |
| Mr. James W. Kendall, Sexton | Mrs. Kim Brabham, Director MMO |
| Mrs. Arnetha Kendall, Housekeeper | Mrs. Sally Powell, MMO |
| Mrs. Mary Gulledge, Miss Eve Nobles, Nursery | |

Mission Partners

Mr. Mark Hare/ Mrs. Jenny Bent, Costa Rica
 Mrs. Ellen Smith, (mission co-worker) Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Poland



Our Vision

*Rooted by God's Grace,
 Growing in the Spirit,
 Reaching Out with Christ's Love*

Sunday, March 17, 2024

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