

February 22, 2026
First Presbyterian Church
1st Sunday of Lent

We Gather in God's Name

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude *I Love to Tell the Story* arr. by Isch
Fun Program Chimers

Welcome Rev. Maxwell Michaels

We Worship Together

***Call to Worship (inspired by Psalm 32)** Sam Baker Jr.
The steadfast love of God surrounds us always — even in the wilderness!
Thanks be to God! Let us be glad and worship!

***Hymn** *264 At the Name of Jesus* KING'S WESTON

Invitation to Confession

In a time of testing, let us pause to examine our own hearts, looking for how we have failed to live up to that which God has commanded. .

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, you know all about our troubles. Your Son was tested in the wilderness, tempted by the powers of the age. We confess how easily and often we give in to them. Yet, you continue to forgive us, reminding us there is nothing we can do to lose your love. Holy God, turn us from the evil powers in high places, that we may return to you and the path to which you have called us. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear and receive the good news: In Jesus Christ, we have been forgiven! Know this and be at peace. 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**

***Gloria Patri**

Choral Anthem *Books of the New Testament* Traditional
I Can Only Imagine Bart Millard
Sara Gavin, Hank Parker, Juliette Carroll, & Lydia Fenters, soloists;
Dylan Gilpin, wind chimes; Payden Watts, drums

We Receive God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:1-11
This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God!

Sermon *"Walk the Line"* Rev. Maxwell Michaels

Affirmation of Faith *(from A Brief Statement of Faith)*

In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom and peace. p1 In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

***Hymn** *26 Earth and All Stars* EARTH AND ALL STARS

Moment for Mission: Super Bowl of Caring

Announcements

Pastoral Prayers & 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 Anthem *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* arr. by Tucker
Fun Program Bells

***Doxology**

Prayer of Dedication

Take these, our gifts, as we offer them today, O God. Use them for your glory. May these gifts go toward freeing the captives, feeding the hungry, comforting the lonely, and healing the world. As Christ's body, use us too, in service to repairing the breached, broken places in our community. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

Hymn *837 Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* SHOWALTER

Benediction

Benediction Response *Grace, Peace, Unto You* Michael Jothan
(Fun Program)
Ella Morgan & Madelyn Tinsley, soloists

Postlude *How Firm a Foundation* arr. by Thompson
Fun Program 3rd graders Ensemble

***Please wait until the end of the Benediction Response before exiting.**

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

Acolytes: Mari Burch & Campbell Harris

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.

If you would like to place flowers or a plant in the sanctuary for worship service, there is a sign-up sheet outside of the church office. You can also call, or email Cathy Chapman and she can sign you up for a date.

The Church This Week (02/22/2026)

Today 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Worship
 12:00 p.m. Congregational Meeting
 12:05 p.m. Concentration Lunch
 3:00 p.m. Piano & Organ Recital
 Mon. 8:30 a.m. MMO
 Tues. 6:00 p.m. CW Bible Study
 Wed. 8:30 a.m. MMO
 9:00 a.m. CW Bible Study
 3:15 p.m. Fun Program
 5:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting
 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
 Sun. 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Worship

Prayer List as of February 22, 2026

Gerry Rogers
 Bea Sloop
 Benny Moore
 Bobbie Jones
 For those suffering from chronic mental and emotional illnesses
 B.J. Moore
 Louise Carpenter
 Shirley Brock
 Edward Tinsley
 Ruth Jackson
 Nadia Harris
 Lesley Jean Watson
 Rebecca Harris Ott
 Pam Cook (Alison Chapman's mother)
 Wyatt Smith
 Tommy Gullledge
 April Quick
 Summer Cathey

Scholarships

The First Presbyterian Church has four scholarships available for young people:

- *The **William Manning Malloy Memorial Scholarship** is available to the most qualified high school senior living within a five-mile radius of Cheraw.
 - *The **Edwin Malloy Memorial Scholarship** is available to anyone seeking higher education opportunities living within a five-mile radius of Cheraw.
 - *The **D. W. Moore, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund** is available to students seeking a degree in the field of music.
 - *The **McArn, MPB, and Maynard Scholarship Fund** is also available.
- The deadline for returning scholarship applications is March 1, 2026.**

Congregational Meeting

Congregational Meeting Today, immediately following the service to vote on and elect the new Board of Deacons classes for 2026, 2027, & 2028.

Piano & Organ Recital

You are cordially invited to attend a piano & organ recital today at 3 p.m. in the sanctuary with a reception to follow in the Fellowship Building. Elementary & high school students of Mary Louise Baker will be performing various pieces to showcase their talent. Join us in supporting these rising stars!

McArn Food Bank Backpack Ministry

McArn Food Bank Partners with Cheraw Primary school, to provide weekend food for 35 of their students most in need. Each week during the school year, nutritious food items are bagged and placed in children's backpacks for them to carry home for the weekend.

Food items may include (**No peanut butter or nuts**):

- *Ravioli cups
- *Mac-n-cheese cups
- *Ramen noodles cup
- *Pudding cups
- *Jello cups
- *Fruit cups,
- *Applesauce cups
- *Vegetable cups
- *Pop Tarts
- *Granola bars
- *Individual cereal bowls
- *Instant grits
- *Instant oatmeal
- *Lance sandwich crackers

If you would like to contribute any of these items to this ministry, please place them in the designated box outside the church office door or the little red wagon in the Narthex.

Nursery Volunteer Schedule for January - March

Feb. 22	Charlene Tillman
March 1	Laura Folger
March 8	Mary Jane Evans
March 15	Lainey Baker
March 22	Alison Chapman
March 29	Marietta Melton Burch

Session of First Presbyterian Church

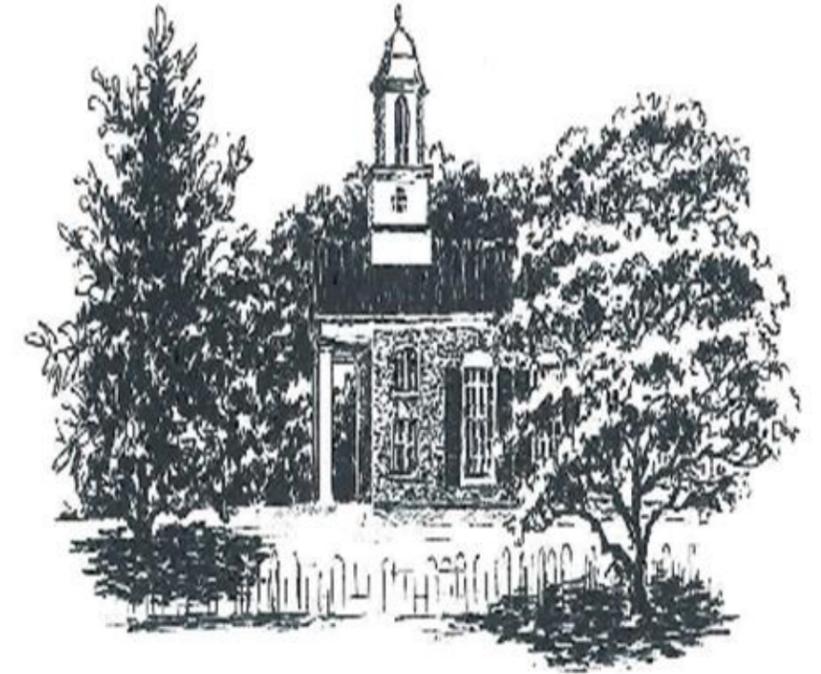
<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>	<u>Class of 2028</u>
Mary Anderson	Mike Chapman	John Folger
Andrew McLeod	Christie McLeod	Cam Beck
Kristen Miller	Tracie Phillips	Tammy Joyce
Richard Pierce	Harold Watson	Steve Cook

The Church Staff

Rev. Maxwell Michaels, Pastor
 Mrs. Danielle Self, Office Administrator
 Mr. James W. Kendall, Sexton
 Mrs. Arnetha Kendall, Housekeeper
 Miss Eve Nobles, Nursery

Mrs. Mary Louise Baker, Music Director, DCE

Mrs. Gini Eddins, Director MMO



Our Vision

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

Sunday, February 22, 2026

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