



First Presbyterian Church



Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026, 11:00 AM

* Indicates that those who are able may stand

Bold type is spoken by the people.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTARY: Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

Larry Shackley

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Sidonie Sansom, Liturgist

ONE: We are children of light,

ALL: rejoicing in everything good and right and true.

ONE: We worship the Lord who heals, liberates, and raises us from the dead.

ALL: In the dream of the beloved community of God, we are awake, and we stand in the light of Christ.

*OPENING HYMN: I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

#377

CALL TO & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ONE How do we know when our actions are right?

ALL: When the fruits of our labors are good and true.

ONE Christ is the light that exposes all we keep hidden, but offers us healing and renewal instead of judgment. Therefore, let us hold up our sins to Christ's gaze, saying...

ALL: God of compassion and mercy, we sometimes fail to see what you are doing in the world. We want you to act in ways we predict, but we forget: you do what is good, not what is expected. Forgive us when we do not recognize your miracles. Forgive us when we doubt the wisdom of your actions. Most of all, forgive us when we do not respond to your call, ignoring what we need to do to show the world your love and grace.

SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

*RESPONSE HYMN: Lord Have Mercy Upon Us

#575

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: Jesus restores our souls and leads us in right paths for his name's sake.

ALL: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives, and we will dwell in the house of the Lord our whole lives long.

*GLORIA PATRI

#581

**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!**

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Rev. Katie Long

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON:

1 Samuel 16:1–13

P.248

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON:

Ephesians 5:8–14

P.183

ONE: We proclaim Christ crucified—the wisdom and power of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM:

Loving Shepherd of Thy Sheep

*Philip Ledger
Text: Jane E. Leeson*

Loving Shepherd of thy sheep, keep thy lamb, in safety keep;
Nothing can thy power withstand, none can pluck me from thy hand.
I would praise thee ev'ry day, gladly all thy will obey,
Like thy blessed ones above happy in thy precious love.
Loving Shepherd, ever near, teach thy lamb thy voice to hear;
Suffer not my steps to stray from the straight and narrow way.
Where thou leadest I would go, walking in thy steps below,
Till before my Father's throne I shall know as I am known.

THIRD SCRIPTURE LESSON:

John 9:1-41

P.96

SERMON

Rev. Michael McLaughlin

*SERMON HYMN:

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

#582

COMMUNAL AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*GREETINGS

After an exchange of Peace between the Pastor and the Congregation, we encourage you to greet one another. The Greetings will conclude with the first verse of *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*.

ONE: ...The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

ONE: Let us pass the peace...

**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

#306

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ONE: ... Lord, in your mercy,

ALL: hear our prayer.

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.

INVITATION TO GIVING

OFFERTORY: Open My Eyes

Paul Taylor

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

#606

**ALL: 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. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN: Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

#187

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: Fugue in G Major

Johann Pachelbel

REGULAR WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY

- **Higher Grounds Café** – 9:30am-11am, in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Religion & Culture Class** – 9:30am-10:30am, in room 6.
- **Faithful Living Class** 10am-10:45am, in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Adult Morning Bible Study** – 10am-10:45am, in the Library
- **Worship Service** – 11am, in the Sanctuary
- **Nursery** – 9:30am-12:15pm - Ages 5 and under.
- **Children’s Church** - 11:15am, in Room 16.

WEDNESDAY

- **Wednesday Night Gathering** – Dinner 5:15pm, Study of Psalms 6pm, Fellowship Hall.
- **Choir Rehearsal** – 7:30pm, in the Sanctuary.

THURSDAY

- **High School Youth Group** – Morning coffee talk and encouragement, 7am-7:30am, home of Rev. Long.

ELDERS:

2026: Cade Arnold, Josh Doré
2027: Sidonie Sansom, Dee Tompkins
2028: Ben Marsee, Donna Simpson

CLERK: Chris McCormick

DEACONS:

2026: Michelle Doré, Ron Ledbetter, Stacey Trent
2027: Kelly Appleton, Ann Hayes, Tony Lawson,
Colleen Mestayer, Gabrielle Pate, Shelley
Wiley
2028: Missy Moore, Liz Tompkins, Pat Wilhelm

BIRTHDAYS:

Sansom, Sidonie 3/02
Winscott, Mary 3/06
Samon, Matthew 3/08
Rory Womack 3/11
Dore, Jensen 3/12
Neil, Richard 3/12
Trent, Stacey 3/17

Weidner, Heidemarie 3/17
Pelren, Alana 3/19
Burgess, Willa 3/24
Pate, Pam 3/24
Butler, Ginny 3/25
Scott, Erica 3/27

STAFF:

The Rev. Michael D. McLaughlin.....Pastor & Head of Staff
The Rev. Katie Long.....Dir. TTU PSA, Dir. Children & Youth Ministry
Paul Thurmond..... Director of Music
Virginia Fillers.....SoulSong Coordinator
Amy Ainsley.....Office Administrator